

CONNECTME

Broadband Infrastructure Grant Scoring Guide Revised February 26, 2019

The application evaluation process will allow the ConnectME Authority to evaluate all applications submitted during a particular application period set by the Authority. The scoring of applications is based on a 100-point scale. A project with a total score of less than 50 points may not be funded. Applications will be judged using the following four scoring categories, as described in the Authority rule:

Cost-Benefit This category is worth **35** points.

The cost-benefit scoring is based on relevant factors, including, but not limited to, the amount of funding requested from the Authority per customer eligible to be served by the project, with lower funding per customer receiving a higher cost-benefit score.

Applicants should demonstrate financial viability by providing pro-forma financial statements and detailed business plans.

Grant dollars requested/customer eligible to be served	Points
Less than or equal to \$500	25
\$501-\$1,000	20
\$1,001-\$1,500	15
\$1,501-\$2,000	10
\$2,000-\$2,500	5
Greater than \$2,500	0

1. **(5 pts)** will be added to the score for any application requesting a 50% or less grant for the proposed project. A sliding scale will be used for those grant applications above 50%.
2. The grant applicant's **financial commitment (up to 5 pts)** to the project (cash, in-kind, donations, etc.).

Engagement & Participation This category is worth **25** points.

The engagement & participation score is based on relevant factors, including, but not limited to, evidence of community support, engagement & participation for the project and the percentage of the geographic area to be covered by the proposal that will be served by the proposed project. Strong consideration (and higher point value as shown in the table below) will be given to those applications that include petitions or listings of a significant number of the available households and businesses expressing a strong desire to subscribe to broadband service provided from the proposed project.

Support as a percent of homes/businesses passed by project	Points
85%+	25
50% - 85%	18
35% - 49%	10

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Project Scope This category is worth **20** points.

The relative increase in the highest available actual download “speed” or bandwidth compared to the existing internet service in the area to be served by the proposed project. This factor provides more points to projects that provide the greatest increase in download speeds.¹

The project scope score is based on relevant factors prioritized below:

Increase in Download Speed Relative to Existing Services Providing Internet Access	Points
Increase of 3 Tiers	15
Increase of 2 Tiers	10
Increase of 1 Tier	5

- 1. The number of potential customers (up to 5 pts)** to be served or households passed by the project. For example, a project that proposes to provide broadband service to 100 households will receive more points than a project that will provide service to 25 households.

Point values for the number of potential customers to be served by the project: 100 or more = **5** points. Example, 75 to 100 = **4 pts**, 50 to 75 = **3 pts**, 25 to 50= **2pts**, 0 to 25= **1 pt**.

Project Value This category is worth **20** points.

The project value score is based on relevant factors, including, but not limited to, the estimated retail price per customer to receive service from the proposed project and any other details of the project that may benefit customers in the area proposed to be served by the proposed project. For example; more points will be awarded for a higher number of businesses and/or health care facilities in the project area that do not have access to broadband service; and lower scores for relatively higher retail prices; and higher or lower scores depending on other factors such as the type of construction required. **Applicants should use this category to introduce elements of their project that may be significant and not incorporated in one of the other three categories.**

¹ Tier 1 10/1 Mbps & under, Tier 2 10/1 to 25/3 Mbps, Tier 3 25/3 to 100/10 Mbps, Tier 4 100/10 Mbps & over