

A street scene with trees, a shop window, and a purple map of Missouri overlaid with text. The background shows a sidewalk with a shop window displaying clothing, a street lamp, and trees. A purple map of Missouri is overlaid on the scene, with the text "Show Me Strong" in a white script font and "RECOVERY PLAN" in a white bold sans-serif font with a blue outline.

*Show Me Strong*  
**RECOVERY PLAN**

Emergency Broadband Investment  
July 2, 2020

# COVID-19

# Missouri's Response:

# Emergency Broadband Investment Program

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# Rapid Broadband Deployment Strategy

- **Provider Expansion | \$20 million – Program Administrator: Department of Economic Development (DED)**
  - **Total estimated need:** 300,000+ rural Missouri households lack access according to FCC data
  - **Eligible expenses:** Construction costs for new broadband expansion to households with students or vulnerable populations
  - **Model:** Flat reimbursement rate to providers using a graduated scale to incentivize higher speed technology
- **K-12 | \$10M – Program Administrator: Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE)**
  - **Under Development!** More information from DESE coming out soon...stay tuned.
  - **Total estimated need:** 195,000 students or 1 in 5 of Missouri's student body
  - **Model:** Missouri school districts will be able to seek reimbursement for expanding student connectivity
- **Higher Education | \$10M – Program Administrator : Dept. of Higher Education & Workforce Development (DHEWD)**
  - **Under Development!** More information from DHEWD coming out soon...stay tuned.
  - **Total estimated need:** 45,000+ students at public institutions
  - **Model:** Assist a projected 22% of the gap for institutions to upgrade campus broadband network components, offer students access to Wi-Fi enabled devices and hotspots or enhancing learning management systems
- **Health Centers | \$5.25 million – Fiscal Agent: DED, Program Administrator: MU School of Medicine/MO Telehealth Network (MTN)**
  - **Total estimated need:** 90,000-120,000 citizens
  - **Model:** More than 12,000 hotspots to be distributed across 29 Federally Qualified Health Centers and 26 Community Mental Health Centers
- **Libraries | \$2.5 million – Fiscal Agent: DED, Program Administrator: SOS – Office of the State Librarian**
  - **Total estimated need:** 280,000 rural Missouri households lack access according to FCC data
  - **Model:** Libraries across the state would be able to expand their campus networks, expand bandwidth, purchase devices and hotspots that could be checked out by Missouri citizens, with particular emphasis on making these available for distance learning and telehealth
- **Broadband Technical Assistance | \$1.23M – MACOG Lead Applicant, DED Co-Applicant**
  - **Estimated need:** 280,000 rural households and 54,000 farms & businesses lack access according to FCC data
  - **Model:** In partnership with MACOG and the potential of grant support from the EDA and CDBG, these resources will launch a pilot program for broadband technical assistance plans for highly impacted regions (estimated impact of up to 24 counties)



# Highlights of Broadband Investment Program

- \$20M in grants from the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF)
- Provide assistance to existing broadband providers connecting qualified households in unserved and then underserved areas during the state of emergency
- Time period for reimbursement will be for connections made from March 1, 2020 to October 30, 2020



# Grant Cycle

- Opens **today**, July 2, 2020
- Applications due at NOON on Wednesday, July 22, 2020 via online submission



# What is Broadband?

The enabling legislation for the Missouri Broadband Grant Program established the State's baseline speed of 25 Megabits per second (Mbps) download and 3 Mbps upload speeds, or commonly referred to as 25/3 Mbps.

25/3 Mbps is also the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) minimum expectation for high speed internet.



# Broadband Speeds – State Defined

**Unserved** = < 10 Mbps download / 1 Mbps upload

**Underserved** = > 10/1, but < 25/3 Mbps

**Served** = 25/3 Mbps and above



# Eligible Applicants

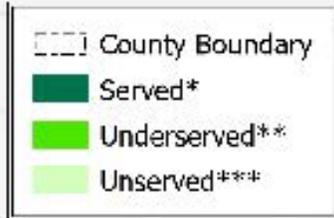
- Corporations, or their affiliates, registered in this state;
- Incorporated businesses or partnerships in this state;
- Limited liability companies registered in this state;
- Nonprofit organizations registered in this state;
- Political subdivisions; and
- Rural electric cooperatives organized under chapter 394 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri (RSMo) and the broadband affiliates of these rural electric cooperatives.



# Eligible Areas

- An unserved area (<10/1)
- An underserved area (<25/3)
- Proposed service areas are required to be contiguous and all encompassing
- The most recent available data from FCC Form 477 (June 2019) will be used to determine existing available broadband service

# Wireline or Fixed Wireless Broadband Speeds Coverage

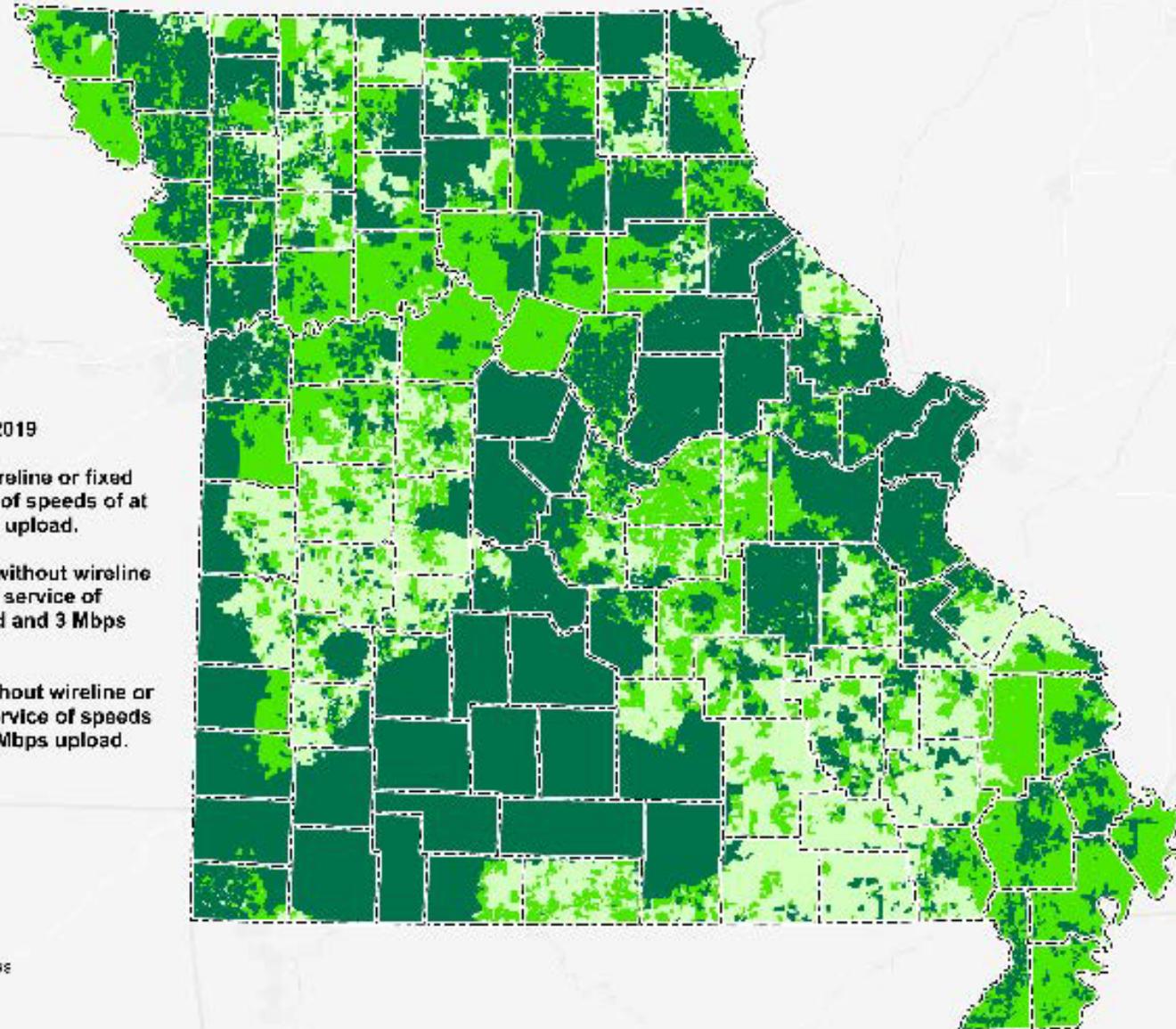
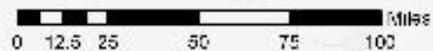


Source: FCC Form 477 data - June, 2019

\*Served area: census blocks with wireline or fixed wireless broadband internet service of speeds of at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload.

\*\*Underserved area: census blocks without wireline or fixed wireless broadband internet service of speeds of at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload.

\*\*\*Unserved area: census blocks without wireline or fixed wireless broadband internet service of speeds of at least 10 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload.



\*2019  
CostQuest  
Mapping Tool



# Ineligible Areas

- Connections made for addresses within served census blocks
  - This program is **not** the general broadband grant program established by state law - this grant process does not include the corresponding challenge process. Instead, only new connections to qualifying households currently within unserved or underserved census blocks will be considered for reimbursement.
- Providers who have received other public financial assistance (grants, loans, or subsidies):
  - FCC, USDA, Delta Regional Authority, Missouri Broadband Grant Program, or any other federal, state, or local funding awarded are **not** eligible to receive support through this program.



# Allowable Expenditures in Calculating Total Project Cost

- The **Emergency Broadband Investment Program** will reimburse for construction-only expenses in the installation of retail broadband:
  - Construction of broadband facilities;
  - Final engineering and construction plans;
  - Permitting; and
  - Installation



# Ineligible Expenses in Calculating Total Project Cost

- The following items and expenses are ineligible:
  - Preliminary engineering and design work on the project area;
  - General broadband planning not associated with the project area;
  - Operational expenses;
  - Middle-mile infrastructure; and
  - Expenses for any new connection unaccompanied by a new subscription.



# Demonstration of Household Eligibility

- Providers are required to collect and retain information from each household attesting that the household includes at least one of the following:
  - a resident of a vulnerable population,
  - a resident on telework status, or
  - a student (pre-school through higher education)
- Template of attestation form included in program materials
- Reimbursement will be made on each subscribed household



# Definition of a Vulnerable Population

- A member of a vulnerable population consisting of persons susceptible to COVID-19 due to one of the following:
  - Is 65 years of age or older; OR
  - Has at least one of the following conditions:
    - Chronic lung disease;
    - Moderate to severe asthma;
    - Serious heart conditions;
    - Immunocompromised;
    - Diabetes;
    - Chronic kidney disease and undergoing dialysis; or
    - Liver disease.

\*DED reserves the right to amend the list of vulnerable populations susceptible to COVID-19.



# Definition of Telework

Citizens who are required to telework include those working from home because of COVID-19 at the direction of their supervisor to complete job-related functions.



# Definition of Student

Students include those in pre-kindergarten through grade 12, as well as those enrolled at a higher education institution or post-secondary training program, and who are unable to attend in-person learning or training due to COVID-19.



# Reimbursement & Accountability

- Submit Certificate of Tax Clearance from the Missouri Department of Revenue
- Register as a vendor with the State of Missouri through the *MissouriBUYS*
- If awarded, execute a program agreement with DED outlining the program details, requirements, and state and federal terms and conditions
- Grant fund disbursements will be available at least on a monthly basis
- Customer application and subscription records for new connections through the grant will be retained by the provider for a period of at least five years from the date of the final reimbursement payment received, upon request and/or upon audit of the completed project build by DED, the State Auditor's Office, the U.S. Treasury, or other authorized state or federal authorities.



# Reimbursement & Accountability (cont'd)

- Within 45 days post-construction, the provider must submit a final report project details, documentation of new customers, and speed testing
- DED reserves the right to inspect and audit the project for up to one year post-construction
- If project costs exceed the budget, grantees will be required to finish the proposed project without an increase
- Applicants who commit fraud or misrepresentation, or who do not adequately document or retain sufficient documentation, shall be subject to state and federal civil and criminal recourse to the extent permitted by law

# Reimbursement Rate per Qualified Connection

Reimbursements will be made for actual expenditures per connection as shown below.

Broadband Speed (download/upload)	Reimbursement Rate per Qualified Connection (or actual expenditures, whichever is less)
> 25 Mbps / 3 Mbps to < 100 Mbps / 100 Mbps	Up to \$450
> 100 Mbps / 100 Mbps to 1 Gbps / 1 Gbps	Up to \$3,450

The maximum support request cannot exceed 50% of total project cost as stipulated in the project budget.



# Selection Criteria & Scoring Categories

- Broadband Connections made during the State of Emergency = up to 25 points available
- Financial Viability = up to 20 points available
- Project Readiness = up to 20 points available
- Broadband Adoption Assistance = up to 10 points available

**TOTAL POINTS AVAILABLE = 75**



# Resource links

## Show Me Strong Recovery Website

<https://showmestrong.mo.gov/broadband/>

## Missouri Broadband Investment Program

Resources on Broadband Coverage under 'Program Documents'

[ded.mo.gov/content/emergency-broadband-investment-program](https://ded.mo.gov/content/emergency-broadband-investment-program)



# Questions?

To ask a question:

Use the Hand-raise feature

OR

Type your question in the Chat  
box



# Contact Information

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