Missouri's Broadband Grant Program FY2020 Guidelines & Application
November 20, 2019

Missouri's Broadband Grant Program

- Program purpose
- How does it work?
- Eligible applicants:
  - Corporations, or their affiliates
  - Incorporated businesses or partnerships
  - Limited liability companies
  - Nonprofit organizations
  - Political subdivisions
  - Rural electric cooperatives and their broadband affiliates

Grant Guidelines – Eligible Areas

- An unserved area is a project area without access to wireline or fixed wireless broadband internet service with speeds of at least 10 Megabits per second (Mbps) download and 1 Mbps upload.

- An underserved area is a project area that currently has a minimum of 10 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload, but does not yet achieve 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload (e.g. has speeds between 10/1 and 25/3 Mbps download/upload).

- Proposed service areas are required to be contiguous.

- The most recent available data from the FCC Form 477 will be used to determine existing available broadband service.
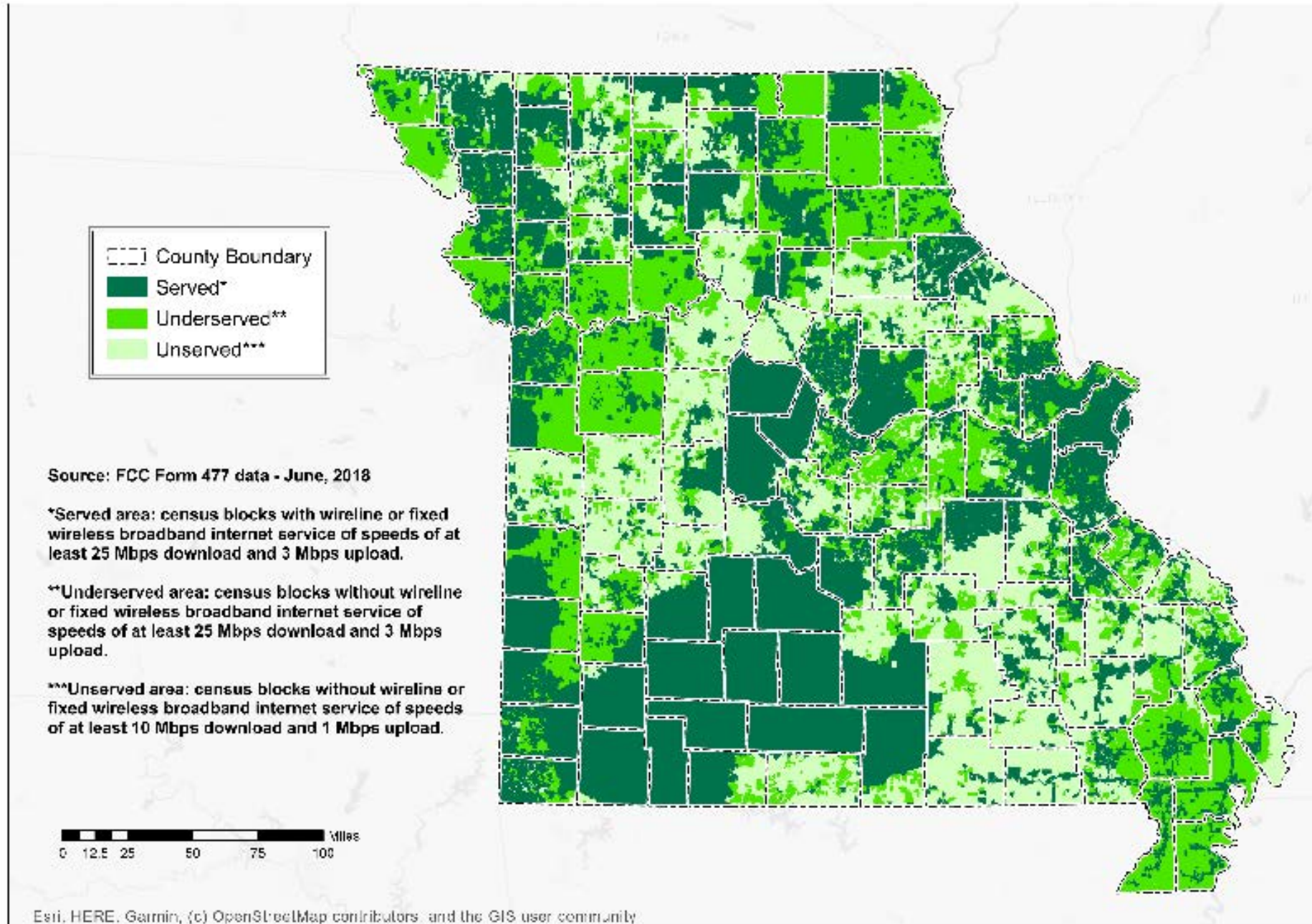
Grant Guidelines – Ineligible Areas

- Project areas where funding from other broadband programs like the Connect America Fund (CAF), the Universal Service Fund (USF), USDA, and other programs, which did not require any matching-fund component.
    - CAF Map - https://data.usac.org/publicreports/caf-map/
    - USDA Rural Development Map - http://ruraldevelopment.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=93ba783edf5b407c9641b2f8653e8c1d

- Grant funds shall not be used to serve any retail end user that already has access to wireline or fixed wireless broadband internet service of speeds of at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload.

Wireline or Fixed Wireless Broadband Speeds Coverage

Missouri State

CQA

Legend:
- County Boundary
- Served*
- Underserved**
- Unserved***

Source: FCC Form 477 data - June, 2018

*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.

Miles
0   12.5   25   50   75   100

Grant Guidelines – Eligible Expenses

- Construction of broadband facilities
- Final engineering and construction plans
- Permitting
- Installation
- Validation of service

Selection Criteria

130 points total – each area weighted accordingly on priorities reflected in the enabling legislation:

- Anticipated Broadband Improvements – 25 points
- Grant Funding Requested Amount – 20 points
- Project Readiness – 20 points
- Project Sustainability – 20 points
- Community Participation – 15 points
- Economic Development and Community Impact Review – 15 points
- Broadband Adoption Assistance – 15 points

Completing the Grant Application

- Applicant's information
- Project area demographics
- Narrative
  - Executive Summary & Statement of Need
  - Readiness – Budget & Work Plan
  - Sustainability
  - Community Participation
  - Economic & Community Impact
  - Broadband Adoption

Attachments

- Signed affidavit/resolution to submit application
- Letters of support and commitment (if applicable)
- Electronic file(s) of project area
- Preliminary Engineering Report
- E-Verify MOU
- Eligibility documentation
- Other supporting evidence in regard to eligibility of the area

Important Dates

December 5, 2019 – Application period open

January 7, 2020 – Application deadline by 4:00 p.m. CDT

January 10, 2020 – Applicants posted on grant webpage
Challenge Process begins

February 24, 2020 – Challenge Process closes

March 5, 2020 – Awards announced

Best practices in seeking grants…

- Partnerships are critical in expanding broadband.
- Thoroughly complete every piece of information requested and make sure the budget and narrative match.
- Ensure the narrative tells the story of the project and its service area.
- Fully define the need for the project, outline the work plan to address the need, and then build a budget that connects to the work plan.
- Keep in mind the reviewers rating the proposal are unfamiliar with the project and include all the details in the proposal.

Best practices in seeking grants…

- Ensure that any match is secured and documented.
- Check and double check that all required attachments are submitted. Applicants will <u>not</u> be given an opportunity to submit missing items.
- Do not overpromise; be realistic in the project's proposed scope, budget, and timelines.
- Letters of support that are shell documents used by multiple partners are less convincing than authentic letters.

Other Reminders & Tips…

- 1 copy only; 1-sided; 1 inch top margin

- At least 12 point font

- The application should be consistent and flow

- Answer **EVERY** question & research has source(s) cited

- **Original signatures** on forms

- Narrative **page limit** - suggested max of 30 pages

Application review and scoring

- Eligibility Review

- A team of professionals will be assembled to impartially review applications based on selection criteria

- Ranked based on score

- Challenge process and determination

- Approval notification

- Projects not approved may resubmit for possible future rounds

If selected, program requirements

- Program agreement to be executed, no tax due letter submitted

- Performance bond filed with department

- Quarterly progress reports

- Final Report upon verification and grant close-out

- Financial and performance record keeping

- Applications are open records once approved

Contact Information

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Questions