Appendix A – Scoring Rubric

BEAM CPF Digital Connectivity Program Project Plan Scoring Rubric

Applications will be evaluated against the merit review criteria shown below.

A total of 297 points is possible. This section serves to provide a high-level overview of what should be included in an application in order for it to be adequately scored and considered for funding.

Item 1: Project Description (0 to 10 points)

- Project descriptions should include sufficient detail to allow BEAM to assess whether the proposed solution achieves the program goals and complies with state and federal guidance. Sufficient detail should include the following:
  - Clear, detailed boundaries of the project area
  - Detailed engineering design layout with details regarding the technology and design
  - A certification that the applicant's network design is technically feasible and capable, upon completion of the project, by providing certification from a Professional Engineer or by using an in-house engineer who designs and oversees the implementation of network designs in the regular course of business.

Item 1: Project Description (10 Points)	Yes	No
Clear, detailed boundaries of the project area (how far the network will reach) is identifiable in application	3	
Detailed engineering design layout (including details regarding the technology and design) was provided	4	
Certification from Professional Engineer or in-house engineer certifying the applicant's network design is technically feasible and capable upon completion of the project	3	

10

Item 2: Schedule (0 to 50 points)

- Project schedule should include detail sufficient to assess whether the projects as proposed can be completed in compliance with state and federal guidance (Period of Performance Ending December 31, 2026). Sufficient detail should include:
    - o Demonstration of a thorough and complete project schedule, including each necessary task to move from preliminary design to construction and close out. A Gantt chart should be uploaded to illustrate the project timeline.
    - o Any other documentation that demonstrates the project will be completed on or before June 30, 2025 (BEAM Desired Completion Date)

Item 2: Schedule (50 points)	
Time to Market	**Points**
Gantt Chart uploaded outlining project timeline	*
13+ Months	10
10-12 Months	20
7-9 Months	30
4-6 Months	40
0-3 Months	50

Requirement – no points provided for providing Gantt Chart

Item 3: Regulatory Compliance (0 to 20 points)

- Applicants must provide sufficient detail to enable BEAM to assess whether the applicant is prepared and equipped to comply with applicable federal and state requirements. Sufficient detail should include the following:
    - Prior experience managing federal or state awards, including an explanation of required corrective action plans, missed deadlines, significant environmental assessment delays, or withdrawals from grant programs.
    - Existence of policies that address compliance with federal and state guidelines
    - Results of previous audits and Single Audits (3 years minimum)
    - Experience of key personnel

Item 3: Regulatory Compliance (20 Points)	Yes	No
Applicant demonstrates experience managing federal awards	4	
Applicant has adopted policies that address compliance with federal and state guidelines	4	
Applicant's audits indicate absence of findings in audits and Single Audits (as applicable) OR Applicant can demonstrate remediation efforts in response to audit or Single Audit findings	2	
Key personnel have been consistent for each of the last three years of operation	2	
Applicant has no record of unexplained missed programmatic deadlines associated with prior grant awards	2	
Applicant has never received a corrective action plan associated with its prior grant awards	2	
Applicant has no record of unexplained withdrawal or award termination from a program following issuance of the grant award	2	
Applicant has no record of unexplained delays associated with environmental assessments under prior grant awards	2	
	20	

Item 4: Readiness (0 to 20 points)

- Applicants must provide sufficient detail to enable BEAM to assess whether the applicant is capable of conducting such a project. Sufficient detail should include:
    - Does the applicant have a plan in place and/or proven ability to obtain all necessary rights of way/easements/permits?
    - Does the applicant demonstrate the required technical, operational, managerial, and financial capacity to successfully complete the proposed project?
    - Does the applicant have sufficient capability to manage customer and service issues?

Item 4: Readiness (20 Points)	Yes	No
Applicant has identified and obtained all necessary permits OR Project does not require any permits	4	
Applicant has identified and obtained all necessary easements and rights of way OR Project does not require any easements or rights of way	4	
Applicant has detailed plan for obtaining outstanding permits	2	
Applicant has detailed plan for obtaining outstanding rights of way and easements	2	
Applicant has significant recent experience obtaining permits (5 projects in the last 3 years)	2	
Applicant has significant recent experience obtaining easements and rights of ways (5 projects in the last 3 years)	2	
Applicant has experience in managing Wi-Fi networks	6	
Applicant possesses sufficient capability to handle customer and service issues	2	

20

Item 5: Project Impact (0 to 20 points)

- Applicants should provide sufficient detail that outlines the economic and social impact of the proposed project. Sufficient detail should include the following:
    - Number of Residents (Individuals that will be able to access the network): ability to telework, remote learning engagement, new housing starts, etc.
    - Project's impact on workforce training and development, employment search, and other individual and community economic advances meeting the specific challenges resulting from the pandemic within the proposed project area
    - Degree to which the need for funding is described

Item 5: Project Impact (20 Points)	Yes	No
Applicant adequately describes the extent to which the project will benefit a number of individuals that will be able to access the network	8	
Applicant adequately describes the extent to which the project will impact workforce training and development, employment search, and other individual and community economic advances	8	
Applicant establishes need for funding for the project area	4	

20

Item 6: Community (0 to 30 points)

- Applicants should provide sufficient detail to enable BEAM to assess the level of community support and engagement for the proposed project. Sufficient detail should include the following:
    - Evidence of community support and demonstration of community engagement. This may include, but is not limited to, "personalized" letters of support, attendance at events/meetings demonstrating community engagement at-large, resolutions from local governments, and planning/organizing events for community members.
    - Engagement with stakeholders outside of the project team, which may include residents, businesses, community leaders, project partners, elected officials, community broadband task force, etc.
    - The degree to which the project will include local hires and provide opportunities for local hires, such as apprenticeship programs, job fairs, and training programs; recent survey data that covers a broad spectrum of the community with statistically meaningful results regarding the level of need, gaps, and project support.
    - Location being in an economically distressed county (Appendix D)

Item 6: Community (30 Points)	Yes	No
Applicant can provide evidence of community support (personalized letters of support)	5	
Applicant has conducted community meeting(s) in proposed project area	5	
Applicant has prioritized local hires	5	
Applicant demonstrates commitment to prioritize local hires	2	
Applicant has conducted apprenticeship programs, training programs, or attended job fairs	5	
Applicant demonstrates commitment to conduct apprenticeship programs, training programs, or attend job fairs	2	
Application is located within an economically distressed county	10	
Application is not located within an economically distressed county	4	

30

Item 7: Pricing and Access (0 to 50 points)

- Applicants should provide sufficient detail to assess the speed which the project will render to the end user as well as the corresponding pricing structure. Sufficient detail should include the following:
  - What price point a potential provider will deliver service. Also include the length of time for which this price is guaranteed.
  - Does the provider implement data caps or throttle broadband speeds for customers using any of the proposed services?

Item 7: Pricing and Access (50 Points)	
Cost To Consumer	**Points**
Paid access of greater than $10.00	0
Paid access of less than $10.00	10
Free with paid options with data caps and/or throttling	20
Free with paid options without data caps or throttling	30
Free with data caps and/or throttling	40
Free without data caps or throttling	50

Item 8: Objective Scoring (Total of 32 Points)

Population Density and/or Average Daily Traffic that is currently unserved within the proposed project area

Item 8: Objective Scoring (32 Points)				
Download Speed After Build				
# of Simultaneous Users	**25 Mbps**	**50 Mbps**	**75 Mbps**	**100 Mbps**
1-25	1	5	9	13
26-50	2	6	10	14
51-100	3	7	11	15
100+	4	8	12	16
Upload Speed After Build				
# of Simultaneous Users	**5 Mbps**	**10 Mbps**	**15 Mbps**	**20 Mbps**
1-25	1	5	9	13
26-50	2	6	10	14
51-100	3	7	11	15
100+	4	8	12	16

Item 9: Cost Sharing (0 to 65 Points)

Item 9: Cost Sharing (65 Points)	
Match % of Eligible Project Costs	**Points**
33-39%	10
40-46%	20
47-53%	30
54-60%	35
61-67%	45
68-74%	55
> 75%	65

Appendix D - Poverty Counties in Mississippi

COUNTY NAME
Adams
Amite
Attala
Benton
Bolivar
Chickasaw
Claiborne
Clay
Coahoma
Copiah
Covington
Forrest
Grenada
Holmes
Humphreys
Issaquena
Jasper
Jefferson
Jefferson Davis
Kemper
Lafayette
Lauderdale
Leake
Leflore
Lowndes
Marion
Montgomery
Neshoba
Noxubee
Oktibbeha
Panola
Pike
Quitman
Scott
Sharkey
Sunflower
Tallahatchie
Tunica
Walthall
Washington
Wayne
Wilkinson
Winston
Yazoo