



# CONNECT MT

FOR THE EXPANSION OF BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS TO MONTANA'S  
REGIONS AND LOCALS THAT REMAIN UNSERVED OR UNDERSERVED



Slide 1

# Agenda

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1. Eligibility Overview

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  2. Technical Requirements

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  3. Financial Requirements

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  4. Challenge Process

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  5. FAQs

# Eligibility Overview



## Who:

Private Entities  
Montana Nonprofits  
Cooperatives  
Partnerships



## What:

Acquiring/installing middle or last mile broadband infrastructure



## Where:

Frontier  
Unserved  
Underserved Areas

## Applicant Eligibility Details

- ✓ Must be enrolled as an Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) Provider
- ✓ Show evidence of Good Standing with Montana Secretary of State
- ✓ Provide Federal Employer Identification Number
- ✓ State of Montana Vendor Number

# Cost Eligibility - - Details

- ✓ Scalable to speeds of at least 100 Mbps
  - Exceptions explained further in Section 6.5
- ✓ Funds may not be used to support noncapital expenses,
  - Including:
    - general operations of an eligible provider
    - nonbroadband services
    - marketing or advertising
- ✓ 20% match required

Eligible Costs can only be incurred after the award contract is granted

- No pre-application expenses

# Area Eligibility

- ✓ **Frontier:** no or extremely limited access to terrestrial broadband services
- ✓ **Unserved:** 10% with no access to broadband service at or above 25/10
- ✓ **Underserved:** 10% with no access to broadband service at or above 100/20

RDOF areas are not eligible

- ✓ The Proposed Project as a whole may serve non-eligible areas
- ✓ Federal allocation funds can only be used for eligible areas.  
Applicants will need to clearly delineate this in the application.

# CONNECT MT MAP OVERVIEW

Powered by LIGHTBOX 2022 Montana Broadband Availability Map

**Locations**

- Frontier
- Served
- ◆ Underserved
- Unserved

**FCC Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF)**

- Served

**USDA ReConnect Loan and Grant Program**

- Served

**FCC Connect America Fund (CAF)**

- Served
- Unserved

**Description**

*The map portrays broadband statistics for the State of Montana. Additionally, this map includes "served" locations which have been updated based on ISP information or they were awarded with USDA ReConnect, FCC RDOF funding, or CAF funding for terrestrial based broadband*

Find address or place

Cascade

Served Locations: 29,232  
 Unserved Locations: 2,902  
 Underserved Locations: 368  
 Frontier Locations: 378  
 Total Locations: 32,880  
 Eligible for Funding %: 11.09

[Zoom to](#)

Map navigation: +, -, Home, Refresh, Find address or place

Map layers: Locations, Counties, Tribal Lands, Building Footprints, Parcel Boundaries, FCC Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF), USDA ReConnect Loan and Grant Program

Map controls: Options, Filter by map extent, Zoom to, Clear selection, Refresh

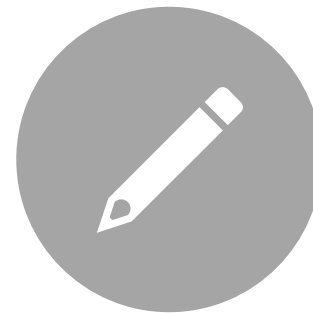
ZIPCODE	BUILDING	COUNTY	CLASSIFICATION	ASSESSMENT LAND USE	FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM (FCC RDOF)	FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM (USDA RECONNECT)	FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM (FCC CAF)	SERVICEABILITY	FULL ADDRESS
59032-8078		Fergus	Unknown/Other	Exempt (full or partial)			Served	Served	202 E 4TH ST GRASS RANGE MT 59032



# Technical Requirements Overview, 1 of 2



Technical Narrative



Preliminary Design  
Drawings (P.E. Stamped)



# PE Certification

CERTIFIED BY A MONTANA PE

MONTANA CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER

- NAME, TITLE, TELEPHONE NUMBER, EMAIL ADDRESS

“THIS INDIVIDUAL WILL BE THE PRIMARY CONTACT FOR ANY TECHNICAL QUESTIONS REGARDING THE ALLOCATION APPLICATION DOCUMENT AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION. ”

# Technical Requirements Overview, 2 of 2



MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT  
SPECIFICATIONS



LOGICAL DIAGRAMS



MAPPING

# Capacity & Scalability

## Does your solution provide 100Mbps/100Mbps?

Proposed solutions that do not meet this capacity threshold will require the following:

- Substantial narrative detailing the technical barriers to providing 100Mbps/100Mbps service
- Cost justification for the lower capacity service (*on a per location basis*)
- Identification of the steps required to upgrade the proposed solution to the desired 100Mbps/100Mbps service

## Demonstrate Scalability to 100Mbps/100Mbps

Documentation must be provided to show the proposed solution provides 100Mbps/100Mbps and can be scaled to meet these speeds

This includes the appropriate specifications and narrative for the review team to assess

This documentation must be certified either by the equipment manufacturer or a registered Professional engineer

# Permitting

Identify what permitting is required for the deployment of your project

*Remember to make sure permitting timelines are accounted for in the presented project timelines*

## Environmental Compliance and MEPA Checklist

*The checklist can be found on the forms and guides section of the website [connectmt.mt.gov](https://connectmt.mt.gov)*

# Financial Requirements, 1 of 2

- ✓ Balance Sheets, Income and Cash Flow Statements, or equivalents
- ✓ Provide 3 years of unqualified historical financial statements

OR

- ✓ 2 years of unqualified comparative historical financial statements

All historical financials must be CPA compiled, reviewed, or audited



# Financial Requirements, 2 of 2

## Pro Forma Requirements

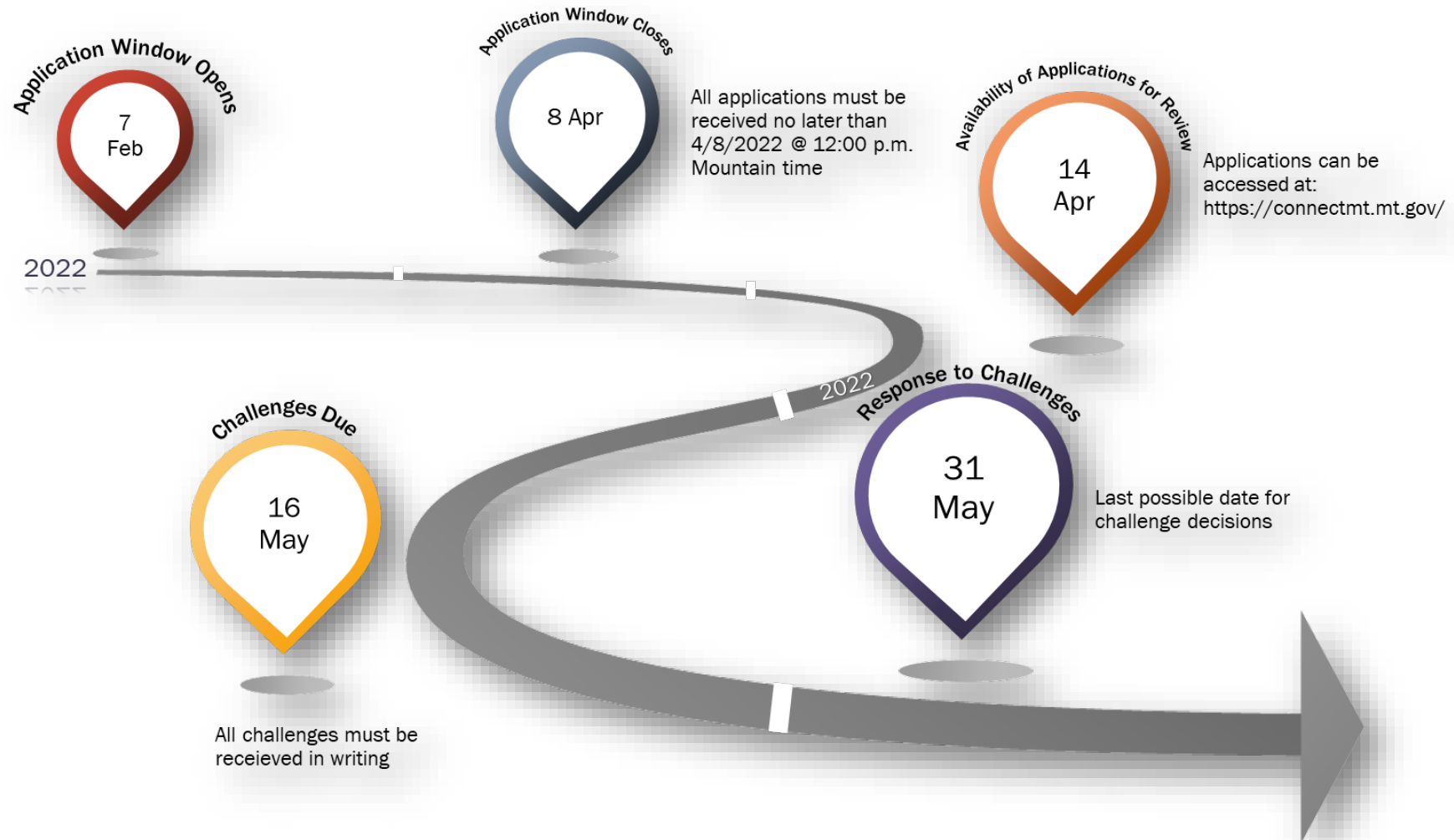
## Supplemental Information

- Most recent year of federal tax returns
- Independent audit

## Proposed Budget

- See Sample Budget Table

# Challenge Process Overview







QUESTIONS?



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