Q. Who is eligible to submit an application?
A. Internet service providers, in consultation and with the support of local community officials, may apply.

Q. What areas are eligible for the grant?
A. Any community in Nebraska in which the majority of the population (50 percent or greater) either does not have internet access or whose internet speeds do not meet the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) standard of 25/3 Mbps (download/upload) is eligible. The provider, in cooperation with the community where the proposed project is located, shall demonstrate that a majority of the population does not have the option to purchase an internet service package meeting said standard.

Ineligible areas include areas that have been approved to receive funding from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF).

Q. How do I provide documentation that my community is underserved or unserved?
A. Documentation may include promotional materials or screenshots showing the available internet access plans in a community, as well as specific addresses from telecommunications providers. Speed test results may also be included as additional documentation.

Q. What is the definition of underserved or unserved?
A. Underserved is defined as internet service speeds above 10/1 Mbps (download/upload) but below 25/3. Unserved is anything below 10/1 Mbps.

Q. Who is considered a “community official?”
A. Communities can determine which official(s) are best suited to demonstrate the community’s need of and broad support for the proposed project. This could include the mayor, city council members, city administrator, superintendent, a hospital official, etc. The required letter from a community official serves two purposes: to provide documentation that the community lacks broadband, and to demonstrate that lack of broadband is impeding community residents from working at home, participating in online learning and/or accessing health care via telehealth. Additional letters of support should be included as evidence of broad community support.

Q. Does this grant program require a pre-application?
A. No.

Q. Under what timeline does the project build and expenditures need to take place?
A. As required by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, projects need to be completed by December 30, 2020.

Q. Engineering will be critical, especially with this timeline. Will the program allow for engineering costs to be funded using grant dollars?
A. Yes, all engineering and pre-construction costs need to be included in the application cost breakdown for review.

Current as of: July 21, 2020
Q. Can a fiber project be aerial, or does it have to be built underground?
A. The decision of how to specifically deploy will be decided by the community and the provider.

Q. Is the Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC) in these communities eligible to apply for the grant?
A. Any ISP can apply.

Q. Will you share feedback with applicants who weren't funded?
A. To the best of our ability, any application that is not approved will be provided feedback.

Q. Where will guidelines and application materials be available?
A. As soon as guidelines are approved they will be posted at https://getnebraskagrowing.nebraska.gov/. For more information dial 855-264-6858.