

# Georgia Jobs and Infrastructure Committees

State Fiscal Recovery Fund Overview

August 16, 2021

Note: All dates and processes outlined in this presentation are subject to change based on application volume and state priorities



## WELCOME



#### **ARPA Grant Process Updates**

No public input will be requested for this meeting, so we kindly ask all participants who are not committee members to keep their lines muted. Members of the committee will be asked for feedback and questions throughout the presentation.

The meeting will be recorded and posted on OPB's website.



#### **ARPA Grant Process Updates**

- Broadband Infrastructure
  - 98 draft status
  - 2 submitted
- Water/Sewer Infrastructure
  - 236 in draft status
  - 3 submitted
- Negative Economic Impact
  - 355 in draft status
  - 12 submitted



#### **ARPA Grant Process Updates**

- Awaiting the publication of FAQs regarding each category that will provide additional clarity.
- OPB will begin to add the submitted applications online:
  - Proposal Name
  - Applicant Name
  - Location
  - Status
  - Amount Requested
  - Project Description
  - Map Attachment (Broadband Only)



## Overall Expectations for Review Process

- Read through proposals prior to the grant review. Start early – it may take longer than you anticipate.
- Keep proposals and scores confidential
- Thoroughly understand the information requested in the proposal and assess each proposal's strengths and weaknesses.



## Reviewing Proposals: Step 1

Read through Treasury's Interim Final Rule and FAQs Become familiar with:

- The goals of Georgia's priorities for your committee
   Quick Guide for each committee
- The requirements of the proposal and reporting requirements
- The scoring criteria and point allocations



## Reviewing Proposals: Step 2

- Complete an initial read-through of each applicant's proposal but don't score them this time.
- Use this initial read through of the proposals to get a sense of what the proposals are about and how they are organized.



## Reviewing Proposals: Step 3

- Re-read each proposal and begin scoring
- Make sure to record proposal strengths and weaknesses on the Review Form
- Provide helpful comments for the applicant

8/16/2021

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## Rules and Tips for Scoring

- Everyone scores differently. Just make sure to be consistent in your scores
- Only score a proposal based on the information provided (avoid assumptions)
- Score proposals against the criteria set forth by the Interim Final Rule not against the other grant programs or other applications
- No fractions or decimals please



## Rules and Tips for Scoring

- You can deduct points for missing information. Just make sure your score is primarily based on the clarity of the responses
- Just having an answer to each question in the application requirement does not justify a high score
- Proposals should make a strong case for funding and show compelling need
- If a proposal includes more than one project, it is possible that one or more, but not all projects will be funded based on parameters of the project. The committee has discretion to recommend projects within a proposal without funding the entire project.



## Rules and Tips for Scoring

#### Proposals should:

- Reflect guidance outlined in the Interim Final Rule
- Be reasonable
- Reflect best practices
- Demonstrate effective collaboration
- Effectively address the needs of the community or industry



## Range of Scores

- A perfect score of 100 (or 10 points in all categories) should be rare. This means there are no weaknesses in the proposal
- Similarly, a total score of 0 is rare as this would mean there are no strengths in the proposal. Match funds would be an exception
- If you do feel like a score of 100 or 0 are warranted,
   please document your justifications completely



## **Grant Life Cycle**





## Accessing Applications and Scoring

- Reviewers will access applications to review and score via the Georgia Grants Portal.
- All reviewers will need to register in the Georgia Grants portal (TBD)
- We will help facilitate the committee registrations and provide technical assistance to ensure every has access
- An email will be sent out when registration for the committee portal is open



#### Georgia Grants Portal Details

#### Pending Review

- InitialStatus the committee member will see on grant application(s) that require their review.
- Committee member will see a list of the grant applications that are ready for review.
- OPB performing admin review to ensure only complete applications are reviewed.

#### In-Progress

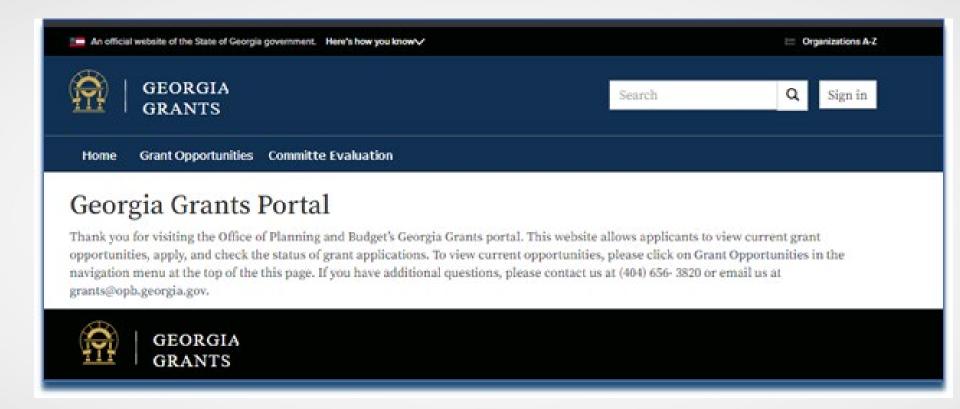
- Committee member has the option of saving work
- Provides the ability to come back to grant application as needed, without having to complete review in one sitting.
- All scoring fields are edible in this status

#### Initial Review Complete

- Committee member has completed their initial review
- Different status than 'In-Progress' so user understands outstanding items that need to be completed.
- Suggest that all assigned grant applications are in this status prior to collaboration session.
- All scoring fiels are edible in this status.

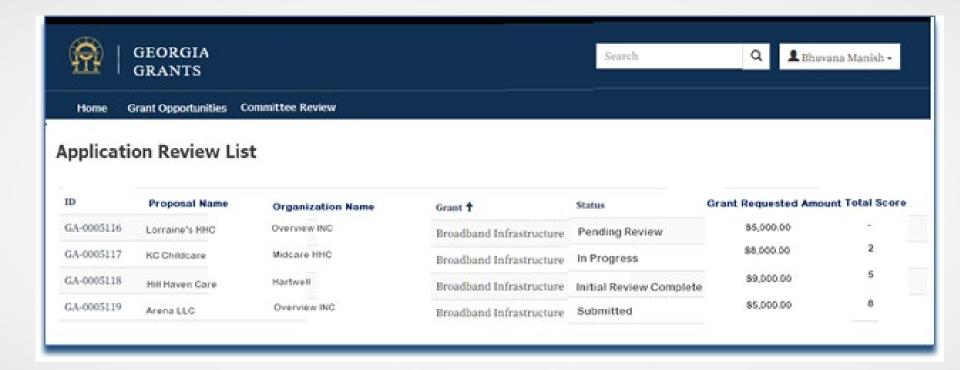


## **Committee Review Page**





## **Application Review List**





#### **Review Checklist Form**







#### **Description of the Issue**

- Does the applicant define the specific problem they seek to address and how it was impacted by COVID-19 (if any)?
- Does the applicant describe the process used to assess, analyze, or determine the nature of the problem and explain any gaps in resources or limitations in funding the program without COVID-19 response (ARPA) funding?
- Does the applicant identify the geographic boundaries of the proposed jurisdictions/communities, and the ZIP code(s), as well as the population size and demographic makeup of the population of both the overall jurisdiction and the communities where the project is proposed?



#### **Project Design and Implementation**

- Does the applicant identify the program objectives and describe the vision for the target population, specifically how this vision will address the problems identified in the Description of the Issue section and the broader impact to communities, jurisdictions, or industries?
- Is each objective measurable and identify strategies to achieve the objectives?
- Does the applicant include a comprehensive timeline (as an attachment in the supporting documentation section) that identifies milestones, numerically lists deliverables, and indicates who is responsible for each activity?
- Does the applicant propose to build a broadband network owned, operated by, or affiliated with local governments, non-profits, and co-operatives?



#### **Capabilities and Competencies**

- Does the applicant demonstrate their capabilities to implement the project and the competencies of the staff assigned to the project to include the financial management of funding?
- Does the applicant detail the level of support for the project, as well as the expertise of the individual(s) who will be responsible for managing the project?
- Does the application indicated how they will monitor strategy implementation and achievement of objectives?



#### **Capabilities and Competencies**

- Does the applicant demonstrate their ability to manage and monitor any subaward(s)?
- Does the applicant indicated how it will govern changes or modifications to the strategy and ensure project and fiscal accountability?
- Does the applicant identify a plan for collecting, collating, and submitting timely performance data?



#### **Performance Measures/Plan for Collecting the Data**

- Does the applicant describe the process for measuring project performance, identify who will collect the data, who is responsible for performance measurement, and how the information will be used to guide and assess the program?
- Does the applicant demonstrate understanding of performance data to be collected and reported?
- Does the applicant identify the criteria that will determine how and if the objectives have been successfully met and one or more specific measurable outcome(s) and the data sources that will be used to determine whether the outcome was accomplished?



#### **Budget**

 Did the applicant submit a budget that is complete, reasonable, cost effective, and allowable?



#### **Matching Funds**

- Does the applicant have match funds?
- The more funding an applicant has, the more points they will receive.
- As an example, an applicant with no match could receive 0, an applicant with 10% could receive 2 points, etc. depending on how you choose to score.



#### Next Steps

- Await updated FAQs
- Register for portal account when open
- Email communications from Jen Wade with specific committee guide sheets
  - These guides will contain more information on eligible projects as well as lists of facilities in list of facilities in priority compliance categories
  - Examples of eligible projects, etc.



#### **Next Steps**

- Follow-up instructions one week prior to individual reviews
- Tentatively set collaboration session based on volume of awards



## Questions

Applicants with specific questions may reach out to:

<u>Jennifer.wade@opb.Georgia.gov</u> for Broadband Infrastracture <u>Jasmine.Lewis2@opb.Georgia.gov</u> for Water/Sewer Infrastructure <u>Sameerah.Anderson@opb.Georgia.gov</u> for Negative Economic Impact