Broadband Infrastructure Program
Fourth Set of Frequently Asked Questions (July 20, 2021)

The below FAQs are for informational purposes only and are intended solely to assist potential applicants in better understanding the NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Program and the application requirements set forth in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for this program. The FAQs do not and are not intended to supersede, modify, or otherwise alter applicable statutory or regulatory requirements, or the specific application requirements set forth in the NOFO. In all cases, statutory and regulatory mandates, and the requirements set forth in the NOFO, shall prevail over any inconsistencies contained in the below FAQs.

Application Requirements/Process

What kind of service area mapping data may applicants submit to demonstrate the proposed service area?
Section IV.B.10 of the Broadband Infrastructure Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) asks applicants to provide maps of their proposed service areas (preferably in shapefiles, .kmz, or .kml formats). To provide further guidance to applicants on the information to be included with their applications, NTIA is interested in receiving sub-Census block geographic information on proposed service areas, including address points, address ranges, road centerlines, land-parcel identification numbers (APN), or tabular data including latitude/longitude columns and the corresponding proposed broadband service data (such as proposed service/technology type, proposed upload and download speed, etc.). For additional detail, please see the NBAM Data Submission Guidelines document for information that would be helpful to include in the mapping data for NTIA to assess the eligibility of the proposed service area.

What kind of mapping files or data may applicants submit?
NTIA prefers that applicants provide data that is in the following formats: File Geodatabase, Shapefile, Geographic JavaScript Object Notation (GeoJSON), Google Keyhole Markup Language (KML, Web Feature Service (WFS), Esri ArcGIS Online Feature Services, Spreadsheets or comma-separated data file including some form of location data is associated with the content (such as addresses, latitude/longitude, etc.). Please see "Section 3 - Data Format" in the NBAM Data Submission Guidelines document for additional information on these mapping file types.

Should applicants be using the 2010 or 2020 Census data for any mapping data they provide to describe their proposed service area?
Applicants should provide their proposed service areas in 2010 census block designations. Current data sources that NTIA will use to assess the eligibility of service areas are in Census 2010 geographic designations and although updated with recent data, e.g., FCC Form 477 data, have yet to be collected or provided to NTIA in Census 2020 geographic designations.