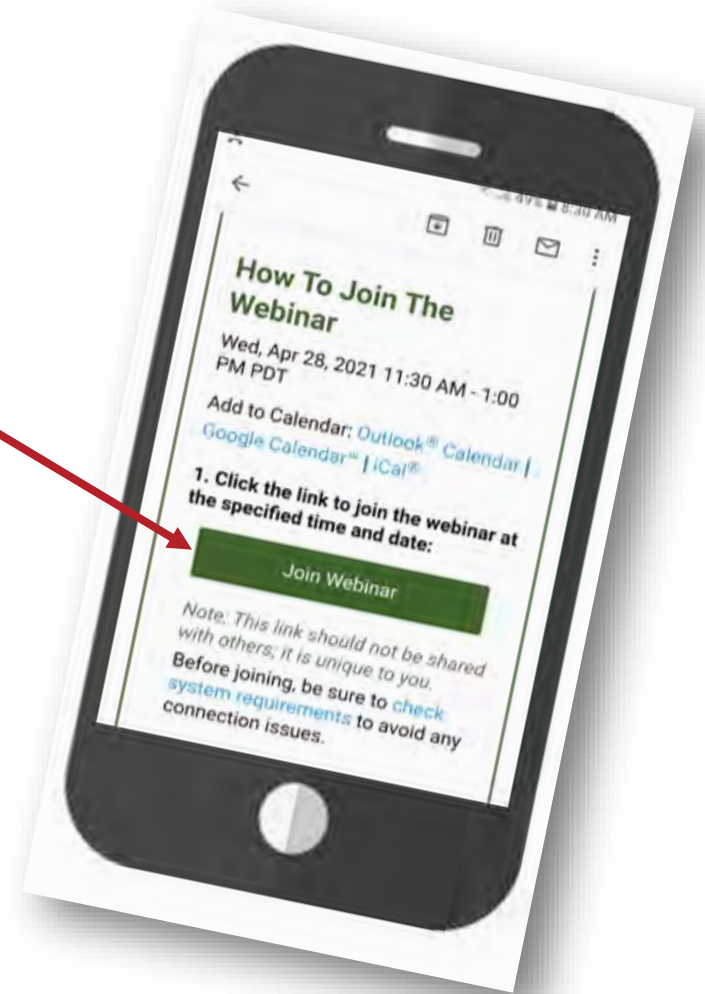


Phone Audio Option- Mobile Device

- ✓ Click on Join Webinar from your email confirmation.
 - ✓ Download the app as directed.
 - ✓ Webinar will launch automatically once the app is downloaded and opened
- *If the webinar does not launch, click “Join Webinar” again from your email confirmation.



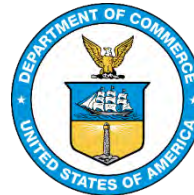
The presentation along with a transcript and recording will be available on the BroadbandUSA website under Events/Past Event on or before August 25, 2021.



Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program

Notice of Funding Opportunity

August 18 - 19, 2021



Questions

- Type questions in the Q&A box on the right-hand side of the screen. Questions and answers will be available on the FAQ section of our website.
- [Overview of Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 | BroadbandUSA \(doc.gov\)](#)

Presentation

- The presentation along with a transcript and recording will be available on the BroadbandUSA website under Events/Past Event **on or before August 25, 2021.**
- [BroadbandUSA Past Events](#)

This presentation is for informational purposes only and is intended solely to assist potential applicants in better understanding the CMC Pilot Program and the application requirements set forth in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for this program. The presentation does not and is not intended to supersede, modify, or otherwise alter applicable statutory or regulatory requirements, or the specific application requirements set forth in the program's Final Rule or NOFO. In all cases, statutory and regulatory mandates, and the requirements set forth in the NOFO, shall prevail over any inconsistencies contained in the presentation.

Speakers

Special Address & Welcome:

- The Honorable Gina M. Raimondo – 40th U.S. Secretary of Commerce

Presenters:

- Kevin Hughes, Broadband Program Specialist, NTIA
- Scott D. Woods, Senior Broadband Program Specialist, NTIA
- Emy Tseng, Senior Broadband Program Specialist, NTIA
- Michell Morton, Broadband Program Specialist, NTIA
- Karen Archer Perry, Senior Broadband Policy Analyst, NTIA
- Pandora Beasley-Timpson, Management & Program Analyst, NTIA
- Janice Wilkins, Broadband Program Specialist, NTIA
- Mercedes Martinez, Grants Officer, NIST

Moderator:

- Francine Alkisswani, Telecommunications Policy Analyst, NTIA

Agenda

Special Address and Welcome

Secretary Gina M. Raimondo

CMC Pilot Program Overview

Kevin Hughes

Overview of Notice of Funding Opportunity

Scott D. Woods

CMC Program Examples

Emy Tseng & Michell Morton

NIST Grants Office - Application Submission Process

Mercedes Martinez

CMC Application Review Process & Next Steps

Janice Wilkins, Karen Archer
Perry, & Pandora Beasley-
Timpson

Questions & Answers

All



The Honorable Gina M. Raimondo
40th U.S. Secretary of Commerce

Special Address and Welcome





Overview of CMC Pilot Program

Kevin Hughes
Broadband Program Specialist
NTIA



Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program

- Through the Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program, NTIA will directly address the lack of broadband access, connectivity, adoption and equity at our nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs), and in their surrounding anchor communities
- Accordingly, Congress has directed NTIA to provide grants to HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to facilitate educational instruction and learning, including through remote instruction; and to consortia including Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs) or tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organizations to operate that MBE or tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization
- Eligible recipients may use grant funds to:
 - (1) purchase broadband internet access service, including the installation or upgrade of broadband facilities on a one-time, capital improvement, basis to increase or expand broadband capacity and/or connectivity at the eligible institution;
 - (2) purchase or lease eligible equipment and devices for student or patron use, subject to any restrictions and prohibited uses; and
 - (3) hire and train information technology personnel who are a part of the eligible anchor institution, MBE, or tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization

Federal Award Information

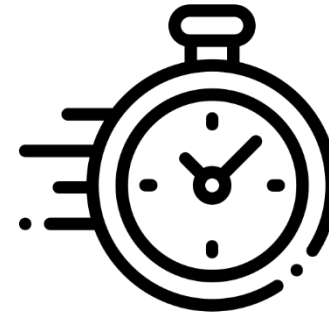
NTIA expects to make awards under this program within the following funding range: \$500,000 to \$3,000,000 (range is not a required minimum or maximum)



Up to
\$268,000,000
will be made available
in total grant funds



Period of
Performance:
Two years



Eligible recipient may submit
a request for an extension of
the period of performance
with its application or no
later than 90 calendar days
before award period ends

Program Goals

What? The Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program focused on building the broadband digital capacities of HBCUs, TCUs and MSI educational institutions and their surrounding communities to:



Expand educational instruction and remote learning opportunities



Hire Information Technology Personnel



Spur economic development, employment and entrepreneurship

Purpose? To build the broadband and digital technology capacities of eligible institutions and support broadband access, adoption, and digital skills within those institutions and in their surrounding anchor communities.

No Match Required!

No Matching Requirement



Program Evaluation and Data Collection Requirements





CMC Funding Requirements

- Statutory Mandated Set Asides:

1. At least 40% of grants funds awarded must be made to HBCUs.
2. At least 20% of all grants funds awarded must be used to provide broadband access and/or devices and equipment to students.
3. These statutory set asides are not mutually exclusive (i.e., funds awarded to an HBCU to provide broadband Internet access service and/or eligible equipment to its students would count toward both set aside requirements).

- Program Focus on Students In Need:

1. The provision of broadband Internet access service or eligible equipment to students must prioritize students who are in need (per the needs criteria factors).
2. The provision or lending of equipment must prioritize students and/or patrons who do not have access to such equipment.

CMC Anchor Community Eligibility Dashboard

Connecting Minority Communities - Anchor Community Eligibility Dashboard

School Eligibility Type: State: School Name:

About

The CMC Anchor Community Dashboard is for informational purposes only and is intended solely to assist potential applicants in better understanding the CMC Pilot Program and the requirements set forth in the Final Rule for this program. The Dashboard does not and is not intended to supersede, modify, or otherwise alter applicable statutory or regulatory requirements, or the specific requirements set forth in the Final Rule and Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). In all cases, statutory and regulatory mandates, and the requirements set forth in the Final Rule and NOFO, shall prevail over any inconsistencies contained in the Dashboard.

To identify those "anchor community" areas surrounding a qualifying institution in which the "estimated median annual household income is not more than 250 percent of the poverty line," NTIA uses the median household income estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year data (current period 2015-2019) for each census tract falling wholly or partially within the applicable area. To ensure the comparison of similar datasets, NTIA also uses corresponding poverty threshold data for the same time period. For each relevant census tract, NTIA has compared the median household income estimate with the most recent poverty thresholds published by the Census Bureau (so long as corresponding household income data is also available for the same time period, as discussed above). Currently, the most recent available data is from 2019.

Accordingly, NTIA uses the weighted average poverty threshold that corresponds to the mean household size in each census tract. If the mean household size is between two whole numbers, NTIA will round up to the next whole number household size to determine the applicable weighted average poverty threshold. This will help to ensure that the CMC program's eligibility standards include as many communities in need as possible. If the median household income of a census tract does not exceed 2.5 times the applicable weighted average poverty threshold, that tract will be considered part of the anchor community and is identified accordingly. The following table provides an overview of NTIA's poverty threshold calculations:

250% Poverty Threshold	Census 2019 Poverty Threshold	Average Household Size
\$32,528	\$13,011	1 or less
\$41,303	\$16,521	>1 and <=2
\$50,838	\$20,335	>2 and <=3
\$65,430	\$26,172	>3 and <=4
\$77,553	\$31,021	>4 and <=5
\$87,823	\$35,129	>5 and <=6
\$100,040	\$40,016	>6 and <=7
\$111,153	\$44,461	>7 and <=8
\$122,100	\$48,875	More than 8

Esri, USGS | Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA | Sources: Esri, TomTom, U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau

Powered by Esri

CMC Dashboard Update

1. **CMC Dashboard is in the process of being updated to reflect Department of Education’s 2021 Eligibility Matrix for MSI designated status. There are additions and deletions with the new update. – CMC Team is currently validating the data.**
2. Except for Puerto Rico, the CMC Dashboard does not contain American Community Survey Data (census tract-based median household income and household size) for U.S. Territories and independent nations in a compact of free association with the U.S.
 - U.S. Territory examples – USVI, Guam, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands
 - Independent Nations/Free Compact examples – Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau – **Contact the CMC Project Team**
3. MSI-designations with 4R or 5R Eligibility Matrix status - 4R and 5R designated schools would be eligible for grant funding if it had a non-religious/vocational curriculum. These schools are reflected visually in the CMC Dashboard, but do not have a corresponding anchor community boundary analysis and are not eligible for CMC funding. - **Completed**
4. Data Entry Limitation under the “School Name” drop down on CMC tool bar - this only impacts certain schools in states that have MSI-designated schools in one category that exceed the current data entry limit of 100. - **Completed**



Scott D. Woods

Senior Broadband Program Specialist

NTIA

Notice of Funding Opportunity



Key Application Information



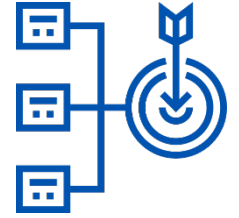
CMC's Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is available on www.grants.gov.

Complete applications must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on **December 1, 2021**.



Who Can Apply? – Eligible Recipients

- **Historically Black Colleges or Universities (HBCUs)**
- **Tribal Colleges or Universities (TCUs)**
- **Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs)**
 - ✓ Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)
 - ✓ Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions (NASNTI)
 - ✓ Alaska Native or Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions (ANNH)
 - ✓ Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISI)
 - ✓ Predominantly Black Institutions (PBI)
- **Consortiums led by HBCUs, TCUs, or MSIs that include a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) or Tax-Exempt 501(c)(3) Organization**



CMC Funding - Project Purposes

Applicants may request funding for projects that have at least one of the following purposes:

1. Builds the broadband and IT capacity of eligible institutions
2. Builds digital skills and IT workforce capacity in HBCU, TCU, and MSI institutions, anchor communities, and MBE and tax-exempt consortia members
3. Provides broadband education, awareness, training, access, equipment, and support
4. Provides subsidized broadband access and equipment
5. Assesses the needs of HBCU, TCU, and MSI anchor institutions and surrounding anchor communities, including planning activities
6. Improves use of broadband services by eligible MBEs and community-based organizations (tax-exempt 501(c)(3))
7. Stimulates the adoption and community use of broadband services



CMC Eligible Uses of Funding

An eligible recipient may generally use grant funds to:

- ✓ Fund personnel costs, including salaries and fringe benefits for staff and consultants
- ✓ Fund increases in broadband networking capability, hardware, software, and other digital technology
- ✓ Fund equipment and devices (excluding mobile phones) to support connectivity for remote education
- ✓ Fund, provide, and implement affordable broadband programs
- ✓ Fund, provide and implement digital training, education, technology support, outreach and awareness programs
- ✓ Fund access to broadband services, including improvement of broadband services and equipment



CMC Eligible Uses of Funding – Cont'd

An eligible recipient may generally use grant funds to:

- ✓ Conduct needs assessments and develop plans for increasing broadband adoption and access to remote education
- ✓ Fund Program Evaluation and Data Collection activities to collect data and document best practices for replicable and sustainable programs
- ✓ Fund sub-awards and contractual costs associated with carrying out programmatic activities of a Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program grant, including for program implementation and consulting services
- ✓ Fund reasonable pre-application expenses in an amount not to exceed \$50,000
- ✓ Fund other allowable costs necessary to carry out programmatic activities
- ✓ Gather data and conduct evaluation of the digital inclusion, broadband access and adoption, and professional development programs



CMC Eligible Costs - Indirect Costs

Section IV.B.8 of the CMC NOFO:

- If indirect costs are included in the proposed budget, provide a copy of the approved negotiated agreement if this rate was negotiated with a cognizant federal agency. If the rate was not established by a cognizant federal agency, provide a statement to this effect. If the successful applicant includes indirect costs in the budget and has not established an indirect cost rate with a cognizant federal agency, the applicant will be required to obtain such a rate in accordance with **Section B.06 of the Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions, dated November 12, 2020.**
- Alternatively, in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.414(f), applicants that do not have a current negotiated indirect cost rate (including a provisional rate) may elect to charge indirect costs to the award pursuant to a de minimis rate of 10 percent of modified total direct costs, in which case a negotiated indirect cost rate agreement is not required. As described in 2 C.F.R. § 200.403, costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs but may not be double charged or inconsistently charged as both. Applicants proposing a 10 percent de minimis rate pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.414(f) must note this election as part of the budget portion of the application.



CMC Pilot Program - Ineligible Costs

The following costs are specifically identified as prohibited by the CMC Pilot Program:

- × **Prohibition on certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment**
- × **Prohibition on profit and fees**
- × **Prohibited uses of equipment**
- × **Construction activities**
- × **Pre-award costs greater than \$50,000**
- × **Loan repayment**
- × **Loan collateral**
- × **Previously incurred costs**
- × **Duplication of funding from other federal programs for similar purposes**
- × **Costs that are unallowable under the applicable federal cost principles.**

Emy Tseng
Senior Broadband Program Specialist
NTIA

Michell Morton
Broadband Program Specialist
NTIA

CMC Program Examples

1. Builds the Broadband and Information Technology Capacity of the Educational Institution

Eligible Entity: HBCU, TCU or MSI

- Educational software, online licensing fees and resources
- Equipment, broadband devices and instructional equipment
- Technology support and IT services
- Installations and/or upgrades of on campus computer and broadband facilities
- Broadband Internet services on campus
- IT staff and personnel costs
- Professional development training for IT staff

2. Provide Remote Instruction and Learning Opportunities (Targeting Low Income and In-Need Students)

Eligible Entity: HBCU, TCU or MSI

- Broadband-related devices such as laptops, tablets and Wi-Fi hotspots, excluding mobile phones
- Broadband Internet services and subsidies for students and faculty (preferably through bulk purchase agreements)
- Assistance to students to sign up for available low-cost Internet access programs and device subsidies
- Technical support and training for students and faculty
- Staff and personnel required to carry out these activities

3. Hire and Train Information Technology Personnel and Develop a Diverse Information Technology Workforce

Eligible Entity: HBCU, TCU or MSI

- Advanced digital skills training including STEM/STEAM, coding, cybersecurity, networking, Smart Technology
- IT-related apprenticeship and internship programs
- IT-related professional development opportunities
- Staff and personnel required to carry out these activities

4. Promote Broadband Access, Adoption, and Digital Inclusion within Anchor Communities

Eligible Entities: HBCU, TCU, MSI or Consortium led by an eligible HBCU, TCU or MSI including an MBE or Tax-Exempt 501(c)(3) Organization

- Tech support and IT services to residents, businesses and community organizations
- Digital skills training for residents, businesses and community organizations
- Broadband awareness, adoption and training programs including digital connectors and navigators
- Assistance to residents to sign-up for available low-cost Internet access programs and device subsidies
- Broadband-related devices such as laptops, tablets (Wi-Fi enabled) and Wi-Fi hotspots (excluding mobile phones)
- Broadband Internet access services and subsidies
- Staff and personnel required to carry out these activities

5. Support Broadband and Information Technology-related Operations of an MBE or 501(c)(3) Organization Within Designated Anchor Communities

Eligible Entities: HBCU, TCU, MSI or Consortium led by an eligible HBCU, TCU or MSI including MBE or Tax-Exempt 501(c)(3) Organization

- Purchase Broadband equipment and devices
- Technology support and IT services
- Purchase Broadband Internet services
- IT staff and personnel costs
- IT-related professional development

6. Promote Inclusive Innovation, Workforce and Economic Development, and Entrepreneurship Within Designated Anchor Communities

Eligible Entities: HBCU, TCU, MSI or Consortium led by an eligible HBCU, TCU or MSI including an MBE or Tax-Exempt 501(c)(3) Organization

- Advanced digital skills training including STEM/STEAM, coding, cybersecurity, networking, Smart Technology
- IT-related business support, workforce and economic development centers, business incubators
- Provide IT apprenticeship and internship programs

Mercedes Martinez
Grants Officer
NIST

NIST Grants Office: Application Submission Process via Grants.gov

Overview

- Section IV. Application and Submission Information
 - L. Other Submission Requirements
 - B. Content and Form of Applications
 - Completing the SF-424
 - Completing the SF-424A Budget Form
 - Detailed Project Budget and Budget Narrative
 - Project Narrative
 - C. Additional Application Materials
 - D. Attachment of Required Documents
 - E. Application Format
- Helpful Resources

**SECTION IV. APPLICATION AND
SUBMISSION INFORMATION**

L. Submission Requirements



**Register
through
Grants.gov**

- Obtain DUNS Number
- Register with SAM
- Create Grants.gov Account
- Add a profile to Grants.gov
- Ebiz POC Authorized Profile Roles
- Track Role Status

**Apply via
Grants.gov**

- Create a Workspace
- Complete a Workspace
- Submit a Workspace
- Track a Workspace Submission

Electronic Signature

- AOR role that submits the application
- Ebiz POC must authorize people who are able to make legally binding commitments on behalf of the organization

SECTION IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

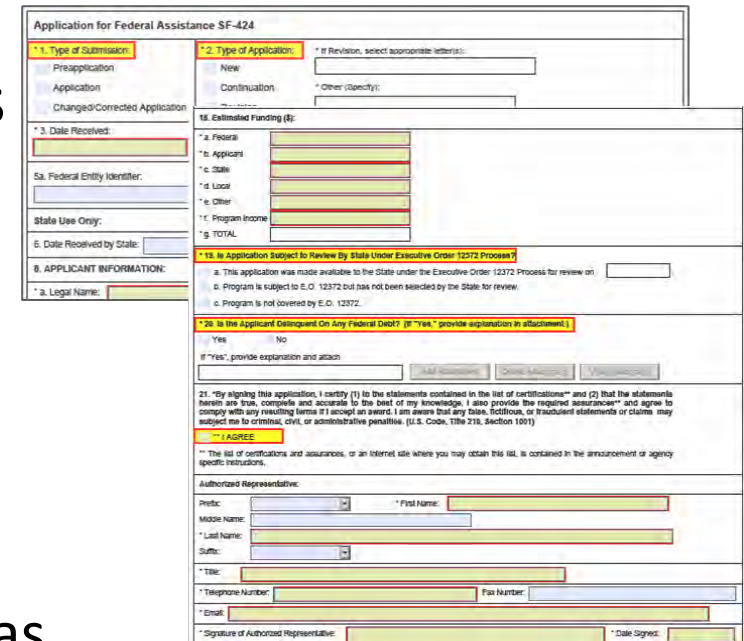
B. Content and Form of Applications

Which Documents Do I Need to Submit with My Application?	
Standard Forms on Grants.gov	Additional Requirements
1. Standard Form 424: Application for Federal Assistance	6. Project Narrative
2. Standard Form 424A: Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs	7. Detailed Project Budget and Budget Narrative
3. Standard Form 424B: Assurances for Non-Construction Programs	8. Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (as applicable)
4. CD-511 Certification Regarding Lobbying	9. Letters of Commitment
5. Standard Form LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (If Applicable)	10. Certification Regarding Compliance
	11. Certification for Minority Business Enterprises (as applicable)

SECTION IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Completing the SF-424

- SF-424, Item 8.d Zip/Postal Code field, should reflect the Zip code + 4 (#####-####) format.
- SF-424, Item 12, should list the NOFO number as NTIA-CMCP-2021.
- SF-424, Item 18, should list the total federal budget amount requested for the entire project.
- SF-424, Item 21,
 - Certs and Reps in SAM.gov (SF-424B)
 - Certifications Regarding Debarment and Suspension as described in Section IV.F of the NOFO



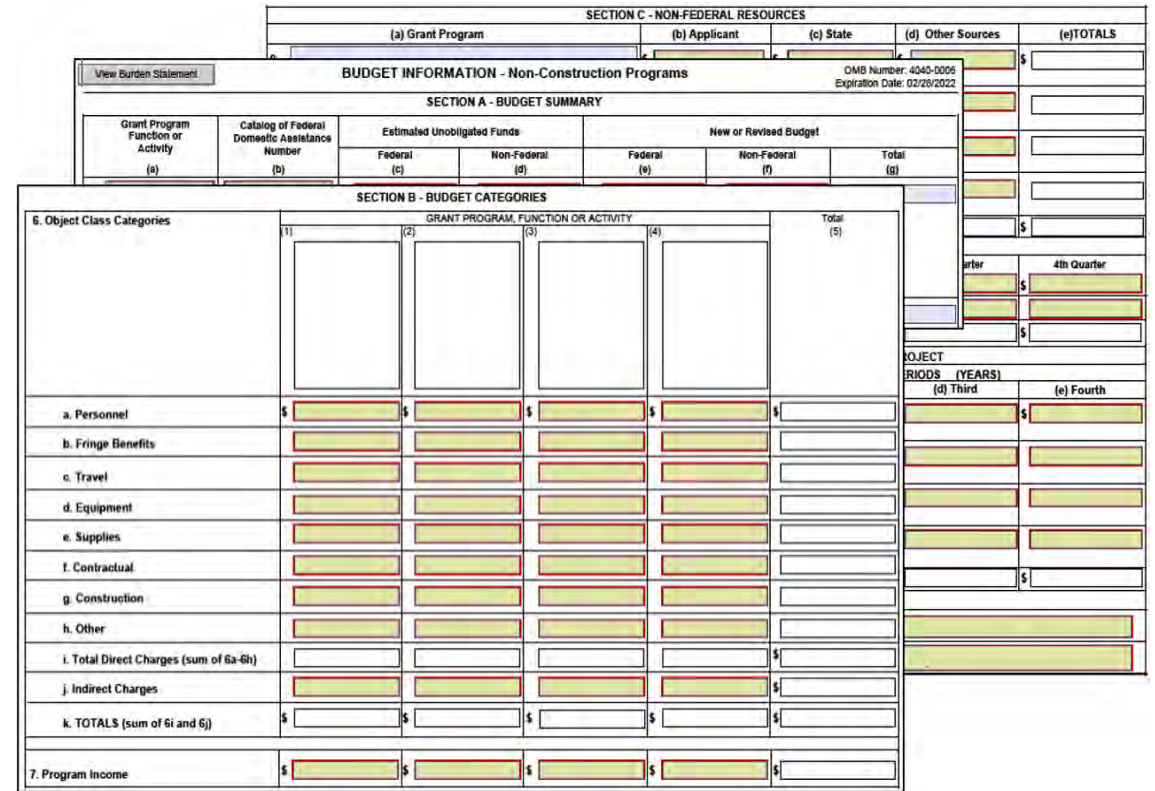
The screenshot shows the 'Application for Federal Assistance SF-424' form. Key sections include:

- 1. Type of Submission:** Radio buttons for Preapplication, Application, and Changed/Corrected Application.
- 2. Type of Application:** Radio buttons for New, Continuation, and Other (Specify).
- 3. Date Received:** A date field.
- 5a. Federal Entity Identifier:** A dropdown menu.
- State Use Only:** A checkbox.
- 6. Date Received by State:** A date field.
- 8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:** A field for Legal Name.
- 18. Estimated Funding (\$):** A table with columns for:
 - a. Federal
 - b. Applicant
 - c. State
 - d. Local
 - e. Other
 - f. Program Income
 - g. TOTAL
- 19. Is Application Subject to Review by State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?** Radio buttons for Yes and No, with a text field for explanation.
- 21. Certifications:** A section with a signature line for the Authorized Representative and a Date Signed field.

SECTION IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Completing the SF-424A Budget Form

- Section A – Budget Summary
 - (b) CFDA
 - (e) New Budget - Federal
- Section B – Budget Categories
 - Object Class Categories (cost categories)
 - Column 1 - Year 1, Column 2 - Year 2
 - Totals (lines 6i, 6k, column 5)
- Section C – Non-Federal Resources
 - No match/cost-sharing requirement



The image shows a screenshot of the SF-424A Budget Form. It is divided into three main sections: SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY, SECTION B - BUDGET CATEGORIES, and SECTION C - NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES. SECTION A includes fields for Grant Program, Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number, Estimated Unobligated Funds, and New or Revised Budget. SECTION B lists Object Class Categories (a. Personnel, b. Fringe Benefits, c. Travel, d. Equipment, e. Supplies, f. Contractual, g. Construction, h. Other) with columns for Year 1, Year 2, and Totals. SECTION C includes fields for Grant Program, Applicant, State, Other Sources, and Totals. The form also includes a 'View Burden Statement' button and OMB Number/Expiration Date information.

SECTION IV. APPLICATION AND
SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Detailed Project Budget and Budget Narrative

- Detailed Project Budget: spreadsheet
 - Mirror SF-424A cost categories
 - Itemized
 - Detailed
- Budget Narrative: word document
 - Explain necessity and basis for all costs
- Reflect same amounts as the SF-424 and SF-424A
- Allowable costs
- Detailed breakdowns

**SECTION IV. APPLICATION AND
SUBMISSION INFORMATION**

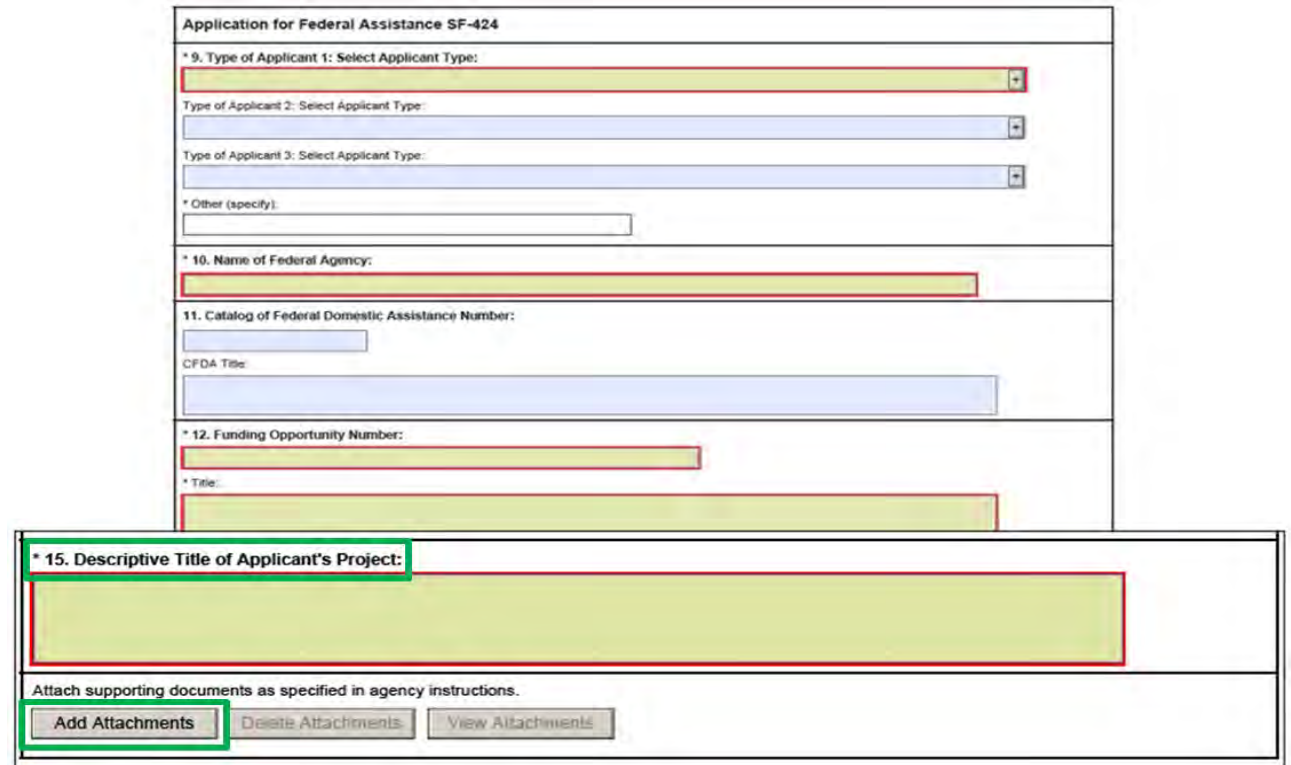
Project Narrative

- **Components**
 - Executive Summary (not to exceed 2 pages)
 - Eligibility and Qualifications
 - Table of Funded Project Participants and Unfunded Informal Collaborators (does not count towards page limit)
 - Resumes of Key Personnel (no more than 5 and not to exceed 1 page each)
 - Project Justification
 - Project Activities
 - Project Results and Evaluation

SECTION IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

D. Attachment of Required Documents

- Standard application package in Grants.gov
 - Section IV.B.1 through IV.B.5
 - Complete through the download application process
- Add attachments to SF-424
 - Section IV.B.6 through IV.B.11
 - Section IV.C



Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:
[Redacted]

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:
[Redacted]

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:
[Redacted]

* Other (specify):
[Redacted]

* 10. Name of Federal Agency:
[Redacted]

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:
[Redacted]

CFDA Title:
[Redacted]

* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:
[Redacted]

* Title:
[Redacted]

* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:
[Redacted]

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments Delete Attachments View Attachments

**SECTION IV. APPLICATION AND
SUBMISSION INFORMATION**

E. Application Format

- ⊗ Paper, emailed, fax submissions will not be accepted
- Figures, graphs, images, and pictures: Easy to read, may be landscape orientation
- Font: Easy to read, 10-pt minimum
- Line spacing: Single or double
- Margins: 1-in all around
- Page Layout: Portrait orientation, paragraph formatting
- Page Limit: Project Narrative, 20p single-spaced or 40p double-spaced (Executive Summary, 2p); Resumes, 1p each
- Page Numbering: Sequential
- Page Size: Letter size (8½ in x 11 in)
- Application Language: English
- Typed Document: All applications and forms must be typed

Helpful Resources

Obtain a DUNS System for Award Management (SAM.gov)	http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform (1-866-705-5711)
Grants.gov	https://sam.gov/
Grants.gov Training Resources	https://www.grants.gov/
Grants.gov Applicant Support (24/7)	https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/ap plicant-training.html
Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program Regulations – 47 CFR Part 302 (86 FR 31638)	<a href="https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/ap
plicant-training.html">support@grants.gov (1-800-518-4726)
2 CFR Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards	https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-06-15/pdf/2021-12454.pdf
Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Policy	https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr200_main_02.tpl
	https://www.commerce.gov/oam/policy/financial-assistance-policy

Direct grants management inquiries to:

Yongming Qiu

NIST Grants Officer

Grants Management Division

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Phone: (301) 975-5437

Email: yongming.qiu@nist.gov



Janice Wilkins

Broadband Program Specialist

NTIA

Karen Archer Perry

Senior Broadband Policy Analyst

NTIA

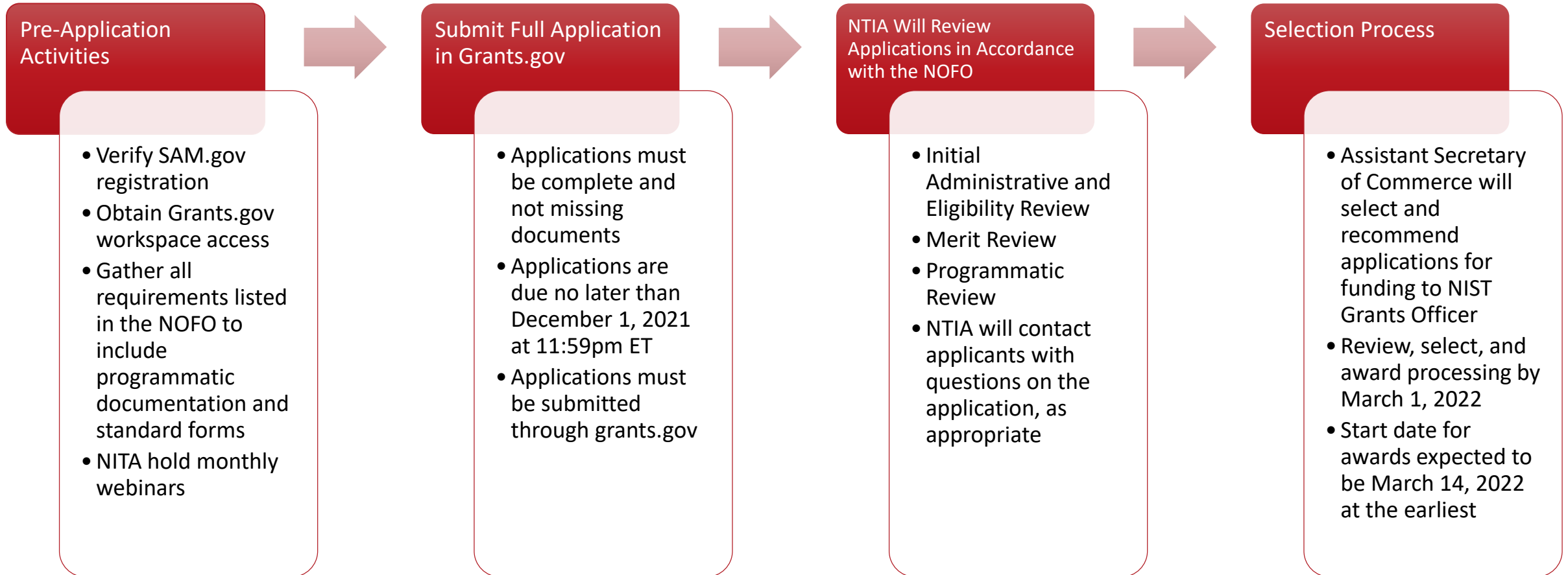
Pandora Beasley-Timpson

Management & Program Analyst

NTIA

CMC Application Review Process & Next Steps

Grants Process and Application Timeline



Review Process for CMC Pilot Program

Initial Administrative and Eligibility Review of Complete Application Packets

- Determine eligibility, completeness, and responsiveness to statutory and programmatic requirements of CMC Pilot Program, including review of project narrative and budget justification, and IRS Portal check for tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organizations where applicable



Merit Review – Applications satisfying the Initial Review will be evaluated by at least two objective reviewers who have demonstrated expertise in the programmatic elements of the grant program

- Scored independently based on NOFO Evaluation Criteria on a scale of 0-100
- Applications meeting NTIA scoring thresholds (70-100 points) will advance to Programmatic Review



Programmatic Review – NTIA Program Staff will review applications that qualified for funding during Merit Review for conformity with statutory and programmatic objectives, requirements, and priorities



CMC Evaluation Criteria

- **Project Purpose (25 points)**
 - ✓ Fit with Statutory and Program Purposes
- **Project Needs and Benefits (35 points)**
 - ✓ Level of Need and/or Impact, including Greatest Unmet Financial Need
- **Project Viability and Innovation (20 points)**
 - ✓ Technical Feasibility of the Proposed Project (10 points)
 - ✓ Applicant's Organizational Capability (10 points)
- **Project Budget (15 points)**
 - ✓ Reasonableness of the Budget
- **Project Evaluation (5 Points)**

CMC Evaluation Criteria - Greatest Unmet Financial Need

To determine which eligible recipients have students with the greatest unmet financial needs, each applying eligible institution must provide the following information in their application for funding (or as much of the information as is reasonably available to the institution), to include any supplementary information to explain the data:

- (i) Student population size;
- (ii) Number and percentage of students that are eligible to receive Federal Pell Grants;
- (iii) Number and percentage of students that receive other need-based financial aid from the Federal Government, a State, or that institution;
- (iv) Number and percentage of students that qualify as low-income consumers;
- (v) Number and percentage of students that are low-income individuals; and
- (vi) Number and percentage of students that have been approved to receive unemployment insurance benefits under any Federal or State law since March 1, 2020.

During the Merit Review phase, NTIA will analyze the submitted information for each of these criteria and will develop an assessment of each institution's student body-based unmet financial needs. These assessments will be ranked and compared across all submitted applications during the merit review phase and program eligibility determinations will be made based on an evaluation of the data provided and accompanying explanatory information. Final recommendations for project approval and grant funding will be made for those eligible anchor institutions that have demonstrated the greatest unmet financial need.



Selection Factors and Selection Process

NOFO Section V.C.

NTIA's recommendations to the Selecting Official will consider the following selection factors:

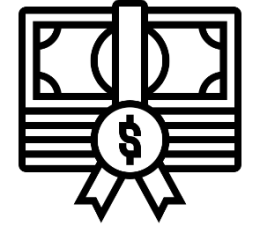
1. The scores and technical comments of the objective expert reviewers during Merit Review
2. The analysis of NTIA Program Staff during Programmatic Review
3. Satisfaction of the statutory purposes of the Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program as set forth in Section 902(c)(1) of the Act, especially considering which eligible recipients in anchor communities have the greatest unmet financial needs
4. Avoidance of duplication with the initiatives of other federal agencies, including the Department of Education, the National Science Foundation, and the Federal Communications Commission
5. The availability of funds

The Selecting Official will submit the applications they recommend for funding to the NIST Grants Officer. The final approval of selected applications and the issuance of awards will be made by the NIST Grants Officer. The award decisions of the NIST Grants Officer are final. Awards will be made once NTIA completes its review and evaluation of all applications. All awards are subject to the availability of federal award funds at the time of award. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing.

Contesting NTIA's Determination of Eligible Census Tract(s)

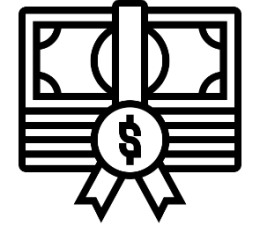
NOFO Section IV.C. - Applicants may submit data to contest NTIA's determination that a census tract (or census tracts) does not meet the poverty threshold requirements for anchor community eligibility and participation in the CMC Pilot Program:

- 1) In such cases where the median household income data is disputed or otherwise unavailable, the applicant may submit its own data to support an anchor community eligibility determination of specific census tracts:
 - A. Applicant may argue that a census tract initially designated by NTIA as ineligible under the anchor community eligibility methodology (i.e., the poverty threshold calculation) is in fact eligible, and explain why –
 - Data submitted by the applicant must be U.S. Census Bureau data, provided on a census tract level, and may include updated or historical median household income data (in such cases where the 2019 data is unavailable)
 - No third-party data or third-party analyses will be accepted



Federal Award Administration Information

- **Federal Award Notices**
- **Notification to Unsuccessful Applicants**
- **Retention of Unsuccessful Applications**
- **Administrative and National Policy Requirements**
 - CMC Pilot Program Regulations
 - Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements
 - Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions
 - Pre-Award Notification Requirements
 - Property Trust Relationship and Public Notice Filings for Grant-Acquired Property



Federal Award Administration Information – Cont'd

- **Reporting**

- Reporting Requirements
 - Financial Reports
 - Performance (Technical) Reports
- Annual Report and Certification
- Provision of Information To FCC, NSF and ED

- **Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters**

- **Audit Requirements**

- **Closeout**

- **Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006**

Next Steps

- ✓ **Federal Register Publication of CMC Final Rule – June 15, 2021**
 - ✓ Released CMC Anchor Community Eligibility Dashboard
 - ✓ Continue Stakeholder Outreach & Pre-Application Technical Assistance
- ✓ **Grants.gov Publication of the CMC NOFO – August 3, 2021**
- FAQs Release**
- CMC Call for Merit Reviewers**
- Applications Due – December 1, 2021**
- Conduct Merit & Program Reviews – January/February 2022**
- Official Notification of Approval/Acceptance & Grants Documentation – March 2022**
- CMC Projects Launch – March 2022 with assignment of Program & Grants Officers**

Q & A

Join us again for the CMC grants webinar series!

	Broadband Infrastructure Program	Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program	Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program
Past Events:	April 28 & 29 June 9 & 10 July 14 & 15 August 4 & 5	April 21 & 22 June 16 & 17 July 21 & 22 August 11 & 12	May 5 & 6 June 23 & 24 July 28 & 29 August 18 & 19
Upcoming Events:		August 23 & 24	September 22 & 23 October 20 & 21

Webinars start at 2:30 pm ET

Registration is required for each webinar and is limited to 1,000

[BroadbandUSA Latest Events](#)

Thank you!

Link to CMC Webpage:

[Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program | BroadbandUSA \(doc.gov\)](https://www.broadbandusa.ntia.gov/CMC/PilotProgram)



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CMC Anchor Community Eligibility Dashboard:

<https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/cmcdashboard>

Indicators of Broadband Need Map:

[Indicators of Broadband Need \(arctis.com\)](https://www.broadbandusa.ntia.gov/indicators)