



Frequently Asked Questions: as of January 10, 2025

PROGRAM:

1. What is the purpose of this program?
 - a. To implement the plans of the American Samoa Broadband in NEI Digital Equity (AS DEq Plan) Plan and to carry out digital inclusion activities within the territory.
 - b. This program is a subgranting program

2. Who is the Administering Organization?
 - a. The American Samoa Department of Commerce, Broadband Coordination Opportunities Redevelopment and Deployment (BCORD) Office. Is the Digital Equity Administering Organization for the Digital Equity Funds. As the Administering Organization, BCORD will be subgranting funds to eligible local organizations to carry out the mission of the AS DEq Plan and hold various digital inclusion activities in American Samoa.

3. Who is eligible to apply to the Digital Capacity Grant Program?
 - a. The following entities are eligible to apply for Competitive Grant Program so long as the entity is not serving, and has not served, as the administering entity for a State under either the State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program or the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program:
 1. A political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of a State, including an agency of a State that is responsible for administering or supervising adult education and literacy activities, or for providing public housing, in the State.
 2. An Indian Tribe, an Alaska Native entity, or a Native Hawaiian organization.
 3. A foundation, corporation, institution, or association that is
 1. A not-for-profit entity; and
 2. Not a school.
 4. A community anchor institution.
 5. A local educational agency.
 6. An entity that carries out a workforce development program.
 7. A partnership between any of the entities described in paragraphs (1) through (6).



4. What is a “community anchor institution”?
 - a. According to the Digital Equity Capacity NOFO - The term “community anchor institution” means a public school, a public or multi-family housing authority, a library, a medical or healthcare provider, a community college or other institution of higher education, a State or Territory library agency, and any other nonprofit or governmental community support organization.

5. Is there a cost share or matching requirement for this grant?
 - a. No. The Capacity Grant Program does not require cost sharing or matching.

6. How much funding was allocated to American Samoa?
 - a. \$2.1 million dollars was allocated by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. As of Dec 2024, BCORD received full award of this allocated amount.

7. What is the max award an entity can apply for?
 - a. Entities may apply for up to \$100,000.00 per project. Not to exceed \$100,000.00.

8. What are the allowable and unallowable uses of Capacity Grant funds?
 - a. Applicants must comply with the requirements of the [Digital Equity Act and the NOFO](#). An Eligible Entity or U.S. Territory to which a Capacity Grant is awarded must use the grant funds to support not less than 1 of the following activities:
 - i. To develop and implement digital inclusion activities that benefit one or more of the Covered Populations.
 - ii. To facilitate the adoption of broadband by Covered Populations to provide educational and employment opportunities to those populations.
 - iii. To implement training programs for Covered Populations that cover basic, advanced, and applied skills or other workforce development programs, including, for example, digital inclusion projects that address online safety, and work to prevent online harassment and abuse
 - iv. To make available equipment, instrumentation, networking capability, hardware and software, or digital network technology for broadband services to covered populations at low or no cost. To construct, upgrade, expend, or operate new or existing public access computing centers for Covered Populations through community anchor institutions.
 - v. To undertake any other project and activity that the Assistant Secretary finds to be consistent with the purposes for which the Program is established.



- vi. Grant recipients may only use federal award funds to pay for allowable costs under the Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program. Allowable costs are determined in accordance with the cost principles identified in 2 C.F.R. Part 200, including Subpart E of such regulations and in the Digital Equity Act. In addition, costs must be reasonable, necessary, allocable, and allowable for the proposed Digital Equity Project, and conform to generally accepted accounting principles. Grant funds may be used to cover only eligible costs incurred by the recipient during the period of performance, allowable costs incurred by the recipient during the grant closeout process, and limited pre-application expenses as outlined in NOFO Section IV. C.1. Funding is to be used by subrecipients for the following purposes.
 1. (a) assist in the implementation of the Digital Equity Plan of the State or Territory;
 2. (b) pursue digital inclusion activities in the State or Territory consistent with the Digital Equity Plan of the State or Territory; and
 3. (c) report to the State or Territory regarding the digital inclusion activities of the entity
 - b. 1) Before the Administering Organization or BCORD may award a subgrant, the Administering Entity or Administering Organization must require that the entity to which a subgrant is to be awarded certify that: The entity shall carry out the activities required under items (a), (b), and (c) of this subsection;
 - c. 2) The receipt of the subgrant shall not result in unjust enrichment of the entity; and
 - d. 3) The entity shall cooperate with any evaluation of the program as it relates to a grant awarded to the entity and that is carried out by or for the Administering Entity or Administering Organization, the Assistant Secretary, or another Federal official.
9. Will there be other funding opportunities?
- a. The BCORD Office is expecting to receive additional funding in 2025, and in 2026. At this time, we do not know the allocation amount of these NOFOs. A notice to the public will be made when more funding becomes available.

APPLICATION:

10. When are Applications Due?
 - a. Application window: January 13 through March 7, 2025.
 - b. Applications must be submitted by March 7, 2025 at 11:59 pm via the Online Portal.
11. How to Apply?



- a. To apply visit the **broadband.doc.as.gov** website for a link to Pre Register to gain access to the Digital Equity Capacity Grant Application.
 - b. Applications will only be submitted via the Online Portal.
12. Can an organization submit multiple applications?
- a. No. An eligible entity must submit only one application for the Digital Equity Capacity Program.