

261—411.5 (83GA,SF376) Threshold application requirements. Applicants must satisfy threshold eligibility requirements to qualify for funding. Applications that fail to meet threshold eligibility requirements will not be considered by the board. An applicant must meet each of the following threshold eligibility factors in order to be considered for a grant award by the board:

411.5(1) Fully completed application. Applicants must submit a complete application and provide all supporting documentation required for the application.

411.5(2) Timely project completion. A project is eligible only if the application demonstrates that the project can be completed within 24 months of the award date or by December 31, 2012, whichever date is earlier.

411.5(3) Fully funded project costs. A project is eligible only if, after approval of the grant and any federal grants and loans, all project costs can be fully funded. To demonstrate this, applicants must include with the application evidence of all funding necessary to support the project.

411.5(4) Capital projects. A project is eligible only if the proposed project is for capital expenditures. Program grant funds shall only be used for capital expenditures. The board may require applicants to submit descriptions and itemized lists of capital expenditures for which the applicants intend to use grant money. Additionally, all uses and proposed uses of grant funds shall be subject to review by the board, attorneys for the board or the state of Iowa, and any accountants or auditors retained by the board or the state of Iowa. If a use or proposed use of grant funds is not for capital expenditures, as defined by the board's legal counsel or generally accepted accounting principles, the board may withdraw all or part of a grant award and the board may seek recovery of any grant funds already disbursed to the grantee. Nothing in this subrule shall be construed as limiting the board's authority or any remedies available to the board to ensure that grant awards are spent only on capital expenditures. Furthermore, nothing in this subrule shall be construed as limiting the board's authority to impose additional restrictions on the use of grant funds in award contracts with grantees.

411.5(5) Economically sustainable. Only projects that are economically sustainable are eligible for an award. Applicants must demonstrate through a viable business plan that any project undertaken and funded by the board shall be economically sustainable.

411.5(6) Minimum broadband capacity. Only projects that intend to provide "high-speed broadband service," as defined in 261—411.2(83GA,SF376), throughout the project area are eligible for an award.

411.5(7) Federal funds. Only projects that will further the purposes of 2009 Iowa Acts, Senate File 376, section 13(5), and that have received a notice of an award of federal funds under either the BIP or BTOP Program are eligible for an award.

411.5(8) Project meets statutory requirements. 2009 Iowa Acts, Senate File 376, section 13(5), establishes minimum eligibility requirements for the program. Only projects that meet these statutory requirements for assistance are eligible for an award. To qualify, projects must be designed to accomplish all of the following:

a. Provide minimum broadband capacity throughout the area as determined by the governance board consistent with any applicable state and federal law or guidelines. The governance board shall ensure that the minimum broadband capacity established exceeds any federal requirements established with regard to the availability of federal funds.

b. Make broadband connections available to all business, government, educational, and residential locations within the project area, as appropriate for the type of project.

c. Utilize, where appropriate and feasible, existing privately owned telecommunications fiber infrastructure and wireless facilities to establish universal access to high-speed broadband services, as appropriate and consistent with the priorities established by the governance board for the program.

d. Demonstrate that any project undertaken and funded by the governance board shall be economically sustainable with no further government assistance based upon expected revenue generation.