

Last Mile, Federal Funding Account scoring rubric

Category (Section 3 of Appendix)	Maximum Points	Scoring
A. Match: An application will receive credit based on the percentage of matching funds the applicant proposes to invest in its project and the variety of sources of matching funding provided by others. Applicants may include other funding sources such as other federal or state funds which are not duplicative.	10	1 point for every 10% (rounded) of matching funds. For example, an application with matching funds equivalent to 60% of the requested FFA funds would get 6 points.
B. Project technology choice: Fiber optic infrastructure is scalable and enables the next generation of application solutions for all communities. An application proposing to invest in fiber optic infrastructure will receive credit.	10	1 point for every 10% (rounded) of project that is served by fiber. The baseline is the percent of current unserved locations that would be served by fiber.
C. Type of Partnership: An application proposing to build a broadband network owned, operated by, or affiliated with local governments; non- profits; a California tribal government, or their wholly-owned tribal corporation, or tribal non-profit; and cooperatives will receive credit. If a Tribe and other entities apply for the same proposed funding area which includes Tribal land, then special consideration will be given to the Tribal applicant.	20	1 point for every 5% ownership share (rounded) by local government, non-profit, tribal entity, etc.
D. Offers California and/or Federal Lifeline: An application that will offer or commits to offering California LifeLine and/or federal Lifeline service will receive credit.	10	Yes=10, No=0.
E. Pricing Commitment: An application that commits to not increasing prices for a period of 10 years instead of the required 5 years.	10	Yes=10, No=0.
F. Offers low-cost plan at 50/20+: An application proposing to offer the low-cost broadband plan at 50/20 Mbps for \$40 a month. Recipients have the option to adjust plans in accordance with the Consumer Price Index.	20	Yes=20, No=0.
G. Existing broadband service need: An application proposing to serve an entire priority area as identified by the Communications Division. Projects proposing to serve disadvantaged communities, as identified by the demographic information Communications Division provides and information submitted by the applicant, will be considered in scoring the existing broadband service need.	20	<p>The 20 points for this category will be awarded in full for any application where greater than 50% of the unserved locations in the application fall into one of the two category ranges of the socioeconomic indicators shown in the FFA map below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Median Household Income – Census Block Groups with median household income at or below 80% of either (a) State Median Income or (b) County Median Income if higher than State Median Income. • Is in a “Disadvantaged community” (SB 535), as shown on the map. <p>In lieu of the above, all 20 points would be awarded to any application by a Tribal entity as defined in the Federal Funding Account program rules.</p> <p>There will be no partial awarding of points based on the percentage of locations falling into any of these categories if the percentage is less than or equal to 50%. The 20 points will be either awarded or not.</p> <p>Each county has an allocation as stipulated in SB 156 and further illustrated in D.22-04-055 There are a total of 130 points possible for applications, so the “Existing Broadband Service Need” criterion is not the sole determinant of project’s priority for a county.</p>
H. Applicant Capacity and Performance: An application that demonstrates the financial, technical, and operational capacity to execute the project successfully and completely in the timeframe will receive credit.	10	<p>Available cumulative points in these categories:</p> <p>4 points: Applicant or contractor has significant experience in infrastructure or broadband construction projects (partial credit for moderate experience).</p> <p>3 points: Applicant has clarified where startup and gap funding to get project started and carry over between reimbursements will come from.</p> <p>3 points: Reaches ALL unserved households within the proposed service area.</p>
I. Technology, Network, and Budget: An application that demonstrates a well-planned project with a reasonable budget that shows it will deliver speeds and service proposed and be sufficiently robust to meet increasing demand for bandwidth will receive credit.	10	<p>Available cumulative points in these categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 points: Project displays adequate upload/download speeds at the household level to meet existing demand. (2 points for 100/100, 4 if gigabit) • 4 points: Complete budgets with itemized cost estimates (e.g., equipment list, labor, permit, lease equipment cost, etc.). • 2 points: Contains one or more of the following — 1. Project has extra bandwidth capacity beyond what is needed to permit expansion and/or better than Gigabit speeds. 2. Budget contains information about the useful life of components in the proposed system. 3. Detailed construction plans or network specifications are included with the application.
J. Leveraging Statewide Middle Mile: An application that proposes to leverage the statewide open-access middle mile network will receive credit, unless not in reasonable proximity to the network.	10	Connects to Statewide Middle Mile=10, No=0.
Total:	130	
Note: Decision D.22-04-005 (Appendix, page A-6) requires the CPUC establish scoring for qualitative evaluation of projects. This document outlines how staff determines the awarding of points as established in the Decision.		