

# Frequently Asked Questions (revised for 2016)

## Border to Border Broadband Grant Program

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### Project Area Questions:

- 1. What areas are eligible for grant funding--those unserved at 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload or those underserved at 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload?**

Both areas are eligible for the Border to Border Broadband Development grant program. For 2016, the legislature did specify that \$5 million in funding is for applications for underserved areas. Underserved is defined as having service of at least 25Mbps download and 3Mbps upload but less than 100Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload. The definition for unserved remains at the FCC definition, which is currently defined as not having broadband service of at least 25Mbps download and 3Mbps upload. As a starting point for determining eligibility, an interactive map is available on our website at <http://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/maps/>. Individual county maps are also available in PDF format at the above link.

- 2. Can a grant application be filed that includes both unserved and underserved areas?**

Yes, an application can request a grant for both unserved and underserved areas. The application must separately identify the costs associated with the broadband infrastructure for the unserved area and the underserved area and also separately identify the location count for each and the improvement in broadband service that will occur. Because the funding available for unserved and underserved has been delineated by the 2016 law, we also ask on the application whether you want your application to be considered for funding if only the unserved or underserved portion could be awarded a grant.

- 3. Will service provided by wireless carriers be considered in determining areas eligible for this grant program?**

No. The law that establishes the parameters of the grant provides that any area unserved or underserved is eligible and defines those areas in regard to availability of a wireline service.

- 4. Can the county maps be made available in an electronic format that we can manipulate?**

Yes, please contact us at 651/259-7610 or at [deed.broadband@state.mn.us](mailto:deed.broadband@state.mn.us). Another option is to use the data extract tool on the interactive map to retrieve data for custom areas. Because of nondisclosure agreements with the providers, there are some restrictions on what data is public and what is not public, so it may depend on the type of information you are requesting.

**5. Should applicants include information to support claims that the maps may not be accurate?**

The maps will be a primary tool in determining the eligibility of an area for the grant program but we will work with any region that identifies discrepancies in the maps to correct the information. We encourage anyone that sees inaccuracies on the map to contact our office as soon as possible so any corrections can be made prior to an application being submitted.

**6. Does the project area need to be contiguous?**

No. The project may include areas that are not adjacent to each other.

**7. Can you apply for multiple grants (to cover multiple project areas)?**

Yes, if an applicant has multiple projects they can submit an application for each project they wish to have considered for the grant program.

**8. Can a portion of a larger project be considered a "project" for which matching grant funds may be requested? In that situation, if allowed, would the financial feasibility of completing the entire project be what is reviewed?**

Only areas qualifying as un- or underserved are eligible for grant funding. However, an applicant may choose to present information on a larger project area to demonstrate context and sustainability of the proposal.

**Project Documentation Questions:**

**9. Does an applicant have to document that it contacted all broadband providers in writing that serve in the proposed project area and ask each provider for their plans to upgrade service in that area?**

Yes, this is a new requirement for 2016 and required by law. If an application does not include the required documentation, it will not be considered for a grant award. Our office is making available templates for the letter and the provider response to assist in implementing this new component of the grant application process. The templates are an appendix to the application. For this process, you should contact the broadband providers by email and copy our office at [deed.broadband@state.mn.us](mailto:deed.broadband@state.mn.us). The application will include specific contact information for some of the largest broadband providers in Minnesota. If you need assistance identifying broadband providers for your proposed project or the email address for that provider, please contact our office at 651/259-7610 or [deed.broadband@state.mn.us](mailto:deed.broadband@state.mn.us).

**10. What level of detail is required for the engineering design and diagrams for the project?**

The engineering design and diagrams for the project should be adequate to support the requested grant amount, that the service will reach all locations within the project area, and demonstrate the reasonableness of the timeline for the project's completion. When working with an engineer in preparing a proposal, an applicant will want to ask for budgetary design documents as opposed to construction documents, which will only be necessary should an award be received.

**11. Do applicants for the state infrastructure grant program have to include a voice component in the services they plan to provide? If not mandatory, will additional points be awarded if an applicant includes a voice product?**

Voice service is not a mandatory component of the state's program. There are also no specific scoring criteria that would award points for providing voice service. That said, an applicant could make a case for the idea that offering voice or triple-play creates a more robust and sustainable business case. The applications will be scored for evidence of sustainability factors. (If an applicant elects to include a voice service, keep in mind that costs incurred to include the voice component that are not necessary for provisioning broadband service are not eligible costs for purposes of the grant program.)

**12. How important is it to document service to Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) since most of these are already served?**

Service to community anchor institutions is not a grant requirement. But applicants should look for these opportunities if they exist within the project service area. An application should document any instances where a community anchor institution will receive new or upgraded service. If the services provided by a community anchor institution will be made more accessible by the project being proposed, that should also be noted. Information on significant community institutions that will benefit from the proposed project, the provision of new or substantially upgraded broadband service to important community institutions, and evidence of strong support for the project are all areas that the law indicates should be considered.

**13. What does scalable to 100 Mbps download and upload mean?**

An applicant must provide documentation by the manufacturer or certified by an engineer that the systems being purchased using grant dollars are capable of being scaled to offer 100Mbps service. This does not mean that 100Mbps service must be offered at the time construction is complete. The requirement is that the service that is offered at the time the network adds initial subscribers meets state minimum speed goals of 25Mbps download and 3Mbps upload for an application for an unserved area and 100Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload for an application for an underserved area. Points will be awarded for higher speed service availability.

- 14. In order to qualify for Border-to-Border Broadband development dollars, does a project need to be wired access only or would a high speed wireless provider qualify if it met the speed goals defined by the grant?**

The statute that created the grant fund defines eligible expenditures as “the acquisition and installation of middle-mile and last-mile infrastructure that support broadband service scalable to speeds of at least 100 megabits per second download and 100 megabits per second upload.” To meet this requirement, the grant application (at question 1.8) asks for a demonstration that the installed infrastructure is scalable to speeds of at least 100 Mbps download and 100 Mbps upload and that the information must be certified by the manufacturer or a professional engineer. Any technology that meets this standard will be considered eligible.

- 15. At questions 1.7 of the application, engineering designs, diagrams and maps that show the proposed project must be certified by a Professional Engineer (PE) registered in Minnesota. Would a letter from the PE verifying that the proposed project does meet all the requirements be sufficient or do all designs, maps, etc. need to have the PE stamp?**

The budgetary plan as a whole needs to have evidence that a certified engineer/designer has reviewed them, but each page of the application in support of the design and infrastructure does not have to be certified individually.

- 16. In question 2.7, the application asks for the speed tiers (download and upload) and pricing structure that will be offered over the initial five years of the project, could you please clarify what pricing information is being requested (i.e., is question 2.7 assuming a variety of bundles and packages)?**

The response should include the broadband speed tiers and pricing that will be offered during the initial five years. If bundles of service that would include broadband service will be offered, the response may also include that information.

- 17. What kind of documentation are you seeking for grant application item 2.9, "Provide documentation of a commitment that applicant will offer service for a minimum of five years"?**

A board resolution or notarized letter committing to offer service for at least five years would be acceptable. Additional support for the statement could also be included, such as the length of time the provider has been in business offering service, the strength of the financial plan, and/or the provider’s own financial commitment to the project.

- 18. How would you view an application to serve an underserved industrial park in an otherwise served community?**

If an industrial park meets the definition of un- or underserved then it would be eligible for grant funding.

**19. Do applicants need to consider State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA) or environmental reviews in preparing their applications?**

Applicants are responsible for addressing SHPA and environmental requirements. The application will include questions to ensure that the applicant is addressing these issues as they relate to the proposed project. Additional information is available on our website at <http://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/grant-program/index.jsp>

**20. Does the applicant need to be the owner of the infrastructure that is built with the grant dollars?**

The applicant does not need to be the owner of the infrastructure that is built with the grant dollars. However, the applicant must be in close partnership with the entity that would own the network and offer the services in order to provide the documentation and service commitments required by the application. The applicant will be entering into a grant agreement and committing to all grant requirements. It is recommended that if the applicant is different than the entity constructing and owning the network that a formal contract be drawn up between the partner entities.

**21. Is it appropriate for a private business and a co-op to be co-applicants on a grant application?**

There are no issues with this type of partnership. However, for purposes of the grant, one partner should be identified as the primary applicant (the legal entity that will sign the contract with the state) and any other partners should be identified under the partner section of the application.

**22. If an applicant will build and own the network but have a provider partner operate and provide service over the network, what type of documentation is needed to demonstrate that partnership?**

In addition to listing the provider partner on the cover page of the application, a lease agreement between the applicant and the provider partner should be included with the application as documentation of the partnership. The lease agreement can be contingent upon receipt of the grant funding, the network being built, etc. but provides the demonstration needed to respond to several other questions in the application (speed tiers and pricing structure, specific pricing information, documentation that service will be offered for at least five years, financial plan, project schedule, etc.).

**23. Question 3.5 asks whether the remainder of the financing is in place. What kind of documents would serve as evidence the funds are secure?**

The documentation will depend on the source of the funding and how far the applicant can take the funding commitment without knowing for sure if a grant will be awarded (which is why the application includes two options—one requesting evidence that the funds are secure and one identifying the process and timeline for securing the funds if not yet secured).

- 24. Does question 3.5 refer just to the budget for the project area for the purposes of the application and not to a larger project area that may be planned in conjunction with the project proposed for purposes of grant funding?**

This question refers to the status of the financing for the project being applied for and not any additional phases that may be in the works.

- 25. In question 3.11, the application asks for the financial plan for the project, including a description of how the costs and anticipated revenues will result in the financial viability of the project. What period of time should the financial plan cover?**

In question 2.7 and 2.9, the application has requested pricing information for the initial five years of the project and that the applicant commit to offering service for a minimum of five years. The financial plan for the project should also cover at least five years.

- 26. For question 5.3, what kind of documentation would demonstrate the financial viability (e.g., one year audited financials, annual reports, other)?**

Question 5.3 is requesting information on the financial viability of the applicant. (Question 3.11 addresses the financial viability of the project.) As noted on the application for question 5.3, confidential information may be submitted and should be so marked. The Office of Grants Management at the Minnesota Department of Administration provides specific information on the type of financial information that must be submitted (See [http://mn.gov/admin/images/grants\\_policy\\_08-06.pdf](http://mn.gov/admin/images/grants_policy_08-06.pdf)). For purposes of the application process, we have also identified a couple of options for Eligible Telecommunications Carriers and franchised cable companies that will suffice pending final grant awards.

### **Project Financial Questions:**

- 27. What costs are eligible for the grant program?**

The grant program is to support infrastructure costs such as costs related to project planning, obtaining construction permits, purchase and/or construction of facilities (middle mile and/or last mile), and installation and testing of the equipment used to provide broadband service including facilities to bring the service to the home. Costs related to providing video service or voice service that are not necessary to be incurred to provide broadband service are not eligible infrastructure costs for purposes of the grant program.

For an application that proposes to expand the availability and adoption of broadband service in a low income area, adoption costs may include discounted internet service pricing, digital literacy training, costs related to operating a public computing center, discounted computers, etc.

**28. Are tower costs eligible infrastructure costs?**

The cost of a tower necessary to provision the broadband service proposed in the grant application would be an eligible cost. The intent of the grant program is not to fund duplicative infrastructure, so please include in your application justification of the necessity for the infrastructure you propose to build.

**29. What type of “planning costs” are eligible costs for the grant program?**

As clarification, project planning costs eligible for the grant program would include those costs specifically related to planning for the project’s network design and engineering. Feasibility studies, general business plans, etc. would not be considered project planning costs for purposes of the grant program.

**30. If my application is requesting funding from all three categories of available funding (unserved, underserved and low income), what is the maximum amount of funding that can be requested?**

No more than 50% of the eligible costs, to a maximum of \$5 million, applies per application.

**31. How are the grant awards made?**

If an applicant is selected for an award, the applicant will submit invoices and DEED will reimburse at the percentage level of the grant amount awarded until the full amount of the grant has been paid out. For example, if an applicant was awarded a grant totaling \$250,000 which was for 50 percent of the eligible project costs, then an applicant would submit invoices for the eligible expenses and receive reimbursement equaling 50 percent of the invoice amounts until a total of \$250,000 was paid by the state.

**32. Would the costs incurred by a broadband provider to maintain the new infrastructure be considered an eligible cash match, especially if the costs were ensued during the grant period?**

The purpose of the grant program is to assist in the costs of deploying the middle mile or last mile network. Ongoing maintenance costs would not be eligible costs under the grant program.

**33. Is a local government match required?**

No. The broadband grant will provide up to 50% of the eligible costs of the project to a maximum of \$5 million. Applicants will need to provide information on how they will fund the remainder of the project but there are no requirements regarding those matching funding sources. However, public/private partnerships are encouraged. Also, note that projects that request less than the 50% allowed for state grants are awarded extra points. (Scoring criteria provides specific information on how points are awarded for project match amounts.)

**34. Can bonding be used as a source of funding towards the match required for the grant program?**

Applicants/application partners should consult with their own financial advisors and bond counsel for advice on using bonds towards the project match. If bonds will be used, for purposes of the application, supporting documentation should include a letter from the local government administrator that bond counsel have been consulted and find this method of financing appropriate, the type of bond that will be used, and the amount (and that the amount is within the local government's limits for this type of funding). The letter should also address that there are no foreseen obstacles that would prevent the local government entity from moving forward with a bond process should the grant be awarded and then include the estimated timeframe for a bonding process (and also include this information in the application timeline). This letter would be in conjunction with the local governing body's resolution in support of the project and financial commitment. Should the match include debt, application reviewers will also look for evidence that the business model adequately accounts for the repayment of that debt, should it be required.

**35. Can an RUS loan be considered for the match?**

The legislation is agnostic on match. The intent was to allow any legal source of funds. An RUS loan from the USDA could be used towards the match, just ensure that the appropriate information is included in Sections 3 and 4 of the application.

**36. Can CAF II funding be used as a match towards the up to 50 percent provided by the state grant program.**

Yes, a provider that will receive CAF II funding can consider that funding as all or part of the match to deploy broadband at or above state speed goals in the project area.

**37. Can costs incurred for building out ineligible components of a proposed project area be considered as matching funds for the grant program?**

No, only un- or underserved locations and infrastructure related costs (and broadband adoption costs if requesting funding from the \$500,000 available for low income areas) are eligible for support under the broadband grant program and only those areas should be counted towards the cost for which up to a 50 percent match may be requested.

**38. Is there some expectation of additional grant funding after this round?**

Our focus is on meeting the guidelines set out in statute for awarding the grant dollars approved for the existing program. DEED anticipates that there will be discussion of further grant funding during the 2017 legislative session. We believe the need for broadband services at the state speed goals greatly exceeds the amount of funding available under this program based on the number of locations the data indicate are un- or underserved. The number of applications submitted for the current grant program will assist in determining the need for additional funding.

**39. Will DEED award all of the \$35 million appropriated by the legislature in this grant award period?**

DEED anticipates that this grant round will be very competitive and intends to award the amounts allowed by the statute in one round.

**40. How would any grant award be treated for tax purposes?**

The Department of Revenue's response to this question is prefaced with the disclaimer that they do not give advice on federal tax questions and that their response is not binding on the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The Minnesota Department of Revenue's response is that to the extent grants are awarded under the broadband infrastructure grant program to a for-profit corporate recipient, that recipient could exclude the grant from gross income but only if they reduced their depreciable basis in the broadband system by the amount of the grant they received. In other words, they could exclude it now but they will have smaller deductions later. It was also advised that each recipient should check with their accountants and legal counsel because each circumstance is different.

**41. Will in-kind match be allowed?**

In-kind match is allowed by statute, but may not be scored as competitively as cash match.

**42. Do prevailing wage requirements apply to the Border to Border broadband grant program?**

Generally, Minnesota prevailing wage rates apply to any state broadband grant of \$200,000 and above (Minnesota Statutes 2014 [116J.871](#) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE LIMITATIONS; PREVAILING WAGE). One of the changes to the grant program for grants awarded in 2016 is that prevailing wage requirements do not apply to the construction, installation, remodeling, and repair of last-mile broadband infrastructure. Prevailing wage rates, excluding wage rates associated with the last mile portion of your project, should be figured into your project budget if your state grant request is \$200,000 or more. Prevailing wage rates differ by county, based on a regular survey of construction wage rates paid by contractors in each county. Minnesota's prevailing wage law (**Minnesota Statutes 177.41 through 177.44**) requires employees working on state-funded construction projects or other projects covered by law be paid

wage-rates comparable to wages paid for similar work in the area where the project is located. To find the rates for your county, go to <http://www.dli.mn.gov/LS/PrevWageHwyH.asp>. If you have other questions regarding prevailing wage, please contact Michelle Dreier, State Program Administrative Director, Prevailing Wage, Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry (DLI), at 651-284-5293 or [michelle.dreier@state.mn.us](mailto:michelle.dreier@state.mn.us).

**42a. Prevailing wage conditions: We have our own construction company with our own equipment and employees. If we do not contract out the construction work, does the prevailing wage rule still apply?**

The Prevailing Wage rule does apply in all situations that meet the grant amount threshold (\$200,000 grant and over) except for labor costs related to last mile construction, installation, remodeling and repair. It doesn't matter if it's your own employees or contractors.

**42b. Several of our grantees have contracted with vendors from outside of Minnesota, who are providing the labor for the construction phases of the grant projects. Is reporting in for the Prevailing Wage survey required of only Minnesota-based contractors for Minnesota work, or should out-of-state contractors be reporting data for the survey IF they do the work in Minnesota?**

The Prevailing Wage Survey is voluntary. Any contractor that has performed work in the past 12 months can participate, regardless of whether they are from out of state. We have several reports available regarding survey participation. If no data is provided for a certain county, Minnesota Rule requires DLI to use data from adjacent counties. If there is still no data, historical data is used. If there is no data within the county, adjacent counties, or historically, DLI has a Rate Assignment process whereby a same or most similar wage rate will be assigned to the labor code by DLI staff.

If anyone wishes to participate in DLI's survey to help set future rates they can find the information on our website at: <http://www.dli.mn.gov/LS/PrevWageSurveys.asp>

**43. Can an applicant use its own employees to trench in fiber and have that cost included towards the grant amount?**

Invoices may be submitted for all eligible expenses, regardless of who provides the product or service. Note that this would be similar to a company's own engineers designing the project. For trenching in fiber, if for the middle mile portion of construction, keep in mind that prevailing wage rates apply.

## Low Income Project Questions:

### **44. Can you clarify the \$500,000 fund for low income?**

As per the legislation: \$500,000 is available for grants to projects that expand availability and adoption in areas with a significant proportion of low income households.

As we read the legislation, a low-income area is an area within an unserved or underserved grant project area that contains a significant proportion of low-income households (households whose household income is less than or equal to 200 percent of the most recent calculation of the United States federal poverty guidelines published by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Service, adjusted for family size).

### **45. Can applications for projects in areas that contain a significant proportion of low-income households be for adoption only?**

The law requires that a project in this category be to expand availability and adoption, so an application requesting funding for an adoption-only project would not be eligible for funding.

### **46. Do projects for the funding available to low income areas have to be in an unserved or underserved area?**

Yes, because the project has to be to expand broadband availability (infrastructure) and adoption, and the project is part of the Border to Border grant program, the project must be located in an unserved or underserved area that also meets the income requirements.

### **47. Are these a separate category of infrastructure dollars or are they for communities that get infrastructure grants to create adoption/digital inclusion programs?**

They could be a part of a companion grant request for unserved and/or underserved areas, but the low-income funds, if requested specifically and awarded, must be spent on both availability AND adoption in areas with a significant proportion of low income households (as defined above). If the funds are requested solely as a low income area grant, the project must include availability and adoption elements. So for example, a project asking for funding for only a training program for a low-income area that is unserved or underserved would not qualify, but if it also included a way to increase availability to improve broadband capacity to that area, to at or above the state speed goal, then it would be an eligible project.

### **48. How are the eligible matching costs determined for projects seeking funding from the \$500,000 available for projects in areas that contain a significant proportion of low-income households?**

Determination of matching costs would be the same as for an infrastructure-only application except that costs related to adoption would also be included in the total costs and eligible for match.

**49. Do the prevailing wage requirements apply to projects in areas that contain a significant proportion of low-income households?**

If the grant amount requested is \$200,000 or more, and there are labor costs associated with installing middle mile infrastructure, prevailing wage requirements would apply to those costs.

**50. How does an applicant document that its project is for an area that contains a significant proportion of low-income households?**

The interactive map on our website has a layer that shows household income by census tract. For purposes of administering this new component of the grant program, we will consider locations as eligible if 41 percent or more of the households in the census tract(s) where the project is located show as having household income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. If an applicant has access to or developed specific information for their project area, that information can also be used to document that the area qualifies as low income.

**Challenge Process Questions:**

**51. Is the challenge process new to the Border to Border Broadband Development grant program?**

No, the inclusion of a challenge process itself is not new. What is new for 2016 is that the challenge process is now required by law and includes specific timeframes in the process.

**52. How will the challenge process work in 2016?**

The challenge process is spelled out in law but in summary, will be conducted as follows:

- Within three days of the application period closing, OBD will publish on its website the proposed project area and proposed broadband service speeds for each application submitted. If the application period closes October 3<sup>rd</sup>, the information should be posted by October 6<sup>th</sup>.
- A broadband provider serving in or near the proposed project has 30 days to submit a challenge to an application. The challenge must contain the following information: that the provider currently provides or has begun construction to provide broadband service to the proposed project area at speeds that meet or exceed the state speed goal; and the provider commits to complete construction and provide service in the proposed project area at speeds equal to or greater than the state speed goal no later than 18 months (May 2018) after the grant awards are announced.
- Information in the challenge will be evaluated and if found credible, no funding will be awarded to that application.

- If funding is denied for an application because it was challenged, and the challenging provider does not fulfill its commitment to provide broadband service in the project area, challenges from that provider will not be considered for the subsequent two grant cycles, unless the reason the provider was unable to fulfill its commitment was outside of the providers control.

**53. For a provider to submit a challenge, the law states that they must provide service in the proposed project area at speeds equal to or greater than the state speed goal in Minnesota Statutes 237.012, subdivision 1. There are two speeds listed in that subdivision, which one will be applied?**

For an application from an underserved area, the challenging provider would have to demonstrate that it will provide service of at least 100Mbps download and 20Mbps upload as service would already be available at speeds of at least 25Mbps download and 3Mbps upload. For an application from an unserved area, if the challenging provider stated that it was or would provide service of at least 25Mbps download and 3Mbps upload, that would still mean the area would be underserved, so that application would then be considered from an underserved area and eligible for the \$5 million available for that category of applications. If the challenging provider indicated it would provide service of at least 100Mbps download and 20Mbps upload for an application for a project in either an unserved or underserved area, and that challenge was found to be credible, the application would not be considered for a grant award.

**54. If an application is denied due to a credible challenge, and the challenging provider does not deploy service at the speeds or within the timeline required, what recourse is available to the applicant?**

If the project area remained eligible for any future grant application rounds, the applicant could resubmit an application for a project for that area.

**Grant Process Questions:**

**55. Are applicants that received broadband infrastructure grants in the 2014 and/or 2015 grant round eligible to apply for funds in the 2016 grant round?**

Yes, any eligible entity may apply for a grant in 2016.

**56. Will the weighting of the scoring criteria be available online?**

Information on the selection criteria is included as part of the application material. New legislative language in 2016 requires the Commissioner of DEED to have published on DEED's website at least 30 days prior to the application period opening, the specific criteria and any quantitative weighting scheme or scoring system that will be used to evaluate or rank applications and award grants. That information was posted on June 23, 2016.

**57. The application instructions indicate that the completed application and supporting documentation should be submitted in paper and one electronic copy in MS Word format on a USB drive. If the applicant has attachments, maps, support letters, spreadsheets, etc., do these need to be converted to Word or can they be submitted in PDF format?**

PDF attachments may be submitted for the supporting documentation. Shp, Kmz and Kml formats are encouraged for maps of the project area.

**58. Will there be balanced geographic distribution of grants?**

Yes, the law establishing the grant program requires that the Commissioner endeavor to award grants to qualified applicants in all regions of the state.

**59. What will be the process to ensure geographical dispersion of the grant projects?**

All applications that are submitted and meet the initial eligibility criteria will go through the scoring and review process. That process will include tracking the location of the project within the state. The projects selected to receive a grant award will include consideration of the statutory directive that the Commissioner endeavor to award grants to qualified applicants in all regions of the state.

**60. Who makes the final decision on the grant recipients?**

The Commissioner of the Department of Employment and Economic Development will select grant recipients.