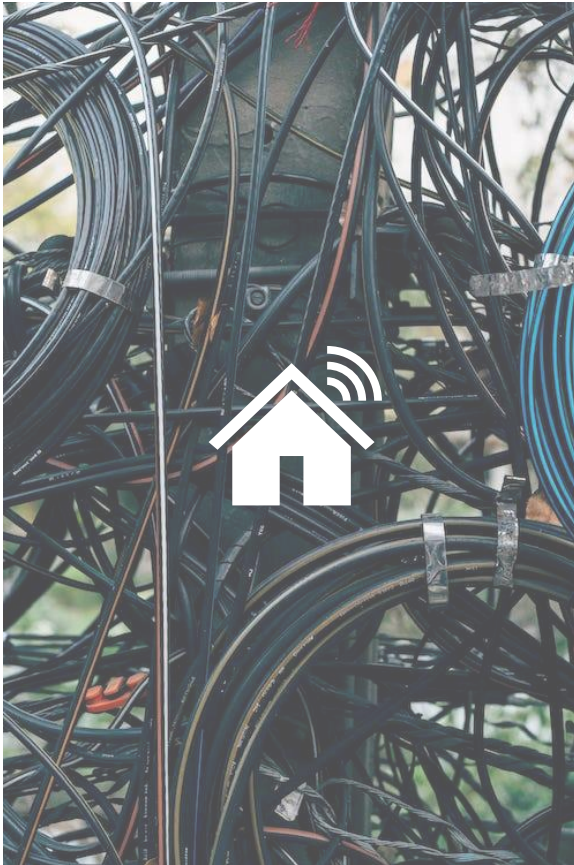




Broadband Matching Grant Initiative

BMGI Webinar
August 23, 2023

Webinar Agenda

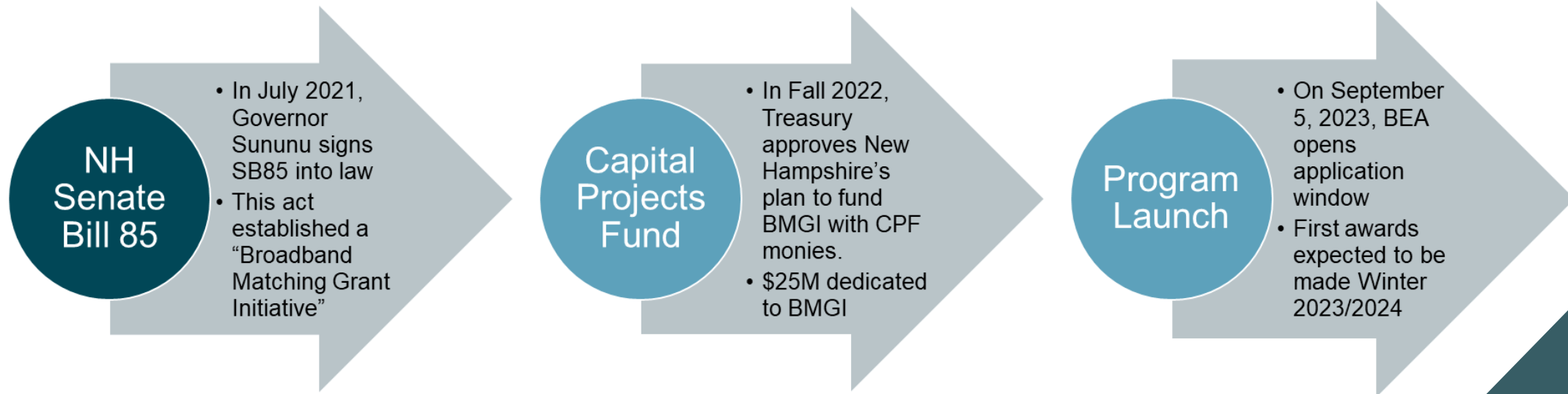


1. BMGI Program Overview
2. Eligibility Criteria
3. Application Details
4. Grant Award Requirements

Please send your questions through the webinar chat function, questions and answers will be published in an FAQ.

Program Overview

Broadband Matching Grant Initiative (BMGI)



BMGI Program

The Broadband Matching Grant Initiative (BMGI) is initially funded with **\$25M** in **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Capital Projects Fund (CPF)** monies.

BMGI will provide matching grants to internet service providers and municipalities to improve broadband access in New Hampshire.

BEA will award grants of up to **75%** of eligible project costs

BMGI is governed by the federal requirements in the **CPF Award Terms and Conditions**, and State requirements set forth in **RSA 12-O:61-63** and **NH Code of Administrative Rules BEA 400**.

Program Goals

- BMGI is intended to provide a state match to ISPs and/or municipalities to build broadband infrastructure in areas of the state that have not been able to access sufficient broadband internet due to either:
 - Topography of the region
 - Location within the State
 - Cost
- BMGI is targeted to connect unserved (<25/3 Mbps) and underserved (<100/20 Mbps) addresses.

Eligibility

Eligible Applicants

Applicants must be either:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An internet service provider (ISP)• A New Hampshire municipality	
If the applicant is an ISP:	If the applicant is a municipality:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two signatures are required on the application:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The ISP representative• Chairman of the governing body• The service provider must participate in the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) and be registered in SAM.gov with a valid Unique Entity ID• The service provider must offer at least one low-cost option at speeds that are sufficient for a household with multiple users	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Municipality may sign the application alone• The municipality must participate in the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) and be registered in SAM.gov with a valid Unique Entity ID• The municipality must offer at least one low-cost option at speeds that are sufficient for a household with multiple users

Best Practices for BMGI Application

- Service providers and municipalities may choose to engage in partnerships to simplify application and selection process
 - ISP completes and submits a single application for multiple municipalities
 - Unlock economies of scale
- Ensure all required materials are complete prior to submission
 - In order to avoid non-qualification
- Seek to minimize costs where possible, through partnerships and other efficient practices

Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)



The Affordable Connectivity Program is an FCC benefit program that helps ensure that households can afford the broadband they need for work, school, and healthcare.



The benefit provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month toward internet service for eligible households in high-cost areas.



A household is eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program if the household income is at or below 200% of the [Federal Poverty Guidelines](#).



To enroll for ACP, go to [GetInternet.gov](https://www.getinternet.gov) to submit an application or print out a mail-in application.

Eligible Projects

Eligible projects under BMGI must:

- Provide internet service with speeds of 100/100 Mbps to households and businesses upon project completion
 - Or due to location, 100/20 Mbps scalable to 100/100 Mbps upon completion
- Provide a minimum of 25% of eligible project costs as a match to the grant funds
- Target unserved addresses

Eligible Costs

Eligible costs and activities for awarded projects include:

- Costs associated with access to utility poles and other necessary structures.
- Construction of broadband network infrastructure to eligible addresses.
- Construction of service connections to individual homes or businesses.
- Upgrades to existing infrastructure that currently provides service that does not meet the minimum definition of broadband in RSA 38:38, I(c).
- All other costs directly attributable to the construction project. In cases where a cost is shared with another ongoing project, shared costs shall be prorated.
- Planning costs related to network design and program eligibility.

Ineligible Uses of BMGI Funds

Grantees may not:

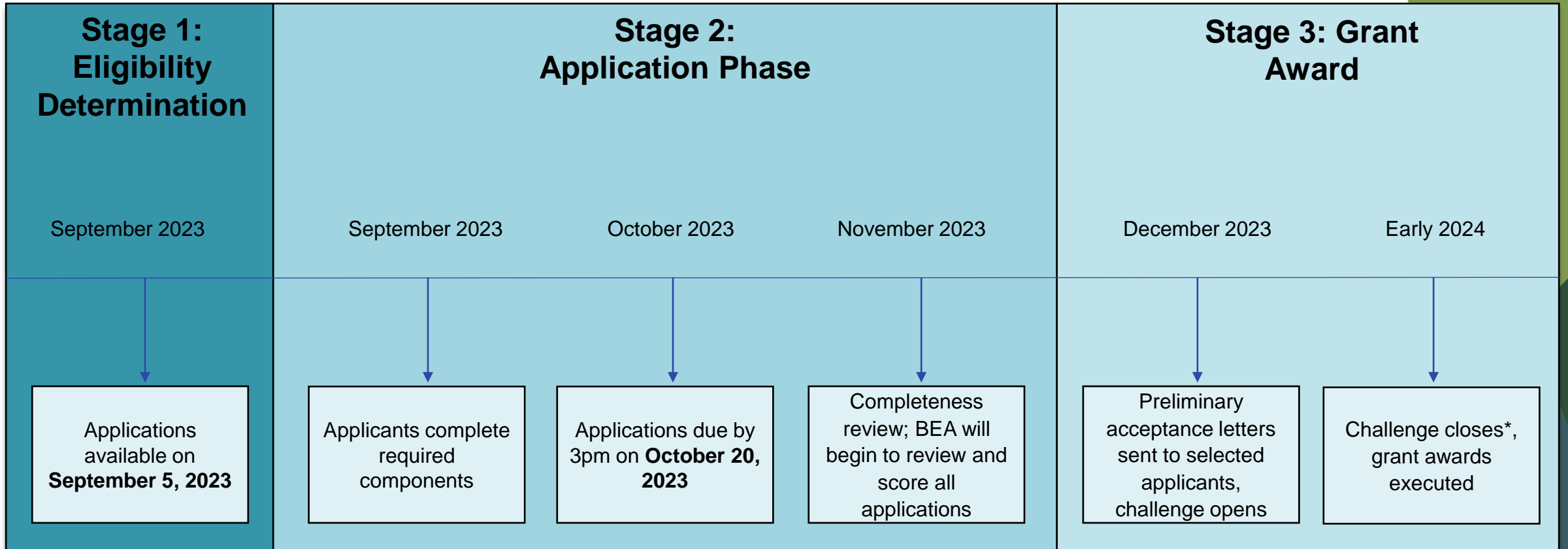
- Use grant funds to purchase or support any covered communications equipment or service (as defined by the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C. 1608)). See below for an inclusive list:
 - Telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company
 - Telecommunications equipment produced by ZTE Corporation
 - Video surveillance and telecommunications equipment produced by Hytera Communications Corporation
 - Video surveillance and telecommunications equipment produced by Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company
 - Video surveillance and telecommunications equipment produced by Dahua Technology Company
 - Information security products, solutions, and services supplied, directly or indirectly, by AO Kaspersky Lab
 - International telecommunications services provided by China Mobile International USA Inc.
 - Telecommunications services provided by China Telecom (Americas) Corp.
 - International telecommunications services provided by Pacific Network Corp and its wholly-owned subsidiary ComNet (USA) LLC
 - International telecommunications services provided by China Unicom (Americas) Operations Limited
- Target projects implementing middle mile connections

Ineligible costs include:

- Costs that are unallowable under the applicable Federal cost principles (2 CFR 200)

Application Details

Program Timeline



* Challenge process may take up to 90 days to fully complete

BMGI-funded projects must be **complete by **Dec. 31, 2026**

Completed Applications

Form BMGI-01, "Fund Application"

Form BMGI-02, "Estimated Project Timeline"

Address-level Excel spreadsheet identifying unserved addresses within the eligible service area, including FCC Fabric IDs for each address

Official minutes with the results of the governing body's vote on the agreed-upon BMGI provider

A disclosure statement that the provider shall offer at least one low-cost option offered at speeds that are sufficient for a household with multiple users

Confirmation of ACP participation by the service provider

If applicable, a passthrough statement detailing the necessity of passthrough to reach unserved and underserved addresses

If applicable, a statement of compliance with federal labor and construction standard requirements as required by the federal funding guidance as referenced in Appendix II of the notice of funding opportunity

If the project involves bonding, proof the municipality met all requirements of RSA 33:3-G

Selection Process

Scoring Applications:

- BEA will score applications on an 8-point scale based on the criteria set forth by BEA 404.03(c)(1-8)
- An applicant must score 8 points to qualify for BMGI, as noted by Bea 404.05
- Points reflect the completeness of required application components, and are **not** a reflection of the proposed project impact

Application Remedy Process:

- If an applicant is not approved due to deficient application materials:
 - The applicant shall have 15 calendar days to resubmit to remedy deficiencies
 - If not resubmitted, considered withdrawn

Application Merit Scoring

To evaluate applications, BMGI-01 answers will be scored:

- Questions are weighted depending on relative importance
- Answer options and ranges determine points awarded for a given question

Ex. BMGI-01

1. Important Question (up to 20 points)
 - a) Answer 1 (20 points)
 - b) Answer 2 (10 points)
 - c) Answer 3 (5 points)
 - d) Answer 4 (0 points)
2. Less Important Question (up to 5 points)
 - a) 1 – 100 (5 points)
 - b) 101 – 1000 (4 points)
 - c) 1001 – 10000 (3 points)
 - d) 10001 and up (2 points)

Weights and scorings will be made available by BEA

Grant Award Requirements

BMGI Post-Award Requirements

- BMGI recipients will comply with applicable state and federal statutes and regulations, including but not limited to the provisions listed in the grant agreement.
- Per 2 CFR 200, recipients must comply with the monitoring and reporting provisions outlined.
 - Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements (2 C.F.R. Part 200)
 - ARPA CPF Standard Terms and Conditions
 - Generally applicable federal environmental laws and regulations
 - Domestic Preference for Procurements (Buy American)
 - Contracting with Small and Minority Businesses, Women's Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Area Firms.

Questions

Please send your questions through the webinar chat function; questions and answers will be published in an FAQ

These slides and a recording of the webinar will be made available on the [BMGI program page](#)

Further inquiries may be directed to broadband@livefree.nh.gov