





TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section 1: Program Information	3
Section 2: Executive Summary	3
Section 3: Uses of Funds	5
Section 4: Addressing Critical Needs	14
Section 5: Labor	15
Section 6: Community Engagement	15
Section 7: Civil Rights Compliance	18

1. PROGRAM INFORMATION

Approved Program Plan number (as provided by Treasury): CPF_GP-000309

Program start date: December 6, 2023

Program end date: December 31, 2026

Actual CPF funds allocated to this Program: \$3,000,000.00

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document serves as the State of Mississippi's (the State) Digital Connectivity Technology (Program Plan 1B) Performance Report for the period ending June 30, 2025, as required by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (CPF).

On December 6, 2023, the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury) approved the Office of Broadband Expansion and Accessibility of Mississippi's (BEAM) CPF Program Plan 1B for \$3 million under the Digital Connectivity Technology expenditure category, designed to support recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency, address inequities in access to critical services, and work toward Mississippi's goal of providing every resident with access to high-quality, affordable broadband internet.

Mississippi prioritized its CPF allocation with the overall goal of bridging the digital divide across the State and achieving the below identified measurable outcomes:

UNDERSTAND NEEDS	Understand the specific needs across the state through community feedback, input, and public comment in an effort to understand gaps, needs, and barriers to access and coverage
MAXIMIZE CONNECTIVITY	Utilization of competition and Internet Service Provider (ISP) match to enable the State to provide internet to the largest number of unserved residents
SPENDING STRATEGY	Establish mechanism for multi-level, data-driven review process that aligns the State's goals with Treasury's statutory requirements
MONITOR AND IMPLEMENTATION	Implementation of key monitoring procedures to ensure the efficient, compliant use of all CPF funds awarded by the State

IIn order to achieve the State's key priorities and objectives, in accordance with State statute, BEAM has made awards to the ISPs identified below (as of June 30, 2025):

INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT
ARISTOTLE UNIFIED COMMUNICATIONS INC	The project will establish public Wi-Fi across key Tunica County sites to expand broadband access for residents and visitors, support essential services like e-learning and public safety, and lay the groundwork for future broadband expansion in underserved areas.	\$40,977.00
ARISTOTLE UNIFIED COMMUNICATIONS INC	The project will install public Wi-Fi at Tunica River Park to support economic development, tourism, and public safety by expanding broadband access, enabling essential services, and enhancing security as part of broader revitalization efforts.	\$12,979.00
MOUND BAYOU TELEPHONE & COMMUNICATIONS, LLC	The project will expand broadband in Mound Bayou by installing five public Wi-Fi access points, providing free internet to an underserved, historically significant community facing high poverty and limited connectivity.	\$159,835.00
TOMBIGBEE FIBER, LLC	This project will allow open access to approximately 65 community locations including fire departments, community centers, and libraries, that in turn will allow the potential workforce to access the internet for job and skills training, job seeking and job applications. As such, the region's economic vitality will be enhanced through a broader blanket of access.	\$79,752.00
VICKSBURG VIDEO, INC.	The project will provide free community Wi-Fi in five high-traffic Vicksburg parks, improving connectivity for over 12,000 monthly visitors, supporting local vendors, and offering affordable internet access to underserved families.	\$33,500.00
ARISTOTLE UNIFIED COMMUNICATIONS INC	Aristotle will partner with the City of Bentonia to provide free public Wi-Fi at key municipal sites, supporting economic development, public safety, and broadband access for residents, visitors, and underserved areas.	\$252,162.00
MAXXSOUTH BROADBAND	The Oxford Avent Park CPF Wi-Fi Project will provide free internet access throughout the park and its community center, supporting digital inclusion for students, families, and visitors in a persistent poverty area through essential connectivity for education, health, and job opportunities.	\$27,513.00
MAXXSOUTH BROADBAND	The Oxford Downtown CPF Wi-Fi Project will install ten access points to provide free internet throughout the Historic Downtown Square, enhancing access for residents and visitors in one of the city's busiest cultural and commercial areas. By supporting activities like homework, telehealth, and job searches, the project promotes digital inclusion and economic opportunity, with minimal pay-feature option revenue used solely for maintenance.	\$152,272.00
MAXXSOUTH BROADBAND	The Ripley Historic District Downtown CPF Wi-Fi Project will install two hotspot access points to provide free internet in Ripley's historic downtown, supporting essential online activities for residents and visitors while extending access to nearby underserved communities and preserving the district's cultural and economic role.	\$50,888.00
MAXXSOUTH BROADBAND	The Starkville Downtown CPF Wi-Fi Project will deliver free internet across the Main Street District, supporting economic revitalization and public safety while expanding access to essential online services for residents, visitors, and first responders through a community-focused initiative.	\$32,091.00
TOMBIGBEE FIBER, LLC	This project will allow open access to approximately 12 community locations including parks and public spaces that in turn will allow the potential workforce to access the internet for job and skills training, job seeking and job applications. As such, the region's economic vitality will be enhanced through a broader blanket of access.	\$24,923.00

VICKSBURG VIDEO, INC.

Vicksburg Video, in partnership with the City of Vicksburg, plans to expand its community Wi-Fi network to another key city park, completing coverage of the city's largest parks and advancing digital inclusion in prominent public spaces.

\$11,545.00

3. USES OF FUNDS

Digital Connectivity Technology

Program Plan 1B was originally planned to provide \$3 million of CPF funding for technology projects installed as part of public Wi-Fi infrastructure. The goal of this program is to facilitate broadband internet access in areas where accessibility is a barrier to adoption and use and push the State toward its goal of providing connectivity for every Mississippian.

Treasury approved BEAM's Program Plan 1B on December 6, 2023; however, the commencement of this program was postponed until provisional awards were made in the Broadband Infrastructure category. The State has published key resources on its program website. The website can be accessed here. Specifically, the Program Narrative, Application Questions, Scoring Rubric, and Draft Grant Agreement were all compiled and published to inform prospective applicants of the key details regarding the application process including but not limited to eligible uses, form and content of applications, matching requirements, as well as various other administrative matters. The original CPF NOFO referenced above included information about the Digital Connectivity Technology program.

During 2024 Performance Report period, BEAM conducted two separate rounds of applications for Program Plan 1B. The subaward table above details the subawards that have been executed as of June 30, 2025. The Application Timeline below describes these processes in more detail.

BEAM requested permission from Treasury to reallocate the unobligated funding from the Broadband Infrastructure (Program Plan 1A) to Program Plan 1B. This request was approved by Treasury in the summer of 2025. BEAM had already finalized its eligible locations map for the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program, and awarding additional subawards under Program Plan 1A would have interfered with the eligible locations on the BEAD map. BEAM plans to utilize the funding reallocated from Program Plan 1A to award additional subawards under Program Plan 1B to further the Program's goals and objectives.

Application Timeline

The State opened pre-registration on July 15, 2024. The Round I Public Wi-Fi application window was open from July 22, 2024, through 5:00 p.m. CT on August 28, 2024. In accordance with Mississippi Code 1972 77-19-15 (3), BEAM accepted comments and objections on preliminary determinations for Round I from September 20, 2024, to October 21, 2024. Submissions were required to include valid evidence or a clear basis for the comment or objection in order to be considered. A total of 5 applications were received in Round I. Round I final determinations can be viewed here.

The Round II Public Wi-Fi application window was open from September 23, 2024, to October 7, 2024.

No comments or objections were received on the 12 projects that were awarded, and these projects were moved to Final Award status.

CPF Public Wi-Fi projects provided connectivity in public areas and did not impact the service level of individual broadband serviceable locations.

Applicants were required to provide details within their applications regarding the below topics/areas of interest:

- Project description
- Proposed project area including detailed boundaries of project reach
- Type of equipment installed
- Pricing structure (including required no-cost option)
- Maximum number of simultaneous users, expected number of users served, and upload/ download speeds
- The applicant's commitment to sustain the infrastructure and the scalability over time of such infrastructure
- The community impact of the project

A complete listing of all application questions can be located here.

Additionally, the State developed an objective scoring system designed to award points to prospective projects based on the following factors:

Applications were evaluated against the merit review criteria with a total of 297 points.

- Adequacy of the description of the project
- · Timeline over which project can be deployed
- Applicant's readiness to comply with federal awards
- Project readiness
- The impact the project will have on the community
- Pricing structure and access
- Number of simultaneous users and upload/download speeds
- Match percentage (required minimum of 33% match).

The complete Scoring Criteria can be found in the Rubric here.

A listing of the key milestones achieved is included below:

Under the CPF initiative, Mississippi awarded a total of 12 public Wi-Fi grants across two successful grant application funding rounds to expand digital connectivity in community spaces throughout the state. Altogether, the Capital Projects Fund (CPF) Public Wi-Fi program awarded \$878,437.00 to expand broadband access in both rural and urban areas. Round I prioritized historically underserved communities, resulting in five project awards and the deployment of public Wi-Fi at over 70 locations across nine counties. Round II built on that progress with seven additional project awards focused on city centers, recreational areas, and municipal facilities. Across both rounds, more than 100 access points were installed in high-impact public spaces such as libraries, parks, city halls, and emergency service facilities.

Final Subawards

Final subawards for Round I were announced in November 2024 and for Round II in December 2024.

Round I Summary

The first round of CPF Public Wi-Fi funding focused on expanding broadband access in historically underserved and rural areas. The grant supported **5 project awards** across several counties.

Round II Summary

PROJECTS AWARDED	5
AWARD RECIPIENTS	 Aristotle Unified Communications Inc (2 awards) Mound Bayou Telephone & Communications, LLC Tombigbee Fiber, LLC Vicksburg Video, Inc.
DEPLOYMENT COVERAGE	 Counties included Tunica, Bolivar, Warren, Lee, Itawamba, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Monroe, and Union. More than 60 public locations received Wi-Fi deployment, such as libraries, fire departments, museums, community centers, and city parks.
NUMBER OF ACCESS POINTS DEPLOYED	Approximately 70 access points
TOTAL FUNDING AWARDED	\$327,043.00

Round II expanded deployment into city centers, recreational areas, and municipal facilities. This round included **7 project awards** supporting the second successful CPF Public Wi-Fi grant application.

A summary of the outputs produced to date is included below:

PROJECTS AWARDED	7
AWARD RECIPIENTS	 Aristotle Unified Communications Inc BCI Mississippi Broadband, LLC d/b/a MaxxSouth Broadband (4 awards) Tombigbee Fiber, LLC Vicksburg Video, Inc.
DEPLOYMENT COVERAGE	 Targeted counties included Lafayette, Tippah, Oktibbeha, Warren, Lee, and Yazoo. Installations were concentrated in downtown districts, public parks, city halls, and police and fire departments.
NUMBER OF ACCESS POINTS DEPLOYED	Approximately 32
TOTAL FUNDING AWARDED	\$551,394.00

The application process for the Digital Connectivity Technology program was completed. Following a competitive review, final awards were made to 12 eligible projects among 5 Internet Service Providers (ISPs). A few projects began in the fall of 2024, while most projects began in the spring of 2025.

A summary of the outcomes achieved to date is included below:

- Approval of Public Wi-Fi Program Plan by Treasury
- Developed application questions and rubric for the application period
- Opened application portal for Round I Digital Connectivity Technology Projects in July 2024
- Conducted State-mandated comment/objection process for Round I
- Approved final awards for Round I
- Opened application portal for Round II Digital Connectivity Technology Projects in September 2024
- Conducted State-mandated comment/objection process for Round II
- Approved final awards for Round II
- Developed draft grant agreement for projects in both Rounds I and II
- Executed grant agreements with subrecipients for projects in both Rounds I and II
- Projects in both Rounds I and II began public Wi-Fi construction

- Monitoring activities conducted by subrecipients
- Developed and implemented a robust compliance and monitoring system involving multiple
 levels of review and the use of subject matter experts. This system is continuously evaluated and
 improved to ensure the most efficient use of federal funds.
- Conducted final site inspections for multiple projects upon completion
- Attended ribbon cutting events announcing completion of public Wi-Fi projects

A list of the activities planned for the next period covered are included below:

- Determining most efficient use for remaining unobligated funds in Program Plan 1B.
- Continue to monitor awarded projects that are not yet complete.
- Close out any awarded projects that reach completion during the next reporting period.
- Open application portal for Round III to further the Program Plan 1B's goals and objectives.

Information about individuals/households benefiting from CPF funds is included below:

The public Wi-Fi projects funded under Program Plan 1B primarily benefit individuals and households that previously faced barriers to reliable internet access due to cost, availability, or limited digital literacy. By providing free and open Wi-Fi in public spaces such as libraries, parks, community centers, and downtown areas, these projects have expanded connectivity options for students completing homework/online assignments, jobseekers applying for employment, and residents accessing telehealth and other essential online resources. Households within the service areas benefit indirectly by having alternative access points to reduce reliance on mobile data or costly home service plans.

Notable challenges and the status of each challenge are included below:

CHALLENGE	STATUS
PROJECTS AWARDED	Complete
EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY CHAIN	More than 50% Complete
COMMUNITY AWARENESS	More than 50% Complete
COMPLIANCE & REPORTING	In progress

Overview and outcomes of ancillary costs incurred to support bringing the capital asset(s) into full use are detailed below:

BEAM has incurred ancillary costs under Program Plan 1B. Ancillary costs include but are not limited to office salary staff, creation of the Program plan, application intake and review, subaward execution, subrecipient monitoring, and reporting. These costs are necessary and play a vital role in successfully implementing the Program to fulfill its goals and objectives.

Many projects funded under Program Plan 1B have incurred necessary ancillary costs that support bringing the capital assets into full use. These costs help ensure the successful deployment and community adoption and include permitting and site preparation activities to secure appropriate installation locations, as well as equipment installation services to place each access point at the project location(s). Additionally, some projects have incurred costs related to direct outreach efforts, signage, and community engagement events (e.g., ribbon cutting) to increase public awareness and utilization of the free public Wi-Fi access points. Collectively, these costs support the long-term adoption of the capital assets, ensuring that the public Wi-Fi projects achieved Program Plan 1B's goals and objectives.

Summary of Awarded Projects and Project Status

SUBRECIPIENT NAME	PROJECT NAME	TOTAL PROJECT COST	AWARD AMOUNT	MATCH FUNDING	PROJECT STATUS
ARISTOTLE UNIFIED COMMUNICATIONS INC	Aristotle - Tunica Expo Center	\$61,159.00	\$40,977.00	\$20,182.00	In Project Status: "More than 50% Complete."
ARISTOTLE UNIFIED COMMUNICATIONS INC	Aristotle - Bentonia Wi-Fi	\$376,362.00	\$252,162.00	\$124,200.00	Project Status: "More than 50% Complete."
ARISTOTLE UNIFIED COMMUNICATIONS INC	Aristotle - Tunica River Park	\$19,371.00	\$12,979.00	\$6,392.00	In Project Status: "More than 50% Complete."
MAXXSOUTH BROADBAND	MaxxSouth - Avent Park	\$41,065.00	\$27,513.00	\$13,552.00	Project Status: "More than 50% Complete." Working through reimbursements. Closeout will occur in next reporting period.
MAXXSOUTH BROADBAND	MaxxSouth - Oxford Square	\$227,272.00	\$152,272.00	\$75,000.00	Project Status: "Less than 50% Complete." Working through reimbursements. Closeout will occur in next reporting period.

MAXXSOUTH BROADBAND	MaxxSouth - Ripley	\$75,953.00	\$50,888.00	\$25,065.00	Project Status: "More than 50% Complete." Working through reimbursements. Closeout will occur in next reporting period.
MAXXSOUTH BROADBAND	MaxxSouth - Starkville	\$47,897.00	\$32,091.00	\$15,806.00	Project Status: "More than 50% Complete." Working through reimbursements. Closeout will occur in next reporting period.
MOUND BAYOU TELEPHONE & COMMUNICATIONS	Mound Bayou	\$238,560.00	\$159,835.00	\$78,725.00	Project Status: "Complete." Light up ceremony conducted in July 2025. Working through final reimbursements. Closeout will occur in next reporting period.
TOMBIGBEE FIBER, LLC	Community Wi-Fi Application	\$119,034.00	\$79,752.00	\$39,282.00	Project Status: "More than 50% Complete." Working through reimbursements. Closeout will occur in next reporting period.
TOMBIGBEE FIBER, LLC	Community Wi-Fi Round 2	\$37,198.00	\$24,923.00	\$12,275.00	Project Status: "More than 50% Complete." Working through reimbursements. Closeout will occur in next reporting period.
VICKSBURG VIDEO, INC.	City of Vicksburg - Cablelynx	\$50,000.00	\$33,500.00	\$16,500.00	Project Status: "Complete." Light up ceremony conducted in May 2025. Working through final reimbursements. Closeout will occur in next reporting period.
VICKSBURG VIDEO, INC.	Halls Ferry Park	\$17,232.00	\$11,545.00	\$5,687.00	Project Status: "Complete." Working through final reimbursements. Closeout will occur in next reporting period.

Success Photos



BEAM Executive Director, Sally Doty, at the Vicksburg Video, Inc. – City of Vicksburg-Cablelynx Ribbon Cutting

Success Photos



























4. ADDRESSING CRITICAL NEEDS

Objectives

BEAM defines "Communities with Critical Needs" as a community located in one of the 44 counties (82 total counties) that have been identified as having a persistent poverty rate above 20%. These counties represent project areas where accessibility is a barrier to adoption. Projects not within one of these 44 counties had the potential to be, and were ultimately, funded; however, the scoring rubric gave priority to funding projects within these highly impoverished counties to help bring high-speed public wi-fi to communities where residents may not be able to access service.

Adams	Forrest	Leake	Scott
Amite	Grenada	Leflore	Sharkey
Attala	Holmes	Lowndes	Sunflower
Benton	Humphreys	Marion	Tallahatchie
Bolivar	Issaquena	Montgomery	Tunica
Chickasaw	Jasper	Neshoba	Walthall
Claiborne	Jefferson	Noxubee	Washington
Clay	Jefferson Davis	Oktibbeha	Wayne
Coahoma	Kemper	Panola	Wilkinson
Copiah	Lafayette	Pike	Winston
Covington	Lauderdale	Quitman	Yazoo

Awareness

For projects within both the Broadband Infrastructure and Digital Connectivity Technology categories, the BEAM office engaged in 39 community engagement meetings in geographically diverse areas of the state. In addition, BEAM staff attended numerous meetings with local government officials and staffed two days at the Capitol during the 2024 legislative session to meet with all state legislators and provide information for them to take back to their constituents. BEAM Director Sally Doty or a BEAM staff member

presented at the Mississippi Board of Supervisors Conference and the Mississippi Municipal League Conference in 2022, 2023, and 2024. A copy of all community engagement meetings is attached to this report. At all meetings, BEAM discussed the CPF programs and encouraged all participants to take the speed tests at www.Broadbandms.com to help provide observational data for the CPF eligibility map. The BEAM office distributed flyers publicizing the speed tests at all events, provided flyers at County Office Buildings, and sent 28,000 mailers to underserved areas to further refine the eligibility map.

For projects within Program Plan 1B, applications were required to include a marketing plan that will inform the communities of the available service. Each awarded applicant will be required to provide a quarterly marketing report that indicates the actions taken to promote awareness of the infrastructure as well as the engagement with such infrastructure within the community.

Awareness

Completed projects in Program Plan 1B are conducting ribbon cutting events as well as other marketing and advertising campaigns for the newly constructed public Wi-Fi access points.

Program Plan 1B formally began during the reporting period. As of June 30, 2025, some of the projects are still underway. BEAM has yet to close out any projects; however, 4 of the 12 awarded projects have been completed and are actively serving the communities in which they were constructed. These projects are directly addressing the communities in need by providing free public Wi-Fi access to the communities allowing citizens to meet their needs relative to work, education, and healthcare.

5. LABOR

The State is committed to ensuring that project deployment will prioritize strong labor practices in the deployment of all CPF projects. Upon award, applicants will be required to report to the State the labor practices undertaken in the deployment of their project. To ensure this objective, the State included elements within the scoring criteria to incentivize those projects who will prioritize local hires, engage in local workforce development efforts, as well as conduct apprenticeship programs, training programs and attend job fairs.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

To date, BEAM has participated in 41 community engagement meetings that were attended by local elected officials, community leaders, tribal communities, and residents across the State. These meetings were done in two parts. The first being a presentation educating attendees on grant funding, the timeline of broadband deployment and buildout, who is eligible/ineligible for funding, and resources available to help bridge digital skills. The second half of these meetings allowed participants to ask questions and to share their experiences with unreliable internet or no access to the internet. The team documented questions and feedback received from these in-person meetings to develop programs that yield quality results for communities with critical needs. BEAM remains committed to continuing to engage communities statewide.

The below list represents the community engagement events attended by members of the State's broadband office:

DATE	LOCATION OF EVENT	TARGET AUDIENCE	NUMBER OF REGISTRANTS
7/25/2022	Bottom Rebuilders Legislative Forum – Jackson, MS	Local Communities	75
9/22/2022	Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus Forum Lexington, MS	Local Communities	100
10/27/2022	Mississippi Delta Cleveland, MS	Local Communities	75
11/17/2022	Clinton, MS	Local Communities	32
12/12/2022	Fayette, MS	Local Communities	22
12/12/2022	Natchez, MS	Local Communities	10 – plus live stream
12/12/2022	Liberty, MS	Local Communities	59
12/13/2022	Brookhaven, MS	Local Communities	24
12/13/2022	Woodville, MS	Local Communities	38
12/13/2022	Magnolia, MS	Local Communities	71
1/19/2023	Quitman, MS	Local Communities	25
1/19/2023	Tunica, MS	Local Communities	30
1/20/2023	Hernando, MS	Local Communities	50
2/17/2023	Okolona, MS	Local Communities	50
2/22/2023	Goodman, MS	Local Communities	23
3/8/2023	Indianola, MS	Local Communities	40
4/19/2023	Perkinston, MS	Local Communities	10
5/2/2023	Kosciusko, MS	Local Communities	20
5/9/2023	Terry, MS	Local Communities	48

3/31/2025	DeSoto County Board of Supervisors	Government Leaders	10
4/1/2025	Tombigbee Fiber, LLC	ISP and Local Community	25

7. CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE

BEAM has incorporated language within each of the administrative contracts executed to date requiring compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights act. BEAM has ensured that each subaward agreement executed with subrecipients includes a detailed description of the requirements to maintain compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. This provision will be closely monitored by BEAM in the ongoing monitoring of subawards.