



# BEAM PERFORMANCE REPORT

June 2023

## 1. PROGRAM INFORMATION

Approved Program Plan number (as provided by Treasury): CPF\_GP-000265

Program start date: May 30, 2023

Program end date: December 31, 2026

Actual CPF funds allocated to this Program: \$151,478,883.80

## 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document serves as the State of Mississippi's (the "State") Performance Report for the period ending June 30, 2023, as required by the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund ("CPF").

On May 23, 2023 the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury) approved the Mississippi Capital Projects Fund Program Plan for \$151.5 million under the Broadband Expansion and Accessibility of Mississippi (BEAM) fund grant program to implement projects within the Broadband Infrastructure expenditure category and designed to directly support recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency, address inequities in access to critical services, and work towards the State's overall goal to provide every Mississippian with access to high-quality affordable broadband internet connection.

**Mississippi's intends to prioritize it's CPF allocation with the overall goal of bridging the digital divide across the State and achieving the below identified measurable outcomes:**

<b>UNDERSTAND NEEDS</b>	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
<b>MAXIMIZE CONNECTIVITY</b>	Utilization of competition and Internet Service Provider match to enable the State to connect the largest number of unserved residents
<b>SPENDING STRATEGY</b>	Establish mechanism for multi-level, data-driven review process that aligns the State's goals with US Treasury's statutory requirements
<b>MONITOR AND IMPLEMENTATION</b>	Implementation of key monitoring procedures to ensure the efficient, compliant use of all CPF funds awarded by the State

**In order to achieve the State’s key priorities and objectives, in accordance with State statute, awards will be made to eligible Internet Service Providers in the three categories identified below:**

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL FUNDING AMOUNT
<b>BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	To fund large scale projects designed to serve sizeable numbers of targeted addresses	116,400,000
<b>LINE EXTENSION AND DEPLOYMENT</b>	To fund extensions of existing last-mile broadband networks that can be constructed quickly	20,000,000
<b>ARPA BROADBAND COMMUNITIES</b>	To fund projects where an applicant partners with a county, municipality, or an affiliated organization that dedicates a portion of its ARPA or other funds to a broadband deployment initiative	15,000,000

### 3. USES OF FUNDS

Prior to approval of the Program Plan, the State worked to collect robust data from a variety of stakeholders with the goal of creating a publicly available map that presently serves as the CPF Eligibility Map. This map enables the public, specifically prospective applicants seeking CPF awards, to readily see eligible areas statewide.

Following approval of the State of Mississippi’s Broadband Infrastructure Program Plan on May 23, 2023, the State immediately worked to publish key resources on its program website. The website can be accessed [here](#). Specifically, a Notice of Funding Opportunity was 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 Notice of Funding Opportunity can be accessed [here](#).

On June 15, 2023, the State of Mississippi officially opened the application period which included the launching of a web-based application portal. At the request of numerous providers, the original application period of 30 days was extended to 60 days, closing on August 17, 2023.

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

- Proposed project area
- Type of construction
- Upload and download speed assessed on a Megabit per second basis upon completion of the proposed project
- Pricing structure including participation in the Affordable Connectivity Program
- 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 has developed an objective scoring system designed to award points to prospective projects based on the following factors:**

- Adequacy of the description of the project
- Timeline over which project can be deployed
- Applicant's readiness to comply with federal awards
- The impact the project will have on the community
- The speed offered by the project

The complete Scoring Criteria can be found in the Notice of Funding Opportunity referenced above.

**A listing of the key milestones achieved is included below:**

- Published CPF eligibility map
- Conducted and participated in over 20 community engagement meetings
- Collected speed test and survey data
- Conducted a challenge process to the State's map of eligible addresses
- Published resources for applicants including a detailed Notice of Funding Opportunity
- Launched a competitive grant application portal

**A summary of the outputs produced is included below:**

- No outputs have been produced as of June 30, 2023, due to the fact that the application period remains open through August 17, 2023.

**A summary of the outcomes achieved is included below:**

- Address level determination of eligibility: Through the publication of the State’s broadband map and challenge efforts undertaken, the State was able to refine, on an address level, the final listing of eligible addresses.
- Stakeholder meetings: Please refer to Section 6 for the detailed description of the comprehensive listing of stakeholder meetings conducted by BEAM.
- Compliance & monitoring: The State has developed a robust compliance and monitoring system which involves 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.

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

- Multi-leveled review of all applications
- Scoring of applications
- Publishing initial award determinations
- State statutory challenge period
- Final award determinations
- Execution of grant agreements with subrecipients
- Monitoring activities conducted by subrecipients

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

CHALLENGE	STATUS
IDENTIFY ELIGIBLE LOCATIONS FOR CPF FUNDING	Complete
UNDERSTAND NEEDS OF STAKEHOLDERS	In progress
NAVIGATING CONFLICTING FEDERAL FUNDING	In progress

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

The BEAM CPF program is in the application phase with no awards yet announced. Further information will be available about the individuals/households and the corresponding benefits as awards are made.

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

The BEAM CPF program is in the application phase with no awards yet announced. Further information will be available about the overview and outcomes of ancillary costs incurred to support bringing the capital assets(s) into full use as awards are made.

## **4. PROMOTING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES AND ADDRESSING CRITICAL NEEDS**

**Communities with Critical Need**

For the Broadband Infrastructure category, Mississippi defined critical need areas as those areas with no current access to internet service with at least 25 mpbs download and 3 mpbs upload. Addresses with current or future access to service only by satellite providers or mobile wireless networks are also considered critical need areas. These areas were defined based on FCC data as supplemented by current state data and published as the Mississippi CPF Eligibility Map which can be found at <https://www.broadbandms.com/apply-for-grants/cpf/map>. Potential CPF applicants participated in a challenge process for the eligibility map while Mississippi awaited final approval of its CPF program. The CPF eligible areas reflected in the map cover rural and high poverty areas throughout Mississippi. According to the US Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) 29 of Mississippi's 82 counties have a poverty rate above 25%. These 29 Counties all have areas of critical need that are eligible for CPF funding.

**Awareness Efforts**

The BEAM office engaged in over 20 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 recent 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 and 2023. A copy of all engagement meetings is attached to this report. At all meetings BEAM discussed the upcoming CPF program and encouraged all participants to take the speed tests at [www.Broadbandms.com](http://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. BEAM also provided flyers and information on the ACP program at each event and/or meeting.

## Progress in Addressing Critical Need

The BEAM CPF program is in the application phase with no awards yet announced.

## 5. LABOR

The State is committed to ensuring that project deployment will prioritize strong labor practices in the deployment of Broadband Infrastructure 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 attends job fairs.

## 6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

To date, the State's broadband office has hosted more than 20 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 equity and skills. The second half of these meetings allowed for 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 in an effort to develop programs that yield quality results for communities with critical needs.

To date, community engagement events have been focused on underserved communities and have been conducted only in English. The State's broadband office remains committed to continuing to engage communities statewide including communities with language barriers.

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

DATE	LOCATION OF EVENT	TARGET AUDIENCE	NUMBER OF REGISTRANTS
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
6/1/2023	Learned, MS	Local Communities	47

## 7. CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE

The State has incorporated language within each of the administrative contracts executed to date requiring compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights act.

The State will further ensure 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 the State in the ongoing monitoring of subawards.