

NOTICE OF INTENT

Office of the Governor Division of Administration Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity

Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities (GUMBO) (LAC 4:XXI.705)

The Office of the Governor, Division of Administration, Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity has adopted an amendment to LAC 4:XXI.705 as authorized by R.S. 51:2370-2370.16, relative to the administration of the Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities (GUMBO) grant program by the Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity.

ConnectLA has made considerable progress toward the GUMBO program objective of funding eligible broadband infrastructure projects. These projects will deploy broadband internet service to unserved and underserved areas, improving Louisiana residents' health, educational opportunities and economic competitiveness in the digital world.

Currently, the final disbursement of funds to some broadband services providers is being delayed or denied until ConnectLA identifies locations within approved project areas that are ineligible to receive funding, because they were not or could not have been reasonably identified when applications for the GUMBO program were accepted.

This Rule authorizes ConnectLA to grant or deny the removal of locations from the approved project area included in a grant recipient's application if those locations are later determined to be ineligible for the GUBMO grant program and determine whether the amount of the grant is to be modified. This Rule is promulgated in accordance with the provisions of the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., and is hereby adopted on the day of promulgation.

Title 4

ADMINISTRATION

Part XXI. Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities (GUMBO)

Chapter 7. Compliance

§705. Disbursement and Reimbursement

A. - D. ...

E. The office may allow a grant recipient to request the removal of locations from the approved project area included in its application if those locations are later determined to be ineligible for the GUBMO grant program.

The office may at its discretion approve or deny the removal of the requested locations and determine whether the amount of the grant needs to be modified.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 51:2370-2370.16

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Office of the Governor, Division of Administration, Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity, LR 48:1515 (June 2022), LR 51:

Family Impact Statement

In compliance with Act 1183 of the 1999 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the impact of this proposed rule on the family has been considered. This proposed Rule has the potential to produce a positive impact on family

stability, functioning, and earnings and a family's budget as described in R.S. 49:972 through broadband access offering enhanced employment opportunities, higher wages, business development, improved access to healthcare, and educational opportunities.

Poverty Impact Statement

The proposed Rule should produce a foreseeable, positive impact on the state's children, individuals, and families as defined by R.S. 49:973.B. In particular, the positive impact on factors influencing poverty will be evident through enhanced employment opportunities, higher wages, business development, improved access to healthcare, and educational opportunities.

Small Business Analysis

Pursuant to R.S. 49:978.5, methods for reduction of the impact on small business, as defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act, have been considered and cared for when creating this proposed Rule.

Should a small business not have the financial reporting capabilities and documents required within the Rule for the purposes of applying for the grant program, the office is granted the ability to accept other equivalent documents, at its discretion. Otherwise, this proposed Rule is not anticipated to have an adverse impact on small businesses within the state that apply for or are ultimately grant recipients of the program; therefore, a Small Business Economic Impact Statement has not been prepared.

Provider Impact Statement

It is likely that a private provider of broadband service provides such service to individuals with developmental disabilities. The proposed Rule should not have any known or foreseeable impact on providers as defined by HCR 170 of 2014 Regular Legislative Session, as the proposed Rule implements a grant program that will fund, through federal appropriations at a minimum of 80 percent of total costs, broadband infrastructure projects in previously unserved areas of the state. In particular, there should be no known or foreseeable effect on:

1. the effect on the staffing level requirements or qualifications required to provide the same level of service;
2. the total direct and indirect effect on the cost to the providers to provide the same level of service; or
3. the overall effect on the ability of the provider to provide the same level of service.

Public Comments

Interested persons may submit written comments to Veneeth Iyengar, Executive Director, Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity, P.O. Box 94095, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095. Interested persons may also submit

written comments by email to connect@la.gov. The deadline for receipt of all written comments is on September 20, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. Mr. Iyengar is responsible for responding to inquiries regarding this proposed Rule.

Veneeth Iyengar

Executive Director

**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

SUMMARY
(Use complete sentences)

In accordance with Section 961 of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes, there is hereby submitted a fiscal and economic impact statement on the rule proposed for adoption, repeal or amendment. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS SUMMARIZE ATTACHED WORKSHEETS, I THROUGH IV AND WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE LOUISIANA REGISTER WITH THE PROPOSED AGENCY RULE.

**I. ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COSTS (SAVINGS) TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL
UNITS (Summary)**

The proposed rule is not anticipated to impose any implementation costs to state or local governmental units. Its purpose is to improve our Office's ability to reimburse subgrantees more quickly; however, it does not allocate additional funding.

**II. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL
UNITS (Summary)**

The proposed rule is not anticipated to result in any additional revenue collections of state or local governmental units. Its purpose is to improve our Office's ability to reimburse subgrantees more quickly; however, it does not allocate additional funding.

**III. ESTIMATED COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS, SMALL
BUSINESSES, OR NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)**

The proposed rule is not anticipated to result in any costs and/or economic benefits to directly affected persons, small businesses, or non-governmental groups. Its purpose is to improve our Office's ability to reimburse subgrantees more quickly; however, it does not allocate additional funding.

IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)

The proposed rule is not anticipated to result in any effect on competition and employment. Its purpose is to improve our Office's ability to reimburse subgrantees more quickly; however, it does not allocate additional funding.