Amended - Launchpad Bidders Conference Q&A

(2025-MBI-10)

Questions and Answers
April 11, 2025

	Questions - Applicant Eligibility	Answer
1.	**Can one be a Fiscally Sponsored nonprofit?**	Yes, however, the fiscally sponsored organization cannot be the applicant. The fiscal sponsor must meet the eligibility requirements and will be the applicant and grant recipient. The fiscal sponsor would need to submit the application on the fiscally sponsored organization's behalf and would be responsible for managing the funds, compliance, reporting, and would be the contracting entity. This arrangement should be fully described in the application.
2.	**Are Libraries and Councils on Aging eligible to apply?**	Yes
3.	**Can NPOs that are not based in Massachusetts apply?**	No, however, if you are a service provider working with an eligible Massachusetts-based applicant, that is acceptable.
4.	**Do we need a sam.gov registration number, since this is Federal funding?**	Yes, you will need a UEI number through sam.gov
5.	**We are in the process of completing the municipal digital equity plan; will this help with application selection process?**	Municipalities who are completing the municipal digital equity plan will not be scored differently than any other applicant of Municipality. If a municipality plans to submit a Launchpad application in addition to their Municipal Digital Equity Implementation program grant, the municipality should ensure that the

	Questions - Applicant Eligibility	Answer
		programmatic activities are non-duplicative.
6.	**Can current MBI grantees concurrently receive this grant, in addition to their current MBI program? (if the timelines overlap)**	Yes, so long as the proposed scope of work does not duplicate the scope and/or performance period for MBI grant programs the applicant is currently receiving (such as the Digital Equity Partnerships Program or the Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program). Entities receiving federal Capacity Grant funds must certify that the funds will be used to supplement, not supplant, other funds that have been made available to carry out the activities in the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity.
7.	**If you are the beneficiary of MBI residential retrofit, does that affect your eligibility?**	Beneficiaries of MBI residential retrofit program are eligible, so long as the proposed scope of work does not duplicate the scope of the Residential Retrofit program. Entities receiving federal Capacity Grant funds must certify that the funds will be used to supplement, not supplant, other funds that have been made available to carry out the activities in the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity.
8.	**What if we were ineligible for Retrofit can we try for Launchpad?**	Yes
9.	**Would an organization that provides digital resource/skills support to small businesses in LMI areas be eligible for Launchpad?**	Yes, if the skills being taught are in alignment with section d. Reporting Requirements of the RFP and the population being served are a covered population as defined by the Digital Equity Capacity act.

	Questions - Eligible Activities/Expenses	Answer

10.	Can projects fall under more than one Digital Equity Initiative area?	Yes
11.	Could this grant help us fund a part-time or full-time position?	Yes, please see section c. Eligible Costs of the RFP for full list of eligible costs
12.	Would devices that participants don't own, but are owned by the grantee for participant use, be considered an eligible expense?	Yes
13.	**For Wi-Fi access in affordable housing, is there a set period of time that the grant will cover the Internet Service?**	Funds must be expended within a 2-year period of performance. We do not have requirements regarding length of service.
14.	**We are a community health center, under Devices, would providing our patients with remote monitoring devices be fundable under this grant, along with providing patient education on using said devices?**	Yes, so long as the devices meet the stated requirements under Section C: Eligible Costs and are new, internet-connected devices, they would be allowable. Additionally, providing patient education on how to use those devices would also be an eligible activity under the program.
15.	**As a community health center, we are looking to partner with local organizations to create telehealth pods in various community/public locations for patients to access telehealth services when they don't have the capability to do so at home**	This would be an eligible expense under the Public Space Improvement program area.
16.	**Can funds be used to expand existing programs that meet eligibility criteria?**	Yes, funds from the Launchpad Program can be used to expand existing programs, as long as the proposed activities align with one or more of the eligible Digital Equity initiative areas outlined in the RFP. The application should clearly demonstrate how Launchpad funding will expand the program's reach, impact, or services beyond what is already being provided. Entities receiving federal Capacity Grant funds must certify that the funds will be used to supplement, not supplant, other funds that have been made available to carry out the activities

		in the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity.
17.	**If we currently have a program that provides digital literacy training, digital navigation and hotspot distribution, would we be eligible for this grant if we demonstrate 1) increasing the reach to include more of the NTIA covered populations and 2) changing the methods of delivery (i.e., different class formats and language accommodations)?**	Yes, funds from the Launchpad Program can be used to expand existing programs, as long as the proposed activities align with one or more of the eligible Digital Equity initiative areas outlined in the RFP. The application should clearly demonstrate how Launchpad funding will expand the program's reach, impact, or services beyond what is already being provided and the sustainability of the program after the period of performance. Entities receiving federal Capacity Grant funds must certify that the funds will be used to supplement, not supplant, other funds that have been made available to carry out the activities in the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity.
18.	**Wanted to check if I understood this well, the application cannot be for continuing an existing program?**	See answers 16 & 17 above.
19.	**Can this be used to expand existing programs that meet eligibility requirements?**	See answers 16 & 17 above.
20.	**We just finished a funded program through aging grant. The grant is over, we are patching services together for a short time, can we apply to continue what we had been doing?**	See answers 16 & 17 above.
21.	**Would distribution of both wi-fi devices and laptops be an eligible cost as a supplement to a digital literacy component of a program?**	Yes, please refer to section 2.2.c for eligible costs.
22.	**May we propose a grant project that addresses the distinct needs of a few populations (e.g., justice-involved persons, Veterans, and post-partum moms)? Or, does the grant prefer a**	Yes, you may propose a grant project that addresses the distinct needs of multiple covered populations.

	focus on one population (e.g., older adults age 60+)?	
23.	Will WIFI Access be available for low income families in their owner occupied home?	Section 2.2.b of the solicitation outlines that the WiFi Access Initiative may establish WiFi systems in affordable (public housing or otherwise subsidized by federal or state sources) multi-unit buildings or low-income neighborhoods that provide free, in unit, broadband internet use. If the owner occupied homes are in low income neighborhoods or are subsidized in any way, they would be eligible.
24.	For WIFI access...does this include owner occupied homes in low-income neighborhoods?	See answer 23 above.
25.	Will creating a computer lab be covered?	If all requirements for Public Space Modernization are met, this is an eligible expense. Please see section b. Eligible Activities and section c. Eligible Costs in the RFP to ensure alignment.
25.a	What if the time frame to create the lab goes beyond the 2 years?	The period of performance is 2 years, and projects are expected to be completed within that timeframe, including achieving outcomes and collecting data for reporting. As stated in the RFP under Section D. Reporting, grantees will be required to report on project activities, outcomes, and metrics by the end of the grant period.
26.	If smartphones are purchased is the cell service eligible?	Cell phone service is not an eligible cost under this program. However, data plans are considered eligible expenses. Grantees may use program funds to assist covered populations with enrolling in the Lifeline Program, provided they meet eligibility requirements (household income at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Level). The Lifeline Program offers

		discounted cellular services for qualified participants.
27.	**Would telehealth specific devices or spaces be eligible?**	See answers 14 &15.
28.	**Do you see an opportunity to a PEG Access Station?**	Please refer to section 2.2.b and 2.2.c for a complete list of eligible activities and expenses. Eligibility would be determined based on alignment in these two areas.
29.	**Can funds be used to expand on projects currently funded by MBI's Partnerships program, as long as there are new subgrantee(s) and new focus area(s)? (Ex. Boston's Digital Equity Fund)**	Yes, you are eligible to apply for Launchpad funding to expand work previously done under the Digital Equity Partnerships Program, as long as the proposed project represents an expansion—whether in terms of geography, populations served, services provided, and does not duplicate the same scope and/or period of performance already serviced by an MBI grant. In your application, you'll want to clearly describe how the proposed work builds upon but is distinct from your prior Partnerships Program activities. This will help demonstrate the additional impact Launchpad funding would support and long-term sustainability of the program in this new region. However, Launchpad funding cannot be used to create a separate fund or pool of money that would be re-granted to other organizations. All subrecipients (subgrantees) receiving funding must be identified in the application, and MBI is required to submit subrecipient information for federal review and approval. Entities receiving federal Capacity Grant funds must certify that the funds will be used to supplement, not supplant, other funds that have been

		made available to carry out the activities in the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity.
30.	**Can you please provide clear guidance on whether currently funded MBI Digital Equity Partnership awardees are eligible to apply for Launchpad funding?: If we apply for a different category with different partnerships?**	**Yes**, you are eligible to apply for Launchpad funding if you propose a project in a different initiative area (category) with different partnerships. The proposed work must be distinct from your current Digital Equity Partnership award, and should not duplicate existing funded activities. In your application, you'll want to clearly describe how the proposed work builds upon but is distinct from your prior Partnerships Program activities. Entities receiving federal Capacity Grant funds must certify that the funds will be used to supplement, not supplant, other funds that have been made available to carry out the activities in the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity.
30.a	**Can we apply under the same category, but different work, different partnerships?**	**Yes**, you may apply under the same initiative area as your current award, as long as the proposed work is clearly distinct—this can include expanding into different geographic regions, serving different populations, or offering different services.
30.b	**If so, can our new partnerships be with organizations that are also already funded under the Digital Equity Partnership, but not currently funded under our award?**	**Yes**, you can partner with organizations that are already funded under the Digital Equity Partnership Program, provided they are not part of your existing award. The key is ensuring that the proposed work through Launchpad is distinct, does not duplicate efforts already funded, and advances the goals of the program in a new way. It would be worth confirming with the other organization that the work

		they are doing with their Partnerships grant will not overlap with Launchpad and duplicate existing work being done since the grants will overlap. Entities receiving federal Capacity Grant funds must certify that the funds will be used to supplement, not supplant, other funds that have been made available to carry out the activities in the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity.
31.	We have a previous grant from the MBI Digital Navigator project that MassLeague coordinated. The project has been successful and we can see expanding it in the community. Is the expansion of an existing project acceptable?	See answers 16, 17, 29, 30, 30a, and 30b above.
32.	As a previous awardee under the Partnerships grant, can we expand on work that work is already done with MBI in new areas? For example, working with the same covered populations but in a new region? For example, working with the same covered population, like newly arrived migrants, but in a new region for us, like Attleboro.	See answers 29, 30, 30a, and 30b above.
33.	Digital Literacy - are programs that provide training for basic level technology skills only, eligible for grant coverage? Or, is it required to also provide training in intermediate and advanced level skills?	Assessment tools are left up to the grantees. Grantees are responsible for designing assessments that measure participant progress based on the skills taught through their specific program approach. These assessments should demonstrate outcomes and support reporting on the impact of the digital literacy services provided.
34.	Can funds be used to create an internet discount program for the covered populations (similar to the ACP)?	No, Launchpad funds cannot be used to create or subsidize an internet service discount program. As stated in the RFP, all services funded through this program

		must be provided free of charge to individuals from Covered Populations.
35.	**Device Distribution and Refurbishment - is distribution of refurbished devices a requirement of the initiative? Does distribution of only new low cost devices satisfy the initiative requirements?**	No, distributing refurbished devices is not a requirement under the Device Distribution and Refurbishment initiative. Programs that distribute new, low-cost devices to Covered Populations do satisfy the initiative requirements. Applicants should clearly describe how the devices being distributed—whether new or refurbished—address barriers to digital access and meet the needs of the populations they intend to serve.
36.	**For existing programs that will be expanding, are existing administrative and program staff costs eligible for funding?**	See answers 16 & 17 above.
37.	**We would like to apply to the Digital Literacy Initiative track to train prospective and current small business owners in gateway cities and/or who have language barriers on topics including: QuickBooks, digital marketing and advertising, CRMs, and finding customers on LinkedIn. Is this in line with the goals of this track? What if we also included more basic digital literacy training for these entrepreneurs, like Excel?**	This type of training may be eligible under the Digital Literacy Initiative, as long as the proposed program is designed to meet the needs of individuals who fall within one or more of the Covered Populations exclusively. Please refer to section 2.2.b and 2.2.c for a complete list of eligible activities and expenses to ensure alignment.
38.	**Connectivity Initiative for Economic Hardship – what documentation, if any, is needed to show that an individual/family does not have stable housing?**	Applicants are expected to have a clear and consistent process in place to identify and verify individuals who meet eligibility criteria as they will need to report this information out to us, including those experiencing housing instability. This may include working with partner organizations, such as shelters or service providers, who can verify an individual's housing situation, or having them attest to being housing insecure. This process

		should be outlined in your Full Application.

	Questions – Covered Populations/Geography/Initiatives	Answers
39.	**Are rural communities considered covered populations and will we score high on the application?**	Yes, rural communities are considered a Covered Population under the program guidelines. However, for the purposes of this grant, priority populations that receive bonus points during scoring are specifically: Incarcerated/formerly incarcerated, individuals Residents with language barriers, and Veterans. If your proposed project serves rural communities and includes one or more of these priority populations or located in a priority geography, it would be eligible for additional points. MBI will consider rural communities as defined by the Massachusetts State Office of Rural Health as potential priority geographies based on the application and be considered for being awarded priority points under priority geographies.
40.	**May you serve the priority populations, but not exclusively or primarily, or would an application need to be limited to serving priority populations to receive the priority points?**	While your project doesn't need to serve only the priority populations that receive bonus points (such as veterans, individuals with language barriers, or formerly incarcerated individuals), your application will receive additional scoring consideration if you are specifically targeting those groups. During the application process, you will be asked to provide an estimated number of individuals from Covered Populations served under each initiative area which

		will influence scoring. In order to be eligible, each application must serve one or more of the Covered Populations. Proposals serving non-Covered Populations are not eligible. Please see draft Attachment E for Full Application scoring rubric.
41.	**How do we demonstrate that we serve at least one of the priority populations - do we need to provide a percentage of our participants/patients/consumers who fall into a target pop category?**	Applicants will self-certify that they will serve members of Priority Covered Populations in the concept paper application and will describe how they currently work with and serve those populations.
42.	**What would the threshold be for veterans? For example In order to use veterans as a covered population, will we need to serve a certain threshold. For example, in order to use veterans as a covered population, we would need to meet a 30% threshold, or 30% of the town population has to be veterans?**	There is no specific percentage threshold required to serve veterans as a Priority Covered Population. However, funds must be allocated exclusively to individuals who fall within at least one of the Covered Populations. During the application process, you will be asked to estimate the number of Covered Population individuals served under each initiative area, which will factor into scoring. For more details, please refer to the draft Attachment E: Full Application Scoring Rubric.
43.	**Must programs for education that are funded by this grant serve ONLY covered populations or can programs include also non-covered participants?**	Funds awarded under this program must be directed exclusively to individuals who fall within at least one of the Covered Populations. This includes Low-Income Households, defined as those earning at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The 150% FPL threshold serves as a baseline measure to ensure that resources are prioritized for individuals and families who are most economically disadvantaged and who often face the greatest barriers to access and opportunity.

44.	**Must Launchpad grant funding be used *only* in support of participants from covered populations, or can programs include some number of participants from outside the defined categories??**	See answer 40 above.
45.	**Digital Literacy - are programs that provide training for basic level technology skills only, eligible for grant coverage? Or, is it required to also provide training in intermediate and advanced level skills?**	Programs that focus on providing basic level digital literacy training are eligible for funding under the Digital Literacy initiative. There is no requirement to offer intermediate or advanced level skills training in order to qualify.
46	**Digital Literacy - Measurement: are there standard or existing assessments to be used for measurement of digital literacy gains, or are assessment instruments left up to the grantees?**	Assessment tools are left up to the grantees. Grantees are responsible for designing assessments that measure participant progress based on the skills taught through their specific program approach. These assessments should demonstrate outcomes and support reporting on the impact of the digital literacy services provided.
47.	**If this funding supported a digital navigator, would their caseload need to solely include the covered populations? ie would they not to be able to serve patients in addition who don't belong to the covered pops?**	If this funding supports a digital navigator, their services funded through this program must be **directed exclusively to individuals who fall within at least one of the Covered Populations**, as defined in the program guidelines. Funds awarded under this program must be directed exclusively to individuals who fall within at least one of the Covered Populations. This includes Low-Income Households, defined as those earning at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The 150% FPL threshold serves as a baseline measure to ensure that resources are prioritized for individuals and families who are most economically disadvantaged and who often face the greatest barriers to access and

		opportunity. Therefore, **any time or activities supported by this grant funding must be dedicated solely to serving Covered Populations**.
48.	**Are providers prohibited from using these funds for English Language Learners who are non-citizens?**	The State Digital Equity Capacity Grant NOFO, which the Launchpad Program rules and regulations abide by, does not currently impose legal status requirements (such as citizenship or immigration status) for individuals to benefit from services or programs funded by this Federal funding. Nor are grantees expected/required to verify immigration status. Services and activities supported through this funding must be directed to individuals who fall within at least one of the defined Covered Population.
49.	**We are currently running professional development courses, both online and in person, while also providing equipment and internet access to students and community members. Additionally, if we receive this funding, would we be able to include residents without legal status in these programs?**	See answer 39 above.
50.	**Will there be a focus on rural communities?**	See answer 39 above.
51.	**Our population meets several of your focus categories, we are rural, have a large elderly population and many with cognitive disabilities. However, we have fewer English language learners and people below 150% of poverty. Would we still qualify?**	Yes. To be eligible for funding, applicants must serve at least one of the Covered Populations as defined in the program guidelines. Rural residents, aging individuals (60 and over), and individuals with disabilities—including cognitive disabilities—are all recognized Covered Populations under the program. While certain populations (such as individuals with language barriers, veterans, and incarcerated/formerly incarcerated individuals) are designated priority

		populations for the purposes of scoring bonus points, there is no requirement to serve those groups exclusively.
52.	**ENB has served as the backbone of Boston's ESOL system for 23 years. More recently, our partnerships and impact have extended across the state, with employers (Workplace ESOL), and ESOL classes across 14 Emergency Shelters in many Gateway Cities statewide, partnering with state agencies and ESOL, human services and workforce development providers. All our work has included innovative online and hybrid models that require digital literacy, WiFi access, devices, a tech savvy tutor corps, and more. Would ENB be strongly positioned to apply for funds, given that our footprint has primarily been focused in Suffolk County?**	Eligibility for Launchpad funding is not determined by geography alone. Organizations are encouraged to apply if their proposed projects align with one or more of the eligible initiative areas and directly serve Covered Populations as defined in the program guidelines. Applicants should clearly demonstrate how their proposed work addresses digital equity needs and advances the program's goals. Applications are evaluated based on alignment with program priorities, proposed impact, and the strength of the project plan, rather than prior geographic focus or organizational history.
53.	**Regarding the Priority Geographic Locations, the website lists the 3 counties while the final solicitation and the draft scoring criteria includes rural and Gateway Cities. Are Gateway Cities and rural geographies also a priority?**	Priority geographies under this solicitation that MBI seeks to focus on are for Worcester, Bristol, and Barnstable counties as a whole and is not looking at individual cities in these counties.

Gateway Municipalities and rural communities outside of these three counties that also meet the definitions in the RFP will also be reviewed for priority considerations. |
| 54. | **Will there be a focus on Seniors and the digital divide?** | Aging individuals 60 and over are recognized as a Covered Population under the Launchpad Program, they are not however a Priority Covered Population under this grant program. |
| 55. | **Some areas of the webinar/solicitation mention specifically Worcester, Bristol, and Barnstable counties as priority funding areas, and other areas of the document also name rural communities** | See answer 53 above. |

	and gateway cities. Could you clarify if that means a priority to fund rural and gateway cities across the Commonwealth, or if that is a priority to run rural and gateway cities within the listed counties?	
56.	Are Gateway Cities that are not located in Barnstable, Bristol and Worcester Counties considered to be priority geographic locations for this RFP?	See answer 52 above.

	Questions – Federal Funding	Answers
57.	Have the parameters for NTIA changed, or do we expect changes in terms of the covered populations?	The program parameters and definitions of Covered Populations remain unchanged at this time. If any updates are made, we will share them publicly on our solicitation page and via email with applicants.
58.	Speaking of federal funding - is this funding that MBI currently holds or is it a draw-down? And if so, is it part of a department where grants are being frozen or cancelled?	MBI does not hold these funds yet.It is not being frozen as of today.
59.	Does MBI expect to hold the funds or will they continue to be held by federal gov? Will applications be going to the federal govt or remaining with MBI?	Applications will be submitted directly to MBI, not the federal government. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Economic Development ("EOED") will be the recipient and administrator of all federal grant funds for this program and MBI will be EOED's subgrantee
60.	What does a "spend down" mean?	"Spend down" refers to the process of using the awarded funds within the required period of performance. It means drawing down and expending grant funds in alignment with your approved budget, work plan, and eligible activities, ensuring all funds are used before the grant period ends.

61.	If this is federal money what chance is there this will be pulled? Has the money come in and is protected?	The federal funds have not being frozen as of the date of this response. If there are any changes or updates regarding funding status, MBI will communicate them promptly.
62.	Will this grant be reviewed by the federal govt and will organizations be required to sign a contract that includes compliance with the federal govt. Executive Orders?	The federal government will not review applications, and contracts will be executed with MassTech. However, federal flow-down requirements will be included in all contracts, as the funding originates from a federal source.
63.	Has the MBI received the allocated $9 million from the NTIA?	The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has not received these funds yet.
64.	Will you communicate with group changes in federal funding?	If there are any changes or updates regarding funding status, MBI will communicate them promptly. If you have a Concept Paper submitted in Submittable at the time of any changes, you will be notified directly by email. We will also post updates on our website and share them through our listserv.

	Questions – Application/Budget	Answers
65.	If there are instances where applicants are not invited for a full application, but the application is eligible under another MBI funding stream, will they be notified of this?	Yes.
66.	Are applications with partnerships preferred?	Applicants will not be scored differently if their application has partnerships or not. Please see draft Attachment E for Full Application Scoring Rubric.
67.	Will this funding require a local match?	No.
68.	If we were to use funds to fund some of my salary for grant administration, what would the maximum amount or percentage be to have a good application budget?	* Amended - Staff time for grant administration is an allowable expense under the Launchpad Grant and may be categorized as an indirect cost. Applicants that have a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) may use

that rate, provided they submit their approved NICRA document with the full application materials. Organizations without a NICRA may use the generally federally approved 15% de minimis rate for indirect costs.

Indirect costs refer to expenses that support multiple activities and cannot be directly attributed to a single program (e.g., office space, IT infrastructure, general administrative salaries). **Indirect labor** may include:

- Executive leadership (e.g., CEO, CFO, Executive Director)
- Finance/accounting staff managing all organizational budgets
- Grant compliance staff overseeing multiple programs
- HR personnel hiring across programs
- Indirect legal support

69.	**Does the grant require matching funds or non-monetary matches?**	No.
70.	**Will the "Grants Freeze" issued by the OMB affect the rollout of this program?**	The funds have not been frozen as of the date of this response. If there are any changes or updates regarding funding status, MBI will communicate them promptly.
71.	**What is the funding minimum and maximum amount and how long is the grant for?**	There is no minimum funding request for Launchpad grants. The maximum funding request is $1 million for applicants who submit exceptional proposals. The grant period of performance is 2 years from the execution of the grant agreement.

72.	Are you distributing funds by greatest number of people served, or by the strength of the application?	Funding decisions will be based on the overall strength of the application, including how well the proposed project aligns with program goals, addresses the needs of Covered Populations, and demonstrates potential for meaningful impact. Please see draft attachment E for Full Application Scoring Rubric.
73.	After reviewing concept papers, will you connect submitters who you think would provide a more competitive full proposal if they work together? (Be a match-maker between different organizations to create partnerships)	MBI will consider facilitating connections between applicants if, based on the applicant pool and concept papers we receive, and if we identify opportunities where collaboration could strengthen proposals and promote the greatest impact in addressing gaps in service across Massachusetts.
74.	I have printed out the signature page and other attachments. Is there a specific form to complete in order to respond? What documents are required to be submitted prior to 3/14?	You do not need to complete any of the attachment forms for the concept paper phase. If invited for the full application, they will then be prompted to complete those pages. A full list of questions for the concept paper can be found on the solicitation page. Interested applicants should focus on answering the questions outlined in the concept paper only, link to application can be found on the Launchpad solicitation page.
75.	What is required to be submitted prior to attending the 3/12 information session?	Nothing is required to be submitted prior to the bidders conference.
76.	Are we required to Submit a question in order to submit a concept paper?	No.
77.	What do you consider a sub-applicant? We are applying to find and contract with the vendor on the statewide contract to conduct a Broadband needs survey for our agency using your Launchpad funding. I don't think this would qualify as sub-applicant, but I want to make sure.	According to the Launchpad RFP, sub-applicants are partners or coalition members with the lead applicant. See section 2.2.
78.	Are institutes of higher education eligible applicants under this NOFO? I	Yes, higher education institutes are eligible entities.

	assume we fall under the eligibility category of "Educational or Healthcare Providers"	

	Questions – Timeline/Reporting	**Answers**
79.	**Will you being saying more about the reporting requirements?**	Please refer to section d. Reporting Requirements of the RFP for full list of reporting requirements. Additionally, applicants who make it to the Full Application phase will be invited to TA Office Hours around reporting requirements.
80.	**What is the time frame for this grant? I saw the award would be announced in September. Is it one year, two years?**	This is a two year performance period.
81.	**What is the time period for funding, one or two years?**	See answer 73 above.
82.	**How long will we have to spend the funding once awarded?**	Funds must be expended within the two year period of performance.

	Questions – Funds Disbursement	**Answers**
83.	**I read that funds reimbursement is on a quarterly basis. Is that correct? Is there an allowable % of upfront grant funding that can be used for start up costs, like purchasing devices, hiring a digital navigator?**	There is no allowable upfront percentage under this grant. Funds are reimbursed on a quarterly basis, this is based on NTIA requirements.
84.	**Is there an average award amount? How many grants will be awarded?**	No average, max is $1 million for limited exceptional applications.
85.	**Is cap 1 million per year? or total**	Total.

	Questions –Other	**Answers**
86.	**Have there been independent testing done… not industry …about the massive non native radiation that your promoting? I know families in Pittsfield and others that have been displaced from their homes because a tower was**	MBI does not conduct radiation testing.

	500 feet from their home. Industry does not seem to care about the health problems	
87.	**Has there been independent testing since the pandemic? ICAN sued and won in a tenth circuit court for the FCC to test for radiation effects in humanity and the environment, but nothing has been done. Are you aware about this? Or are you proceeding forward anyway**	See question 86, above.
88.	**Are you aware that there are healthier ways then Wi-Fi and cell towers? We could have internet access just like we did in 2000 with household doing Ethernet instead of Wi-Fi... are you aware of better ways to connect? Equality seems like a buzz word for pushing an agenda. So much money going into this. Why do you think you are doing the right thing for our beautiful planet?**	See question 86, above.

	Amended Questions	Answers
87.	**Liberal Arts for Returning Citizens is a tuition-free college program at Clark University (Worcester) for formerly incarcerated people. Are we able to request funds to purchase laptops to give to our students as a course completion incentive?**	Yes, this is an allowable cost under device distribution and you would be serving an eligible covered population.
88.	**Though our base is Quincy, CTIS supports cities and towns in the southeast. As a result of organizations that we support with multiple locations, can CTIS apply as the prime**	Per NTIA requirements, all applicants must identify any sub-applicant they wish to work with and have them in their Full Application. No substitutes will be allowed after awards are made,

	or lead and include towns that are interested in our support?	as MBI is required to get approval from NTIA for all organizations receiving funds under this grant.
89.	**Question about allowable indirect and/or administrative costs. I do not understand the answer to question #68 on the 3/21/2025 published Q & A.**	Question 68 has been amended. Staff time for grant administration is an allowable expense under the Launchpad Grant and may be categorized as an indirect cost. Applicants that have a Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) may use that rate, provided they submit their approved NICRA document with the full application materials. Organizations without a NICRA may use the generally federally approved 15% de minimis rate for indirect costs.
90.	**If selected as a grant recipient, will we need to verify income of participants? Is self-reporting of income by participants acceptable?**	No, you are not required to verify participants income using formal documentation unless specified in your individual grant agreement. It's advised awarded applicants maintain clear documentation of your chosen process and ensure it is applied consistently across your programs.
91.	**Can an organization submit a concept paper as the lead applicant AND be a partner/sub-applicant named on a concept paper submitted by a different organization?**	Yes, an organization may submit a concept paper as the lead applicant on one proposal and also be listed as a partner or sub-applicant on a separate concept paper submitted by another organization.

However, if both proposals are selected for funding, the MBI will closely assess for potential duplication of benefits. Specifically, looking to ensure that: The same individuals or |

		communities are not being served by both projects, and the organization is not being compensated twice for the same or substantially similar work across both proposals. Applicants should clearly distinguish the activities, roles, and target populations across proposals where they are involved.
92.	**Difference between a sub-applicant and Contractor?**	A sub-applicant helps carry out a portion of the federal program. They are considered partners in delivering program goals and outcomes. Subgrantees must be listed/named in the application so MBI can submit them to NTIA for approval via the Project Narrative Form. A contractor provides goods or services for the program — they are paid to deliver a specific product or service, not to carry out the grant itself. You are required to indicate in your application if you plan to use a contractor for part of your project, but you are not required to have selected or named the contractor at the time of submission.
93.	**Can fiscally sponsored organizations apply? If so how, how do we indicate we are one on the application?**	You will need to submit your UEI number to access the Concept Paper through Submittable. This should be the UEI for your fiscal sponsor. Please list your organization's name as it is known, include your fiscal sponsor's legal name as the legal entity. When selecting the entity type, choose

		"Other" and indicate that you are fiscally sponsored. You can provide any additional details or context in the space provided.
94.	**What is the funding period for the two year grant?**	See answer 73 above.
95.	**Is travel by elder adults to get to computer training an allowable expense?**	Yes this is an eligible participant support cost.
96.	**Is the grant administrative cost line percentage 3% or more?**	This has been amended. The grant does not set a specific cap like 3% for administrative costs. Administrative and grant management costs are allowable as long as they are reasonable, directly tied to the project, and compliant with 2 CFR Part 200 and NTIA rules. If you're charging indirect costs: • You can use your NICRA rate (if you have one) • or Apply the 15% de minimis rate on Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) if you don't have a NICRA.