

Oklahoma Middle Mile (ARPA SLFRF)

Questions and Responses

This FAQ is an evolving document. Information might be modified or eliminated in later iterations. The latest version should be used exclusively.

This FAQ was developed as a broad public resource and is intended to be strictly informational. The answers contained in this FAQ will not include complete information as the questions posed do not provide complete information. This document may be consulted as a reference but should not be relied on for a complete assessment. The OBO encourages potential applicants to consult their legal counsel in finding answers to these questions.

Updated: 4:00 pm CT, April 10, 2025

1. Is there an option to submit Middle Mile applications?

Applications will be due on April 11, 2025, at 11:59pm. Applications can be submitted [here](#).

2. Is the Middle Mile NOFO the same as the ARPA SLFRF NOFO?

The NOFO for ARPA SLFRF contains the same programmatic requirements and commitments that applicants and potential awardees will be required to follow. Additionally, the OBO has provided a NOFO supplement which is specific to the middle mile project requirements.

3. Where can I find the thematic map referenced in the Middle Mile Scoring Criteria?

Applicants can view the thematic map [here](#).

4. How will scoring be calculated related, as it relates to map density, for a project that includes multiple densities of serviceable locations?

The OBO will utilize the average of the applicable densities.

5. Is there an open access requirement for Middle Mile projects?

Open access is not a requirement.

6. Can the OBO confirm that ISPs are eligible entities to apply to the Middle Mile Program?

Eligible entities for the Middle Mile Program must have an FRN number and must service end users. As a reminder, Middle Mile funding may only be used to improve last mile connections.

7. The application asks for "an outline/brief summary of your community engagement or outreach plan, including Tribal Nations agreements if applicable". Is this a plan to be implemented after an award?

If outreach was conducted prior to the application period, please submit this at the time of application. If there is a plan after award, please submit that as well.

8. Can you describe the expectation for last-mile service to un and underserved locations, is there a certain percentage or number of locations an application should target?

All locations connected to the updated middle-mile should experience improved last-mile service.

9. Is the minimum 25% match 25% of the total project cost (referenced in the User Guide) or 25% of the total funds awarded to the applicant for the approved project(s) (referenced in the Portal)?

The minimum 25% match requirement is of total funds awarded to an applicant. The User Guide has been corrected.

10. The portal asks for number of middle miles and “improve last mile planned miles of fiber to be deployed”. Can you clarify the latter and can number of last miles be included in the subsidy request?

Last-mile locations associated with the project should be listed within the application. As a requirement with the middle-mile program, there must be an improvement to the existing last-mile connections.

11. Is it required for a project to include service for local government/ tribal entity or non-profit? While the scoring does not appear to require a project to include service to the entities mentioned, the portal does not include a third option.

No, this is not a requirement.

12. For the OBO Middle Mile program are Internet Exchange Facilities considered an eligible Middle Mile Infrastructure?

If there will be last-mile connections improved and this can be explained within the application, then yes.

13. In past last-mile application programs, eligible un and underserved locations were clear and provided to applicants. How should applicants look to identify middle mile opportunities “in an area that has no previous reliable last mile service provider...”?

This can be found utilizing the FCC mapping data.

14. Can middle mile projects extend outside the border of Oklahoma if the destination of the work is directly related to hitting the most efficient route of a middle mile connection?

No, the project in its entity must remain in Oklahoma.

15. Can a single middle-mile project proposal include more than one county?

Yes, a middle-mile project proposal can include more than one county.

16. Is it possible to receive an extension for the deadline on the OBO Middle Mile application?

At this time, no extensions will be given as the OBO has had the application posted to the website since December 2024 for applicants to prepare their materials.

17. Is an applicant able to submit multiple applications for different project areas?

Yes, an applicant may submit multiple applications.

18. Can a single project be divided into independent segments to allow for separate Environmental Assessment/NEPA certifications?

Applicants may, but be aware that different segments will be scored separately, and the project may not be awarded in its entirety.

19. To meet the performance period deadline, can the dedicated lit network on an existing route be completed by that time, with the overbuild finalized by June 2028, while ensuring that both have independent utility?

No, the project must be completed and operational no later than October 2, 2026.

20. Can an applicant add an existing user to its organization's account to assist in the application process?

Yes. Applicants can view the step-by-step document [here](#).

21. Do improved last-mile connections included in an applicant's proposed project also need to have construction completed by October 2, 2026?

No, the existing last-mile connections may be completed *after* October 2, 2026.

22. Where can an ISP find the most updated locations for SLFRF and CPF?

Here are the links for updated locations for [SLFRF](#) and [CPF](#). They can be found on each program's webpage.

23. For the broadband infrastructure location data template and the network coverage map, should we include all BSLs along the proposed middle mile path (served, underserved, and unserved)?

Only unserved and underserved locations will be considered for potential funding.

24. If BSLs are included in an ISP's proposed application along the middle mile path, will the ISP be obligated to build to those BSLs?

Only unserved and underserved locations in the location data template will be considered for funding.

25. An application question asks if a project is in an area that has no previous reliable last mile service provider providing speeds at a minimum of 100/100 Mbps (or 100/20 where allowable). Can the office explain what "or 100/20 where allowable" means?

"100/20 where allowable" refers to locations where 100/100 mbps is not possible due to geography, topography, or excessive cost.

26. Since this is a Middle Mile project which will not directly serve any BSL's can OBO clarify what information is needed for the Broadband Infrastructure Location Data Template? Do ISPs need to provide a list of BSLs which will be positively impacted by this Middle Mile Project?

Please provide the locations that would receive improved service.

27. Can an applicant be awarded for multiple projects?

Yes, if an applicant submits multiple applications.

28. The spreadsheet that is provided for completion states the following: Enter the site-specific fabric identification number (Fabric ID) from the FCC broadband funded locations map that corresponds with the location in the field provided. This is the Broadband Serviceable Fabric Location (Max length - 20 characters)

Where exactly do companies find this number? If an applicant has the lat/long, are they still required to list the Fabric ID as well?

Fabric IDs can be obtained through a CostQuest license. Organizations can obtain the licenses [here](#). If CAIs are included in the location data template, and do not have Fabric IDs, then Lat/Long will be sufficient.

29. Can the OBO clarify what is meant by "improvement to existing last-mile connections" versus a middle mile project that would enable future last-mile connections?

ARPA funding allows for investments that enhance or expand existing last-mile services by improving the middle-mile infrastructure.

30. Can funding solely be requested for the middle mile route or can it also be requested for the build to last-mile connections?

SLFRF investments in middle-mile infrastructure, such as fiber optic lines, must be to improve last-mile connectivity. The middle-mile is the backbone infrastructure that connects regional providers to individual homes and businesses (the last mile).

31. Middle Mile projects that use third-party network services are typically billed by the provider on a monthly basis. Can ISP's apply for funds to cover each month up to October 2026 or can funds be requested for the full term of the contract which is typically 3 or 5 years?

The project must be completed and operational no later than October 2, 2026.

32. If an ISP fills out the Location Data Template, do they need to design a last mile network to the locations or just list them in the Location Data Template?

The Middle Mile grant program is to build out middle mile(s) in order to improve existing last mile connections. Please use the Location Data Template to indicate the existing last mile connections that will be improved with the Middle Mile grant program.