

Connected Communities Facilities (CCF) Round 2 Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

Updated 05/29/2024

Q1: Does this grant cover the purchase and renovation of a facility where we can provide digital literacy services to the community?

Yes, the grant can cover the purchase of a property or facility. However, ECD will require additional documentation to be uploaded in the application.

- Please note that the grant will not cover short-term leases. If you are obtaining a lease for the purposes of the grant, it will have to be at least 10 years.
- For purchases, applicant must upload:
 - An MOU between seller and buyer detailing facility information (address, location, condition), price of sale/purchase, and timeline.
- For leases, applicant must upload:
 - Lease agreements with information detailing lease terms, the yearly cost of the lease, all parties involved in the lease, and the duration of the lease agreement.

Q2: Do we have to procure a PE/architect prior to the grant application to complete the certifications and overviews?

New to CCF this round, a Professional Engineer (PE) or an architect must sign a document that includes all of the following: 1) a high-level overview of the project budget, 2) a site map, and 3) a technical project description. This document must contain all three elements. Funds for this planning document will not be reimbursed. **This document must be signed, not stamped.**

Final design schematics, final architectural plans, other architect and engineering services created after grant contracts are signed can be reimbursed through the grant and be included in the grant budget request.

Q3: Will other projects in the county have a chance to get funding if one was already funded in Round 1?

Applicants proposing projects in counties that did not receive funds in CCF Round 1 will receive priority. However, applicants from all counties in Tennessee are welcome to apply – all projects will be considered for funding.

Q4: Should the proposal include all three components of digital education, health, and workforce?

All components of education, health, and workforce must be addressed in the application. It is acceptable to consider one category as the primary component while the others are secondary.

For example, if the primary purpose of your project is health, such as a digital computer lab for telehealth services, you can also address education and workforce components. The lab can offer health education workshops (education) and provide training for healthcare-related job skills (workforce).

Q5: Is broadband infrastructure applicable to the grant?

No broadband infrastructure projects will be applicable. However, applicants may include on-premises broadband or public Wi-Fi installations or improvements in their budget. Note broadband improvements must be within the CCF facility and cannot be on a different site. No This grant is intended to fund facilities and all cost must improve the community facility.