

Broadband Strategy Council NTIA/BTOP Evaluation Criteria and Checklist

The Broadband Strategy Council (BBSC) will evaluate each application, assessing for strategic broadband improvement, sustainability, and overlap, based on its statutory charge to:

- Identify and examine the broadband opportunities contained in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009;
- Encourage a statewide strategic approach to broadband deployment that is efficient, coordinated and consistent with other long-term goals and with the Public Utilities Commission's prior determinations regarding broadband deployment;
- Foster public-private cooperation and co-investment in broadband deployment; and
- Promote fair and open competition in the delivery of broadband service.

The five checklist criteria (and definitions) that each application will be assessed against are:

1. Proposed projects must be consistent with the BBSC vision.

- The Council's evaluation and endorsement should align with its vision "of a secure and reliable telecommunications network that provides broadband access to unserved and underserved populations and community anchor institutions; fosters economic development and enhances the delivery of goods and services."

2. Proposed projects should foster and support economic development.

- Broadband access supports economic development when it provides universal access for consumers, high speed access for business, and very high speed for research and education. Proposed projects will be evaluated as to the extent they foster broadband access in these areas.

3. Proposed projects should preserve existing jobs and create new jobs.

- NTIA/BTOP funding is intended to preserve existing and create new jobs. This includes jobs directly in the telecommunications industry as well as those in other sectors that leverage broadband access to maintain and grow. The potential for a proposed project to preserve and create jobs is an important aspect.

4. The BBSC will assess proposed projects in regard to their value.

- Determining a proposed project's value will consist of reviewing a number of elements such as overall cost-benefit, number of eligible customers reached, ability to serve community anchor institutions, is it targeted for unserved areas versus underserved area, etc. Proposed projects should demonstrate a Maine need that is being met or a Maine community that will utilize the services provided by the project being proposed.

5. The BBSC will assess proposed projects in regard to their viability.

- The viability determination would consider elements such as the applicant's ability to perform respective to project scope and complexity, delivery timeframes, sustainability of the service, etc.