Compliance Requirements

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Agenda

- Federal Regulations
 - Uniform Administrative Requirements
 - Cost Principles
 - Audit Requirements
- Key American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) Requirements
- Special Award Conditions
- Questions



Key Roles

- Each BTOP award is supported by a Federal Program Officer and a Grants Officer.
- Federal Program Officer (FPO) is responsible for documenting evaluation and recommendation for award to grants officer and for monitoring and oversight of the work conducted under the award
 - All project types are assigned an FPO from the Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).
- **Grants Officer** is the only official with authority to bind the government, obligate funds, amend award, suspend or terminate award, resolve audits, and other administrative aspects
 - Infrastructure awards are assigned Grants Officers from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Grants Office.
 - SBA and PCC awards are assigned Grants Officers from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Grants Office.





BTOP grant awards are governed by a large number of federal rules and regulations

- Recipients must comply with the Uniform Administrative Requirements governing their conduct in executing their respective awards.
- Each recipient's financial management system must appropriately track and account for federal grants funds and expenditures associated with the funded project.
- Recipients must abide by written procedures in place for minimizing fund draw downs, procurement, and property standards.
- Recipients must request prior approvals for changes to their budget, key personnel, etc.
- Recipients may draw down funds as needed, but cannot keep advanced funds for longer than 30 days.
- Recipients must abide by OMB cost principles governing allowability of costs.
- Recipients must keep accounting records that include supporting documentation for all costs.
- The DOC Office of Inspector General has the right to access all grant records.
- Recipients are required to submit quarterly and annual performance and financial reports.
- Grant recipients are subject to audit.





Applicable Financial Assistance Regulations

Organization Type	Administrative Requirements	Cost Principles	Audit Regulations and Standards
For Profit Entities	15 CFR Part 14	48 CFR Part 31.2 (Federal Acquisition Regulations)	Government Auditing Standards (The Yellow Book)* OMB Circular A-133, Subpart B § 235
Institutions of Higher Education	15 CFR Part 14	2 CFR Part 220 (OMB Circular A-21)	OMB Circular A-133
Non-Profit Organizations	15 CFR Part 14	2 CFR Part 230 (OMB Circular A-122)	OMB Circular A-133
Hospitals	15 CFR Part 14	45 CFR, Part 74(E)	OMB Circular A-133
State, Local and Tribal Governments	15 CFR Part 24	2 CFR Part 225 (OMB Circular A-87)	OMB Circular A-133

^{*} Government Auditing Standards can be found at http://www.gao.gov/govaud/ybk01.htm





Additional Regulations, Policies, and Resources

- Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions http://oam.eas.commerce.gov/docs/GRANTS/DOC%20STCsMAR08Rev.pdf
- Department of Commerce American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Award Terms
 http://oam.eas.commerce.gov/docs/ARRA%20DOC%20Award%20Terms%20Final%205-20-09PDF.doc.pdf
- Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements http://oam.eas.commerce.gov/docs/Grants/Preaward_FRN2008.pdf
- Special Award Conditions specified in the BTOP Award Package (both BTOP-wide and project-specific)
- BTOP Recipient Handbook <u>http://www2.ntia.doc.gov/files/BTOP_Recipient_Handbook.pdf</u>
- BTOP Fact Sheets
 http://www2.ntia.doc.gov/ManagementResources





Links to regulations and compliance guidelines can be found at:

http://www2.ntia. doc.gov/complia nce

Applicable Financial Assistance Regulations



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Government-Wide Administrative Regulations for Recipients

- Uniform Administrative Requirements:
 - Property and procurement standards.
 - Financial and program management, including cost share and program income.
 - Reporting and record keeping.
 - Requirements flow down to subrecipients.





Recipients, Subrecipients, Contractors: OMB Circular A-133, 210

Recipient

- Achieve program results by managing and executing BTOPfunded project.
- Comply with uniform administrative requirements, as well as all award terms and conditions.
- Manage use of BTOP grant funds in accordance with federal cost principles.
- Ensure availability of matching contributions.
- Monitor activities of subrecipients and contractors.
- Comply with reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Subrecipients

- Determines who is eligible to receive what Federal financial assistance.
- Has its performance measured against whether the objectives of the program are met.
- Responsible for programmatic decision-making.
- Responsible for adherence to applicable Federal program compliance requirements.
- Uses Federal funds to carry out a program of the organization as compared to providing goods or services for a program.

Contractors

- Provides the goods and services within normal business operations.
- Provides similar goods or services to many different purchasers.
- Operates in a competitive environment.
- Provides goods or services that are ancillary to the operation of the Federal program.
- Is not subject to compliance requirements of the Federal program.



Distinguishing Subrecipients from Contractors

- A subrecipient is involved in the activities of the award project
 - Through the recipient, a sub-recipient performs substantive work on an award project to accomplish BTOP purposes.
 - Because a subaward is financial assistance, award terms and conditions that apply to prime recipients generally apply to subrecipients as well.
 - For example, subrecipients must comply with programmatic requirements, administrative requirements in 15 CFR Part 14 or Part 24 (as applicable), cost principles, and audit requirements.
 - The Uniform Administrative Requirements and Cost Principles that apply to the subrecipient are based on the subrecipient's organizational classification (*e.g.*, state, local, or tribal government; nonprofit organization; university; or commercial entity), and may not be the same as those that apply to the recipient.



Distinguishing Subrecipients from Contractors

- A contractor or vendor chiefly pursues its own commercial interests
 - A contractor or vendor provides goods or services for the benefit the recipient.
 - The contractor or vendor does not directly perform substantive work toward the achievement of BTOP purposes.
 - Data requirements for reporting contractor or vendor information are reduced; contractors and vendors cannot be delegated reporting responsibility.



Administrative Requirements: Recipient Codes of Conduct

- Recipients and subrecipients must have a written code of conduct governing performance of employees engaged in the awarding and administration of contracts.
- No employee, officer, or agent of the recipient or subrecipient may participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract, subcontract, or sub-grant supported by federal funds if a real or apparent conflict of interest exists.
- Conflict exists when a recipient or subrecipient employee, officer, or agent, any immediate family member, a partner, or organization which employs or is about to employ one of the above, has a financial or other interest in the firm selected for the award.
- Recipients or subrecipients may not solicit or accept gratuities or favors from contractors, potential contractors, or sub-agreement parties.





Administrative Requirements: Procurement Standards

- Recipients and subrecipients must establish written procurement procedures that comply with the requirements of 15 CFR §§ 14.40-14.48 or 15 CFR § 24.36, as applicable.
- Competition in selecting subrecipients and contractors is required unless justified by factors such as:
 - The item is available only from a single source.
 - Public exigency or emergency will not permit delay resulting from the competitive process.
 - The awarding agency authorizes noncompetitive proposals.
 - After solicitation of a number of sources, competition is deemed inadequate.



Administrative Requirements: Procurement Standards

- Recipient must document:
 - The basis for contractor selection.
 - Justification for sole source procurement, if the contract was not competed.
 - Cost and price analysis.
- Contractors must address any disputes with the counterparty to the contract (e.g., the recipient); contractors have no recourse to the federal agency issuing the award.





Administrative Requirements: Procurement Methods

Competitive Proposals Noncompetitive Proposals Proposal Solicitation Small Purchase Sealed Bids Entails solicitation of Simple and informal Procurements are Typically conducted with procurements for more than one source publicly solicited and a proposal from securing services, a firm-fixed-price submitting an offer and a single source when supplies, or other contract (lump sum or fixed-price or costprocurement by another method is property that does not unit price) is awarded reimbursement type cost more than to the responsible contract is awarded not feasible. bidder whose bid is Used under limited \$100,000 (or a lower amount established the lowest in price. circumstances by the recipient's Requires cost analysis to verify procurement procedures. data supporting proposal.

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gy Opportunities Program
Reinvestment Act of 2009



Administrative Requirements: Procurement Summary

Prime Recipient and Subrecipients

- Written standards of conduct.
- Written procurement procedures.
- Competition.
- Justification if not competed.
- Document basis of selection.
- Cost and price analysis.

Contractors

- Perform under Standard Terms and Conditions.
- Perform with integrity.
- Demonstrate record of past performance.
- Have necessary financial and technical resources.
- May not be debarred or on excluded party list.
- May not compete if contractor participated in drafting contract specifications, requirements, statement of work, invitation for bids, or RFP.

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Administrative Requirements: Property Standards

- Title to property acquired or improved with BTOP grant funds must vest in the recipient or a subrecipient.
- Recipients and subrecipients hold property acquired or improved with BTOP grant funds in trust for the benefit of the BTOP program, and must use grant-funded property for the benefit of the BTOP program; the Federal government retains a priority reversionary interest in this property.
- Recipients and subrecipients may not sell or lease grant-funded broadband facilities or equipment without approval
 - CCI recipients may lease facilities to other service providers for the provision of broadband services.
 - All recipients and subrecipients must comply with the provisions of the Uniform Administrative Requirements governing use and disposition of real property and equipment.
- Recipients and subrecipients must obtain insurance coverage for grant-funded property at least equal to the coverage they carry for other property.





Administrative Requirements: Security Interest

- All BTOP award recipients and subrecipients must execute a security interest in favor of NTIA in real property and equipment acquired or improved with BTOP grant funds
 - The security interest protects the federal share of the recipient or subrecipient's investment in such property over the course of its useful life.
 - The security interest prohibits the sale, mortgage, encumbrance, or other transfer of an interest in such property, and contains covenants requiring the recipient to use the property solely for the purposes for which the award was made.
- Generally, for real property, the security interest must be recorded using a Covenant of Purpose,
 Use, and Ownership or, in certain cases, as an Agreement and Mortgage.
- For equipment (including fixtures), the security interest must be recorded by filing Form UCC-1 in the proper jurisdiction; these filings must be renewed as required, e.g., every five years, over the useful life of the equipment.



Administrative Requirements: Financial Management

- BTOP recipients and subrecipients must comply with all Federal regulations governing financial management systems and processes, including:
 - Accurate, current, and complete disclosure of financial results.
 - Tracking of the source and application of funds.
 - Minimizing of the time between transfer of funds and payments by the recipient (no more than 30 days).
 - Effective control over and accountability for all funds, property and other grant assets.
 - Comparison of outlays with budgeted amounts.
 - Written procedures for determining the reasonableness, allocability, and allowability of costs charged to the award
 - Accounting records supported by source documentation.
- Recipients and subrecipients must maintain award advances in interest-bearing insured accounts.



Financial Capabilities Checklist

- Best practices indicate that effective financial management procedures and systems allow recipients to:
 - Establish and maintain accounting systems and financial records that accurately account for Federallyfunded award(s).
 - Confirm that funds received for one project are not being used to fund another project.
 - ✓ Verify that federal grant monies are not being co-mingled (Federal funds must be accounted for separately and distinctly).
 - ✓ Inform subrecipients of BTOP program financial requirements and how these may impact the Project Manager's reporting to the recipient.
 - ✓ Understand the subrecipients' financial operations, and ensure subrecipients have met audit requirements.
 - Account for receipts and expenditures, cash management, maintenance of financial records, and refunding disallowed expenses.
 - ✓ Prohibit supplanting of ongoing activities funded by existing budgets...



Administrative Requirements: Award Management and Record Keeping

- Recipients must manage and monitor each subaward, contract, or other activity supported by its award.
- Recipients must ensure that each subrecipient complies with applicable audit requirements.
- Recipients and subrecipients must keep financial and other records pertinent to the award (including supporting documentation) for 3 years after final closeout or after audit, litigation, or claim is resolved.
- OIG has unrestricted access and may interview recipient's personnel for as long as records are retained.





Government-wide Cost Principles for Recipients

Organization Type	Cost Principles	
For Profit Entities	48 CFR Part 31.2 (Federal Acquisition Regulations)	
Institutions of Higher Education	2 CFR Part 220 (OMB Circular A-21)	
Non-Profit Organizations	2 CFR Part 230 (OMB Circular A-122)	
Hospitals	45 CFR, Part 74 (E)	
State, Local and Tribal Governments	2 CFR Part 225 (OMB Circular A-87)	

- For costs to be allowable, they must be:
 - Consistent: consistent treatment between award and other activities of the organization.
 - Reasonable: ordinary and necessary, market prices, prudent person, established practices.
 - Allocable: relative benefits received, all activities share cost, cost allocation plan.
- Additionally, they should be determined in accordance with GAAP, not be included as a match for any other federal award, and adequately documented in the accounting records.





Cost Principles: Direct vs. Indirect Costs

Cost Type	Definition	Includes:
Direct Costs	Costs that can be identified specifically with a particular cost objective and comply with allowable guidelines	 Personnel Travel Equipment Program materials/supplies Contracts Other
Indirect Costs	Costs that cannot be readily identified with a single cost objective but identified with common or joint objectives that comply with allowable guidelines	 General administration Salaries / expenses of executive officers Personnel administration Accounting Fringe benefits Office rent and maintenance General purpose office equipment, supplies, computers, printers, copiers, etc.





Cost Principles: Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement

- Recipients with indirect costs in their budget must have or obtain an approved indirect cost rate.
- If a recipient did not submit and obtain approval for a negotiated indirect cost rate as a part of
 its application budget, it must submit a <u>cost allocation plan</u> and an <u>indirect cost rate proposal</u>
 within **90 days of award start date** to the DOC Office of Acquisition Management (OAM)
 - This plan should be based on the recipient's actual costs for its most recently completed and audited fiscal year.
 - Extensions to the 90 day deadline may only be approved by the Grants Officer assigned to the application.
- The cost allocation plan and the indirect cost rate proposal should be submitted to:

U.S. Department of Commerce 1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W. Office of Acquisition Management, Room 6412 Washington, DC 20230 Attn: Indirect Cost Program





Cost Principles: Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement

- The Department of Commerce will negotiate with the recipient and approve the Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) rate which allows the recipient to include indirect costs as allowable project expenses
- The recipient must also provide the Grants Officer with a copy of the indirect cost proposal transmittal letter
- For more guidance on Department of Commerce policies and procedures governing establishment of NICRAs, please see: http://www2.ntia.doc.gov/compliance#policy





Eligible and Ineligible Costs: Infrastructure Projects

Eligible Costs

- Construction or improvement of facilities required to provide broadband service.
- Long-term leases of facilities required to provide broadband service, including (IRU) agreements.
- Pre-application expenses less than 5 percent of eligible costs.
- Indirect costs.

Ineligible Costs

- Operating expenses of the applicant.
- Costs incurred prior to application date.
- Acquisition of an affiliate, including the acquisition of the stock of an affiliate.
- Purchase or lease of any vehicle other than those used primarily in construction or system improvements.
- Merger or consolidation of entities.
- Costs incurred in acquiring spectrum as part of an FCC auction or in a secondary market acquisition.





Eligible and Ineligible Costs: PCC Projects

Eligible Costs

- Acquiring broadband-related equipment, instrumentation, networking capability, hardware and software, and digital network technology for broadband services.
- Developing and providing training, education, support, and awareness programs or web-based resources.
- Facilitating access to broadband services (i.e., making public computer centers accessible to the disabled).
- Installing or upgrading broadband facilities on a one-time, capital improvement basis.
- Constructing, acquiring, or leasing a new facility.
- Indirect costs.
- Pre-application expenses less than 5% of eligible costs.

Ineligible Costs

 BTOP grant funds may not be used to fund purchases that are not used predominantly for expanding public access to broadband service or enhancing broadband capacity at public computer center locations.

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Eligible and Ineligible Costs: SBA Projects

Eligible Costs

- Acquiring broadband-related equipment, instrumentation, networking capability, hardware and software, and digital network technology for broadband services.
- Developing and providing training, education, support, and awareness programs, as well as webbased content that is incidental to the program's purposes.
- Conducting broadband-related public education, outreach, support, and awareness campaigns.
- Implementing programs to facilitate greater access to broadband service, devices, and equipment.

Indirect costs

- Pre-application expenses less than 5% of eligible costs.
- Ineligible Costs.
- BTOP grant funds may not be used for expenses or purchases that are not used predominantly for the provision of broadband education, awareness, training, access, equipment, and support.
- Costs associated with constructing or leasing broadband facilities and infrastructure are not eligible.





Tax Rules for BTOP Grants

- Applicants who are not exempt from taxation should consult with their tax advisors regarding the potential tax consequences of BTOP grants.
- The Internal Revenue Service has published two documents providing guidance on the taxability of BTOP grants; please see:
 - http://www2.ntia.doc.gov/files/Rev_Proc_2010-34.pdf (September 2010)
 - http://www2.ntia.doc.gov/files/IRS_guidance030910.pdf (February 2010)
- Federal taxes are not an eligible cost under federal grant programs such as BTOP.



Government-Wide Audit Requirements

- All BTOP awards are subject to audit by the Department of Commerce Office of Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office.
- OMB Circular A-133 applies to states, local governments, and non-profit organizations
 - The circular implements the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996, establishing uniform audit requirements for non-federal entities that administer federal awards.
- OMB Circular A-133 Subpart B § 235 (program specific audits) applies to For-Profit entities.
- Depending on the nature of the recipient, the appropriate OMB circulars and regulations are incorporated by reference into award agreements, thus becoming enforceable between the agency and the recipient on a contractual basis.
- An audit is required within 90 days after the end of the first year and within 90 days from the project expiration date, including the closeout period for the award.
- Audits must be submitted to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse within 30 days of the receipt of the auditor's report, or 9 months after the end of the audit period.
- Audit of the award may result in the disallowance of costs after closeout.



American Recovery & Reinvestment Act Requirements: Davis-Bacon Act

- Section 1606 of the Recovery Act applies the wage requirements of the Davis-Bacon Act to BTOP-funded construction activities.
- Recipients, subrecipients, and contractors must pay laborers and mechanics employed directly
 upon the site of the work no less than the locally prevailing wages (including fringe benefits) listed
 in the Davis-Bacon wage determination for the work performed.
- Wage determinations available at <u>www.wdol.gov</u>
- Each recipient must obtain weekly certified payroll records and a Statement of Compliance from its subrecipients and contractors and maintain these records in its official files.
- BTOP-specific guidance is available at: http://www2.ntia.doc.gov/files/fact_sheet_davis_bacon_08122010.pdf
- Additional guidance is available in Department of Labor All-Agency Memorandum No. 207, available at: http://www.dol.gov/whd/recovery/AAM207.pdf





American Recovery & Reinvestment Act Requirements: Buy American

- Section 1605 of the Recovery Act imposes Buy American requirements on certain BTOP-funded activities.
- Projects funded by ARRA for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public building or public work use American iron, steel and manufactured goods in projects, unless one of several specified exemptions applies. This requirement is to be applied in a manner consistent with U.S. obligations under international agreements.
- NTIA has issued a limited waiver of the Buy American requirements
 (http://www2.ntia.doc.gov/files/BroadbandBuyAmericaNotice7-1-09.pdf), applicable to:
 - Broadband Switching Equipment.
 - Broadband Routing Equipment.
 - Broadband Transport Equipment.
 - Broadband Access Equipment.
 - Broadband Customer Premises Equipment and End-User Devices.
 - Billing/Operations Systems.





BTOP Special Award Conditions

 By accepting the BTOP award, the recipients agree to meet all BTOP-wide Special Award Conditions (SACs) in addition to those specifically assigned to their project.

BTOP-Wide SACs	Project-Specific SACs
Guidelines for Matching Funds	Accounting System Verification
Incorporation of Requirements from the Notice of Funding Availability	Construction-Related Requirements
Nondiscrimination and Interconnection	Buy America Waiver Approval
Underserved and Unserved Service Areas	Census Block Waiver
Security Interests in Real Property	Matching Waiver
Payments and Advances	For-Profit Recipient Audit Requirement
Post-Award Reporting Requirements	Indirect Cost Used as Cost Share
Notice of Limited Waiver of Section 1605 (Buy America Requirement)	Guidelines for Matching Funds

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BTOP Special Environmental Award Conditions

- Some BTOP recipients may also have to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/Section 106 Environmental requirements, which include:
 - Completion of environmental reviews and impact determinations to comply with National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.
 - Completion of consultation required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.
 - Compliance with all federal, state and local environmental and historic preservation laws.
 - EA SAC allows for limited procurement for goods and services based upon a submitted and approved budget for the 6-month period.



BTOP Special Award Conditions

- The BTOP Program Office and Grants Office will monitor compliance with the special award conditions.
- It is critical that recipients review the deadlines associated with each special award condition and communicate early and often with their FPOs and Grants Officers on the status of meeting each special award condition.
- As the recipient fulfills the requirement of each special award condition, the recipient must document completion and submit to their FPO and Grants Officer for the official award file in accordance with the timeframes identified in the recipient's special award condition.
- Failure to comply with a special award condition may result in a hold being placed on a recipient's ability to draw down funds or, in extreme cases, termination of award.



Enforcement

- The Federal Government will take actions against non-compliant award recipients based on the severity of non-compliance.
- These enforcement actions may one or more of the following:
 - High Risk Special Award Conditions.
 - Suspension of payments.
 - Suspension of award.
 - Termination for cause.
 - Termination for convenience.
 - Debarment and Suspension.



Questions?

