Applicant Tool Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Applicant Tool?

The Applicant Tool is a visualization and mapping tool that informs the development of grant applications for Federal Funding Account.

How is the Applicant Tool different from the [Federal Funding Account's Public Map?](#)

The Applicant Tool provides access to data beyond that on the Federal Funding Account's Public Map. This data is proprietary in nature and requires an approved license agreement to access. This additional data enables prospective applicants to examine service needs, review U.S. Census Bureau information, and see estimated subsidies for potential projects. Prospective applicants may use the Applicant Tool to create, save, and submit project areas.

Must I register to use the Applicant Tool?

To access the tool, prospective applicants must create an account and accept the terms of service and end user license agreement. Users who do not sign the terms or license agreement will not be granted access to the tool.

Does it cost anything to register and access the Application Tool?

No. There is no cost to access the registration tool. Registrants will have to accept the terms and license agreement.

How do I register to access the Applicant Tool?

Register for the Applicant Tool at: https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/ApplicantToolRegister

How long does it take for my registration to be approved?

Registration approval may take up to three business days depending on the volume of requests received.

How do I access the Applicant Tool from the Federal Funding Account webpage?

Applicants may access the Applicant Tool from the Federal Funding Account webpage by clicking on Applicant Tool link. Applicants will need to enter credentials assigned to them during the registration process in order to access the tool.

How do I select a project area?

First, locate your area of interest on the map then use the selection tools located on the left side of the map to add the relevant Census Blocks. You may be prompted to choose between nearby Census Blocks. Alternatively, bulk select polygons using the lasso selector or remove polygons in bulk using the lasso subtractor. See the Applicant Tool User Guide or watch the instructional video (both on the Application page), for detailed visual information on selecting project areas.

What information is available for my selected area?

When a project area is selected, you will see data such as the number of locations (both total and unserved), estimated subsidy, whether it is a tribal area, and other socio-economic data for the selected Census Blocks.

What does the phrase "estimated summary" mean?

The Applicant Tool uses CostQuest's BroadbandFabric to estimate the cost of deploying fiber to the premises (FTTP) to all serviceable locations within the selected census blocks. The model also provides for a connection from the Service Area Groups to the nearest statewide middle mile network access point to support FTTP based service. The estimated subsidy does *not* include ongoing operations and maintenance costs.

Can I start outlining my project area, then pause and save it to work on later?

Yes, you may save work in progress to complete later, as long as you have not hit the submit button.

Can I make changes to my project areas after I hit the submit button?

An applicant cannot make changes to project areas after submission. If edits need to be made post submission, an applicant will need to copy the original submission, make the necessary edits, and submit a new plan.

I clicked "submit" and created my Plan ID, is my Federal Funding Account grant application complete?

Your submitted areas will only be saved on the server until you formally apply on the CPUC's Broadband Grant Portal. On the portal, you will be prompted to enter the Plan ID that will be provided upon hitting submit in the Applicant Tool. Your Plan ID will be imported into the Broadband Grant Portal, where other supporting documents will also be uploaded.

What should I do after I submit my project area via the Applicant Tool?

It is important that you save your Plan ID for later use in the Broadband Grant Portal. Applications will be accepted during a window in Summer 2023. A link to the Broadband Grant Portal will be available on the Last Mile Federal Funding Account webpage. Follow the instructions in the Broadband Grant Portal to register and enter your Plan ID.