

The Commonwealth's review of Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) applications

State review process will include input from applicants and others:

Self-assessment by BTOP applicants – The commonwealth will ask all known applicants to complete a self-appraisal. This document will ask grant applicants to: (1) explain how their grant application supports the goals and priorities of the commonwealth's Statewide Broadband Plan; (2) explain the reasons its project best meets the needs and priorities of the state; and (3) select the desired predominant subject matter area from which the commonwealth may seek more detailed review. Applicants will be given 5 business days to complete this self assessment.

Regional reviews – The commonwealth will circulate copies of BTOP proposals to ten Regional Partners (seven Local Development Districts and 3 economic development entities) who will have the opportunity to review and assess all projects within their respective regions.

Subject Matter Expert (SME) input – Concurrently, the commonwealth will convene a panel of 10 to 12 Subject Matter Experts (SME) and other select stakeholders. This will allow the commonwealth to gain input and perspectives from other public and private sector interests and disciplines (industry, health care, education, public safety, etc).

Final review and prioritization by the commonwealth – After compiling all of the applicant and reviewer input, the commonwealth team (Office of Administration, Governor's Office, Department of Community & Economic Development) will hold internal deliberations and finalize the official state response back to NTIA within the required 20 calendar days (actual deadline is October 14, 2009).