



Agenda Date: 9/27/23  
Agenda Item: 4B

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**Board of Public Utilities**  
44 South Clinton Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Post Office Box 350  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350  
[www.nj.gov/bpu/](http://www.nj.gov/bpu/)

BROADBAND

IN THE MATTER OF THE DIGITAL EQUITY PLANNING )  
GRANT PROGRAM, PURSUANT TO SECTION 60304(c) )  
OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS )  
ACT, PUBLIC LAW 117-58, 135 STAT. 429 )  
)  
) ORDER RESCINDING  
NOTICE OF FUND  
AVAILABILITY  
Docket No. TO23070454

BY THE BOARD:

On October 17, 2022, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (“BPU” or “Board”) received a federal grant through the State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program (“Federal Grant”), pursuant to the Digital Equity Act (“DEA”), Section 60304(c) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Public Law 117-58, 135 Stat. 429. Under the DEA, states interested in participating in the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program must first complete and submit for public comment a Digital Equity Plan (“Plan”) by October 31, 2023. The Plan is a critical predicate for a state to apply for funds to implement its plan through participation in the DEA’s State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program.


The Federal Grant permits, but does not require, the BPU to make subgrants to qualifying entities to assist in the development of the Plan. To ensure the availability of this option in the development of the Plan, the publication of a summary Notice of Funding Availability (“NOFA”) in the New Jersey Register, and the publication of the full NOFA on the Board’s website, was authorized by the Board on July 26, 2023. The NOFA invited proposals from qualifying groups to assist in BPU’s development of the Plan, which were to be submitted no later than September 6, 2023.

Given the development of the Plan and time constraints for submission of the Plan, however, the issuance of subgrants pursuant to the NOFA will not further advancement of the Plan’s completion and submission. Thus, the issuance of subgrants pursuant to the NOFA is not in the best interests of the State. Accordingly, the Board **HEREBY RESCINDS** the NOFA. The Board **HEREBY DIRECTS** that, no later than seven (7) days from the effective date of this Order, Board Staff issue letters to all entities that responded to the NOFA notifying them of this Order.

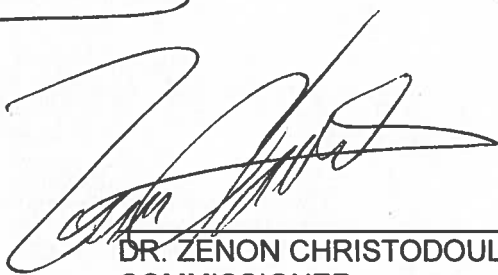
This Order shall be effective October 4, 2023.

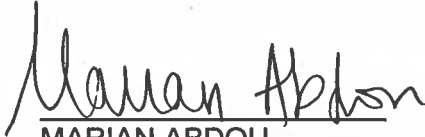
DATED: September 27, 2023

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES  
BY:

  
CHRISTINE GUHL-SADOVY  
PRESIDENT

  
MARY ANNA HOLDEN  
COMMISSIONER

  
DR. ZENON CHRISTODOULOU  
COMMISSIONER

  
MARIAN ABDOU  
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:   
SHERRI L. GOLDEN  
SECRETARY

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within document is a true copy of the original in the files of the Board of Public Utilities.

IN THE MATTER OF THE DIGITAL EQUITY PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM, PURSUANT TO  
SECTION 60304(c) OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT, PUBLIC  
LAW 117-58, 135 STAT. 429

DOCKET NO. TO23070454

SERVICE LIST

**Department of Law & Public Safety**

Division of Law

NJ Department of Law and Public Safety Richard J.  
Hughes Justice Complex Public Utilities Section  
25 Market Street, P.O. Box 112  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Pamela Owen, ASC, DAG  
[pamela.owen@law.njoag.gov](mailto:pamela.owen@law.njoag.gov)

Terel Klein, DAG  
[terel.klein@law.njoag.gov](mailto:terel.klein@law.njoag.gov)

**Board of Public Utilities**

44 South Clinton Avenue, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Post Office Box 350  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350

Sherri L. Golden, Board Secretary  
[board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:board.secretary@bpu.nj.gov)

Stacy Peterson, Deputy Executive Director  
[stacy.peterson@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:stacy.peterson@bpu.nj.gov)

Office of Broadband Connectivity

Valarry Bullard, Director  
[valarry.bullard@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:valarry.bullard@bpu.nj.gov)

Counsel's Office

Carol Artale, Deputy General Counsel  
[carol.artale@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:carol.artale@bpu.nj.gov)

Steven Athanassopoulos, Legal Specialist  
[steven.athanassopoulos@bpu.nj.gov](mailto:steven.athanassopoulos@bpu.nj.gov)