

Connections for Classrooms – Digital Learning Device Rural Grant Program (DLDRGP)

<http://gosa.georgia.gov/2016-cfc-program-information>

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. How is Digital Learning Device Rural Grant Program related to the previous rounds of the Connections for Classrooms (CFC) program?

This round represents another phase of the Connections for Classrooms grant program that holds the objective of funding digital learning devices in rural, high-need areas to enable Georgia K-12 schools and classrooms to fully leverage high-speed broadband access. It requires a separate application for funds, regardless of whether an LEA applied during the previous rounds of the grant program.

2. How much grant funding is available in this program?

DLDRGP includes approximately \$5 million in funding, which will be awarded on a competitive basis.

3. Who will evaluate these applications and how will the applications be scored?

A team of independent evaluators will review each application and assign scores according to the rubric that includes the following criteria:

| Scoring Rubric Points Possible by Application Section | |
|--|------------|
| Section 1: Applicant Information | 0 |
| Section 2: Grant Funding Request Amounts | 0 |
| Section 3: Description of Current Device Inventory and Statement of Need | 15 |
| Section 4: Device Selection/Deployment/Maintenance Plans | 20 |
| Section 5: Assurance of Network Preparedness for Effective Device Usage | 15 |
| Section 6: Digital Learning Plans | 35 |
| Section 7: Instructional Staff Readiness Plans | 15 |
| Section 8: Binding Authority and Assurances | 0 |
| TOTAL | 100 |

The full rubric with more narrative on each criterion can be found in the Grant Program Procedures guide located on the Connections for Classrooms website at <http://gosa.georgia.gov/2016-cfc-program-information>.

4. If an LEA applies early, will feedback and time for corrections/updating be a possibility?

No, once an application is submitted through the online process it may not be altered.

5. Will there be a review process that communicates back to us about the application prior to the final determination?

No, there is no intermediate process for application feedback prior to the grant award.

7. Where are the application forms and submittal process located?

Information and documents related to the DLDRGP can be found on the Connections for Classrooms website at <http://gosa.georgia.gov/2016-cfc-program-information>. The direct link to the application is: <https://fs3.formsite.com/GOSAGHP/form14/index.html>.

8. What is the deadline for the application of the grant?

The application deadline is October 25, 2016, at 5:00 PM ET.

9. When will the grant awards be made?

Grant awards will be announced in January 2017. LEA contact persons listed in the application will be notified of award decisions.

10. How much money can be requested in the application?

The maximum amount an LEA can receive is \$75/student. March 2016 FTE counts were used to determine total eligibility. The list of Eligible LEAs and maximum eligible grant funds is available on the grant program website. Please note that these funds are not intended to purchase a \$75 device per student. Rather, as a whole, the total eligible funding amount derived from the \$75/student should be used for devices that will best serve the students.

11. How will funds be dispersed to awardees, and how often can disbursements be requested?

Funds will be dispersed via a reimbursement method and may be requested once a calendar month. The procedures to request reimbursement are included in the Grant Program Procedures guide.

12. How will my award be determined?

Awards will be based upon the competitive strength of the LEA's plan in achieving the program's goals, as determined by independent reviewers who score each application against the scoring rubric. Grant administrators must also balance the amount of funds requested and the amount of funds available in making award determinations. The rubric is published on the grant program website.

13. What devices can LEAs apply for in the application?

Portable personal computing devices such as tablets, laptop computers, desktop computers, or other mobile devices used for instruction that also comply with Georgia Milestones minimum standards. [Specifications are available here.](#)

14. Will this affect my funding from previous CFC grant rounds?

No, funding from this round does not affect any previous Connections for Classrooms award.

15. What is the timeline for this round of funding?

Key dates for this round are as follows:

- **July 21, 2016:** GOSA published grant notice and opened online application.
- **September 7, 2016:** 2:00-3:00 PM. Webinar on Grant Application Process and Q&A. Details will be posted on grant program website.
- **October 25, 2016:** The application window closes as of 5:00 PM ET on this day.
- **January 2017:** Award announcements will be made.
- **February 24, 2017:** The last date to submit the LEA's Notice of Intent to GOSA for Connections for Classrooms – DLDRGP funding. Notices of Intent will not be accepted after this date, and funds will be reallocated for other purposes.
- **December 31, 2018:** The last day to submit a request for reimbursement of expenses related to DLDRGP awards.

16. Will the reimbursement process be the same as the reimbursement process for the 2014 Connections for Classrooms program?

The reimbursement process will be similar to prior rounds and is explained in the Grant Application Instructions & Program Procedures guide located on the Connections for Classrooms website.

17. Will DLDRGP Eligible Devices purchased before the announcement of the grant awards of CFC be eligible for reimbursement?

No, all devices must be purchased after the announcement date of the DLDRGP awards to be eligible for reimbursement.

18. Do I need to spend my entire Round 1 award before I am eligible for reimbursement from my award from this round?

No, the spending deadlines outlined for the original 2014 Connections for Classrooms program will not affect your eligibility or award reimbursement for this round.

19. If part of my previous Connections for Classrooms awards was rescinded, will I be eligible for that amount in this round?

Award amount eligibility is determined based upon the calculations outlined in Question #10. Prior awards do not affect eligibility.

20. Where can I find additional information about the Digital Learning Device Rural Grant Program?

Complete information can be found on the Connections for Classrooms website. If you have any remaining questions, do not hesitate to contact Steve Korwan, Program Manager for Connections for Classrooms, at 404-463-2399 or skorwan@georgia.gov.

21. How do I apply for the Digital Learning Device Rural Grant Program?

Applications are submitted online at <https://fs3.formsite.com/GOSAGHP/form14/index.html>. Complete instructions on the application process are found in the Grant Program Procedures guide located on the Connections for Classrooms website. Please read the full instructions prior to beginning the application.

22. My district did not apply for Rounds 1 – 3 of the Connections for Classrooms funding. Is it possible to apply for funding in this round?

Yes, LEAs that did not apply for previous rounds of the Connections for Classrooms program may apply for this round, if they are on eligible LEA list.

23. Who should an LEA representative contact with questions during participation in the program?

Concise and complete information on the DLDRGP can be found on the Connections for Classrooms website. Further questions may be directed to the DLDRGP program manager, Steve Korwan, at skorwan@georgia.gov.

24. The grant application asks for a vendor or other external party verification that the network is prepared to adequately serve the requested devices. What does that include?

The Digital Learning Device Rural Grant Program is intended to build on previous network investments that can sustain wireless network access for mobile devices. As such, applicants must provide verification from either the network vendor or another external party with broadband network experience that the network is prepared to serve the increased traffic resulting from the devices.