

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

**Office of the Governor
Division of Administration
Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity**

Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities
(GUMBO) (LAC 4:XXI.Chapters 1-7)

The Office of the Governor, Division of Administration, Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity hereby rescinds the February 20, 2023 Emergency Rule which amended LAC 4:XXI.Chapters 1-7 in the Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities (GUMBO) grant program by the Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity, in response to Acts 288 and 760 of the 2022 Regular Session.

Acts 288 and 760 of the 2022 Regular Legislative Session made several substantive changes to the GUMBO grant program. Broadband internet access has become a critical piece of infrastructure, relied upon to ignite economic growth and competitiveness, contribute to improved outcomes in healthcare, enhance agricultural output, and advance the educational experience of our children. Failure to connect the unconnected, and any further delay in constructing broadband infrastructure to serve those residents without it, would continue the substantial risk of hardship currently faced by hundreds of thousands of residents throughout the state. Further, these amendments allow for the alignment of administrative rules with the newly passed legislation in a timely manner, affords the Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity the opportunity to implement program changes and solicit applications, and provides potential GUMBO grant program applicants with guidance and requirements necessary for participation in the program ahead of the normal rulemaking process timeline.

This Emergency Rule is promulgated in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:962, and shall be in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Act or promulgation of future rules, whichever occurs first.

Jay Dardenne
Commissioner
and
Veneeth Iyengar
Executive Director

2304#008