



# Questions and Answers from the America's Best Communities (ABC) Webinar on November 6, 2014

*The following represent questions submitted by participants to the America's Best Communities Webinar that took place on Thursday, November 6, 2014:*

## A) Questions on Eligibility

Q: Does 'service area' include areas where service is planned in the near future? What if this community joins another in an application?

A: Eligible communities must be within the Frontier Communications Service Area, as of the contest launch date of September 10, 2014. Connecticut communities, now in the Frontier's service area are not eligible, since the conversion occurred on October 24, 2014, after the contest launched. If you or your neighbors have Frontier Communications as your telephone or internet provider, and you do not see your city's name under "Has your city applied?" please contact us at [info@americasbestcommunities.com](mailto:info@americasbestcommunities.com).

Q: Can we use surrounding townships for the population requirements? How do we get them listed for the application?

A: Please write us a note at [info@americasbestcommunities.com](mailto:info@americasbestcommunities.com) with your city name and surrounding township names to further clarify the eligibility. We will follow up with you as soon as possible.

Q: Please define the word "contiguous" as applies to eligibility.

A: Contiguous communities share a common city border. If your communities do not directly "touch," but are extremely close in proximity, without any unrelated communities in between, they will be considered for eligibility.

Q: How many total communities meet the eligibility criteria?

A: Within the Frontier Service Area there are 27 states, where we have identified 249 communities, eligible to compete independently, meaning their population is between 9,500 and 80,000. There



are over 3,000 communities that we have identified as being within our footprint and fewer than 80,000; however, a portion of these communities are not contiguous to other eligible communities and thus, cannot compete. There are likely other unincorporated communities, within our footprint, currently not identified. If they came forward to compete with proof of eligibility, they will be added to the list on the ABC website.

## B) Questions on Application

Q: Can you walk us through the steps to download application to Word for purposes of forwarding to group chosen to collaborate?

A: The link to the Application Form you can use as a worksheet is here: [Word Document](#). Or, you can find the same link in the third paragraph, on the "Get Started" tab, on the ABC website.

Q: What source do you use for determining population?

A: The 2010 US Census (<http://www.census.gov>) was the source used, as well as, any updated population information available prior to the launch of the contest on September 10, 2014.

Q: Do you need an overall community action plan as part of the application materials? Or do we just need to be able to answer the questions in the application?

A: Please simply answer the questions within the application in full. You are welcome to upload photos, videos and other electronic materials that may demonstrate previous efforts, however, all applicants will be judged based on the answers provided to the questions.

Q: As part of the submission package, can a video be part of the presentation?

A: Yes, question 24 on the application form allows uploads of photos or videos that may reflect previous revitalization efforts or presents the uniqueness of your community.

Q: Re: Step 1, Question 3 - A triad of local communities have joined together to meet the minimum population requirement. Do you expect a "signed letter of support in the PDF format" from each of those communities?

A: We require one letter from the Lead Applicant's highest elected official representing their community.

Q: Does "community revitalization" mean the same thing as "economic development" for purposes of this prize competition? If there is a difference can you please define what community revitalization means in this case if there is a difference.

A: Yes. For the purposes of the contest, "community revitalization" and "economic development"



have the same meaning.

Q: For the projects we submit, can we submit projects already planned or do they need to be all new ideas? If they can be already started projects, how far back can we go?

A: Regardless of when the project started, as long as it's ongoing you can submit it as part of your application.

### C) Questions on Judging

Q: Could you please explain the scoring process?

Up to 50 Quarter-Finalists will be selected from the initial pool of applicants based on their ability to demonstrate the greatest potential for revitalization, relative to other applicants. They will be scored using a 12-point scale using the following criteria:

CONTEXT & COMMITMENT (3 POINTS)	COMMUNITY IDENTITY (3 POINTS)	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (3 POINTS)	VISION & IMPACT (3 POINTS)
Articulates the opportunities and challenges facing the community; demonstrates a commitment to implementing processes to create real change	Highlights the community's unique geographic and social assets, including arts, recreation, culture, and education; outlines a vision for enhancement in these areas	Details current initiatives and outlines future economic development activities that could attract, retain and grow the local population	Provides a clear vision for the community's future, including the infrastructure, resources and relationships needed to reach the desired result for community revitalization

For more information on the Judging Criteria, go to:

[https://americasbestcommunities.com/about/#navto\\_judging-criteria](https://americasbestcommunities.com/about/#navto_judging-criteria)

### D) Questions on Non-Profit Organizations

Q: If your 501c3 is the Lead Applicant but the contact person is the city development authority is that okay?

A: We require that the lead applicant be a representative of a nonprofit organization, per the guidelines of this prize competition. As such, the lead contact should represent the nonprofit.



Q: If the chamber is the 501c3 Lead Applicant, can they appoint the lead contact person from their organization?

A: Yes, provided that the person is not a Frontier Communications employee or associated with administration of the ABC Prize contest.

### E) Questions on Winners Requirements

Q: How important is the use of technology and/or broadband utilization in the project for the competition?

A: Your application will not be evaluated based on the use of technology and/or broadband but the judging criteria of Context & Commitment, Community Identity, Economic Development, and Vision & Impact. It's important to understand if there is a role in technology or broadband in achieving the goals for your community revitalization.

Q: Does a multi-community application strengthen a proposal?

A: We encourage communities with less than 9500 in population to partner with contiguous towns to meet the minimum population requirement. Although, partner cities are not required for communities that meet the requirement, you may partner with other communities as long as the total team's combined population does not exceed 80000. We recommend that each community determine whether partnerships will strengthen their applications, the judging criteria of Context & Commitment, Community Identity, Economic Development, and Vision & Impact does not put weight on single community versus multiple communities.

Q: Is there any benefit derived by submitting the first application on your website?

A: We encourage you to take the time you need to complete the application thoroughly. There are not any contest benefits for the first to submit an application.