# ReConnect Program: Frequently Asked Questions

## Certifications Inquiries for Round 3 Funding Opportunities

**Updated November 4, 2021**

**Question: Does it matter what type of Professional Engineer (PE) certifies the project?**

**Answer**: All applicants are required to submit the following certifications:

- Network Design
- Network Diagram
- Project Costs
- Buildout Timeline and Milestones
- Capital Investment Schedule

All of these must be certified by a Professional Engineer (PE). The PE must be licensed in at least one of the states where the proposed project will be constructed. The selection of the PE does not require prior RUS approval. However, it is your responsibility to hire PEs experienced in the design and construction of broadband networks.

**Question: What certifications must an applicant sign?**

**Answer**: You must sign and submit the following certifications within the ReConnect online application system and https://www.SAM.gov system. The only person permitted to sign and certify each item within the online application system is the Representative Signature Certifier (Rep-Sign-Cert) – additional information is available at this link: https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/arr-resolution-instructions-samples.pdf.

The following are required:
- Certification Regarding Architectural Barriers
- Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters – Primary Covered Transactions
- Certificate Regarding Flood Hazard Area Precautions
- Certification Regarding Lobbying for Contracts, Grants, Loans and Cooperative Agreements

- Civil Rights Compliance Certification
- Federal Collection Policies for Commercial Debt Certification
- Representations Regarding Felony Conviction (Required only for Non-profit, For-profit corporations, and Cooperatives and Mutual Organizations)
- Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 Certification
- Compliance with RUS Award Documents

Some of the certifications on this list require you to answer questions or upload documents before signing.

In addition, other parts of the application require certifications that vary according to the specifics of each proposed project. For guidance, consult the October 25, 2021 Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) available under "Forms and Resources" at this link: https://reconnect.usda.gov. The application guide – which is currently being updated - also provides additional details and will be made available before the application window opens at https://www.usda.gov/reconnect under "Forms and Resources".

**Reminder**: Prior to submitting your application, you must create a SAM.gov registration, or ensure your existing registration is current. As part of this process, you are required to complete financial assistance representations and certifications before your registration can be activated. It can take up to three weeks to complete changes in SAM.gov. ReConnect applications cannot be submitted without a valid, current SAM.gov registration. Please allow ample time to complete this task.