

POTENTIAL FUNDING FOR BROADBAND PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

FEDERAL INFORMATION AND LINKS TO ONLINE RESOURCES ARE CURRENT AS OF 2017. THIS IS A GUIDE TO THE ARRAY OF PROGRAMS, AGENCIES, AND MODELS THAT EXIST...AND IS NOT AN ENDORSEMENT OF PARTICULAR OPTIONS. PROGRAMS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. *

Page | 1

Contact information for program offices and managers:

ARC State Program Managers can be accessed at
<http://www.arc.gov/about/StateProgramManagers.asp>

USDA Rural Development Offices can be accessed
at <http://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/offices/state-offices>

*The nature and scale of assistance may change so please use the links and contact information to access updates directly from the agencies' websites.

Sources for Information on Federal Support for Broadband

The federal government's central funding portal is at <https://grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html> and through the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance at <https://www.cfda.gov/>

The National Telecommunications Information Administration Broadband Funding Guide June 2017 https://www2.ntia.doc.gov/files/ntia_guidetofedfunding_062317.pdf

Broadband Interagency Working Group - The Broadband Interagency Progress Report can be accessed at <https://www.ntia.doc.gov/report/2017/broadband-opportunity-council-agencies-progress-report-january-2017>

Federal Reserve of Dallas and of Minnesota has been involved with supporting broadband deployment. Visit <https://www.dallasfed.org/assets/documents/cd/pubs/digitaldivide.pdf>. The Federal Reserve of Minnesota has partnered with communities that have also received assistance from the federal FCC Connect America Fund.
<https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/connect-america-fund-phase-ii-faqs>

FCC Connect America Funding

Please review the map of the areas where service providers have accepted and will receive CAF Phase II support over the course of the six-year program, visit <https://www.fcc.gov/reports-research/maps/caf-2-accepted-map>. In some states, service providers declined the funding. They still are required to attempt to provide voice services but did not want to pick up the requirement to undertake extension of broadband in their service areas. The exact time frame for deployment if they accepted funds for broadband is controlled by the service providers with expectation that they will move forward to connect their agreed to areas within six years. Be sure to look at the final eligibility map at <https://www.fcc.gov/reports-research/maps/connect-america-phase-ii-final-eligible-areas-map/>

Guides and Toolkits

Review these at BroadbandUSA website at: <https://www2.ntia.doc.gov> and you can find advice to develop programs that will assist communities to meet their current and future broadband needs.

Broadband Catalysts developed for the Appalachian Regional Commission a Broadband Primer and Tool Kit that can be accessed at for communities who want a complete overview of developing broadband in their community along with digital literacy information.

www.arc.gov/images/programs/telecom/ARCBroadbandPlanningPrimerToolkit.pdf

State Governments in the United States (Potential Assistance)

State government agencies were able to create initiatives to move broadband forward during the federal Obama Stimulus initiative. Today, about one half of the 50 states still continue to operate state-level broadband agencies. Some states provide some funding—through partnerships with the federal government and some public foundations, like the Golden Leaf Foundation in NC. <https://www.mcnc.org/news/golden-leaf-rural-broadband-initiative>

The 50 States of Broadband Report will provide you information on state broadband activities that is current as of early 2017. *50 States of Broadband* SNG Report

<http://sngroup.com/50states/>

Types of Networks

Open-Architecture Networks

An introduction to Mid-Atlantic Broadband (MBC), a nonprofit corporation in Southwestern Virginia can be reviewed at <http://www.mbc-va.com>

Private Sector Networks

Private Sector owned networks—such as AT&T, CenturyLink, Frontier, Verizon, Google, etc. are upgrading their networks now and are offering fiber services in larger cities. Developing incentives to encourage participation in a public-private partnership to offer broadband in your community is a viable option.

Municipal Networks

Municipal Networks now serve many municipalities. State laws in some states prevent local government ownership of networks. The two most well-known municipal networks are in Chattanooga, Tennessee, <https://technical.ly/2016/10/26/chattanooga-startups-gigabit-network/> and Wilson, North Carolina <http://www.greenlightnc.com>.

Cooperative Networks—Telephone and Electric

Cooperatives like, Wilkes Telephone, in North Carolina, <http://www.wilkes.net/residential/internet.aspx> and Erwin Utilities, Erwin, Tennessee, an electric cooperative, <http://www.erwinutilities.com/> have begun to offer broadband services in their areas. Chattanooga was an electric utility that moved to offer broadband. Erwin Utilities now offers 1 gigabit at \$69.95 as of fall 2017.

Non-profit Partners

A number of non-profit organizations provide equipment, software, training, and other resources to programs working to improve access to the Internet and digital literacy. They can be important partners in your broadband efforts. Techsoup Global is an example. They work with corporate donors, including Microsoft, Adobe, Cisco, and Symantec to provide non-governmental organizations, non-profits, libraries, and community-based organizations with the latest professional hardware, software, services, and educational content.

<http://www.techsoup.org>

State Activities

In 2000 the Rural Internet Access Authority was established in North Carolina by the state legislature with funding from a private nonprofit, (MCNC) that had sold a company and funded (RIAA).

<https://www.nascio.org/portals/0/awards/nominations2002/2002/2002NorthCarolina2.pdf>

A quick review at this site will enable you to see how far NC has come today despite still having many rural homes to connect. The first mapping of any state was done in 2002 by NC and many programs revved up the state to move forward deploying broadband. The NC broadband office has posted their newest report at <https://ncbroadband.gov/>

Other states have also developed broadband plans, such as Virginia and Florida. Virginia's 5-step guide to bringing broadband to your area can be accessed at <https://www.wired.virginia.gov/toolkit>.

Mapping Broadband

For those who would like to view a map of broadband availability in the United States with data as of June 2016, please access the Broadband Catalysts map. This is an open source map with the ability to gather (aggregate) the number of persons and businesses in your community who would like to have broadband, as well as to judge if the federal data gathered by the FCC accurately displays the ability at your home or business to access broadband. You can also use it to report the location where you need broadband. You can view the Open-Source Broadband Map here: <http://map.broadbandcatalysts.com>

Federal Funding

These following pages show the type of programs that have been funded previously. You can access them at their web site. Here are pages 91-98 out of the *Appalachian Commission Broadband Primer and Tool Kit*. For future updates, please go to the Broadband Catalysts web site at www.broadbandcatalysts.com

Federal Agency	Program	Web Address	Infrastructure Deployment	Adoption and Digital Literacy	Public Computer	Planning	Research	Other
Appalachian Regional Commission	Telecommunications & Technology Program	http://www.arc.gov/funding/ARCGrantsandContracts.asp	X	X	X	X		
Federal Communications Commission								
	Connect America Fund	https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-releases-order-increase-connect-america-rural-broadband-speeds	X					
	E-Rate Program for Schools and Libraries	https://www.fcc.gov/document/fact-sheet-update-e-rate-broadband-schools-and-libraries	X					
	Rural Health Care Program	http://www.universalservice.org/rhc/healthcare-connect/default.aspx	X					
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Federal Agency	Program	Web Address					
U.S. Department of Agriculture - Rural Utilities Service	Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program	http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-economic-development-loan-grant-program					
	Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan and Loan Guarantee Program	http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/telecommunications-infrastructure-loans-loan-guarantees	X				
	Farm Bill Broadband Loans and Loan Guarantee Program	http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/farm-bill-broadband-loans-loan-guarantees	X				
	Substantially Underserved Trust Areas (STUA) Provision	http://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/initiatives/substantially-underserved-trust-area-suta	X				
	Community Connect Grant Program	http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-connect-grants	X				
	Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program	http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/distance-learning-telemedicine-grants					X

Federal Agency	Program	Web Address	Infrastructure Deployment	Adoption and Digital Literacy	Public Computer	Planning	Research	Other
	Community Facilities Loan and Grant Program	http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program	X		X			
	Electric Infrastructure Loan and Loan Guarantee Program	http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/electric-infrastructure-loan-guarantee-program	X					
	Rural Business Development Grants	http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-business-development-grants	X	X		X		
	Expansion of Rural 911 Service Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program	http://www.rd.usda.gov/files/fact-sheet/RD-FactSheet-RUS-Rural911Access.pdf	X					
U.S. Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration		https://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities/						
	Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance	http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=279842	X					

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	Economic Adjustment Assistance	https://www.eda.gov/pdf/about/Economic-Adjustment-Assistance-Program-1-Pager.pdf	X			X		
	Regional Innovation Strategies	https://www.eda.gov/oie/ris/						
	Partnership Planning	https://www.eda.gov/pdf/about/Planning-Program-1-Pager.pdf				X		
	Planning Program and Local Technical Assistance	http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=280447				X		
U.S. Department of Commerce – National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA)	State and Local Implementation Grant Program	https://www.ntia.doc.gov/category/state-and-local-implementation-grant-program						
	BroadbandUSA – Connecting America’s Communities	http://www2.ntia.doc.gov/						

Federal Agency	Program	Web Address	Infrastructure Deployment	Adoption and Digital Literacy	Public Computer	Planning	Research	Other
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development								
	Community Development Block Grants (including Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program)	http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/community_development/programs	X	X	X	X		
	Public Housing Capital Fund	http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/ph/capfund			X			
	Public Housing Operating Fund	http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/ph/am		X	X			
	Multi-family Housing	http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/housing/mfh		X	X			

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	Indian Housing Block Grants	http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/public_indian_housing/ih/grants/ihbg	X					
	Title VI Loan Guarantee Program	http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/public_indian_housing/ih/homeownership/titlevi	X					
	Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grants	http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/public_indian_housing/ih/codetalk/onap/nhhbgprogram	X					
	Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants	http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/ph/cn/planninggrants	X	X		X		

Federal Agency	Program	Web Address	Infrastructure Deployment	Adoption and Digital Literacy	Public Computer	Planning	Research	Other
U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration		https://www.doleta.gov/grants/						
	Employment and Training Administration	https://www.doleta.gov/grants/find_grants.cfm		X	X			
Institute of Museums, and Library Services, Office of Library Services		https://www.imls.gov/grants						
	Native American Library Services Basic Grants	https://www.imls.gov/grants/available/native-american-library-services-basic-grants	X	X	X			
	Native American Library Service Enhancement Grants	https://www.imls.gov/grants/available/native-american-library-services-enhancement-grants	X	X	X	X		
	Native Hawaiian Library Services Grants	https://www.imls.gov/grants/available/native-hawaiian-library-services	X	X	X	X		

Federal Agency	Program	Web Address	Infrastructure Deployment	Adoption and Digital Literacy	Public Computer	Planning	Research	Other
	Laura Bush 21 st Century Librarian Program	https://www.ims.gov/grants/available/laura-bush-21st-century-librarian-program		X		X	X	
	National Leadership Grants for Libraries	https://www.ims.gov/grants/available/national-leadership-grants-libraries		X		X	X	
	Sparks! Ignition Grants for Libraries	https://www.ims.gov/grants/available/sparks-ignition-grants-libraries		X				
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	Telehealth Network Grant Program	http://www.hrsa.gov/healthit/toolbox/RuralHealthITtoolbox/Financing/traditionalfunding.html	X					X
U.S. Department of Education	ConnectED/Office of Educational Technology	http://tech.ed.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Tech-Federal-Funds-Final-V2.pdf	X	X				

Planning to Become a Digital Broadband Community

It is important to note that when planning for broadband, you must look at the plan from beginning to the end of deployment and the financial/cost model being considered for offering broadband service to the community. You should have previously developed an *ecomunities council*, assessed your wired and wireless assets in the community, assessed the potential for homes and businesses to purchase the service, a good financial feasibility model for the total project, including the expected uptake by the community of the broadband you are offering and a good program of digital literacy carried out in the community. Thoughtful attention to extension of the broadband to all communities, including lower income areas, should be considered in your financial model.

OR:

You may decide to solicit a response to a Request for Proposals (RFP) to select a consultant to provide this service for you with guidance from the *ecomunities council* and the appropriate governmental unit of your community.

A RFP from your community could be developed to request consultants to bid to manage a broadband assessment and feasibility analysis of your community. A good example of one is at <http://www.ci.loveland.co.us/home/showdocument?id=29939>

This RFP is for the City of Loveland Colorado.

Updates to this Report

The US Government Budget is now being completed for the coming year and we will begin to update this report on funding as plans are released by federal agencies. Please check back for updates to Broadband Catalysts' website at <http://www.broadbandcatalysts.com>.

Updated November 8, 2017

Next update will be December 15, 2017