



American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Program Summary

Broadband Stimulus

“The state of our economy calls for action, bold and swift. And we will act, not only to create new jobs, but to lay a new foundation for growth. We will build the roads and bridges, the electric grids and digital lines that feed our commerce and bind us together.”

- President Barack Obama
Inaugural Address, January 20, 2009

“Here, in the country that invented the Internet, every child should have the chance to get online... That’s how we’ll strengthen America’s competitiveness in the world.”

- President Barack Obama
Radio address, December 6, 2008

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

- Funding
- Program Purposes
- NTIA Responsibilities
- Eligible Applicants
- Grant Applications
- Grant Award Considerations
- Grant Award Uses
- Open and Transparent Process

\$4.7 Billion (ARRA, Div. A, Title II)

- Up to \$350 Million – Broadband Mapping and National Plan
- \$4.35 Billion – “BTOP” Broadband Deployment and Expansion
 - Up to \$3.75 Billion for Infrastructure-Related Grants
 - At least \$200 Million – Public Computer Center Capacity
 - At least \$250 Million – Innovative Programs to Encourage Sustainable Broadband Adoption
- \$10 Million – Inspector General Audits and Oversight
- Up to \$141 Million – Administrative Costs

Five BTOP Program Purposes

1. Provide access in *unserved* areas
2. Provide improved access in *underserved* areas
3. Improve access and use by public safety agencies
4. Stimulate broadband demand, economic growth, and job creation
5. Provide education, awareness, training, access, equipment and support to
 - schools and libraries
 - medical and healthcare providers
 - institutions of higher education
 - community support organizations
 - organizations/agencies that serve low-income, unemployed, aged, vulnerable populations
 - entities that facilitate job creation in designated areas

NTIA Responsibilities

- May consult with States, D.C., or U.S. Territories or Possessions regarding:
 - unserved and underserved areas
 - projects in or affecting the state
- Coordinate with Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and USDA's Rural Utilities Service (RUS)

NTIA Responsibilities (cont.)

- Award all grants no later than Sept. 30, 2010
- Ensure substantial project completion within 2 years
- Establish contractual obligations for adherence to non-discrimination and network interconnection obligations established by NTIA, in coordination with the FCC
- Report to Congress every 3 months
- Establish database of grant applications, recipients, and quarterly reports

Grant Eligibility

- States and political subdivisions, territories
- Indian tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations
- Non-profit foundations, corporations, institutions, or associations
- Broadband service providers and infrastructure providers if determined to be in the public interest

Grant Applications

- NTIA Notice of Funds Availability
- Competitive grants based on published evaluation and selection criteria
- Detailed explanation of how funds will be used
- Demonstrate project “would not have been implemented” without Federal assistance

Grant Applications (cont.)

- Demonstrate ability to carry out and complete project
- Disclose other Federal and/or state funding
- Procedures to use and account for grant funds
- Address matching requirements
- Other assurances the Assistant Secretary may require

Grant Award Considerations

- Award at least one grant per State
- Determine whether the application will:
 - Increase broadband affordability and subscribership
 - Provide greatest broadband speed to most users
 - Enhance service for health care, education, or children
 - Not result in unjust enrichment
- Determine whether or not the applicant is a socially and economically disadvantaged small business

Grant Award Uses

- For purchase of:
 - Equipment
 - Instrumentation
 - Networking capability
 - Hardware and software
 - Digital network technology
 - Infrastructure
- Construct and deploy broadband service-related infrastructure

Grant Award Uses (cont.)

- Broadband access by community anchor institutions
- Broadband access by low-income, unemployed, aged, vulnerable populations for education, employment
- Construction and deployment of broadband facilities to improve public safety communications
- Other projects and activities deemed consistent with BTOP purposes

Open and Transparent Process

- NTIA Request for Information issued on March 12, 2009
 - Seeks public comment on all aspects of BTOP implementation
 - Series of public meetings completed March 24, 2009
 - All available via webcast and teleconference
 - Written comments received through April 13, 2009
- All public meetings, comments, and applications to be available on NTIA's BTOP website:
 - www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants
- Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA)
- Regional Workshops



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