

# Overview of Broadband Funding Programs

2023

Purpose							Eligible Entities						
Technical Assistance	Planning	Deployment	Adoption & Literacy	Devices/Equipment	Research	Telehealth	Local Government	State	Nonprofits	Education	Tribes	Rural Co-Ops	Other

FEDERAL SOURCES													
<b>Department of Agriculture</b>													
<a href="#">Rural Business Development Grant</a>	•	•				•		•		•			
<a href="#">Rural Community Development Initiative Grant</a>		•						•		•	•		
<a href="#">Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program</a>			•										Lender
<a href="#">Community Connect Grant</a>			•	•	•			•		•		•	
<a href="#">Rural eConnectivity (ReConnect) Grants/Loans</a>			•					•	•			•	
<a href="#">Rural Broadband Loan &amp; Loan Guarantee</a>			•					•	•			•	
<a href="#">Distance Learning &amp; Telemedicine Grants</a>	•				•			•	•	•	•		
<a href="#">Community Facilities Loan &amp; Grant</a>			•		•			•		•	•		
<b>Department of Commerce</b>													
<a href="#">EDA - Public Works &amp; Economic Adjustment</a>	•	•	•	•	•	•		•				•	
<a href="#">NTIA - IJA Broadband Infrastructure Program</a>													
<i>Broadband Equity, Access, Deployment (BEAD)</i>		•	•					•	•			•	
<i>Enabling Middle Mile BB Infrastructure</i>			•					•	•	•		•	•
<i>Tribal BB Connectivity</i>	•	•	•	•		•						•	
<i>Digital Equity Act</i>		•		•				•	•	•	•		•
<b>Department of Treasury</b>													
<a href="#">ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds</a>			•	•	•			•	•			•	
<a href="#">ARPA Capital Projects Fund</a>			•	•				•					
<b>Federal Communications Commission</b>													
<a href="#">E-Rate Program</a>			•		•					•	•		
<a href="#">Affordable Connectivity Program</a>				•	•								Provider
<a href="#">Rural Digital Opportunity Fund - I<sup>5</sup></a>			•					•	•			•	•
<b>STATE SOURCES</b>													
<b>California Public Utilities Commission</b>													
<a href="#">California Advanced Services Fund (CASF)</a>			•					•		•		•	•
<a href="#">ARPA – Federal Funding Account/ Last Mile<sup>5</sup></a>			•					•		•		•	•
<a href="#">ARPA – Local Agency Technical Assistance<sup>5</sup></a>	•	•						•				•	
<a href="#">ARPA - Loan Loss Reserve<sup>5</sup></a>			•					•				•	•
<a href="#">Adoption Account</a>				•				•		•	•		
<b>Labor and Workforce Development Agency</b>													
<a href="#">Community Economic Resilience Fund</a>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•
<a href="#">Workforce Innovation &amp; Opportunity Act</a>				•	•			• <sup>3</sup>	•			•	
<b>Dept. of Housing &amp; Community Development</b>													
<a href="#">Capital Fund Program-Public Housing</a>		•	•		•								PHA
<a href="#">Community Development Block Grant<sup>2</sup></a>		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	

Note: Funding programs have varying application periods. Check program websites.

<sup>1</sup> With political subdivision

<sup>2</sup> Low & moderate income requirements & population

<sup>3</sup> Via local Workforce Investment Boards

<sup>4</sup> Economic Development Districts

<sup>5</sup> Grant program still in development

# Broadband Funding Programs: Program Information and Links

December 2021

SOURCES	PROGRAM DESCRIPTION	FUNDING DETAILS
<b>FEDERAL SOURCES</b>		
<b>Department of Agriculture</b>		
<a href="#"><u>Rural Business Development Grant</u></a>	The Rural Business Development Grant program provides funding designed to support targeted technical assistance, training, and other activities leading to the development or expansion of small and emerging private businesses in rural areas that have fewer than 50 new employees and less than \$1 million in gross revenues. Programmatic activities are separated into enterprise or opportunity type grant activities.	Applications made to USDA Rural Development State Office
<a href="#"><u>Rural Community Development Initiative Grant</u></a>	RCDI grants are awarded to help non-profit housing and community development organizations, low-income rural communities and federally recognized tribes support housing, community facilities and community and economic development projects in rural areas. Broadband-related planning is an eligible activity.	
<a href="#"><u>Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program</u></a>	The Business and Industry program bolsters the availability of private credit by guaranteeing loans made by lenders to rural businesses. This program improves the economic health of rural communities by increasing access to business capital through loan guarantees that enable commercial lenders to provide affordable financing for businesses in eligible rural areas.	Applications are accepted from lenders on an on-going basis. Broadband infrastructure deployment is eligible program purpose. Eligible recipients include: libraries, higher education, state, local, and tribal governments, public safety entities, healthcare facilities, for- and non-profit organizations, electric utilities/co-ops.
<a href="#"><u>Community Connect Grant</u></a>	The Community Connect program helps fund broadband deployment in rural communities where it is not yet economically viable for private-sector providers to deliver service. The grants offer financial assistance to eligible service providers that will construct, improve, or expand broadband networks in rural areas.	
<a href="#"><u>Rural eConnectivity (ReConnect) Grants/Loans</u></a>	The Broadband ReConnect Program furnishes loans and grants to provide funds for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service in eligible rural areas.	Loans/grants or a combination thereof may be used to pay for the following costs: 1. Construction or improvement of facilities required to provide terrestrial broadband service; 2. Reasonable pre-application expenses (not to exceed 5%); 3. Acquisition of existing system that does not currently provide sufficient access to broadband

SOURCES	PROGRAM DESCRIPTION	FUNDING DETAILS
<a href="#">Rural Broadband Loan &amp; Loan Guarantee</a>	<p>The Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program (Broadband Program) furnishes loans and loan guarantees to provide funds for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide service at the broadband lending speed in eligible rural areas.</p>	<p>"Broadband loans provide funding on a technology-neutral basis for financing. This program provides funding for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The construction, improvement, and acquisition of facilities required to provide service at the broadband lending speed as defined in the latest funding announcement</li> <li>• Refinancing of existing RUS debt with certain restrictions</li> <li>• An acquisition, under certain circumstances and with restrictions"</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Distance Learning &amp; Telemedicine Grants</a>	<p>The Distance Learning and Telemedicine program helps rural communities use the unique capabilities of telecommunications to connect to each other and to the world, overcoming the effects of remoteness and low population density.</p>	<p>Grant funds may be used for: acquisition of eligible capital assets; acquisition of instructional programming that is a capital asset; acquisition of technical assistance and instruction for using eligible equipment. Grant-only funds, awarded through a nationally competitive process - 15% match required</p>
<a href="#">Community Facilities Loan &amp; Grant</a>	<p>This program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. An essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial or business undertakings</p>	<p>Broadband -related program purposes and eligible expenditures include: public connectivity/computer access, smart communities/cities/regions, and telehealth.</p>

SOURCES	PROGRAM DESCRIPTION	FUNDING DETAILS
<a href="#">EDA - Public Works &amp; Economic Adjustment</a>	<p>The Build Back Better Regional Challenge is designed to assist communities nationwide in their efforts to build back better by accelerating economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and building local economics that will be resilient to future economic shocks. The \$1 billion Build Back Better Regional Challenge will provide a transformational investment to 20-30 regions across the country that want to revitalize their economies. These regions will have the opportunity to grow new regional industry clusters or scale existing ones through planning, infrastructure, innovation and entrepreneurship, workforce development, access to capital and more.</p>	<p>This is a two-phase competition. The deadline for Phase 1 Concept Proposals is 11:59 p.m. EST on October 19, 2021. For Phase 1 finalists selected to proceed to Phase 2, the deadline for Full Applications is 11:59 p.m. EST on March 15, 2022.</p>
<p><a href="#">NTIA - IJA Broadband Infrastructure Program</a> - (Comprised of program allocations below)</p>		
<p><i>Broadband Equity, Access, Deployment (BEAD)</i></p>	<p>Utilize for broadband deployment, mapping, and adoption projects. Each state, D.C., and P.R. will receive an initial allocation of \$100 million to support planning efforts including building capacity in state broadband offices and outreach and coordination with local communities.</p>	<p>States, territories, D.C., and P.R., leveraging initial planning funds that will be made available through the program, will submit a 5-year action plan, which shall be informed by collaboration with local and regional entities. The remaining funding will be distributed based on a formula that considers the number of unserved and high-cost locations in the state, based on the maps to be published by the FCC in 2022. The first priority for funding is for providing broadband to unserved areas (those below 25/3 Mbps), followed by underserved areas (those below 100/20 Mbps), and then serving community anchor institutions (1/1 Gbps).</p>
<p><i>Enabling Middle Mile BB Infrastructure</i></p>	<p>For the construction, improvement or acquisition of middle mile infrastructure. The purpose of the grant program is to expand and extend middle mile infrastructure to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas to the internet backbone.</p>	<p>Eligible applicants include States, political subdivisions of a State, tribal governments, technology companies, electric utilities, utility cooperatives, public utility districts, telecommunications companies, telecommunications cooperatives, nonprofit foundations, nonprofit corporations, nonprofit institutions, nonprofit associations, regional planning councils, Native entities, or economic development authorities.</p>
<p><i>Tribal Broadband Connectivity</i></p>	<p>The Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program directs funding to tribal governments to be used for broadband deployment on tribal lands, as well as for telehealth, distance learning, broadband affordability, and digital inclusion</p>	<p>Provides an additional \$2 Billion to the program</p>

SOURCES	PROGRAM DESCRIPTION	FUNDING DETAILS
<p><i>Digital Equity Act Programs</i></p>	<p>Establishes three grant programs that promote digital inclusion and equity to ensure that all individuals and communities have the skills, technology, and capacity needed to reap the full benefits of our digital economy.</p>	<p><b>State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program:</b> \$60 million formula grant program for states and territories to develop digital equity plans.</p> <p><b>State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program:</b> \$1.44 billion formula grant program for states and territories distributed via annual grant programs over 5 years to implement digital equity projects and support the implementation of digital equity plans.</p> <p><b>Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program:</b> \$1.25 billion discretionary grant program distributed via annual grant programs over 5 years to implement digital equity projects. Eligible applicants include specific types of political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of a state; tribal governments; nonprofit entities; community anchor institutions; local educational agencies; and entities that carry out workforce development programs.</p>
<p><b>Department of Treasury</b></p>		
<p><a href="#"><u>ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds</u></a></p>	<p>The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide substantial flexibility for each government to meet local needs—including support for households, small businesses, impacted industries, essential workers, and the communities hardest hit by the crisis. These funds can also be used to make necessary investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.</p>	
<p><a href="#"><u>ARPA Capital Projects Fund</u></a></p>	<p>The Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (Capital Projects Fund) will address many challenges laid bare by the pandemic, especially in rural America, Tribal communities, and low- and moderate-income communities, helping to ensure that all communities have access to the high-quality modern infrastructure, including broadband, needed to access critical services.</p>	<p>Treasury is launching the Capital Projects Fund to allow recipients to invest in capital assets that meet communities' critical needs in the short and long-term, with a key emphasis on making funding available for broadband infrastructure.</p> <p>In California, the \$540 million award has been allocated to the CPUC FFA/Last Mile Program.</p>

SOURCES	PROGRAM DESCRIPTION	FUNDING DETAILS
<b>Federal Communications Commission</b>		
<a href="#">E-Rate Program</a>	The schools and libraries universal service support program, commonly known as the E-rate program, helps schools and libraries to obtain affordable broadband.	Eligible schools, school districts and libraries may apply individually or as part of a consortium. Funding may be requested under two categories of service: category one services to a school or library (telecommunications, telecommunications services and Internet access), and category two services that deliver Internet access within schools and libraries (internal connections, basic maintenance of internal connections, and managed internal broadband services). Discounts for support depend on the level of poverty and whether the school or library is located in an urban or rural area. The discounts range from 20 percent to 90 percent of the costs of eligible services.
<a href="#">Affordable Connectivity Program</a>	The Affordable Connectivity Program is a Federal Communications Division benefit program that helps ensure that households can afford the broadband they need for work, school, healthcare and more.	The benefit provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price.
<b>Rural Digital Opportunity Fund - II</b>	The Rural Digital Opportunity Fund is the Commission’s next step in bridging the digital divide to efficiently fund the deployment of broadband networks in rural America. Through a two-phase reverse auction mechanism, the FCC will direct up to \$20.4 billion over ten years to finance up to gigabit speed broadband networks in unserved rural areas, connecting millions of American homes and businesses to digital opportunity.	The RDOF Phase I auction was held November 2020 and awarded \$9+ billion in project funding in census blocks that are entirely unserved by voice and broadband with speeds of at least 25/3 Mbps. Phase II will consist of \$11+ billion in funding to cover locations in census blocks that are partially served, as well as locations not funded in Phase I.
<b>STATE SOURCES</b>		
<b>California Public Utilities Commission</b>		
<a href="#">California Advanced Services Fund (CASF)</a>		

SOURCES	PROGRAM DESCRIPTION	FUNDING DETAILS
<a href="#">ARPA - Federal Funding Account (FFA)/CASF Last Mile</a>	To fund last-mile broadband connections that will connect homes and businesses with local networks. SB 156 expedites project deployment and enables Tribes and local governments to access this funding.	Project funds must be encumbered by 2025 and spent (projects built) by 2027.
<a href="#">ARPA – Local Agency Technical Assistance (LATA) Technical Fund</a>	Reimbursement of work product resulting from activities such as the preparations of environmental, feasibility, and engineering design studies or reports and/or assistance in development of market studies and business plans which support local agencies in their pursuit of the provision of service to unserved and underserved communities.	Dollars must be encumbered by 2025 and spent by 2027.
<b>ARPA - Loan Loss Reserve</b>	Establishes a loan loss reserve fund to bolster the ability of local governments and nonprofits to secure financing for broadband infrastructure.	CPUC Rule-Making on-going
<a href="#">Adoption Account</a>	The Broadband Adoption Account, provides grants to increase publicly available or after-school broadband access and digital inclusion, such as grants for digital literacy training programs and public education to communities with limited broadband adoption. The CPUC will give preference to programs and projects in communities with demonstrated low broadband access, including low-income communities, senior citizen communities, and communities facing socioeconomic barriers to broadband adoption.	Eligible applicants include local governments, senior centers, schools, public libraries, nonprofit organizations, and community-based organizations with programs to increase publicly available or after school broadband access and digital inclusion, such as digital literacy training programs are eligible to apply for grants. Digital Literacy Projects- Digital inclusion projects can include digital literacy training programs and public education to communities with limited broadband adoption, including low-income communities, senior citizen communities, and communities facing socioeconomic barriers to broadband adoption. Broadband Access Projects- Publicly available or after-school broadband access projects can include free broadband access in community training rooms or other public spaces, such as local government centers, senior citizen centers, schools, public libraries, nonprofit organizations, and community-based organizations. It can also include funding community outreach, such as analysis, comparison of Internet plans with the community, and call centers that will increase broadband access and adoption.

SOURCES	PROGRAM DESCRIPTION	FUNDING DETAILS
<b>Labor and Workforce Development Agency</b>		
<a href="#"><u>Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF)</u></a>	To promote a sustainable and equitable recovery from the economic distress of COVID-19 by supporting new plans and strategies to diversify local economies; support communities and regional groups in producing roadmaps for economic recovery; align and leverage state investments, federal investments, and philanthropic and private sector investments to maximize recovery efforts.	CERF will provide funding to support regional economic resiliency in two phases - Phase 1-Regional Planning Grants (13 regions-\$5 million each); Phase 2-Regional Implementation Grants (approximately \$500 million total)
<a href="#"><u>Workforce Innovation &amp; Opportunity Act</u></a>	Each year, Congress appropriates dollars under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) for adult, dislocated worker, youth, and basic labor exchange programs. The WIOA statute describes allowable activities for programs under its various titles (including those for adult education and vocational rehabilitation). “Digital literacy” is among the list of programs, activities, or services that comprise workforce preparation.	Program funds can be used for: planning, broadband adoption, literacy, tech support, digital skills training, devices & equipment.
<b>Dept. of Housing &amp; Community Development</b>		
<a href="#"><u>Capital Fund Program-Public Housing</u></a>	The Capital Fund program provides funds annually via a formula to approximately 3,200 public housing agencies (PHAs) across the country. PHAs may use Capital Fund grants for development, financing, modernization, and management improvements.	Capital Fund dollars can be used for planning, broadband infrastructure deployment, devices/equipment, public connectivity/computer access.
<a href="#"><u>Community Development Block Grant</u></a>	The CDBG Program provides annual grants on a formula basis to states and local governments, to be used for economic and community development, principally for low and moderate-income persons.	CDBG funds can be used for planning, broadband infrastructure deployment, adoption, digital literacy, tech support, training, devices & equipment, telehealth.