2022 – 2026 Broadband Funding Milestones
All competitive grants

Date	Activity	Subject
Nov 21	State informed Fed of interest in $171M funding allocation	ARPA - CPF
Jan/Feb 2022	CBO Regional Listening Sessions	ARPA - CPF
Jan 2022	CBO informs Feds of admin $ needed to deploy CPF	ARPA - CPF
Jan 2022	$20M Tribal Nations – execute contract	ARPA - SLFRF
2/17/22	D2022-009 Accelerating Broadband Deployment: Gov Executive Order 99% of households to have 100/20 by 2027	
March 2022	NTIA Pre-NOFO Technical Assistance Workshops	IIJA
?	$10M Rural Health – OeHI to establish grant application and review process	ARPA - SLFRF
?	$5M Stipend – awaiting legal guidance	ARPA - SLFRF
April 2022	$10M Rural Health - grant applications accepted	ARPA - SLFRF
?	$35M Broadband Fund (last mile) Winter 2022 Cycle delayed for guidance	ARPA - SLFRF
April 27, 2022	IIJA Broadband Programs NOFO Webinar	IIJA
May 11, 2022	IIJA Broadband Programs NOFO Webinar	IIJA
May 18, 2022	Summer 2022 Grant Cycle Webinar @ 10am	DORA - BDP
May 2022	NOFO publication	IIJA - BEAD
July 15, 2022	Summer 2022 Grant Cycle applications due	DORA - BDP
July 29, 2022	Statutory deadline to notify Elections of the County's intent to take formal action to participate in the General Election this November	SB-152
Sept 9, 2022	Statutory deadline to deliver ballot content to Elections (the actual ballot question that should appear on the printed ballots)	SB-152
Sept 24, 2022	Deadline for CBO to submit plans to distribute funds using 3 eligible categories	ARPA - CPF
Q3 2022	NTIA likely to grant CBO $5M for early stage planning	IIJA - BEAD
Mid-Oct 2022	Applications for either Planning or Middle Mile Interconnectivity projects open.	DOLA
Q4 2022	CBO deadline to submit 5-Yr Action Plan	IIJA - BEAD
	FCC's Data Map will be published and used to determine state total funding allocations	IIJA - BEAD
Q4 2022	CBO to submit initial proposal. Once approved state will receive 20% of the total funding allocated	IIJA - BEAD
Dec 31, 2022	Applications for either Planning or Middle Mile Interconnectivity projects close.	DOLA
Late 22/2023	Grant cycle opens. Funds must be obligated by 12/2026	ARPA - CPF
Q2 2023	CBO to submit final proposal. Once approved, will receiving remaining funds	IIJA - BEAD
2024	Expected receipt of funds	IIJA - BEAD
Dec 2024	Allocate funds	ARPA - DC
Pending	Pending	IIJA – Middle Mile
Dec 31, 2026	Projects must be complete	ARPA - DC
Dec 31, 2026	Projects must be complete	ARPA - CPF
ARPA – American Rescue Plan Act (DC – Direct to County)		
BDP – Broadband Deployment Program (CBO)		
NTIA – National Telecommunications and Information Administration		
IIJA – Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act		
CBO – Colorado Broadband Office		
NOFO – Notice of Funding Opportunity		

BEAD – Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment program (capital expenditure subsidy)
OEDIT – Office of Economic Development and International Trade (State)
SLFRF – State and Local Fiscal and Recovery Funds (from US Treasury)

Federal Broadband Funding Opportunities

by ⊘ common sense

Uses Key

Deployment	Construction and improvement of infrastructure
Devices	Provision of computers and tablets
Affordability	Cost support programs, provision of free/reduced cost connectivity
Inclusion	Digital literacy training, digital skills training, tech support

	Program Name	Agency	Type	Amount	Recipients	Timeline	Uses	Resources
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) — Signed into law November 15, 2021. $1.2 trillion total	**Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD)**	NTIA	Formula allocation	$42,450,000,000	Block grants to states (or administering agency selected by governor), territories, and tribes. Funds may be subgranted.	NOFO likely by end of May 2022. Initial planning funds available after NOFO; remainder likely available in 2023 and after FCC releases new maps.	☑ Deployment ☑ Devices ☑ Affordability ☑ Inclusion	Benton Analysis, K&H Analysis, MDU Uses, NCTA FBA Playbook, ACAC/NCTA Tracker
	Block grants to states; each will get at least $100 million (most get much more). Eligible uses include: deploying infrastructure to un/underserved areas and anchor institutions; providing affordable devices; installing/providing wifi for multifamily residential buildings; mapping and planning; and other projects determined by NTIA. Deployment must: first prioritize areas where 80% residents lack 25/3, then areas where 80% lack 100/20, then anchor institutions; offer 100/20 speeds; provide a low-cost option; and not exclude municipal and cooperative providers. Subgrants should use 25% matching funds, but in-kind or CARES/ARPA funds are acceptable. States can initially access $5 million for planning and coordination with local stakeholders.							
	State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program	NTIA	Formula allocation	$1,500,000,000	Block grants to states (or administering agency selected by governor), territories, and tribes. Funds may be subgranted.	$60m for planning available in FY2022. $1.4 b available between FY 2022-2026. States have 5 years to spend awards.	☑ Deployment ☑ Devices ☑ Affordability ☑ Inclusion	Benton Analysis, NDIA Webinar, Telecompetitor
	This program consists of two subprograms: one $60 million program to support the development of state digital equity plans, and a second $1.4 billion program to fund the implementation of those plans. To be eligible for the second program, a state must have its digital equity plan be approved by the NTIA. These plans must include: measurable objectives for promoting internet adoption in vulnerable populations; assessments of plan's impact on state goals for the economy, workforce, education, health, and civil society; and identification of and collaboration with stakeholders.							
	Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program	NTIA	Competitive grant	$1,250,000,000	Public entities, private companies, nonprofits. State entities that receive State Digital Equity Capacity grants are ineligible.	$250m available per year FY 2022-2026. Awardees will submit annual evaluation reports. Grants must be spent within four years.	☑ Deployment ☑ Devices ☑ Affordability ☑ Inclusion	Benton Analysis, NDIA Webinar, Telecompetitor
	Public and private entities (except for those state agencies that receive allocations from the above program) may apply to the NTIA for grants from this program. Eligible uses include: digital inclusion activities; digital navigators; workforce training programs; low-cost devices; and deployment of public broadband. NTIA will prioritize projects that: expand access and adoption among vulnerable populations; represent geographically diverse regions; and do not duplicate other programs. Awardees must submit regular program evaluations to NTIA.							
	Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program (MMBI)	NTIA	Competitive grant	$1,000,000,000	State/local governments, tribes, private companies, public utilities, nonprofits, cooperatives, consortia.	NOFO likely by end of May 2022. Funds available until Sep. 30, 2026	☑ Deployment ☐ Devices ☐ Affordability ☐ Inclusion	Benton Analysis, K&H Analysis
	Funds middle mile projects that reduce the cost of connecting un/underserved areas and/or promote resiliency by creating redundant network connections. Priority is given to projects that: adopt fiscally sustainable strategies; offer non-discriminatory interconnection to last-mile providers; collaborate with partners that will provide financially sustainable last-mile service; utilize other forms of support (e.g. waived permitting fees); and benefit national security and the DoD.							
	Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)	FCC	Consumer subsidy	$14,200,000,000	Consumers and participating ISPs. Devices must be purchased through ISPs (note: some ISPs do not offer devices).	Transition from EBB to ACP on Dec 31, 2021. ACP lasts until funds exhausted.	☐ Deployment ☑ Devices ☑ Affordability ☐ Inclusion	Benton Analysis, Common Sense Page, Telecompetitor
	This is an extension and modification of Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program. It makes the EBB permanent, decreases the benefit amount from $50/mo to $30/mo, and changes some eligibility criteria. Participating ISPs must: promote the benefit; allow the benefit to be applied to any service offering; notify subscribers of the transition; and implement new consumer protections.							
	Continuation and Modification of Emergency Broadband Benefit (CCA21)							
	Tribal Broadband Connectivity Funding	NTIA	Competitive grant	$2,000,000,000	Tribal governments, organizations, and universities	Not currently accepting applications. First awards made in Nov. 2021, and remainer expected by Spring 2022.	☑ Deployment ☑ Devices ☑ Affordability ☑ Inclusion	Benton Analysis, Original NOFO, NTIA Page
	Adds funds to the Tribal Broadband Connectivity program and modifies the program's rules to relax the original emergency timeline. The additional funding may be used for projects that were not funded in the first round of awards and to potentially open another window for applications. The program's rules are modified to allow: 18 months to commit funds (rather than the original 6 months); 4 years to expend funds (rather than the original 1 year); and additional spending on planning and feasibility studies. NTIA can extend deadlines if necessary.							
	Continuation of Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (CAA21)							
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) — Signed into law March 11, 2021. $1.9 trillion total	**Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund**	Treasury	Formula allocation	$10,000,000,000	Block grants to states (or administering agency selected by governor), territories, and tribes. Funds may be subgranted.	Request funding from Sep. 24 – Dec. 27, 2021 (Tribes Oct. 1 – June 1, 2022). Submit grant plan by Sept. 24, 2022. Funds must be expended by Dec. 31, 2026.	☑ Deployment ☑ Devices ☑ Affordability ☑ Inclusion	Treasury Overview, State Allocations, Treasury Rules, NDIA Analysis, Benton Analysis, Pots and Pans
	Block grants to states; each state will get at least $100 million. Eligible uses include: deploying infrastructure to areas that lack reliable wireline speeds of 100/20 and/or where service is unaffordable for a majority of residents; fostering adoption with low/no-cost devices, free wi-fi, digital literacy training, and tech support; and building or improving community anchor institutions to enable public internet access. Deployment projects should: offer a low-cost option; accept ACP/Lifeline; deliver 100/100 where possible; and prioritize last mile connections. Treasury encourages use of public, nonprofit, and cooperative networks. No matching requirements.							
	Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF)	Treasury	Formula allocation	$350,000,000,000	Block grants to states, territories, metropolitan cities, and counties. Funds may be subgranted.	Treasury is accepting submissions. Funds should be incurred by Dec. 31, 2024. Projects should be completed by Dec. 31, 2026.	☑ Deployment ☑ Devices ☑ Affordability ☑ Inclusion	Treasury Overview, Treasury Rules, NCSL Tracker, Pots and Pans, ILSR Projects List, ILSR Analysis
	Block grants to state/county/city governments for general COVID-19 relief, but recipients may use funds on broadband infrastructure, digital literacy training, and other programs that promote access to the internet. Projects should: prioritize areas with an identified need for additional broadband infrastructure investment (note: there is no specific speed requirement); prioritize last mile connections; deliver speeds of 100/100 and use fiber technology wherever feasible; offer low-cost service options; and encourage public, nonprofit, and cooperative service providers. RDOF and other grant areas are eligible for funding.							
	Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF)	FCC	Competitive grant	$7,170,000,000	Schools, libraries, consortia that qualify for E-Rate and/or the Libraries Services and Technology Act.	The first two application windows have closed. A third window may be announced for the remaining ~$1 billion.	☑ Deployment* ☑ Devices ☑ Affordability ☐ Inclusion	FCC Overview, Common Sense Page, Misconceptions, Approved Grants
	Intended to support remote education. Eligible schools and libraries apply to be reimbursed for costs associated with providing devices, hotspots, and internet service (including service to student homes) between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022 (future funding rounds may expand this window). *Spending on infrastructure is allowed only where infrastructure not otherwise available.							
	Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF)	Treasury	Formula allocation	$9,900,000,000	States, territories, and Tribes.	The application windows have closed.	☐ Deployment ☐ Devices ☑ Affordability ☐ Inclusion	Treasury Overview, Treasury Guidance
	Intended to help mid- and low-income homeowners who have experienced financial hardship after January 21, 2020. Each state receives a formula-determined allocation and may use it to help homeowners with eligible expenses. May be used to help homeowners pay for internet service.							
	Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III)	OESE	Title I formula	$122,700,000,000	State educational agencies (SEAs) and then subgrants to local educational agencies (LEAs).	All funds awarded as of Sept. 30, 2021. Funds must be obligated by Sept. 30, 2022.	☐ Deployment ☑ Devices ☑ Affordability ☐ Inclusion	OESE Overview
	Intended to help educational agencies and school districts operate safely and address the impact of the pandemic. Funding distributed to state educational agencies (SEAs) via formula, and SEAs provide subgrants to local educational agencies (LEAs). Funds may be used on hardware, software, and connectivity for students.							

	Program	Agency	Type	Amount	Eligible Entities	Timeline	Categories	Links
Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021 (CAA21) — Signed into law December 27, 2020. $2.3 trillion total	**Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBB)** Provides eligible low-income households with a monthly benefit up to $50 for broadband service ($75 on Tribal lands) and a one-time benefit of $100 for purchase of a device (if the recipient also contributes $10–$50). Households eligible if they: fall below 135% of federal poverty level; receive certain federal assistance (Lifeline, Medicaid, SNAP, free/reduced-price lunch, Pell Grant, certain Tribal programs, etc), or participate in an ISP's low-income program.	FCC	Consumer subsidy	$3,200,000,000	Participating ISPs. Devices must be purchased through ISPs (note: some ISPs do not offer devices).	Enrollment began May 2021. Program was transitioned into the Affordable Connectivity Program on Dec. 31, 2021.	☐ Deployment ☑ Devices ☑ Affordability ☐ Inclusion	FCC Overview NDIA Explainer Common Sense Page Provider Finder
	Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program Grants for broadband infrastructure in predominantly rural areas with less than 25/3 and in which no entity is receiving federal or state funding to build infrastructure.	NTIA	Competitive grant	$288,000,000	Partnerships between governments and fixed broadband providers, including public, nonprofit, and cooperative providers.	Not currently accepting applications. Awards pending.	☑ Deployment ☐ Devices ☐ Affordability ☐ Inclusion	NTIA Overview NTIA Guidance Benton Analysis
	Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Funding is flexible and can be used for deployment (last mile and middle mile), affordability, adoption, distance learning, telehealth, and digital inclusion on tribal lands. Grants may be up to $50m for infrastructure and up to $2.5m for affordability and inclusion. Matching funds not required.	NTIA	Competitive grant	$1,000,000,000	Tribal governments, organizations, and universities	Not currently accepting applications. First awards made in Nov. 2021 and remainder expected by Spring 2022.	☑ Deployment ☑ Devices ☑ Affordability ☑ Inclusion	NTIA Overview Benton Analysis Original NOFO
	Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program (CMC) Funds internet services, equipment, and IT personnel for minority-serving institutions, their students, and surrounding communities. Also funds daily operations for minority businesses and nonprofits.	NTIA	Competitive grant	$285,000,000	Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), Tribal Colleges Universities (TCU), Minority Serving Insts. (MSI), consortia.	Not currently accepting applications. Awards pending.	☐ Deployment ☑ Devices ☑ Affordability ☑ Inclusion	NTIA Overview NTIA Rule Benton Analysis Entity Definitions Funding Requests
	Governors Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER II and EANS) Additional funding for the GEER program, which was started in the CARES Act to assist public schools, and for a new Emergency Assistance to Non-Public School (EANS) program. Funds are flexible but should be used to assist with COVID response, such as on technology infrastructure and professional development that will improve capacity to provide high quality, accessible, distance education, or remote learning.	OESE	Formula allocation	$4,053,060,000	State governors. Funds may be subgranted to LEAs, IHEs, and/or education-related entities.	Governor must have applied by Jan. 2022. Funds must be obligated by Sept. 30, 2023.	☐ Deployment ☑ Devices ☑ Affordability ☑ Inclusion	OESE Overview
Other Broadband Programs	**ReConnect Grant Program** Eligible projects must serve areas that lack speeds of 100/20 (was previously 10/1) and provide service of 100/100 to ever location in its service area. Projects will be prioritized if they: target low-density and/or low-income rural areas that lack speeds of 25/3; offer low-cost service options; agree to strong labor standards; are submitted by a local or tribal government, nonprofit, or cooperative. ReConnect offers multiple types of awards, including 100% funded grants, 75% grants, loan/grant combinations, and loans. RDOF and other grant areas are eligible for funding.	RUS	Competitive grant	$1,150,000,000	Private companies, cooperatives, nonprofits, state and local governments, tribes, territories	Accepting applications until Feb. 2, 2022.	☑ Deployment ☐ Devices ☐ Affordability ☐ Inclusion	USDA Overview Benton Analysis
	Good Jobs Challenge Grants for projects that bring together employers and workforce trainers to develop and implement programs that train workers in the digital skills that lead to good-paying jobs. EDA prioritizes projects that reach historically underserved populations.	EDA	Competitive grant	$500,000,000	State, local, and tribal governments, nonprofits, and educational institutions.	Accepting applications until Feb. 10, 2022.	☐ Deployment ☐ Devices ☐ Connectivity ☑ Adoption	EDA Overview NOFO
	Lifeline Monthly subsidy to help low-income consumers afford telephone and broadband bills. Provides $5.25/mo for telephone or $9.25/mo for broadband (and up to $34.25 for those living on Tribal lands). Only one benefit allowed per household. Program funded by the USF.	FCC	Consumer subsidy	N/A	Consumers and participating ISPs.	Eligible consumers may apply by contacting their ISP.	☐ Deployment ☑ Devices ☑ Affordability ☐ Inclusion	FCC Overview USAC Overview Companies Near Me Eligibility Criteria

ARPA
Direct to County funding
$65.1M
• Eligible broadband projects are expected to be designed to deliver Internet service that reliably meets or exceeds symmetrical upload and download speeds of 100 Mbps. In areas where the geography makes this speed benchmark impractical to obtain, projects are expected to deliver Internet service that reliably meets or exceeds 100 Mbps download and between at least 20 Mbps and 100 Mbps upload speeds. • Deadlines: Communities have a relatively long window of time to expand broadband infrastructure with these funds. Though communities must allocate the funds by December 2024, broadband projects do not have to be completed until December 2026.

DOLA
Broadband Planning and Infrastructure Set-Aside: $3,600,000 available
DOLA supports the efforts of local governments to improve Broadband service to their constituents to achieve enhanced community and economic development. The program: • Promotes inter-jurisdictional communication • Supports better access to services available over Broadband, such as distance learning and telemedicine • Provides planning and middle mile infrastructure grants   o Grants for broadband planning and infrastructure are applied for, managed and reported through the Energy/Mineral Impact Assistance Program

DOLA
Broadband Interconnectivity (HB21-1289) Grant Program: $5,000,000 available
The Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) with funding from HB21-1289 (ARPA) supports the Broadband Interconnectivity Program to provide public institutions, private businesses, and citizens with access to reliable broadband service. • Grants are prioritized toward providing broadband interconnectivity between communities in rural or other areas that are currently unserved and underserved by broadband infrastructure (if they lack access to a wireline connection capable of reliably delivering at least minimum speeds of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload to households and businesses). Applications may be made for either Planning or Middle Mile Interconnectivity projects and applications for Broadband Interconnectivity projects may be submitted at any time. Eligible entities include Regional Councils of Governments (or similar collaboration) and local government partnerships. Projects awarded money under this grant program, except for projects awarded to Indian tribes or nations, cannot use the money for last-mile broadband deployment. Applications for either Planning or Middle Mile Interconnectivity projects open in mid-October and close on December 31.

ARPA	IIJA
Direct to State agency funding	Direct to State agency funding
$75M – SLFRF	**$200M - $500M BEAD**
• Lack of access to reliable, high speed broadband • Lack of affordable broadband • Lack of reliable service • 100/20 symmetrical speeds • Requires ISP to have an affordability plan	• $100M guarantee to CO, more $ based on high cost areas and unserved • CO will subgrant to local • Eligible: infrastructure; middle mile and connection to anchor institutions; planning, mapping, data

• Priorities: service to those w/o wireline; invest in fiber; middle & last mile connections; support for networks owned by govt, NPs and cooperatives.	collecting; installation & affordability of multi-family units; adoption and affordability programs • 100/20 speeds • Unserved @ 25/3 first priority • 2024 anticipated funding; use in 4 yrs • 25% match

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$171M – Capital Projects Funds

Eligible Projects criteria:

1. The capital project invests in capital assets designed to directly enable work, education, and health monitoring.
2. The capital project is designed to address a critical need that resulted from or was made apparent or exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency.
3. The capital project is designed to address a critical need of the community to be served by broadband.

- **Broadband Infrastructure Projects**: the construction and deployment of broadband infrastructure designed to deliver service that reliably meets or exceeds symmetrical speeds of 100Mbps so that communities have future-proof infrastructure to serve their long-term needs.
- **Digital Connectivity Technology Projects**: the purchase or installation of devices and equipment, such as laptops, tablets, desktop personal computers, and public Wi-Fi equipment, to facilitate broadband internet access for communities where affordability is a barrier to broadband adoption and use.
- **Multi-Purpose Community Facility Projects**: the construction or improvement of buildings designed to jointly and directly enable work, education, and health monitoring located in communities with critical need for the project.

Case-by-Case Review: In addition to the eligible Capital Projects identified above, recipients may propose a different use of funds. Such uses must meet the statutory criteria, and recipients will be required to demonstrate that any such projects satisfy the eligibility criteria identified in the Capital Projects Fund Guidance. Capital Projects Fund grant funding can also be used for the ancillary costs related to eligible capital projects that are necessary to put the asset to full use. For example, if an applicant plans for Digital Connectivity Technology Projects, Capital Projects Fund awards can be used to provide digital literacy training to community members so that they gain the knowledge and skills necessary to make full use of the devices in order to conduct activities related to education, work, and health monitoring.

$TBD – State Digital Equity Capacity Grant
- Formula grant
- Competitive grant that CBO applies to NTIA
- Eligible: development of state digital equity plan; implementation of plan; adoption of digital inclusion programs
- 2024 anticipated funding; use in 4 yrs

Affordable Connectivity Program
- This is an extension and modification of Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program. It makes the EBB permanent, decreases the benefit amount from $50/mo to $30/mo, and changes some eligibility criteria. Participating ISPs must: promote the benefit; allow the benefit to be applied to any service offering; notify subscribers of the transition; and implement new consumer protections.
- Open to consumers and participating ISPs.
- Lasts until funds are exhausted.

Middle Mile
- Applications to NTIA
- Eligible: leased dark fiber; interoffice transport; backhaul; carrier-neutral internet exchange facilities; wired or private wireless & infrastructure (microwave capacity and links, radio tower access, towers, fiber, etc.
- Project must be completed in 5 yrs or less
- Less than 70% match

ARPA	IIJA
Competitive Grants	Competitive Grants
FCC	**USDA Reconnect & Rural Broadband**
- Emergency Broadband Benefit Fund - Emergency Connectivity Fund - Rip and Replace Funds	
NTIA	**NTIA**
- Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Program - Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program - Connecting Minorities Communities Pilot Program	- Digital Equity Competitive Grants Program - Middle Mile Grants - Tribal Grants

DORA - Broadband Deployment Program
Competitive Grants
- For-profit entities are eligible to apply, as well as nonprofit telephone cooperatives or nonprofit rural electric associations that existed on May 10, 2014. Applicants and appellants are required to submit granular mapping data to the Colorado Broadband Office (CBO).   - The application cycle occurs twice per year on January 15 and July 15.

USDA ReConnect Program
Competitive Grants
- The ReConnect Program offers loans, grants, and loan-grant combinations to facilitate broadband deployment in areas of rural America that currently do not have sufficient access to broadband. In facilitating the expansion of broadband services and infrastructure, the program will fuel long-term rural economic development and opportunities in rural America.   The entities considered eligible to apply for assistance under the ReConnect Program include: - Corporations   - Limited Liability Companies and Limited Liability Partnerships   - Cooperatives or mutual organizations   - States or local governments, including any agency, subdivision, instrumentality of political subdivision thereof   - A territory or possession of the United States   - An Indian Tribe, as defined in Section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. §450b)   Co-Applicants are not eligible entities. If two entities would like to partner with each other in delivering broadband to areas without sufficient access, then one entity must take the lead on submitting. Eligible Funding Purposes: - To fund the construction or improvement of facilities required to provide fixed terrestrial broadband service. Eligible facilities include buildings, land, and fixed wireless service. If other services will be provided over these facilities, then award funds may also be used to acquire the additional equipment. For example, awards funds may be used to purchase equipment that is required to comply with the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act, 47 U.S.C §1001 et seq (CALEA).   - To fund reasonable pre-application expenses. Funding for pre-application expenses may not exceed five percent of the award. Pre-application expenses must be included in the first request for advance of award funds and will be funded with either grant or loan funds. If the funding category applied for has a grant component, then grant funds will be used for this purpose. If pre-application expenses are not included in the first request for advance of award funds, they will become an ineligible purpose. Costs associated with satisfying the environmental review requirements are eligible for reimbursement under this category. Up to 3% of the total award can be used to cover costs associated with satisfying the environmental review requirements. The environmental review costs count as part of the overall 5% allowable for pre-application expenses.

3. To fund the acquisition of an existing system that does not currently provide sufficient access to broadband (eligible for 100 percent loan requests only).
The cost of the existing system acquisition is limited to 40 percent of the award amount requested. After improvements are made, the upgraded system must meet the minimum requirements of the most recent FOA.

Award amounts under the FOA will be limited as follows:
1. 100 Percent Grant - Up to $350,000,000 is available for grants. The maximum amount of grant funds that can be requested in an application is $25,000,000. However, to encourage broadband deployment in remote areas, if an applicant provides supporting information that demonstrates that the PFSA(s) is comprised 100 percent of areas classified by the USDA Economic Research Service as Frontier and Remote Area (FAR) Level 4, the applicant may request up to $35,000,000. A GIS layer of FAR Level 4 areas can be found on the ReConnect Program Service Area Map.
2. 100 Percent Grant for Tribal Governments and Socially Vulnerable Communities
Up to $350,000,000 is available for grants. The maximum amount of grant funds that can be requested in an application is $25,000,000. However, to encourage broadband deployment in remote areas, if an applicant provides supporting information that demonstrates that the PFSA(s) is comprised 100 percent of locations within areas classified by the USDA Economic Research Service as FAR Level 4, the applicant may request up to $35,000,000. A GIS layer of FAR Level 4 areas can be found on the ReConnect Program Service Area Map.
3. 50 Percent Loan / 50 Percent Grant Combination - Up to $250,000,000 is available for loan/grant combinations. The maximum amount that can be requested in an application is $25,000,000 for the loan and $25,000,000 for the grant. Loan and grant amounts will always be equal.
4. 100 Percent Loan - Up to $200,000,000 is available for loans. The maximum amount that can be requested in an application is $50,000,000.

Financial Feasibility and Sustainability Requirements - Only projects that USDA determines to be financially feasible and sustainable will be eligible for an award under the ReConnect FOA. An eligible project must demonstrate a positive ending cash balance as reflected in the cash flow statement for each year of the forecast period and demonstrate positive cash flow from operations by the end of the forecast period. Eligible projects must also meet at least two of the following requirements: a minimum Times Interest Earned Ratio (TIER) requirement of 1.2, a minimum Debt Service Coverage Ratio (DSCR) requirement of 1.2, and a minimum Current Ratio of 1.2.

If an application has no existing debt, is not applying for any loans from this program or proposing to borrow funds from any other fund sources during the forecast period and is applying only for grant funds, only the Current Ratio will be applied and not the TIER or DSCR. For this situation, applications must only meet the minimum current ratio required of 1.2. Please contact the USDA General Field Representative in your state if you have further questions.