

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Total Funding Available: \$4.7 billion

Overview: The Technology Opportunities Program (TOP) promotes the widespread availability and use of digital network technologies in the public and non-profit sectors through grants for model projects demonstrating innovative uses of network technologies. Grants were last funded in 2004, and were awarded to state, local and tribal governments, health care providers, schools, libraries, police departments, and community-based non-profit organizations.

The Broadband Technology Opportunities Program includes competitive grants for broadband deployment in unserved and underserved areas. The program also includes:

- \$200 million for competitive grants to expand public computer center capacity at community colleges and public libraries.
- \$250 million for competitive grants to encourage adoption of broadband.
- \$350 million to establish the State Broadband Data and Development Grant program.
- \$150 million for program administration.

Special Factors:

How to Access Funding: Application details will be announced by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

Update: 7/28/09

Newly released FAQ now available online – [click here](#)

Update: 7/3/09

The first Notice of Financial Availability (NOFA) has been published on NTIA's new [BroadbandUSA website](#).

A few key points of interest:

- Applications are completed in two parts: The provision of requested data to NTIA, and drawing the areas that an applicant intends to serve. These both require separate registrations with NTIA, which can be done at this [link](#).
- Applications will be available for download starting July 7th, with electronic filing going live on July 31st for both NTIA and RUS program funds. Electronic submissions must be completed and filed with NTIA no later than **5:00 PM EDT on August 14, 2009**. Paper applications must be postmarked no later than **August 14, 2009**. Complete information on filing dates and requirements can be found at this [link](#).

- If applicants have questions regarding the application process, they can contact NTIA directly at 1-888-861-5509, or by email at RD.Broadband@wdc.usda.gov.
- A limited waiver of the Buy American provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has been granted by NTIA. For full details on this waiver, including covered and excluded items, follow this [link](#).

July 2009 Workshop Information

- In addition, several workshops have been announced that will include an overview of BTOP-BIP programs, a review of the application process for NTIA and RUS grants and loans and individual meetings with Rural Development headquarters and field staff. The online application can be found on this [link](#).

Thanks to NATOA for providing this information in summarized format.

Federal Contact: Department of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
<http://www.commerce.gov/Recovery/>

State Contact: The e-NC Authority, info@e-nc.org, 919-250-4314
Baller Herbst Law Group Report (Updated 4/14/09)
http://www.baller.com/pdfs/Baller_Herbst_Stimulus_4-14-09.pdf

League Staff Liaison: Ryan Draughn, rdraughn@nclm.org, 919-715-2915