



# Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

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# President Barack Obama

- “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.” *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.” *Weekly Address, December 6, 2008*



# American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

- **Purposes:**

- to preserve and create jobs and promote economic recovery;
- to assist those most impacted by the recession;
- to provide investments needed to increase economic efficiency by spurring technological advances in science and health;
- to invest in transportation, environmental protection, and other infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits; and
- to stabilize state and local government budgets.

# Recovery Act Broadband Initiatives



- \$7.2 billion to expand access to broadband services in the United States
  - \$4.7 billion: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
    - Department of Commerce’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)
  - \$2.5 billion: Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP)
    - Department of Agriculture’s Rural Utilities Service

# Implementation



- Distribute funds quickly, responsibly, effectively
- Coordination among RUS, NTIA, FCC
- Transparency and Accountability
- Request for Information
  - More than 1,000 Written Responses
  - See related information on [BroadbandUSA.gov](http://BroadbandUSA.gov)



# Single Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA)

- Goals
  - Unified and coordinated effort by the Federal government
  - Utilize taxpayer dollars in the most effective way
  - Streamline application system
  - Maximize opportunities for eligible entities to participate
  - Shared applications, definitions, evaluation criteria

# BIP and BTOP



- Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP): RUS
- Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP): NTIA
  - 3 Categories of Eligible BTOP Projects:
    - Infrastructure
    - Public Computer Centers
    - Sustainable Broadband Adoption

# Funding Available



- First of two rounds of funding
- Approximately \$4 billion in this round.
- BIP: \$2.4 billion
  - Last-Mile: \$1.2 billion
    - Remote: \$400 million
    - Non-Remote: \$800 million
  - Middle-Mile: \$800 million
  - National Reserve: \$325 million

# Funding Available



- BTOP: \$1.6 billion
  - Infrastructure: \$1.2 billion
  - Public Computer Centers: \$50 million
  - Sustainable Broadband Adoption: \$150 million
  - National Reserve: \$200 million



# Definitions

- Broadband
- Last Mile Project
  - Remote Area
  - Non-Remote Area
- Middle Mile Project
- Rural Area
- Underserved Area
- Unserved Area

# Nondiscrimination and Interconnection



- All infrastructure applicants must commit to:
  - adhere to the principles contained in the FCC's Internet Policy Statement adopted August 5, 2005:
    - 1) consumers are entitled to access the lawful Internet content of their choice
    - 2) consumers are entitled to run applications and services of their choice, subject to the need of law enforcement
    - 3) consumers are entitled to connect their choice of legal devices that do not harm the network
    - 4) consumers are entitled to competition among network providers, application and service providers, and content providers

# Nondiscrimination and Interconnection



- not favor any lawful Internet applications and content over others;
- display any network management policies in a prominent location on the service provider's web page and provide notice to customers of changes to these policies;
- connect to the public Internet directly or indirectly, such that the project is not an entirely private closed network; and
- offer interconnection, where technically feasible, without exceeding current or reasonably anticipated capacity limitations, on reasonable rates and terms to be negotiated with requesting parties.

# Choosing the Appropriate Program



- At least 75% rural – submit to RUS
  - Submit additional elements to be considered for BTOP
- BIP:
  - Loans and Loan/Grant Combinations
  - 75% of area must be rural
    - Last-Mile Remote
    - Last-Mile Non-Remote
    - Middle-Mile

# Choosing the Appropriate Program



- BTOP Infrastructure:
  - Unserved and Underserved
    - Last-Mile
    - Middle-Mile
- Anchor Institutions
  - Middle-Mile
- BTOP Public Computer Centers
- BTOP Sustainable Adoption
- Combination Applications

# Eligible Entities



- States, local governments, or any agency, subdivision, instrumentality, or political subdivision thereof;
- District of Columbia
- Territory or possession of the United States
- Indian tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. § 450(b)))
- Native Hawaiian organization

# Eligible Entities



- Non-profit entities
- For-profit corporations
  - BTOP Public Interest Finding
- Limited liability companies
- Cooperative or mutual organizations.

# Filing Instructions



- Deadline for first round of applications was 5:00 PM ET on August 14, 2009
- Applicants could apply using electronic intake beginning July 31
- “Filing electronically benefits applicants through faster processing”

# Evaluation and Scoring



- Scored against objective criteria, not against other applications.
  - Project Purpose
  - Project Benefits
  - Project Viability
  - Project Budget and Sustainability
- Specific evaluation factors for each criteria, depending on application type.



## Additional Consideration for Collaboration with Recovery Act Programs or Other Government Initiatives

- RUS and NTIA encourage collaboration with Recovery Act or other state or federal development programs that leverage the impact of the proposed project.
- Additional consideration for substantive and meaningful collaboration.



## Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Small Businesses

- BIP and BTOP will take into consideration whether an application involves a socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern as defined under section 8(a) of the Small Business Act (SBA) (15 U.S.C. § 637(a)(4))
- For BTOP, this may include an awardee, sub-awardee, contractor, subcontractor, or vendor



# Application Review Process

- Initial screen to determine compliance with eligibility factors
- Step One:
  - Scored against evaluation criteria by a three-member review panel
- Step Two:
  - Applicants may be required to submit additional information to further substantiate representations made in their application



# Application Review Process

- Step Two (continued):
  - Supplemental information reviewed by NTIA with help from external engineering, business, and subject-matter experts
- Select Portfolio for Infrastructure Awards
  - Reviews and Program staff
  - States recommendations (optional)
  - Geographic factors
  - Public comments on service areas



# Reporting Requirements

- Awardees will have ongoing reporting requirements
  - Recovery Act
  - BTOP specific
  - BIP specific
- Reports will be made available to the public at [Recovery.gov](http://Recovery.gov)

# Status Today



- 1<sup>st</sup> Round of Applications Completed
  - 2,200+ applications received
  - \$28 B requested + \$10 B pledged matching
  - All states, territories, DC
- BTOP approximately \$1.6 B, BIP \$2.4 B
- Now in steps 1 and 2

# Round 1 Applications



- Infrastructure
  - BTOP: 260 applications for \$5.4 B
  - BIP: 400 applications for \$5 B
  - Joint: 830 applications \$12.8 B
- Sustainable Broadband Adoption
  - 320 applications for \$2.5 B (out of \$250 M total)
- Public Computer Centers
  - 360 Applications for \$1.9 B (out of \$200 M total)



# Future Timeline

- Begin announcing round one awards on or about November 7, 2009
- Begin second of two rounds of funding
  - New RFI for Public comments on BTOP
  - Revised NOFA
  - Deadline for applications TBA
- All funds awarded by September 30, 2010.

# Relation to SURA?



- Improved participation in R&D through better connections at participating anchor institutions and remote sites
- Improved access from unserved and underserved areas to science, technology, engineering, math, medicine, education, ...
- Improved R&D workforce
- Greater geographic flexibility for SURA institution staffing and installations



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