

NTIA BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM

Missouri is serving as a covered partnership



Missouri Department of
Economic Development

HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

Questions:

- Type questions in the chat box on the WebEx platform, the webinar moderator will facilitate the ones received towards the end of the webinar.
- Everyone is on mute to assist in the reduction of background noise during the webinar.

Presentation:

- The webinar will be recorded and will be posted on the DED NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Program grant website. The link will be posted within three business days and can be found in the '[Program Documents](#)' section.
- The webinar is not intended to be all encompassing of the nuances related to the NTIA program, DED encourages providers to refer the NTIA NOFO and published FAQ's to gain a better understanding of the program.
- To view previous NTIA webinars and presentations visit their website at: <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/resources/grant-programs/broadband-infrastructure-program>

ON THE CALL TODAY

Presenter:

Tim Arbeiter, Director of Broadband Development

Moderator:

Katie Blake, Marketing Specialist



Missouri Department of
Economic Development

AGENDA

10:00 – 10:45 a.m.

NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Program Overview:
Missouri's evaluation process – Tim Arbeiter

10:45 – 11:25 a.m.

Q&A Session – moderated by Katie Blake

11:25 – 11:30 a.m.

Concluding comments and adjourn – Tim Arbeiter

CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021

NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Grant:

- Competitive grant program open for application
- \$288 Million; awards expected to range \$5-30 Million
- Covered Partnerships
- Competitively and technologically neutral projects for the deployment of fixed broadband service in a census block with at least one household or business that does not have access to 25/3.

ANTICIPATED NTIA FUNDING AMOUNTS

- NTIA expects to make awards under this program within the following funding range:
 - *\$5,000,000 to \$30,000,000*
- Matching funds will not be required, but preference given to projects with at least 10% match.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

1. Projects designed to provide broadband service to the greatest number of households in an eligible service area.
2. Projects designed to provide broadband service in an eligible service area that is wholly within any area **other than** (1) a county, city, or town with more than 50,000 inhabitants and (2) the urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to a city or town of more than 50,000 inhabitants.
3. Projects that are most cost-effective, prioritizing such projects in areas that are the most rural.
4. Projects designed to provide broadband service with a download speed of at least 100 Mbps and an upload speed of at least 20 Mbps.
5. Any other covered broadband project that meets the requirements of this NOFO.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for a grant under the Broadband Infrastructure Program, the covered partnership must submit an application that describes the following:

- Covered Partnership – The State will serve as the lead applicant
- Covered Broadband Project – Missouri has a \$10M cap per provider
- Eligible Service Area
- Other Federal & State support

Special notes:

- Covered Partnership may submit only one application.
- The NTIA application may include more than one provider.
- A provider may participate in more than one Covered Partnership.

QUALIFYING BROADBAND SERVICE DEFINED

- A download speed of not less than 25 Mbps;
- An upload speed of not less than 3 Mbps;
 - *The ability to deliver 25/3 simultaneously to every household in the eligible service area*
- Latency sufficient to support real-time, interactive applications.
 - *Defined as 95% or more of all peak period measurements of network round-trip latency (i.e., between customer premises and the closest Internet core peering interconnection point) are at or below 100 ms.*

UNSERVED DEFINED

- Household lacking access to qualifying broadband service; and
- No broadband provider has been selected to receive, or is otherwise receiving, Federal or State funding subject to enforceable build out commitments to deploy qualifying broadband service in the specific area where the household is located.
- Eligible service area means a census block in which broadband service is not available at one or more households or businesses in the census block.

OF NOTE: DED requires each non-contiguous covered broadband project to be located within a maximum of four contiguous counties.

ELIGIBLE FUNDING USES

A covered partnership may use grant funds to fund:

- The costs of construction, improvement, and/or acquisition of facilities and equipment required to provide qualifying broadband service, including infrastructure for backhaul, middle and last mile networks;
- The cost of long-term leases (for terms greater than one year) of facilities required to provide qualifying broadband service, including indefeasible right-of-use (IRU) agreements;
- Cost of engineering design, permitting and work related to environmental, historical and cultural reviews;

ELIGIBLE FUNDING USES (cont'd)

A covered partnership may use grant funds to fund:

- Personnel costs, including salaries and fringe benefits for staff and consultants required for the implementation of the Broadband Infrastructure Program (such as project managers, program directors, subject matter experts, grant administrators, financial analysts, accountants, and attorneys);
- Reasonable pre-application expenses or grant preparation costs in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.
- Other allowable costs necessary to carrying out programmatic activities of an award, not to include ineligible costs.

INELIGIBLE FUNDING USES

The following restrictions apply to all members of a Covered Partnership:

- A Covered Partnership may not use grant funds received under this program to purchase or support any covered communications equipment or service as defined in section 9 of the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C. 1608).
- A profit, fee, or other incremental charge above actual cost is not an allowable cost under this program.
- A Covered Partnership may not use grant funds, directly or indirectly, to support or oppose collective bargaining.

INELIGIBLE FUNDING USES (cont'd)

The following restrictions apply to all members of a Covered Partnership:

- Repay or make any other payment related to a loan made by any public or private lender; or
- Use as collateral for a loan made by any public or private lender; or
- Use more than \$50,000 of the grant amounts to pay for the preparation of the grant; and
- Pay for previously incurred administrative costs or previously purchased equipment or construction activities undertaken prior to the award.
- Pay for the cost of providing broadband service to any locations that are used to meet an FCC Universal Service Fund(USF) deployment obligation.

DEADLINES & EXTENSIONS

The covered partnership must expend the grant funds within one year after receipt:

- The Assistant Secretary may grant an extension for projects.
- To qualify for an extension, the covered partnership must certify that: it has a plan for use of the funds; the construction project is underway; or extenuating circumstances require an extension to ensure project completion.
- As advised on the June 9, 2021 NTIA webinar, the state was encouraged to submit the extension request with it's application. The length of the extension will be made post project review of 'qualified' applications.

COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants with projects containing construction and/or ground disturbing activities must:

- Submit all required environmental documentation with their application package; and
- Obtain all required federal, tribal, state, and local governmental permits and approvals.

Applications must contain sufficient information to allow for NEPA analysis.

Funds may be withheld under a specific award condition until the Awardee submits additional environmental compliance information to assess the environmental impact of the project.

EVALUATION CRITERIA MIRRORS NTIA

Project Purpose & Benefits:

30 points

- Level of Impact in the Proposed Service Area
- Affordability of Services Offered

Project Budget & Sustainability:

30 points

- Reasonableness of the Budget
- Sustainability of the Project
- Leverage of Non-Federal Resources

Project Viability

40 points

- Technical Approach and Related Network Capacity and Performance
- Applicant's Organizational Capability

Scoring guidance provided for each section of the criteria!

Reviewers for the state application will utilize these rubrics to evaluate submissions.

CHALLENGE PROCESS

NTIA will post an announcement identifying each application from a covered partnership that is currently undergoing NTIA review for funding.

Existing broadband service providers will have a 15-day window to voluntarily submit to NTIA information about existing broadband services.

Missouri will not be hosting a Challenge Process.

KEY GRANT PROGRAM DATES

- Providers must submit applications to DED no later than 11:59 a.m. Central Daylight Time on **July 26, 2021** utilizing the FTP site.
- DED will notify fixed broadband providers on or before August 16, 2021 of their decision.
- The state must submit its NTIA applications no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on **August 17, 2021**.
- NTIA expects to complete its review, selection of successful applicants, and award processing by **November 15, 2021**.

HELPFUL TIPS

- Organize your team
- Read the program materials and watch for formats requested
- Carefully review the attachments list and begin to compile the items
- It's vital all of the items are submitted with your application
- Within the narrative formats be concise, yet provide enough detail in the content to assist the reviewers in fully evaluating the submission
- Submit early, reviewers will begin as soon as applications are submitted

SAVE THE DATE

NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program: Follow-up session

Friday, July 16, 2021

10:30 a.m. – Noon

WebEx webinar invite to be sent soon!

QUESTIONS?

Questions addressed during the webinar will be reflected in the FAQ's and posted on the grant website by the end of the week.