

Rural Utilities Service and National Telecommunications Information Administration

2nd Round Notice of Funding
Availability (NOFA)

Regional Broadband Meetings
February, 2010



How to choose: BIP vs. BTOP

The following guidelines are intended to assist applicants as they decide where to file:

- If your infrastructure service areas are at least 75-percent rural, and is predominantly for Last mile, apply to BIP.
- If you are a current RUS borrower or grantee seeking infrastructure funding (last mile or middle mile), apply to BIP.
- If your application is predominantly for middle mile infrastructure and you are not a current RUS borrower or grantee, apply to BTOP.
- If your application is for public computer centers or sustainable broadband adoption, apply to BTOP.

*NTIA and RUS issued separate NOFAs this time around

National Telecommunications Information Administration

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)

- Due Date: March 15th, 2010
- Available Funds:
 - \$2.35 billion for Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) projects
 - \$150 million for Public Computer Center (PCC) projects
 - \$100 million for Sustainable Broadband Adoption (SBA) projects

NTIA – Summary of NOFA Changes

- Focus on CCI projects
 - Middle Mile capabilities for community anchor institutions
 - Removed requirement that projects must be in unserved or underserved areas
- Additional consideration if match exceeds 30%
- Service area delineations from census tracts and block groups
- Clarified process for requesting waivers

Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Projects

Highest priority will be given to CCI applications that deploy Middle Mile broadband infrastructure and satisfy all of the criteria below, listed in order of importance:

1. Commitment to offer new/upgraded service to community anchor institutions
2. Incorporate a public-private partnership
3. Bolster growth in economically distressed areas
4. Commitment to serve community colleges
5. Commitment to serve public safety entities
6. Last Mile: Either
 - Applicant includes Last Mile infrastructure as part of Project; or
 - Applicant provides commitments from Last Mile broadband service providers
7. Non-federal match that equals or exceeds 30 percent of the total eligible project costs

Public Computer Centers

- Provide broadband access to the general public or a specific vulnerable population
- Must either create or expand a public computer center or improve broadband service or connections at a public computer center, including those at community colleges

Sustainable Broadband Adoption

- Innovative projects that promote broadband demand, especially among vulnerable population groups
- Seek projects that establish a subscribership baseline in a given community; and
- Demonstrate a clear ability to measure and sustain the expected increase in broadband adoption

NTIA BTOP Evaluation Process

- Eligibility
- Merit Review
- State and Tribal Consultation
- Announcement of Proposed Funded Service Areas
- Due Diligence
- Recommendation for Award
- Selection

Rural Utilities Service (RUS)

Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP)

- Due Date: March 15th, 2010
- Available Funds:
 - \$1.7 billion for Last Mile projects
 - \$300 million for Middle Mile projects
 - \$100 million for Satellite projects
 - \$5 million for Rural Library Broadband & Technical Assistance projects

RUS – Summary of NOFA changes

NOFA 1

1. Combined BTOP and RUS NOFA
2. Last Mile Remote, Last Mile Non-Remote, Middle Mile
3. Unserved & underserved
4. 50% grant/ 50% loan
5. Joint application process
6. Two-step process
7. Census block reporting
8. Paper applications

NOFA 2

1. Separate NOFAs
2. Last Mile & Middle Mile, *Satellite, *Technical Assistance, *Rural Libraries
3. 5 Megabit service
4. 75% grant & 25% loan
5. Single application process
6. One step process
7. No census block reporting
8. All electronic applications

*These are not included in current NOFA as released

RUS NOFA Changes

- This NOFA only considers Last and Middle Mile infrastructure projects
- Concentration: RUS will concentrate on Last Mile projects
- Additional NOFAs pending:
 - Satellite
 - Technical Assistance
 - Rural Library Broadband
- * Eliminated Last Mile Remote category

RUS NOFA Changes Continued...

- Qualifying Areas:
 - Proposed area must be 75% rural
 - Within the rural portion, at least 50% of the premises have no access to broadband service at the rate of 5 Mbps (up and downstream combined)

RUS NOFA Changes Continued...

- Application Process Change: One step review (No 2nd review phase)
- Application Process Change: No paper applications
- *RUS and NTIA issued separate NOFAs, so applicant chooses which program to submit request to.

RUS NOFA Changes Continued...

- Additional information:
 - Premises passed limit
 - No more than \$10,000 per premise
 - Change in service area reporting
 - Elimination of census block reporting
 - Reporting will be done by census tracts and block groups



Questions?