

BROADBAND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



One of the biggest hurdles in broadband deployment is finding the funding to undertake the varying projects necessary for ubiquitous connectivity in a community. There are a myriad of federal funding programs available to help communities improve broadband connectivity. This document will highlight some of the existing federal funding programs, what they fund, where to apply, and important dates.

This explainer is not an exhaustive list of available funding opportunities. For a more comprehensive list of federal funding options, the National Telecommunications Information Administration ("NTIA") has created a Federal Funding Guide that outlines broadband funding programs from a variety of federal agencies. Review NTIA's 2021 guide [here](#). States may also make funding available for community projects. Click [here](#) for contacts and resources for state broadband programs.

U.S. Department of the Treasury: Capital Projects Fund ("CPF")

The Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund is a \$10 billion fund for payments to eligible governments to carry out capital projects directly enabling work, education, and health monitoring, including remote options, in response to the public health emergency.

The funding for the CPF is allocated in the following way:

- \$9.8 billion for States
- \$100 million for Territories & Freely Associated States
- \$100 million for Tribal Governments

The CPF defines capital projects as investments in "depreciable assets and the ancillary costs needed to put the capital assets in place." This means that investments in high-quality broadband and other connectivity infrastructure, devices, and equipment are allowed under the CPF.

Eligible applicants will be required to provide a plan describing how they intend to use allocated funds under the CPF. However, the Treasury Department has yet to issue any rules or guidance in relation to the allocation of CPF funds.

To learn more about the CPF visit the Treasury's website [here](#). CPF FAQs can be found [here](#) (updated January 2022)

Federal Communications Commission: E-Rate Program

The Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Program ("E-Rate") helps schools and libraries obtain affordable broadband services. The E-Rate Program provides eligible schools and libraries discounts on telecommunications, Internet access, as well as internal connections, and basic maintenance of those connections.

An institution is eligible for the E-Rate program when they meet the statutory definition of a school or library. A school must be a non-profit institutional day or residential school, which may include a public charter school. These schools must provide either elementary or secondary education as determined by state law. Public libraries, including public elementary or secondary school libraries, academic libraries, research libraries, and private libraries. If an institution meets any of these definitions it is considered eligible for the E-Rate program.

If an entity wishes to receive funding through the E-Rate program they are required to host a competitive bidding process and file Form 470 with the FCC. Potential applicants can read more about the E-Rate application process [here](#).