



## Next Century Cities

Funding Opportunities for Communities on the Wrong Side of the Digital Divide

July 21, 2021





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# BroadbandUSA Overview



# NTIA's Commitment to Connecting America

The Department of Commerce supports the Biden Administration's agenda and our partner agencies to ensure that every American has access to affordable and reliable broadband and has the skills and opportunities to participate fully.



Deploy broadband infrastructure to communities with the **greatest need**.



Support job creation and workforce development by ensuring that **all Americans have broadband, devices, and digital skills**.



**Collaborate with states, Tribes, industry, and federal agencies** to effectively expand broadband access and digital inclusion.



**Use data to inform policies and investments** in broadband at all levels of government.

# Our Work

BroadbandUSA focuses on community outcomes.



## Partnerships

- Clarify/communicate policy
- Advise states & feds
- SBLN, DLIN
- Recommend best practices
- Improve coordination
- Tribal



## Technical Assistance

- Advise communities
- Support regional teams
- Cohort facilitation
- Infrastructure
- Digital inclusion
- Data analysis and mapping



## Products & Events

- Publish guidance & tools
- Share best practices
- NBAM
- Convene stakeholders
- Monthly webinars

# NTIA Grant Programs

# Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 Grant Programs Overview

1

\$288  
million

## Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Grants:

Grants for covered broadband projects, defined as 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: \$288 million.

[Infrastructure NOFO Link](#)

*\*Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021*

2

\$268  
million

## Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program:

Grants to eligible recipients in anchor communities for the purchase of broadband internet access service or any eligible equipment, or to hire and train information technology personnel, \$268 million.

[CMC Final Rule](#)

3

\$980  
million

## Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grants:

Grants to expand access to and adoption of: (A) broadband service on Tribal land; or (B) remote learning, telework, or telehealth resources during the COVID-19 pandemic: \$980 million.

[Tribal NOFO Link](#)

# Broadband Infrastructure Program Overview

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**\$288  
Million**



**Covered  
Partnerships**



**Covered  
Broadband  
Projects**



**Accepting  
Applications  
Through  
August 17, 2021**



# Key Definitions: Covered Partnership

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- A covered partnership means
  - a) A State, or one or more political subdivisions of a State; and
  - b) A provider of fixed broadband service.
- A covered partnership may include more than one provider of fixed broadband service as part of its application.
- Commercial/for-profit, municipal, non-profit, or cooperative broadband service providers are eligible fixed broadband service providers that can be part of a covered partnership.
- The intent of the statute is to award funds to a “covered partnership” in which at least two parties are involved. The definition of covered partnership set forth in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021.



# Key Definitions: Qualifying Broadband Service

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- 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*



# Key Definitions: Unserved

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- 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.

# Eligibility

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



Covered  
Partnership



Covered  
Broadband  
Project



Proposed  
Service  
Area



Other  
Federal &  
State  
Support

## Notes:

- Each Covered Partnership may submit only one application for this grant program.
- A Covered Partnership may include more than one provider of fixed broadband services in its application.
- A provider of fixed broadband services may participate in more than one Covered Partnership.

# Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program

How Much	\$268 Million
Who can apply “Eligible Recipients”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historically Black Colleges or Universities (HBCUs);</li> <li>• Tribal Colleges or Universities (TCUs);</li> <li>• Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs);</li> <li>• Consortiums led by HBCUs, TCUs, or MSIs that include a Minority Business Enterprise or Tax-Exempt 501(c)(3) Organization.</li> </ul>
For What	<p>The purchase of broadband Internet access service or any eligible equipment, or to hire and train information technology personnel:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) for the educational institution to facilitate educational instruction and learning, including through remote instruction; or</li> <li>(2) to operate the Minority Business Enterprise; or</li> <li>(3) to operate the Tax-Exempt 501(c)(3) Organization.</li> </ol>
When	<p>NTIA anticipates opening the application window for the CMC Pilot Program in mid-August 2021.</p>



# CMC| Program Requirements

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- Funding allocation: CMC eligibility criteria & greatest unmet financial need
- No Matching Requirement & 2-Year Period of Performance
- At least 40% of Grants Funds Awarded will be made to HBCUs
- At least 20% of all Grants Funds Awarded to Eligible Recipients must be used to provide broadband access and/or devices and equipment to students
- Eligible recipients that receive a grant to provide broadband Internet access service or eligible equipment to students must prioritize students who are in need (per the needs criteria factors)
- Lending of Equipment - Eligible recipients must prioritize students and/or patrons who do not have access to such equipment
- Program Evaluation and Data Collection Requirements

# CMC Anchor Community Eligibility Dashboard - Demonstration

Connecting Minority Communities - Anchor Community Eligibility Dashboard

School Eligibility Type:  State:  School Name:

### About

The CMC Anchor Community Dashboard is for informational purposes only and is intended solely to assist potential applicants in better understanding the CMC Pilot Program and the requirements set forth in the Final Rule for this program. The Dashboard does not and is not intended to supersede, modify, or otherwise alter applicable statutory or regulatory requirements, or the specific requirements set forth in the Final Rule and Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). In all cases, statutory and regulatory mandates, and the requirements set forth in the Final Rule and NOFO, shall prevail over any inconsistencies contained in the Dashboard.

To identify those "anchor community" areas surrounding a qualifying institution in which the "estimated median annual household income is not more than 250 percent of the poverty line," NTIA uses the median household income estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year data (current period 2015-2019) for each census tract falling wholly or partially within the applicable area. To ensure the comparison of similar datasets, NTIA also uses corresponding poverty threshold data for the same time period. For each relevant census tract, NTIA has compared the median household income estimate with the most recent poverty thresholds published by the Census Bureau (so long as corresponding household income data is also available for the same time period, as discussed above). Currently, the most recent available data is from 2019.

Accordingly, NTIA uses the weighted average poverty threshold that corresponds to the mean household size in each census tract. If the mean household size is between two whole numbers, NTIA will round up to the next whole number household size to determine the applicable weighted average poverty threshold. This will help to ensure that the CMC program's eligibility standards include as many communities in need as possible. If the median household income of a census tract does not exceed 2.5 times the applicable weighted average poverty threshold, that tract will be considered part of the anchor community and is identified accordingly. The following table provides an overview of NTIA's poverty threshold calculations:

250% Poverty Threshold	Census 2019 Poverty Threshold	Average Household Size
\$32,528	\$13,011	1 or less
\$41,303	\$16,521	>1 and <=2
\$50,838	\$20,335	>2 and <=3
\$65,430	\$26,172	>3 and <=4
\$77,553	\$31,021	>4 and <=5
\$87,823	\$35,129	>5 and <=6
\$100,040	\$40,016	>6 and <=7
\$111,153	\$44,461	>7 and <=8
\$127,100	\$50,875	More than 8

List About

Eri, USGS | Eri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA | Sources: Eri, TomTom, U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau

Powered by Eri

# Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

How Much	\$980 million
Who Can Apply	Tribal Governments, Tribal Colleges or Universities, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands on behalf of the Native Hawaiian Community, including Native Hawaiian Education Programs, Tribal organizations, or Alaska Native Corporations.
For What	Deployment and adoption of broadband service on Tribal land and programs that promote the use of broadband to access remote learning, telework, or telehealth resources during the COVID–19 pandemic.
When	NTIA is now accepting applications for the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program until <b>September 1, 2021</b> . NTIA cannot extend this deadline.

# Tribal Grant Program | Eligible Entities

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## Eligible Entities

Section 905(a)(8) of the Act stipulates the following eligible entities:

- A Tribal Government;
- A Tribal College or University;
- The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands on behalf of the Native Hawaiian Community, including Native Hawaiian Education Programs;
- A Tribal Organization; or
- An Alaska Native Corporation

Link to statute: [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021](#)

# Call for Merit Reviewers

NTIA is seeking qualified volunteers with Broadband Use and Digital Inclusion expertise and experience in at least one of the following areas:

- ✓ Telehealth, distance learning, broadband adoption and digital inclusion programs including equipment, networks, training and outreach
- ✓ Telework, workforce development and online entrepreneurship programs
- ✓ Low-income discount and subsidized broadband programs
- ✓ Planning, program design and evaluation for telehealth, distance education, workforce development and digital inclusion programs
- ✓ Programs and activities noted above that are conducted by Minority Serving Institutions



# Call for Merit Reviewers

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Merit reviews will start in August and extend into October. We are committed to ensuring that reviewers come from diverse backgrounds and areas of the United States.

To volunteer as a reviewer, please email a resume containing the information below to [grantreviewer@ntia.gov](mailto:grantreviewer@ntia.gov):

- Name
- Residence (city and state)
- Email/phone number
- Employer(s) including states you were employed in
- Position/Title
- Years and types of experience and positions in fields related to broadband activities

*Although you will not be compensated for your time and expertise, you will be making a significant contribution to enhancing broadband services and utilization throughout the United States. We appreciate the valuable contribution you will be making to the success of the programs and look forward to working with you as a reviewer. Further information is available [here](#).*

# US Department of Treasury Funding Programs

# Treasury Broadband Funding Overview

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

1

\$350 billion

## Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds:

Provides \$350 billion for eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to respond to the COVID-19 emergency and bring back jobs.

2

\$10 billion

## Capital Projects Fund:

Provides \$10 billion for payments to States, territories, and Tribal governments to carry out critical capital projects that directly enable work, education, and health monitoring, including remote options, in response to the public health emergency.

*[\\*American Rescue Plan Act of 2021](#)*



# State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

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## Broadband Infrastructure



The ARPA provides funds to State, territorial, local, and Tribal governments to make necessary investments in broadband infrastructure.



Eligible investments in broadband are those that are designed to provide services that provide speeds meeting adequate speeds and are provided to unserved and underserved households and businesses

# State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

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## Assistance to Households



Assistance to households or populations facing negative economic impacts due to COVID-19 is an eligible use of State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, which include needs such as Internet access or digital literacy assistance.

# State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

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## Frequently Asked Questions Update

- The U.S. Department of the Treasury issued an FAQ on the broadband provisions in the Interim Final Rule for the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
  - Link: <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRPFAQ.pdf>
- Specifically, the FAQ update addresses the following questions:
  - For broadband infrastructure investments, what does the requirement that infrastructure “be designed to” provide service to unserved or underserved households and businesses mean?
  - For broadband infrastructure to provide service to “unserved or underserved households or businesses,” must every house or business in the service area be unserved or underserved?
  - For broadband infrastructure investments, what does the requirement to “reliably” meet or exceed a broadband speed threshold mean?
  - May recipients use payments from the Funds for “middle mile” broadband projects?
- Treasury regularly updates FAQs to provide further clarification on the FAQ

# NTIA Broadband Planning Resources

# BroadbandUSA Funding Search

- [BroadbandUSA Funding Search](#)
- One-Stop for information on broadband funding across all federal agencies through searchable database
- Search by eligible recipient, program area, or sponsoring Agency or Department
- Updated annually



Home | Federal

**Agency/Department**

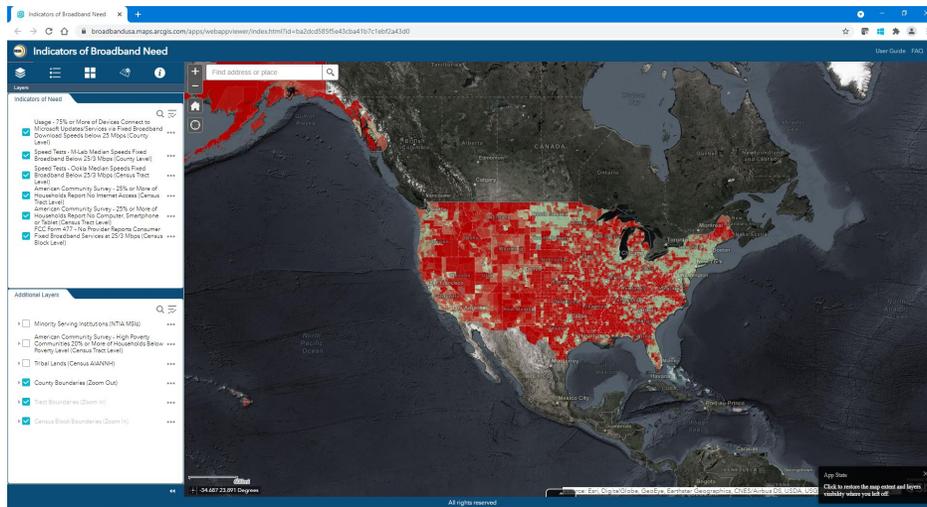
- Appalachian Regional Commission
- Delta Regional Authority
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of

## Federal Funding

USDA - Rural Development - Distance Learning Telemedicine (DLT) Grant Program

USDA Rural Development's Rural Utilities Programs provide a variety of loans and grants to build and expand broadband networks. Loans to build broadband networks and deliver service to rural households and businesses, provide capital for rural telecommunications companies and broadband providers.

# Indicators of Broadband Need Map



- Publically available digital map that displays key indicators of broadband needs across the country.
- First interactive, public map that allows users to explore different datasets about where people do not have quality Internet access.
- It contains data aggregated at the county, census tract, and census block level from the U.S. Census Bureau, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), M-Lab, Ookla and Microsoft.
- <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/resources/data-and-mapping>

# State Broadband Leaders Network

One-stop shop for resources on state broadband efforts

Active network of state leaders leading state-level broadband efforts

Channel for communication and review of policies between federal agencies and states

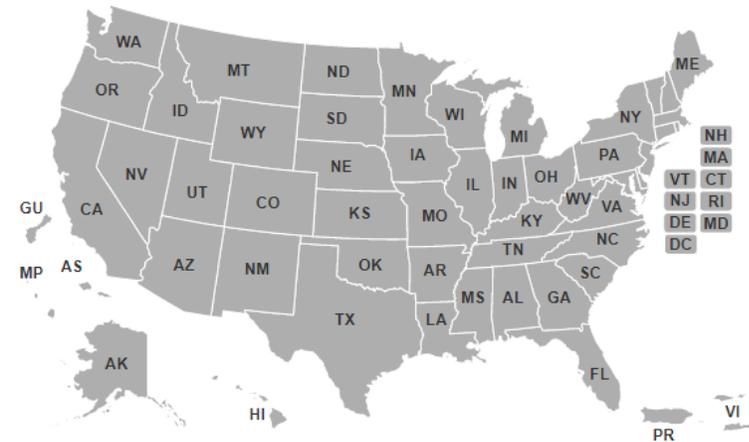
## State Broadband Leaders Network (SBLN)

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) BroadbandUSA program convenes and facilitates the State Broadband Leaders Network (SBLN), a community of practitioners who work on state broadband initiatives. SBLN participants share priorities and best practices and discuss emerging telecommunications policy issues. The network also provides a forum to strengthen policy and program connections among states, local jurisdictions and federal agencies.

For more information on the SBLN, consult the [SBLN Fact Sheet](#)

## State Broadband Programs

Select 'state' to review State Broadband Programs



# Digital Inclusion Resources

One-stop shop for resources on government inclusion programs

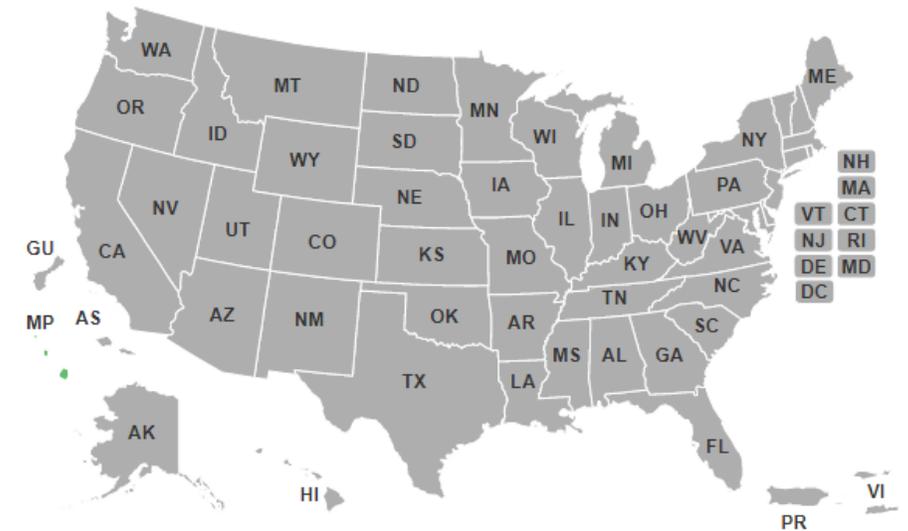
Searchable map of national programs examples

BroadbandUSA webinar archives:

- [October 2020 Webinar: Digital Inclusion and K-12 Education: The Impact of COVID-19 on Students and Educators](#)
- [November 2019 Webinar: Building Digital Workforce Skills at the Local Level](#)
- [September Webinar: Digital Training and Workforce Development Discussion](#)

## State and Local Government Digital Inclusion Programs

Select 'state' to review State and Local Government Digital Inclusion Programs



**Q & A**



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