

Proposal/Application Review Criteria (NOFA Specific - Additional State Criteria May be Applied by PA Reviewing Partners)

Common Factors - RUS BIP and USDA BTOP

Fully Completed Application
Timely Completion ("substantially completed within 2 years of issuance of grant/loan; finished within 3 years)

Factors Specific to Infrastructure Proposals/Applications

Broadband Service (700/200 Mbps)
Technical Feasibility (system design and project timeline certified by professional engineer)
Nondiscrimination and Interconnection Agreement (Extensive - Reference NOFA)
Last mile coverage obligation

Additional Factors for RUS BIP

Eligible Service Area (75% of proposed funded service areas must qualify as rural area without sufficient access to broadband service)
Overlapping Service Areas - application with highest score will be funded
Fully Funded
Financial Feasibility and Sustainability

Additional Factors - NTIA BTOP

Conformity with Statutory Purposes as defined in NOFA
Cost Sharing/Matching (20%)
Demonstration Project Could not be Implemented But for Federal Grant Assistance
Reasonableness of Project Budget

This information represents a good-faith effort by appropriate staff of the Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission to summarize information drawn from a Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) as issued by the US Department of Agriculture and US Department of Commerce on July 1, 2009. This summary should not be used as an substitute for a complete review of the official NOFA document.