

## Summary of Broadband Stimulus NOFA Provisions

<p>Department Office Program Title Methods Methods Purpose</p>	<p>US Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP) Loans, Grants, Loan/Grant Combo Facilitate broadband in rural areas.</p>	<p>Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Grants Deploy broadband in unserved and underserved areas; enhance broadband capacity at public computing centers; promote sustainable broadband adoption projects</p>
<p>Application Period Opens Application Deadline Contact</p>	<p>7/14/2009 8/14/2009, 05:00 pm ET David J. Villano Asst. Administrator Telecommunications Program Rural Utilities Service</p>	<p>7/14/2009 8/14/2009, 05:00 pm ET Anthony Wilhelm Deputy Associate Administrator Infrastructure Division, Office of Telecommunications and Information Applications US Department of Commerce</p>
<p>Additional Information</p>	<p>US Department of Agriculture <a href="mailto:bip@wdc.usda.gov">bip@wdc.usda.gov</a> 202.690.0525 <a href="http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom">http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom</a></p>	<p><a href="mailto:btop@ntia.doc.gov">btop@ntia.doc.gov</a> 202.482.2048 <a href="http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants">http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants</a></p>
<p>Total Funds Total Funds Available via Current NOFA</p>	<p>\$ 2,500,000,000 \$ 2,400,000,000</p>	<p>\$ 4,700,000,000 \$ 1,600,000,000</p>
<p>Available Funds Breakdown</p>	<p>Last Mile Projects (\$1,200,000,000) Middle Mile Projects (\$800,000,000) National Reserve (\$325,000,000) Unallocated Funds (\$75,000,000)</p>	<p>Broadband Infrastructure (\$1,200,000,000) Public Computer Centers (\$50,000,000) Sustainable Broadband Adoption (\$150,000,000) National Reserve (\$200,000,000)</p>
<p>Objectives:</p>	<p>Grants under BIP are to be used to fund applications proposing to exclusively serve remote, unserved rural areas. BIP loan and loan/grant combinations are to be used to provide funding to applications proposing to serve non-remote and underserved rural areas.</p>	<p>Provide access to broadband service to consumers residing in unserved areas; improved access to broadband service to consumers residing in underserved areas of the country; provide broadband access, education, awareness training, training, equipment, and support to community anchor institutions, or organizations and agencies serving vulnerable populations, or job-creating strategic facilities located in state or federally designated economic development areas; improve access to and use of broadband service by public safety agencies; and stimulate demand for broadband, economic growth, and job creation.</p>
<p>Priorities</p>	<p>Give end-users choice of providers; serve the highest proportion of rural residents; projects of current or former RUS borrowers; fully funded and ready to start.</p>	<p>Applications that support objectives; potential for economic growth and job creation, and provide benefits to education, health care, and public safety; Sustainable and scalable projects;</p>
<p>Application Process</p>	<p>2 step process</p>	<p>Initial screen plus 2 step process</p>

Notes/Emphasis Added:

Page 8, lines 155-156 state: "Applications to fund broadband infrastructure projects in areas which are at least 75% rural are required to be submitted to RUS for consideration under BIP. This point is emphasized as it is clear that many organizations originally planned on submitting exclusively to NTIA. See NOFA for additional information in this regard.

Page 21, lines 455-460 define "Rural area" as "any area, as confirmed by the latest decennial census of the Bureau of the Census which is not located within: 1. a city, town, or incorporated area that has a population of greater than 20,000 inhabitants; or 2. an urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to a city or town that has a population of greater than 50,000 inhabitants.

Page 29 through 31, Lines 615-660 describe specific provisions for "Nondiscrimination and Interconnection". These are the highly-anticipated "open access" provisions of the broadband stimulus.

Page 32, lines 684-687 state, "RUS will not fund more than one project to serve any given geographic area. If more than one application would serve any overlapping geographic area the application with the highest score will be funded; other applications for the same area will be rejected in their entirety unless RUS, in its discretion, determines that the extent of the overlap is de minimis.

*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 a substitute for a complete review of the official NOFA document.*