

COVID-19 Broadband Resource Guide

JUNE 24, 2020

FEMA REGION IX

NOTE: This Document is Pre-Decisional and Deliberative. It is intended primarily as a tool to help guide conversation among stakeholders. Please refer to primary sources of information for decision-making purposes and contact the appropriate agency of record with any questions.

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COVID-19 Broadband Resources Introduction:

Purpose:

The purpose of this document is to provide state, local, territorial, and tribal governments with an overview of resources and programs capable of being used to respond and recover from the impacts of COVID-19.

This document is subject to change as new programs are approved, deadlines shift, and organizational guidance documents are released and will continue to be updated and distributed as needed. It is intended for use as a tool for future planning and to promote partnership between resource providers and state, local, territorial, and tribal entities. For the most up to date and accurate programmatic information, interested parties should visit each individual organization's website or work directly with the relevant entity.

Structure:

This document sorts resources by primary beneficiary and is sorted by upcoming deadline.

Much of the information provided in this document was exported from FEMA'S MAX-TRAX Recovery Resource Library. For more information on the MAX-TRAX Recovery Resource Library please see the "Additional Resources" section of this document.

Note:

Many Broadband related resources can be found in BroadbandUSA's Funding Guide. For the most accurate and up-to-date information please reference this document found in the "Additional Resources" section of this guide.

Cross-Cutting Resources:

These resources apply to all groups – Broadband, Distance Learning, and Telehealth

R1. USDA/RD - Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants

Resource Type: Grant

Agency/Organization: (USDA) Department of Agriculture – Rural Development

Funding Type: N/A

Program Description: The DLT Program provides financial assistance to enable and improve distance learning and telemedicine services in rural areas. DLT grant funds support the use of telecommunications-enabled information, audio and video equipment, and related advanced technologies by students, teachers, medical professionals, and rural residents. These grants are intended to increase rural access to education, training, and health care resources that are otherwise unavailable or limited in scope. Applicants are encouraged to identify specific ways in which these funds can be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. Grant funds may be used for the acquisition of:

- Instructional programming that is a capital asset

- Technical assistance and instruction for using eligible equipment
- Eligible capital assets such as:
- Broadband transmission facilities
- Audio, video and interactive video equipment
- Terminal and data terminal equipment
- Computer hardware, network components and software
- Inside wiring and similar infrastructure that further DLT services

Total Program Funding: \$25,000,000

Max Award: \$1,000,000

Eligibility and Description/Use: Independent school districts, Private institutions of higher education, County governments, Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS – other than institutions of higher education, City or township governments, State governments, For profit organizations other than small businesses, Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized), Public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities, Special district governments, Small businesses, Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS – other than institutions of higher education, Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments).

Application Deadline: July 13, 2020

Application Process: All applicants should carefully review and prepare their applications according to instructions in the FY 2020 DLT Grant Program Application Guide (Application Guide) and program resources. The Application Guide can be found in the link below. Expenses incurred in developing applications will be at the applicant's own risk.

Cost Share: Yes – 15% minimum

Reference Link: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/distance-learning-telemedicine-grants>

R2. USDA/RD - Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program

Resource Type: Grant and Loan

Agency/Organization: (USDA) Department of Agriculture - Rural Development

Funding Type: Annual

Program Description: To construct, enlarge, extend, or otherwise improve community facilities providing essential services to rural residents. Community facilities include (but are not limited to) those providing or supporting overall community development - such as hospitals, fire protection, public safety, libraries, education facilities, childcare facilities, food recovery and distribution centers, assisted living facilities, group homes,

mental health clinics, and shelters. Projects comprise community, social, health care, education, cultural, transportation, industrial park sites, fire and rescue services; access ways, and utility extensions. Funds may also be used to acquire land needed for a facility, to pay necessary professional fees, or to purchase equipment required for a facility's operation. All facilities financed in whole or in part with RHS funds shall be for public use.

Total Program Funding: \$32 Million (with some restrictions)

Max Award: Based on repayment ability

Eligibility Description/Use: Eligible borrowers include: Public bodies, Community-based non-profit corporations, federally recognized, Tribes. Rural areas including cities, villages, townships and towns including Federally Recognized Tribal Lands with no more than 20,000 residents according to the latest U.S. Census Data are eligible for this program.

Application Deadline: Open application window

Application Process: Typically, 60 -120 days from submission of complete application; contact your local RD office for process information. Local office contact information can be found at <https://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices>

Cost Share: Yes – Minimum 25%

Reference Link: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program>

Telehealth Resources:

R3. FCC – Universal Service Administrative Company - Rural Health Care Program (Broadband Connectivity)

Resource Type: Payment Deferment and Forbearance

Agency/Organization: (USAC) Universal Service Administrative Company

Funding Type: Non-supplemental

Program Description: As an independent not-for-profit designated by the FCC, USAC administers the Universal Service Fund, almost \$10 billion available annually to the companies and institutions that make universal service possible. With the guidance of policy created by the FCC, we collect and deliver funding through four programs focused on places where broadband and connectivity needs are critical. Universal service programs build out the country's network infrastructure and serve our schools, libraries, rural healthcare clinics, and people in rural, underserved, and difficult-to-reach areas. The programs are as follows: Schools and Libraries; Rural Health Care; Lifeline; and High Cost. The Rural Health Care (RHC) Program supports health care facilities in bringing world class medical care to rural areas through increased connectivity. It supports

reduced rates for broadband and telecom services. There are two subprograms in the RHC Program:

- Healthcare Connect Fund (HCF) Program: Flat 65% discount on eligible expenses - including broadband services, network equipment, etc.
- Telecommunications (Telecom) Program: Discount Rate for voice and other telecommunications services determined using the urban/rural differential.

Eligible applicants may apply for both programs.

Total Program Funding: \$10,000,000,000

Max Award: N/A

Eligibility and Description/Use: Local

Application Deadline: June 30, 2020

Application Process: 1. Determine your eligibility.

2. Develop evaluation criteria and request services.

3. Evaluate bids and select a service provider.

4. Submit a funding request.

5. Certify service start and end dates.

6. Work with service provider to invoice USAC.

Cost Share: N/A

Reference Link: <https://www.usac.org/about/>

<https://www.usac.org/rural-health-care/>

R4. FCC – Universal Service Administrative Company - Rural Health Care Telecommunications Program

Resource Type: Payment Deferment and Forbearance

Agency/Organization: (USAC) Universal Service Administrative Company

Funding Type: Non-supplemental

Program Description: The Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Rural Health Care (RHC) Telecommunications Program provides assistance to healthcare providers for eligible expenses related to broadband connectivity based on the urban-rural price difference in an area.

Total Program Funding: \$604,759,306

Max Award: N/A

Eligibility and Description/Use: Rural public or nonprofit healthcare providers (HCPs) are eligible. Eligible entities include: Post-secondary educational institutions offering healthcare instruction; such as teaching hospitals or medical schools; Community health centers or health centers providing healthcare to migrants; Local health departments or agencies; Community mental health centers; Nonprofit hospitals; Rural health clinics; including mobile clinics; Dedicated emergency rooms of rural for-profit hospitals; Part-time eligible entities located in facilities that are ineligible; and Skilled nursing facilities.

Application Deadline: June 30, 2020

Application Process: To apply, follow the step-by-step process listed on the program website – link below.

Cost Share: N/A

Reference Link: <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/funding/4357>
<https://www.usac.org/rural-health-care/>

R5. HHS/HRSA - Telehealth Focused Rural Health Research Center Program (93.155)

Resource Type: Cooperative Agreement

Agency/Organization: (USHHS) Department of Health and Human Services – (HRSA) Health Resources and Services Administration

Funding Type: Non-supplemental

Program Description: The TF RHRC Program provides support for two (2) four-year research centers with a concentration on telehealth (one with a focus on evidence and one with a focus on evaluation) specifically to provide infrastructure to support telehealth services researchers as they explore the complexities of telehealth issues.

Total Program Funding: \$1,900,000

Max Award: \$950,000

Eligibility and Description/Use: Eligible applicants include domestic public or private nonprofit entities. Domestic faith-based and community-based organizations, tribes, and tribal organizations.

Application Deadline: July 1, 2020

Application Process: Period of Performance: September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2024 (4 years).

Cost Share: No

Reference Link:

<https://grants.hrsa.gov/2010/Web2External/Interface/FundingCycle/ExternalView.aspx?CycleID=cc251e0f-d725-4336-b9b1-bccd5ffd027e>

R6. HHS/ACF - CARES Act: FY20 Family Violence Prevention & Services Program - Supplemental Funding for the National Domestic Violence Hotline

Resource Type: Grant

Agency/Organization: (USHHS) Department of Health and Human Services – (ACF) Administration for Children and Families

Funding Type: Supplemental

Program Description: This funding will provide flexibility in how agencies can prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency while addressing the evolving needs of domestic violence survivors and local domestic violence programs within their communities.

Total Program Funding: \$2,000,000

Max Award: N/A

Eligibility and Description/Use: FVPSA formula grantees

Application Deadline: July 11, 2020

Application Process: The FVPSA Program is implementing a streamlined application process for all FVPSA formula grantees to receive CARES Act funding. The documents linked below provide all the additional details needed to complete this streamlined application process. All application documents need to be submitted through Grant Solutions within 30 days of the supplemental award release date which will be June 11, 2020. The project period for this supplemental funding to the National Domestic Violence Hotline is March 27, 2020 through September 30, 2020. Please direct any questions to the FVPSA Project Officer and OGM Grants Management Specialist assigned to your grant. CARES Act Reporting Instructions for the National Domestic Violence Hotline provides the required documents that need to be submitted to the FVPSA Program via Grant Solutions for the supplemental funding; and CARES Act Use of Funding for the National Domestic Violence Hotline lists allowable activities to support your COVID-19 efforts in preventing, preparing and responding to COVID-19 to support victims of family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence.

Cost Share: No – Please note that there is no match required for the CARES Act supplemental funding for the states, Tribes, coalitions, National Domestic Violence Hotline, or sub awardees.

Reference Link: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb/resource/fy-2020-cares-act-supplemental-funding-guidance-for-the-national-domestic-violence-hotline>

R7. Foundation for Rural Service - Community Grants Program

Resource Type: Grant

Agency/Organization: Foundation for Rural Service

Funding Type: Non-supplemental

Program Description: As part of its ongoing commitment to rural communities across the country, FRS offers aid for communities served by NTCA's rural broadband members through its annual Community Grants Program. These grants are designed to provide support to a variety of local efforts to build and sustain a high quality of life in rural America. Winning projects help rural communities across the United States overcome an array of challenges, including access to technology, improving educational offerings, and providing telemedicine and first responder services to rural areas. Each year, the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) gives back to rural communities through the grant program. In 2018, FRS awarded 12 grants for a total of nearly \$50,000. Applications for these grants are accepted each spring ranging from \$250 to \$5,000. The grants awarded each December support a variety of projects concentrated in four major categories:

- Business and Economic Development
- Community Development
- Education
- Telecommunications Applications

Total Program Funding: N/A

Max Award: \$5,000

Eligibility and Description/Use: Communities served by NTCA's rural broadband members. Please contact foundation@frs.org if you are unable to find an NTCA member.

Application Deadline: September 30, 2020

Application Process: Download the flyer, personalize it with your logo and contact information, your chosen deadline and distribute it within your community. Have your community members submit their proposals to you by your chosen deadline. Select the proposals your telco would like to sponsor and submit your application through Member Central by September 30.

Cost Share: Yes – NTCA member companies will be responsible for a 10% match (i.e. if the applicant requests and wins a grant for \$5,000, the NTCA member company is responsible for \$500 and FRS is responsible for \$4,500).

Reference Link: <https://www.frs.org/programs/grant-program/community-grant>

R8. HHS/NIH: Leveraging Health Information Technology (Health IT) to Address Minority Health and Health Disparities (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)

Resource Type: Grant

Agency/Organization: (USHHS) Department of Health and Human Services – (NIH) National Institutes of Health

Funding Type: Non-supplemental

Program Description: This funding opportunity announcement (FOA) seeks to support research that examines the impact of leveraging health information technology (health IT) to reduce disparities by increasing access to care, delivery of higher quality of care, improving patient-clinician communication, and health outcomes for minority health and health disparity populations in the U.S.

Total Program Funding: N/A

Max Award: N/A

Eligibility and Description/Use: Academic Institution, For-profit Organizations, Non-profit Organizations, Local, Public/Indian Housing Authorities, Public/Private Institutions of Higher Education, Small Businesses, State, Tribe, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions; Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISISs); Eligible Agencies of the Federal Government; Faith-based or Community-based Organizations; Hispanic-serving Institutions; Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs); Indian/Native American Tribal Governments (Other than Federally Recognized); Non-domestic (non-U.S.) Entities (Foreign Organizations); Regional Organizations; Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCUs) ; U.S. Territory or Possession; Non-domestic (non-U.S.) Entities (Foreign Institutions) are not eligible to apply Non-domestic (non-U.S.) components of U.S. Organizations are not eligible to apply. Foreign components, as defined in the NIH Grants Policy Statement, are not allowed.

Application Deadline: March 4, 2021

Application Process: Applicants are encouraged to apply early to allow adequate time to make any corrections to errors found in the application during the submission process by the due date.

Cost Share: No

Reference Link: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-19-093.html>

R9. FCC – CARES Act: COVID-19 Telehealth Program

Resource Type: Grant

Agency/Organization: (FCC) Federal Communications Commission

Funding Type: Supplemental

Program Description: The COVID-19 Telehealth Program will provide \$200 million in funding, appropriated by Congress as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, to help eligible health care providers provide connected care services to patients at their homes or mobile locations in response to the novel Coronavirus 2019 disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The Program will provide immediate support to eligible health care providers responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by fully funding their telecommunications services, information services, and connected devices necessary to provide critical connected care services until the program's funds have been expended or the COVID-19 pandemic has ended. The COVID-19 Telehealth program is not a grant program. Funding recipients will be reimbursed for eligible services and devices that they have paid for and received. The FCC started accepting applications for this program on April 13, 2020.

Total Program Funding: \$200,000,000

Max Award: \$1,000,000

Eligibility and Description/Use: Healthcare Institution, Nonprofit, and Public Health Care Providers.

Application Deadline: Applications Accepted Continuously

Application Process: Funding decisions will be made on a rolling basis, and the FCC will continue to accept and review applications until the funding is exhausted or the current COVID-19 pandemic has ended.

Cost Share: No

Reference Link: <https://www.fcc.gov/covid-19-telehealth-program>

<https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/covid-19-telehealth-program-recipients.pdf>

Distance Learning Resources:

R10. DoEd - Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program, Title IV, Part A

Resource Type: Grant

Agency/Organization: (USED) Department of Education

Funding Type: Non-supplemental

Program Description: To improve student's academic achievement by increasing the capacity of States, local educational agencies, schools and local communities to:

1. Provide all students with access to a well-rounded education
2. Improve school conditions for student learning
3. Improve the use of technology in order to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy for all students.

Program Purpose

- Broadband Infrastructure (e.g., construction)
- Digital Skills Training
- Other

This is one of several Department programs that provides funds that could be used to support broadband access. The allowability of costs is always situation and program specific. For that reason, if you decide to use funds under one of these programs for costs related to device or mobile hotspot access, you must be sure that the use of the funds is, under the specific circumstances of the expenditure and the program authority selected, reasonable and necessary for the purposes of that program, and does not violate other program requirements, such as supplement not supplant, if it applies to program. We also note that, while funds under one of these programs can be used on broadband access, the programs' purpose is not primarily focused on that issue. The use of SSAE Program funds for broadband infrastructure must be consistent with the definition of "minor remodeling" in 34 CFR Part 77. That definition of minor remodeling means "minor alterations in a previously completed building. The term also includes the extension of utility lines, such as water and electricity, from points beyond the confines of the space in which the minor remodeling is undertaken but within the confines of the previously completed building. The term does not include building construction, structural alterations to buildings, building maintenance, or repairs."

Total Program Funding: \$1,210,000,000

Max Award: N/A

Eligibility and Description/Use: Academic Institution, Local, State.

Application Deadline: N/A

Application Process: State Educational Agencies (SEAs) shall submit a consolidated state plan to the Secretary for review and approval.

Cost Share: N/A

Reference Link: <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/funding-guide/department-education-student-support-and-academic-enrichment-program-title-iv-part>

R11. DOEd/OESE - CARES Act: FY20-21 Education Stabilization Fund (84.425D)

Resource Type: Grant

Agency/Organization: (USED) Department of Education – (OESE) Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

Funding Type: Supplemental

Program Description: For an additional amount for Education Stabilization Fund, \$30,750,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2021, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally.

A local educational agency that receives funds under this title include:

- Planning for and coordinating during long-term closures, including for how to provide meals to eligible students, how to provide technology for online learning to all students, how to provide guidance for carrying out requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.) and how to ensure other educational services can continue to be provided consistent with all Federal, State, and local requirements.
- Purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, and connectivity) for students who are served by the local educational agency that aids in regular and substantive educational interaction between students and their classroom instructors, including low-income students and students with disabilities, which may include assistive technology or adaptive equipment.
- Planning and implementing activities related to summer learning and supplemental afterschool programs, including providing classroom instruction or online learning during the summer months and addressing the needs of low-income students, students with disabilities, English learners, migrant students, students experiencing homelessness, and children in foster care.

Total Program Funding: \$30,750,000,000

Max Award: N/A

Eligibility and Description/Use: Academic Institution, Public/Private Institutions of Higher Education, State, Territory, Tribe

Application Deadline: SEAs have until July 1, 2020, to apply for ESSER funds by submitting a simple signed Certification and Agreement form to ESSERF@ed.gov

Allocations:

<https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/04/GEER-Fund-State-Allocations-Table.pdf>

<https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/04/ESSER-Fund-State-Allocations-Table.pdf>

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/allocationsforsection18004a1ofcaresact.pdf>

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/allocationstableinstitutionalportion.pdf>

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/allocationshbcutccumsisip.xlsx>

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/allocationsfipse.pdf>

Cost Share: Not identified

Reference Link: <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/education-stabilization-fund/>

Broadband Resources:

R12. Spectrum Communications - FY20 Digital Education Grant Program

Resource Type: Grant

Agency/Organization: Spectrum Communications

Funding Type: Not Identified

Program Description: The Spectrum Digital Education Grant Program supports nonprofit organizations that educate community members on the benefits of broadband and how to use it to improve their lives. Applying organizations must serve communities located in a Spectrum market. Grants are provided for programs focused on families and seniors in diverse, low-income, or minority-based communities. Funded programs should have a lasting, meaningful, and tangible impact (e.g. development of a new digital site or app, expansion of the capacity of a digital learning center, creation of a mobile computer lab, etc.). Grants range from \$2,500 to \$50,000. Applications will be accepted through June 26, 2020. Spectrum is awarding 12-month, non-renewable grants at this time. Visit the Spectrum Digital Education website to review the selection criteria and grant eligibility.

Total Program Funding: N/A

Max Award: \$50,000

Eligibility and Description/Use: To be eligible for a Spectrum Digital Education grant, applying organizations must serve communities located in a Spectrum market and have 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. Your organization's program must also:

- Focus on families or seniors.
- Be able to report to Spectrum the following metrics: number of people impacted, population served, and demographics.
- Partner with diverse, low-income or minority-based communities.
- Be an existing program, already working with a diverse population.

- Meet the unique needs of its community and align with the nonprofit's current mission.
- Have a lasting, meaningful and tangible impact (e.g. development of a new digital site or app, expansion of the capacity of a digital learning center, creation of a mobile computer lab, etc.)

Spectrum partners with organizations that do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, religion, nationality, ethnic origin, physical disability, military status, or other protected classes.

Application Deadline: June 26, 2020

Application Process: Apply online at: <https://grantstream.com/spectrum/form/RFP/en/>

Cost Share: None

Reference Link: <https://corporate.charter.com/digital-education/grants>

<https://grantstream.com/spectrum/form/RFP/en/>

R13. USDA/RD - Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant Program

Resource Type: Loan and Grant

Agency/Organization: (USDA) Department of Agriculture – (RD) Rural Development

Funding Type: Non-supplemental

Program Description: The Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program provides funding for rural projects through local utility organizations. Awards are made on a competitive basis to utilities that will relend the funds for local economic development efforts. The funding may be used to assist with business start-up and expansion costs; business incubators; feasibility studies; advanced telecommunications and computer networks for medical, educational, and job training services; and community facilities that spur economic development.

Total Program Funding: N/A

Max Award: \$300,000 (Grant) / \$1,000,000 (Loan)

Eligibility and Description/Use: Eligible applicants include former, current and potential Rural Development Electric or Telecommunication Programs borrowers. Funds may be lent to projects in rural areas or towns with a population of fewer than 50,000.

Application Deadline: June 30, 2020

Application Process: Applications must be submitted in paper format. Applications submitted to a Rural Development State Office must be received by the closing date and local time deadline.

Cost Share: Grants require 20% match

Reference Link: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-economic-development-loan-grant-program>

R14. DOEd/OPE – CARES Act: FY20 Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund - Strengthening Institutions Program

Resource Type: Grant

Agency/Organization: (USED) Department of Education – (OPE) Office of Postsecondary Education

Funding Type: Supplemental

Program Description: Funding Opportunity Number ED-GRANTS-043020-004 is for Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund-Strengthening Institutions Program (84.425M) program.

Total Program Funding: \$108,000,000

Max Award: N/A

Eligibility and Description/Use: State controlled institutions of higher education and Private institutions of higher education

Please see the information under Formula Allocations at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html> to determine eligibility.

Application Deadline: August 1, 2020

Application Process: Please refer to the posted instructions below on navigating the grants.gov website and uploading Certificates of Agreement, and please refer to the Secretary's letter below for guidance regarding distribution and usage of these funds.

Cost Share: No

Reference Link: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html>
<https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/funding-guide/department-education-title-iii-part-strengthening-institutions>

R15. FCC - Rural Digital Opportunity Fund: Phase I

Resource Type: Grant

Agency/Organization: (FCC) Federal Communications Commission

Funding Type: Non-supplemental

Program Description:

The Rural Digital Opportunity Fund is the Commission's next step in bridging the digital divide. On August 1, 2019, the Commission adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) proposing to establish the \$20.4 billion Rural Digital Opportunity Fund to bring high speed fixed broadband service to rural homes and small businesses that lack it. On January 30, 2020, the Commission adopted the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Report and Order, which establishes the framework for the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, building on the success of the CAF Phase II auction by using reverse auctions in two phases.

A total of \$20.4 billion to be awarded over 10 years. Up to \$16 billion will be made available for Phase I of the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund auction, and the remaining Phase I budget, along with \$4.4 billion, will be awarded for Phase II of the auction.

The Phase I auction, which is scheduled to begin on October 22, 2020, will target over six million homes and businesses in census blocks that are entirely unserved by voice and broadband with download speeds of at least 25 Mbps.

Phase II will cover locations in census blocks that are partially served, as well as locations not funded in Phase I. The Rural Digital Opportunity Fund will ensure that networks stand the test of time by prioritizing higher network speeds and lower latency, so that those benefitting from these networks will be able to use tomorrow's Internet applications as well as today's.

For additional details, please refer to the Fact Sheet (<https://www.fcc.gov/auction/904/factsheet>).

Total Program Funding: \$20,400,000,000

Allocated: \$16,000,000,000

Eligibility and Description/Use: Entities seeking to participate in the auction have to establish baseline financial and technical capabilities in order to be found eligible to bid. There are two pathways for establishing eligibility:

* Demonstrate two years of experience providing a voice, broadband, and/or electric distribution or transmission service and submit one year of audited financials (if an applicant with at least two years of experience is not audited in the ordinary course of business, it can instead submit one year of audited financials within 180 days after being announced as a winning bidder but has to submit one year of unaudited financials with its short-form application); or

* Submit three years of audited financials with the short-form application and a letter of interest from an eligible bank willing to issue a letter of credit for a specified amount.

Entities will also be required to provide high-level technical information to demonstrate they have the technical qualifications to meet the applicable performance tier and latency requirements.

Entities can wait until after they were announced as winning bidders to obtain eligible telecommunication carrier designations from the relevant states or the Commission, if applicable.

Any entity that filed a short-form application or any long-form applicant is subject to a forfeiture in the event it defaults prior to becoming authorized to receive support. Defaults include, but are not limited to, failing to meet submission deadlines, defaulting on a bid, or otherwise being disqualified for any reason.

Application Deadline: October 22, 2020

Application Process: There is a two-stage application process. Phase I requires a short-form application. In Phase II, winning bidders or their designees must:

- Provide in their long-form applications additional information about qualifications, funding, and the network that they intend to use to meet their obligations.
- Within a specified number of days, submit a letter from an eligible bank committing to issue a letter of credit; upon notification that the entity is ready to be authorized, must obtain a letter of credit from an eligible bank that remains open and covers disbursements until compliance with certain service milestones is complete and verified.
- Within 180 days of being announced as winning bidders, certify they are eligible telecommunications carriers in any areas for which they seek support and submit relevant documentation.

Once a long form application is approved, the long-form applicant will be authorized to begin receiving support.

Cost Share: Not Identified

Reference Link:

<https://www.fcc.gov/auction/904/factsheet>

<https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-rural-digital-opportunity-fund-auction-procedures>

R16. NTCA Rural Broadband Association – Smart Rural Community Grant Program

Resource Type: Grant

Agency/Organization: NTCA Rural Broadband Association

Funding Type: Non-supplemental

Program Description: The Smart Rural Communities Grant will provide up to \$5,000 to support the development and deployment of innovative broadband-enabled solutions to support rural commerce and economic development, education, energy, health care, public safety or other community-oriented initiatives. The successful applicant(s) will demonstrate how the broadband-enabled technology will generate improvements to community strength and growth consistent with the goals of this program.

Total Program Funding: N/A

Max Award: \$5,000

Eligibility and Description/Use: Small Business, Rural Broadband Providers – application is limited to telco members of NTCA who have registered for the Smart Rural Communities Provider program.

Application Deadline: December 31, 2020

Application Process: Applicants can submit electronically a signed copy of the original application. However, NTCA also must receive via mail the original signed copy. Applications that are submitted electronically before the deadline will be considered accepted even if the original signed version arrives after the deadline due to a mail or other delivery delay. Electronic proposals can be emailed to smartrural@ntca.org.

Cost Share: Yes - Applicants must provide a detailed budget and schedule of anticipated expenditures. Applicants must demonstrate at least 50% (fifty percent) in matching funds from third-party sources; preference will be given to matching fund commitments from parties with whom the Applicant is collaborating. Matching funds can also be goods or in-kind services at fair market value.

Reference Link: <https://www.ntca.org/member-services/smart-rural-communities/grant/guidelines>

R17. DOC/EDA - FY20 Public Works & Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs

Resource Type: Cooperative Agreement

Agency/Organization: (USDOC) Department of Commerce – (EDA) Economic Development Administration

Funding Type: Non-supplemental

Program Description: EDA's Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) programs provide economically distressed communities and regions with comprehensive and flexible resources to address a wide variety of economic needs.

Projects funded by these programs will support work in Opportunity Zones and will create and retain jobs, increase private investment, advance innovation, enhance the manufacturing capacities of regions, provide workforce development opportunities, and grow ecosystems that attract foreign direct investment.

Total Program Funding: \$ 200,000,000

Max Award: \$3,000,000

Eligibility and Description/Use: Local, Nonprofit, Private, Public, State, Territory, Tribe, Special district governments; City or township governments; Others; County governments; Public and State controlled institutions of higher education; Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education; Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education; Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized); Private institutions of higher education; State governments.

Application Deadline: Applications Accepted Continuously

Application Process: Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis until a new PWEAA NOFO is published, this PWEAA NOFO is cancelled, or all funds have been expended.

Cost Share: N/A

Reference Link: <https://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities/>

R18. DoED -American Indian Tribally Controlled Colleges & Universities

Resource Type: Grant

Agency/Organization: (USED) Department of Education – (OPE) Office of Postsecondary Education

Funding Type: Non-supplemental

Program Description: This program helps eligible institutions of higher education increase their self-sufficiency by providing funds to improve and strengthen the academic quality, institutional management, and fiscal stability of eligible institutions.

Total Program Funding: \$3,660,0000

Max Award: N/A

Eligibility and Description/Use: Public/Private Institutions of Higher Education, Higher Education Institutions

Application Deadline: N/A

Application Process: Before submitting an application, new applicants must be determined eligible for funding by the Bureau of Education in the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Cost Share: N/A

Reference Link: <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/idadesaitcc/index.html>

<https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/funding-guide/department-education-american-indian-tribally-controlled-colleges-and-universities>

R19. HUD/CPD - Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) FY2020

Resource Type: Grant

Agency/Organization: (USHUD) Department of Housing and Urban Development – (CPD) Community Planning and Development

Funding Type: Non-supplemental

Program Description: The CDBG Program provides annual grants on a formula basis to states and local governments, to be used for economic and community development, principally for low- and moderate-income persons. Program Purpose:

- Planning (e.g., feasibility)
- Broadband Infrastructure (e.g., construction)
- Broadband Adoption
- Digital Skills Training
- Public Computer Access

Total Program Funding: \$3,430,000,000

Max Award: N/A

Eligibility and Description/Use: State and Local Governments, Non-Profit Organizations, Rural Recipients

Application Deadline: N/A

Application Process: The CPD Office oversees HUD Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) to cities, counties, and states; the HOME affordable housing program, and programs to help end homelessness and promote economic revitalization.

Cost Share: N/A

Reference Link: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/4891/cdbg-broadband-infrastructure-faqs/>

R20. FCC: Lifeline Program

Resource Type: In-kind

Agency/Organization: (FCC) Federal Communications Commission

Funding Type: Non-supplemental

Program Description: The Lifeline program provides a discount on phone and broadband service for qualifying low-income households to ensure that all Americans have the opportunities and security that those services bring, including being able to connect to jobs, family, and emergency services.

Total Program Funding: N/A

Max Award: Up to a \$9.25 monthly discount on service for eligible low-income subscribers

Eligibility and Description/Use:

- Lifeline is available only to subscribers whose eligibility can be verified by checking a program eligibility database or by submitting documentation demonstrating their eligibility.
- Only one Lifeline benefit is permitted per household. Federal rules prohibit subscribers from receiving more than one Lifeline service. If a subscriber or his or her household currently has more than one Lifeline-discounted service, they must de-enroll from other Lifeline services immediately or be subject to penalties.
- Only low-income subscribers who have been found to be eligible are qualified to enroll.
- Subscribers must recertify their eligibility every year and should respond to any requests from the National Verifier's or state Lifeline administrator to recertify eligibility. Subscribers who fail to recertify their eligibility will be de-enrolled from the Lifeline program.

Application Deadline: N/A

Application Process: If you live in a state that uses the National Verifier (refer to <https://www.checklifeline.org/lifeline> to confirm), you can apply through the National Verifier at <https://www.checklifeline.org/lifeline> or you can work with a service provider to complete the application. You can also submit a paper application. Once the National Verifier has confirmed your eligibility to receive Lifeline service, you may then select a service provider. If you live in a state that does not use the National Verifier, you can apply for Lifeline through a Lifeline program provider in your state or state agency. To locate a Lifeline provider in your state go to <https://data.usac.org/publicreports/CompaniesNearMe/Download/Report> or contact USAC's Lifeline Support Center at lifelinesupport@usac.org or 1-800-234-9473.

Cost Share: No

Reference Link: <https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/lifeline-support-affordable-communications>

R21. HUD - Public and Indian Housing - Title VI Loan Guarantee (FY2020)

Resource Type: Loan

Agency/Organization: (USHUD) Department of Housing and Urban Development – (PIH) Public and Indian Housing Programs

Funding Type: Non-supplemental

Program Description: The purpose of the Title VI loan guarantee is to assist IHBG recipients (borrowers) who want to finance additional grant-eligible construction or development at today's costs. Tribes can use a variety of funding sources in combination with Title VI financing, such as low-income housing tax credits. Title VI loans may also be used to pay development costs. Due to the flexibility of the Title VI program, tribes can structure their loans to meet the requirements of their project and negotiate a variety of repayment terms with the lender. Loan terms can range up to 20 years, and payments may be made monthly, quarterly, or annually. Additionally, interest rates can be fixed, adjustable or floating, and are based on an index.

Total Program Funding: \$2,000,000

Max Award: The maximum loan amount depends on the amount of the tribe's annual Indian Housing Block Grant. The maximum is five times the annual need portion of the tribe's or TDHE's annual Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG).

Eligibility and Description/Use: Tribes, Alaska Native Villages, and their tribally designated housing entities that are Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) recipients, and that demonstrate administrative and financial capacity. The tribe or its tribally designated housing authority (TDHE), which plans and implements the project. An eligible tribe/TDHE (borrower) is one that receives IHBG funds and is authorized to pledge those funds as security for the project.

Application Deadline: Applications Accepted Continuously

Application Process: OLG will generally handle the requests in the order that they are received. The requests may be submitted electronically, on paper, or in a combination of both. Technical assistance is available from the tribe's/TDHE's Area ONAP and OLG. Contact your Area Office of Native American Programs or HUD's Office of Loan Guarantee (202) 402-4134.

Cost Share: N/A

Reference Link:

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/ih/homeownership/titlevi/appendix

<http://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/BROADBANDGUIDANCE.PDF>

R22. DoEd - Rural and Low-Income School Program

Resource Type: Grant

Agency/Organization: (USED) Department of Education – (OESE) Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

Funding Type: Non-supplemental

Program Description: The purpose of the Rural and Low-Income School (RLIS) grant program is to provide poor, rural districts with financial assistance to address the unique needs of rural school districts that frequently lack the personnel and resources needed to compete effectively for Federal competitive grants and receive formula grant allocations in amounts too small to be effective in meeting their intended purposes. The grant is non-competitive, and eligibility is determined by statute. Awards are issued annually to state educational agencies (SEAs), which make sub-grants to local educational agencies (LEAs) that meet the applicable requirements. Awards are made to all SEAs with eligible LEAs that apply.

Program Purpose

- Broadband Infrastructure (e.g., construction)
- Digital Skills Training
- Other

Total Program Funding: \$92,900,000

Max Award: N/A

Eligibility and Description/Use: K-12 Schools, Rural Recipients

Application Deadline: N/A

Application Process: For SEAs - The Rural and Low-Income School Program is a state-administered formula program. State educational agencies (SEAs) apply for RLIS through the consolidated state application or a program-specific application. For LEAs - Eligible local educational agencies (LEAs) apply directly to their state for RLIS funds. The application process for sub-grants varies by state. For more information on how to apply for RLIS funds, please contact your state's program contact.

Cost Share: N/A

Reference Link: <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-formula-grants/rural-insular-native-achievement-programs/rural-education-achievement-program/rural-and-low-income-school-program/performance/>

R23. IMLS - Grants to States Program (FY2020)

Resource Type: Grant

Agency/Organization: (IMLS) Institute of Museum and Library Services

Funding Type: Non-supplemental

Program Description: Program Purpose:

- Broadband Adoption
- Digital Skills Training
- Public Computer Access
- Evaluation

Total Program Funding: \$167,000,000

Max Award: N/A

Eligibility and Description/Use:

- Each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia;
- The Territories (Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands); and
- The Freely Associated States (Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands)

Application Deadline: N/A

Application Process: The Grants to States program allocates a base amount to each of the SLAAs plus a supplemental amount based on population. You can see recent allotments for all the states here as well as allotment tables that include the total program budget, matching funds, and data references.

Cost Share: N/A

Reference Link: <https://www.imls.gov/grants/grants-states>

R24. HUD - Neighborhood Networks (Public and Indian Housing) (FY2020)

Resource Type: Grant

Agency/Organization: (USHUD) Department of Housing and Urban Development – (PIH) Public and Indian Housing Programs

Funding Type: Non-supplemental

Program Description: Neighborhood Networks (Public and Indian Housing) allows Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) to use Public Housing Capital and Operating funds to establish and operate Neighborhood Networks centers. Neighborhood Networks centers provide access to computers, computer training and the Internet. Neighborhood Networks centers can also provide a wide range of services to help residents achieve long-term economic self-sufficiency.

Program Purpose:

- Broadband Adoption
- Digital Skills Training
- Public Computer Access

Total Program Funding: \$45,000,000,000

Max Award: N/A

Eligibility and Description/Use: Public/Indian Housing Authorities

Application Deadline: N/A

Application Process: Only PHAs are eligible to apply for this funding category. For more information on the Neighborhood Networks program, please call 1 (800) 955-2232.

Cost Share: N/A

Reference Link:

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/ph/ross/aboutnn

R25. DoEd - Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities Program

Resource Type: Grant

Agency/Organization: (USED) Department of Education

Funding Type: Non-supplemental

Program Description: This program provides financial assistance to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to establish or strengthen their physical plants, financial management, academic resources, and endowment-building capacity.

Program Purpose

- Broadband Infrastructure (e.g., construction)
- Broadband Adoption
- Digital Skills Training
- Other

Total Program Funding: \$324,792,000

Max Award: N/A

Eligibility and Description/Use: Higher Education Institutions

Application Deadline: N/A

Application Process: Grantees are required to submit an Annual Performance Report (APR) annually; the collection number is OMB 1840-0766. The APR is available to grantees October 1 of each calendar year and closes 90 days thereafter.

Cost Share: N/A

Reference Link: <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/funding-guide/department-education-title-iii-part-b-strengthening-historically-black-colleges-and>

R26. FCC – USAC/USF - High Cost Program

Resource Type: Grant

Agency/Organization: (USAC) Universal Service Administration – (USF) Universal Service Fund

Funding Type: Non-supplemental

Program Description: High Cost provides funding to telecom carriers to provide service in rural areas where the market alone cannot support the substantial cost of deploying network infrastructure and providing connectivity. Historically, it has subsidized voice service to ensure that rates in rural and urban areas are reasonably comparable. But with a series of reform orders that began in 2011, the FCC is modernizing the High Cost program to support broadband to ensure that all people in America – no matter where they live – have access to robust, affordable connectivity to fully participate in today's society. This new modernized program is called the Connect America Fund. The goals of this program include:

- Preserve and advance universal availability of voice service
- Drive universal availability of modern networks capable of providing voice and broadband service to homes, businesses and community anchor institutions
- Drive universal availability of modern networks capable of providing advanced mobile voice and broadband service
- Ensure that rates for broadband and voice services are reasonably comparable in all regions of the nation
- Contain administrative costs and minimize the universal service contribution for consumers and businesses through efficient, effective program management

Total Program Funding: \$ 4,500,000,000

Max Award: N/A

Eligibility and Description/Use: Telecom carriers

Application Deadline: N/A

Application Process: Step 1: The FCC determines that an area is underserved.

Step 2: Eligible service providers accept an offer, or submit a bid, to build out network infrastructure and provide service.

Step 3: Participating companies receive funding from USAC and deploy network infrastructure and provide service.

Cost Share: N/A

Reference Link: <https://www.usac.org/high-cost/program-overview/>

R27. USDA/RD - FY20 Telecom Infrastructure Loan Program

Resource Type: Loan

Agency/Organization: (USDA) Department of Agriculture – (RUS) Rural Utilities Service

Funding Type: Non-supplemental

Program Description: 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.

Total Program Funding: \$690,000,000

Max Award: Not Identified

Eligibility and Description/Use: State and Local Governments, Tribal Entities, Commercial/Internet Service Providers, Non-Profit Organizations, Small Businesses, Electric Utilities/Co-ops

Application Deadline: Applications Accepted Continuously

Application Process: For more information related to the Application for the program please refer to the Infrastructure Loan Application Guide.

Financial and Operating Report filings for Infrastructure borrowers must be completed online using the Data Collection System (DCS). Additional filing and technical assistance is available here.

Cost Share: Not Identified

Reference Link: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/telecommunications-infrastructure-loans-loan-guarantees>

Additional Resources:

A1. MAX-TRAX Recovery Resource Library

Resource Type: Informational

Agency/Organization: (USDHS) Department of Homeland Security (FEMA specific)

Program Description: The Disaster Recovery Resource library within the MAX-TRAX National COVID-19 project (<https://trax.max.gov/secure/Dashboard.jspa?selectPageId=23306>) is a repository for resources from the COVID-19 supplemental funding as well as steady state financial and technical resources that can be searched, filtered, and exported into templated reports. The Library and the MAX-TRAX project itself are accessible to relevant recovery partners to assist with regional impact collection, scoping preliminary recovery strategies, and objectives and help drive coordination of assistance.

Eligibility and Description/Use: Government employees at all levels of government may request access to MAX-TRAX databases provided they have an active MAX.gov account.

Application Deadline: Applications Accepted Continuously

Application Process: If you would like to request support or additional information, including obtaining a Max.gov account or access to the user groups, please reach out to the MAX-TRAX Service Desk (traxsupport@max.gov) or register for max.gov at <https://portal.max.gov/portal/home>.

Reference Link: Covid-19 Resource Library Dashboard;
<https://trax.max.gov/projects/RR/issues/RR-20062?filter=allopenissues>

A2. DOC/NTIA - Broadband USA: Broadband Funding Guide (2020)

Resource Type: Information

Agency/Organization: (USDOC) Department of Commerce -> National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Program Description: BroadbandUSA serves as a strategic advisor to communities that want to expand their broadband capacity and promote digital inclusion. They bring stakeholders together to solve problems, contribute to emerging policies, link communities to other federal agencies and funding sources, and address barriers to collaboration across agencies. BroadbandUSA works with stakeholders from local and state government, federal agencies, policy organizations, trade associations and the public to:

- Provide online and in-person technical assistance to communities as they consider how to improve broadband access and use broadband more effectively.
- Convene regional workshops to support decision-makers, based on best practices and lessons learned from local communities.
- Publish guides and tools that provide communities with proven solutions to problems in planning, financing, construction and operations.
- Bring together federal agencies and broadband stakeholder groups to promote interagency coordination, expand options for broadband funding, and make sure that information and resources are getting to communities quickly and effectively.

Eligibility and Description/Use: Anyone

Application Deadline: N/A

Application Process: N/A

Reference Link: <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/new-fund-search>

https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/bbusa_federal_funding_all_200511.pdf

A3. ARTICLE: Telehealth Changes Will Increase Rural Broadband Demand

Resource Type: Information

Agency/Organization: N/A

Program Description: Several policy changes from Washington, D.C., should accelerate urban and rural telehealth deployments. On November 1 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the body that manages these two healthcare programs, finalized new rules that include payment reimbursements for telehealth.

Eligibility and Description/Use: Anyone

Application Deadline: Applications Accepted Continuously

Application Process: N/A

Reference Link: <https://dailyonder.com/telehealth-changes-will-increase-rural-broadband-demand/2019/01/10/29774/>

A4. TOOLKIT - Becoming Broadband Ready

Resource Type: Information

Agency/Organization: N/A

Program Description: This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution Noncommercial 3.0 United States License. A copy of this license is available at link below.

Eligibility and Description/Use: Anyone

Application Deadline: Applications Accepted Continuously

Application Process: N/A

Reference Link: <https://nextcenturycities.org/becoming-broadband-ready/>
<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/us/>

A5. Lifeline Program

Resource Type: Technical Support

Agency/Organization: Federal Communications Commission

Program Description: The Lifeline Program helps families in need obtain voice and broadband connectivity services.

Eligibility and Description/Use: N/A

Application Deadline: N/A

Application Process: N/A

Reference Link: <https://www.usac.org/li/default.aspx>

A6. HUD - Multifamily Housing Neighborhood Networks

Resource Type: Technical Support

Agency/Organization: (USHUD) Department of Housing and Urban Development – Public and Indian Housing Programs

Program Description: Created in 1995, Neighborhood Networks was one of the first federal initiatives aimed at promoting self-sufficiency and providing technology access to residents living in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Federal Housing Administration (FHA)-insured and -assisted communities. By encouraging property owners and managers to open onsite, multiservice technology centers, HUD hoped the community-based Initiative would have a profound effect on the lives of residents, offer adults job-training classes, such as computer skills, resume writing, interviewing techniques, job placement services, General Educational Development (GED) preparation, and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, provide youth with educational afterschool activities and mentoring programs, and operate programs that allow seniors to become familiar with computers and use them to better their lives, whether through staying in touch with family and friends via e-mail or searching for healthcare benefits online. Program Purpose:

- Broadband Adoption
- Digital Skills Training

- Public Computer Access

Eligibility and Description/Use: Includes: State, Local, Territory, Tribe

Application Deadline: N/A

Application Process: N/A

Reference Link: <http://www.hud.gov/states/shared/working/r7/mfnbornetworksfaq>

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/ph/nw/nwabo-utnn

A7. Universal Service Administrative Company-Rural Health Care Telecommunications Program

Resource Type: Technical Support

Agency/Organization: Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Rural Health Care (RHC)

Program Description: The Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Rural Health Care (RHC) Telecommunications Program provides assistance to healthcare providers for eligible expenses related to telecommunications and voice services for the use of telemedicine and telehealth. Amount of funding:

- Rural rate calculation for voice and data is determined using an urban/rural differential.

Eligibility and Description/Use: Includes: Post-secondary educational institutions offering healthcare instruction, such as teaching hospitals or medical schools, Community health centers or health centers providing healthcare to migrants, Local health departments or agencies, Community mental health centers, Nonprofit hospitals, Rural health clinics, including mobile clinics, Dedicated emergency rooms of rural for-profit hospitals, Skilled nursing facilities, Consortium of healthcare providers that includes at least one of the facilities mentioned above.

Application Deadline: June 30, 2020

Application Process: To apply, follow the step-by-step process listed on the program website – link below.

Reference Link: <https://www.usac.org/rural-health-care/telecommunications-program/>

<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-363336A1.pdf>

<https://www.usac.org/rural-health-care/learn/videos/>

<https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/funding/4357>

<https://www.usac.org/rural-health-care/telecommunications-program/>

A8. 13 Connectivity Explorer

Resource Type: Information

Agency/Organization: N/A

Program Description: Knowing your speeds and providers help, but there's a lot more to understanding connectivity than speeds and feeds. And whether you're interested in the core infrastructure, or in the broader community, you'll find that the issues become intertwined.

Eligibility and Description/Use: Anyone

Application Deadline: Applications Accepted Continuously

Application Process: Sign up for an account at – link below.

Reference Link: <https://i3connect.org/sessions/new>

A9. USDA/RD e-Connectivity Broadband Resources for Rural America

Resource Type: Information

Agency/Organization: (USDA) Department of Agriculture – Rural Development

Program Description: A guide that captures all of the department's broadband related resources.

Eligibility and Description/Use: Anyone

Application Deadline: Applications Accepted Continuously

Application Process: Access at – link below.

Reference Link: https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/508_RDeConnectivityToolkit121918.pdf

A10. USDA – Report to the President on the United States from the Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity

Resource Type: Information

Agency/Organization: (USDA) Department of Agriculture

Program Description: A guide that captures all of the task force's calls to action organized around five key indicators, including e-connectivity.

Eligibility and Description/Use: Anyone

Application Deadline: Applications Accepted Continuously

Application Process: Access at – link below.

Reference Link: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/rural-prosperity-report.pdf>

A11. BroadbandUSA – How We Can Help

Resource Type: Technical Support

Agency/Organization: (USDOC) Department of Commerce -> National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Program Description: BroadbandUSA serves as a strategic advisor to communities that want to expand their broadband capacity and promote digital inclusion. We bring stakeholders together to solve problems, contribute to emerging policies, link communities to other federal agencies and funding sources, and address barriers to collaboration across agencies. We know that each community is unique and no “one-size-fits-all” approach will work. BroadbandUSA works with stakeholders from local and state government, federal agencies, policy organizations, trade associations and the public to:

- Provide online and in-person technical assistance to communities as they consider how to improve broadband access and use broadband more effectively.
- Convene regional workshops to support decision-makers, based on best practices and lessons learned from local communities.
- Publish guides and tools that provide communities with proven solutions to problems in planning, financing, construction and operations.
- Bring together federal agencies and broadband stakeholder groups to promote interagency coordination, expand options for broadband funding, and make sure that information and resources are getting to communities quickly and effectively.

Eligibility and Description/Use: Anyone

Application Deadline: Applications Accepted Continuously

Application Process: Fill out form at – link below.

Reference Link: <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/ntia-common-content/how-we-can-help>

A12. BroadbandUSA – Comprehensive Resource

Resource Type: Information

Agency/Organization: (USDOC) Department of Commerce -> National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Program Description: This resource will host a number of links to helpful pages across BroadbandUSA’s website to find resources and additional information, including a

digital nation data explorer. To sign up for BroadbandUSA's newsletter, email broadbandusa@ntia.gov.

Eligibility and Description/Use: Anyone

Application Deadline: N/A

Application Process: See links below.

Reference Link: <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/ntia-resources/publications>

<https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/new-fund-search>

<https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/ntia-blog/ntia-updates-comprehensive-guide-federal-broadband-funding#contententarea>

<https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/ntia-news/broadbandusa-newsletter-june-2020#contententarea>

<https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/ntia-news/broadbandusa-newsletter-may-2020#contententarea>

<https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/ntia-resources/american-broadband-initiative>

<https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/ntia-resources/federal-permitting-overview>

<https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/ntia-resources/state-broadband-leaders-network-sbln>

<https://www.ntia.doc.gov/data/digital-nation-data-explorer#sel=internetUser&disp=map>

A13. BroadbandUSA – Broadband Glossary

Resource Type: Information

Agency/Organization: (USDOC) Department of Commerce -> National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Program Description: This resource includes common terms used in broadband discussions and their definitions.

Eligibility and Description/Use: Anyone

Application Deadline: N/A

Application Process: N/A

Reference Link: https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/resource-files/bbusa_broadband_glossary_161024.pdf

A14. BroadbandUSA – State Broadband Leaders Network Fact Sheet

Resource Type: Information

Agency/Organization: (USDOC) Department of Commerce -> National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Program Description: Information on state broadband programs including contract information for state broadband leaders.

Eligibility and Description/Use: Anyone

Application Deadline: N/A

Application Process: N/A

Reference Link: https://www2.ntia.doc.gov/files/sbln_fact_sheet_007262017.pdf

A15. BroadbandUSA – Events

Resource Type: Information

Agency/Organization: (USDOC) Department of Commerce -> National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Program Description: Features a monthly webinar with [archives to past webinars](#).

Eligibility and Description/Use: Anyone

Application Deadline: N/A

Application Process: N/A

Reference Link: <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/event>

A16. BroadbandUSA – Federal Permitting Information

Resource Type: Information

Agency/Organization: (USDOC) Department of Commerce -> National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Program Description: The place to start for permitting information for USDA, DOD, DOI, DOT, and GSA; FPISC, ACHP, CEQ, and FCC.

Eligibility and Description/Use: Anyone

Application Deadline: N/A

Application Process: N/A

Reference Link: <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/ntia-resources/federal-permitting-overview>

A17. BroadbandUSA – Newsletter

Resource Type: Information

Agency/Organization: (USDOC) Department of Commerce -> National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Program Description: For those interested in receiving broadband news and updates.

Eligibility and Description/Use: Anyone

Application Deadline: N/A

Application Process: To sign up for BroadbandUSA's newsletter, email broadbandusa@ntia.gov.

Reference Link: <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/ntia-news/broadbandusa-newsletter-june-2020#contententarea>

A18. American Broadband Initiative – Milestones Report

Resource Type: Information

Agency/Organization: American Broadband Initiative

Program Description: These milestones report outlines commitments from 25 federal agencies to better leverage public assets and resources to expand our nations broadband capacity.

Eligibility and Description/Use: Anyone

Application Deadline: N/A

Application Process: N/A

Reference Link:

https://www.ntia.doc.gov/files/ntia/publications/american_broadband_initiative_milestones_report.pdf

A19. BroadbandUSA – Planning A Community Broadband Roadmap

Resource Type: Information

Agency/Organization: (USDOC) Department of Commerce -> National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Program Description: This document acts as a toolkit for local and tribal governments for planning a community broadband roadmap.

Eligibility and Description/Use: Anyone

Application Deadline: N/A

Application Process: N/A

Reference Link: <https://www.ntia.doc.gov/files/planning-community-broadband-roadmap-apr2016.pdf>

Supplemental Resources:

*These resources did not have substantial information but may still be useful

Program Title	Program Description	Eligibility and Description/Use	Reference Link
<p>HUD - CARES Act: FY20 Indian Housing Block Grant Program</p>	<p>Pursuant to the authority provided under the CARES Act, an additional \$200,000,000 in IHBG formula funding is being provided to eligible Indian tribes and TDHEs specifically to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), including to maintain normal operations and to fund eligible affordable housing activities under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) during the period that an IHBG recipient's program is impacted by COVID-19. The CARES Act requires that recipient's use of IHBG-CARES grants be tied to preventing, preparing for, and responding to COVID-19, including maintaining normal operations and funding eligible affordable housing activities under NAHASDA during the period the program is impacted by COVID-19.</p> <p>Pursuant to the CARES Act, these funds may also be used to maintain normal operations and fund eligible IHBG activities during the period that a recipient's IHBG program is impacted by COVID-19.</p> <p>Program Purpose: Broadband Infrastructure (e.g., construction)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public/Indian Housing Authorities • Tribes • Tribally designated housing entities (TDHEs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PA/documents/IHBGchart.pdf • https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/OCHCO/documents/2020-06pihn.pdf • https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/ih/Covid_Recovery • http://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/BROADBANDGUIDANCE.PDF
<p>HHS/HRSA - FY20 Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program: COVID-19 Telehealth Awards</p>	<p>The purpose of this program is to improve health outcomes for older adults by developing a healthcare workforce that maximizes patient and family engagement; and by integrating geriatrics and primary care.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools of Allopathic Medicine • Schools of Veterinary Medicine • Schools of Dentistry • Schools of Public Health • Schools of Osteopathic Medicine • Schools of Chiropractic • Schools of Pharmacy • Physician Assistant Programs • Schools of Optometry • Schools of Allied Health • Schools of Podiatric Medicine • Schools of Nursing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://bhwh.hrsa.gov/grants/covid-19-workforce-telehealth-fy2020-awards • https://www.hrsa.gov/grants/find-funding/hrsa-19-008 • https://grants.hrsa.gov/2010/Web2External/Interface/FundingCycle/ExternalView.aspx?fCycleID=4c8ee9ff-617a-495e-ae78-917847db86a9

Program Title	Program Description	Eligibility and Description/Use	Reference Link
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Administration Behavioral Health and Mental Health Practice • Clinical Psychology • Clinical Social Work • Professional Counseling • Marriage and Family Therapy • Healthcare facility • Program leading to certification as a certified nurse assistant • Partnership of a school of nursing such and facility • Partnership of such a program and facility 	
<p>HHS/HRSA - CARES Act: FY20 Area Health Education Centers Program COVID-19 Telehealth Awards</p>	<p>The Area Health Education Center (AHEC) programs consist of interdisciplinary, community-based, primary care training programs wherein academic and community-based leaders work to improve the distribution, diversity, supply, and quality of health personnel, particularly primary care personnel in the health care services delivery system and more specifically in delivery sites in rural and other underserved areas. Supplemental funding from this program is to increase telehealth capabilities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. HRSA has made awards to organizations based on their capacity to implement COVID-19 telehealth activities that train high demand professions across the health care team. These investments will train students, physicians, nurses, physician assistants, allied health and other high-demand professionals in telehealth. This will enable these professionals to maximize telehealth for COVID-19 referrals for screening and testing, case management, outpatient care, and other essential care during the crisis. Additionally, through increased telehealth capabilities from this funding, organizations will be able to maintain primary care services when clinics and medical facilities are not available, especially for COVID-19 positive, quarantined, elderly and other vulnerable populations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public or nonprofit private accredited schools of allopathic medicine and osteopathic medicine and incorporated consortia made up of such schools, or the parent institutions of such schools. • In states and territories in which no AHEC program is in operation, an accredited school of nursing is an eligible applicant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/05/13/hhs-awards-15-million-to-support-telehealth-providers-during-covid19-pandemic.html • https://bhwh.hrsa.gov/grants/covid-19-workforce-telehealth-fy2020-awards • https://bhwh.hrsa.gov/grants/covid-19-workforce-telehealth-fy2020-awards/area-health • https://grants.hrsa.gov/webExternal/SFO.asp?ID=58DB07A1-7ED2-429C-9879-B4A8B8B95C1A
<p>HHS/HRSA - FY20 Centers of Excellence Program</p>	<p>These awards are funded through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act that President Trump signed into law on Friday, March 27, 2020. HRSA made awards to organizations based on</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthcare Institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://bhwh.hrsa.gov/grants/covid-19-workforce-telehealth-fy2020-awards

Program Title	Program Description	Eligibility and Description/Use	Reference Link
COVID-19 Telehealth Awards	<p>their capacity to implement COVID-19 telehealth activities that train high demand professions across the health care team. These investments will train students, physicians, nurses, physician assistants, allied health and other high-demand professionals in telehealth. This will enable these professionals to maximize telehealth for COVID-19 referrals for screening and testing, case management, outpatient care, and other essential care during the crisis. Additionally, through increased telehealth capabilities from this funding, organizations will be able to maintain primary care services when clinics and medical facilities are not available, especially for COVID-19 positive, quarantined, elderly and other vulnerable populations.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://bhwh.hrsa.gov/grants/covid-19-workforce-telehealth-fy2020-awards/centers-of-excellence
HHS/IHS - CARES Act: FY20-21 Indian Health Services	<p>For an additional amount for Indian Health Services, \$1,032,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally, including for public health support, electronic health record modernization, telehealth and other information technology upgrades, Purchased/Referred Care, Catastrophic Health Emergency Fund, Urban Indian Organizations, Tribal Epidemiology Centers, Community Health Representatives, and other activities to protect the safety of patients and staff: Provided, That of the amount provided under this heading in this Act, up to \$65,000,000 is for electronic health record stabilization and support, including for planning and tribal consultation: Provided further, That of amounts provided under this heading in this Act, not less than \$450,000,000 shall be distributed through IHS directly operated programs and to tribes and tribal organizations under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act and through contracts or grants with urban Indian organizations under title V of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act: Provided further, That any amounts provided in this paragraph not allocated pursuant to the preceding proviso shall be allocated at the discretion of the Director of the Indian Health Service: Provided further, That of the funds provided herein, up to \$125,000,000 may be transferred to and merged with the Indian Health Service, Indian Health Facilities appropriation at the discretion of the Director for the purposes specified in this Act: Provided further, That amounts provided under this heading in this Act, if transferred to tribes and tribal organizations under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, will be transferred on a onetime basis and that these non-recurring funds are not part of the amount required by 25 U.S.C. - 5325, and that such amounts may only be used for the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal • Tribes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.ihs.gov/newsroom/pressreleases/2020-press-releases/ihs-receives-more-than-1-billion-for-coronavirus-response/ • https://www.ihs.gov/coronavirus/resources/

Program Title	Program Description	Eligibility and Description/Use	Reference Link
	<p>purposes identified under this heading notwithstanding any other provision of law: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985. Program Purpose: To prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally, including for public health support, electronic health record modernization, telehealth and other information technology upgrades, Purchased/Referred Care, Catastrophic Health Emergency Fund, Urban Indian Organizations, Tribal Epidemiology Centers, Community Health Representatives, and other activities to protect the safety of patients and staff.</p>		
<p>HHS/HRSA - Coronavirus Preparedness & Response Supplemental Appropriations Act: FY20-24 Primary Health Care</p>	<p>Provided further, That of the amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$100,000,000 shall be transferred to Health Resources and Services Administration - Primary Health Care for grants under the Health Centers Program, as defined by section 330 of the Public Health Service Act, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985. Program Purpose: HRSA-funded health centers may use the awards to address screening and testing needs, acquire medical supplies and boost telehealth capacity in response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthcare Institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/24/hhs-awards-100-million-to-health-centers-for-covid-19-response.html
<p>HHS/HRSA - Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Reimbursement to Health Care Providers & Facilities for Testing & Treatment of the Uninsured</p>	<p>The COVID-19 Claims Reimbursement to Health Care Providers and Facilities for Testing and Treatment of the Uninsured Program provides reimbursements on a rolling basis directly to eligible health care entities for claims that are attributed to the testing and/or treatment of COVID-19 for uninsured individuals. Health care entities that have conducted COVID-19 testing of uninsured individuals for COVID-19 or provided treatment to uninsured individuals with a COVID-19 diagnosis on or after February 4, 2020, can request claims reimbursement through the program electronically and will be reimbursed generally at Medicare rates, subject to available funding. Reimbursement will be made for qualifying testing for COVID-19 and treatment services with a primary COVID-19 diagnosis, including: Specimen collection, diagnostic and antibody testing; Testing-related visits in the following settings: office, urgent care, emergency room, or via telehealth; Treatment, including office visit (including via telehealth), emergency room,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health care entities that have conducted COVID-19 testing of uninsured individuals for COVID-19 or provided treatment to uninsured individuals with a COVID-19 diagnosis on or after February 4, 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://data.cdc.gov/Administrative/Claims-Reimbursement-to-Health-Care-Providers-and-/rksx-33p3 https://www.aafp.org/patient-care/emergency/2019-coronavirus/financial-relief/uninsured-program.html

Program Title	Program Description	Eligibility and Description/Use	Reference Link
	<p>inpatient, outpatient/observation, skilled nursing facility, long-term acute care (LTAC), acute inpatient rehab, home health, DME (e.g., oxygen, ventilator), emergency ground ambulance transportation, non-emergent patient transfers via ground ambulance, and FDA-approved drugs as they become available for COVID-19 treatment and administered as part of an inpatient stay; and FDA-approved vaccine, when available. Services not covered by traditional Medicare will also not be covered under this program. In addition, the following services are excluded: Any treatment without a COVID-19 primary diagnosis, except for pregnancy, when the COVID-19 code may be listed as secondary; Hospice services; and Outpatient prescription drugs.</p>		
<p>HHS/HRSA - CARES Act: FY20-22 Rural Health & Telemedicine</p>	<p>Provided further, That \$180,000,000 of the funds appropriated under this paragraph shall be transferred to Health Resources and Services Administration Rural Health to remain available until September 30, 2022, to carry out telehealth and rural health activities under sections 330A and 330I of the PHS Act and sections 711 and 1820 of the Social Security Act to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally: Provided further, That of the funding in the previous proviso, no less than \$15,000,000 shall be allocated to tribes, tribal organizations, urban Indian health organizations, or health service providers to tribes: Provided further, That section 1820(g)(3)(A), section 1820(g)(3)(D) and section 1820(g)(3)(E) of such Act shall not apply to funds in the preceding two provisos: Provided further, That funds appropriated under this heading in this Act may be made available to restore amounts, either directly or through reimbursement, for obligations incurred to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, domestically or internationally, prior to the date of enactment of this Act: Provided further, That for the purposes of any funding provided for fiscal year 2020 for the Health Centers Program pursuant to section 330 of the PHS Act (42 U.S.C. 254b), maintaining or increasing health center capacity and staffing levels H. R. 748-283 during a public health emergency related to coronavirus shall be deemed a cost of prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of coronavirus: Provided further, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthcare Institutions • Rural and/or Tribal Health Care Providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/22/hhs-awards-nearly-165-million-to-combat-covid19-pandemic-in-rural-communities.html • https://www.hrsa.gov/rural-health/telehealth • https://www.hrsa.gov/rural-health/index.html • https://www.hrsa.gov/rural-health/coronavirus-cares-FY2020-awards