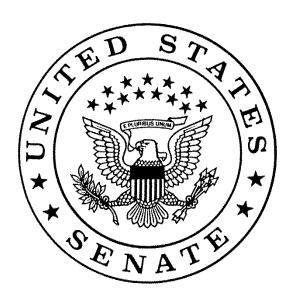
A Guide to Broadband Funding

How to Navigate the Funding Process

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand New York



2022

*Note: This document will be continuously updated as information becomes available

Table of Contents

Intro	duction	5
Unite	d States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development	6
1)	Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee	6
2)	Rural Business Service - Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program (REDLG)	7
3)	Rural Utilities Service – The ReConnect Program	9
4)	Rural Utilities Service – Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans & Loan Guarantees	11
5)	Rural Housing Service - Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program	12
Natio	onal Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), U. S. Department of Commerce	15
1)	Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program	15
2)	The Enabling Middle Mile (MM) Broadband Infrastructure Program	16
Feder	al Communications Commission	
1)	Affordable Connectivity Program (APC)	17
2)	Lifeline Program	
Unite	d States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)	20
1)	Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Program	20
2)	State Community Development Block Grant Program (through New York State)	21
3)	Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program	23
4)	Multifamily Housing Neighborhood Networks	25
5)	Indian Community Development Block Grant	26
6)	Public Housing Networks (NN) Program (Public and Indian Housing)	27
7)	Title VI Loan Guarantee (Public and Indian Housing)	28
Unite	d States Department of Education	32
1)	Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions Program	32
2)	Impact Aid Programs	33
3)	Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions	37

8)	Rural and Low-Income School Program	38
9)	Small and Rural School Achievement Program	38
10)	Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	39
Unite	d States Department of Transportation	40
1)	RAISE Grants	40
Unite	d States Department of Treasury	
1)	Capital Projects Fund	41
2)	Community Reinvestment Act (CRA)	
3)	New Markets Tax Credit Program	42
Unite	d States Economic Development Administration	43
1)	Public Works (PW) and Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA)	
2)	Research and National Technical Assistance (RNTA)	44
3)	EDA Planning Program and Local Technical Assistance Program	44
Institu	ute of Museum and Library Services	
1)	Grants to States Program	
2)	Native American Library Services Basic Grants	47
North	nern Border Regional Commission	48
1)	Economic & Infrastructure Development Program (SEID)	48
Natio	nal Science Foundation	50
1)	Campus Cyberinfrastructure	50
2)	Regional Innovation Engines	51
3)	US Ignite	
Appal	lachian Regional Commission	53
1)	Area Development Program	53
2)	Appalachian Regional Initiative for Stronger Economies (ARISE) Initiative	54
Letter	rs of Support from Senator Gillibrand	55
Grant	t Guide Order Form	57



Introduction

Dear Fellow New Yorker,

This guidebook is designed to provide you with important information about funding opportunities to support broadband deployment and adoption in communities throughout our state. It is critical that our businesses, schools, communities, and households have access to affordable high-speed internet in order to remain competitive in the global economy. In an effort to ensure high-speed broadband is readily available, regardless of location, federal and state governments have programs that fund broadband deployment and adoption.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), signed into law by President Biden on November 15, 2021, will invest \$65 billion in funding to address our nation's digital divide and expand broadband access across the country. I was proud to support this legislation in the Senate, and this guidebook is intended to assist New Yorkers in accessing funding opportunities made possible by this legislation. Information about many of the programs funded by the IIJA—such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's ReConnect Program, the Department of Transportation's RAISE Grant Program, and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's Broadband Equity Program—is included in this grant guide, along with information about many other relevant programs designed to provide resources for broadband expansion. Should you be interested in additional funding opportunities, please do not hesitate to contact my staff.

My Senate website (<u>www.gillibrand.senate.gov</u>) is also continually updated with critical information about various funding opportunities that are available to you, how to access them, and where to apply. You can also request hard copies of this guidebook, and other thematic funding guidebooks, by filling out the order form at the end of this guidebook and mailing it back to my New York City office or by emailing an electronic copy to <u>grants@gillibrand.senate.gov</u>. Furthermore, if you need assistance from a federal agency or with an immigration case, please refer to the casework form at the end of the guidebook or visit http://gillibrand.senate.gov/services/casework/form/.

As you move forward with any grant opportunities please contact my economic development team for letters of support, when applicable. You can reach them in Washington, D.C. office at grants@gillibrand.senate.gov, or (202) 224-4451.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Gillibrand United States Senator

Kirsten Gillibrard

Section I

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development

USDA Rural Development is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in America. Through their programs, Rural Development touches upon each aspect of rural America in a precise and organized manner.

The financial programs support such essential public facilities and services as water and sewer systems, housing, health clinics, emergency service facilities, and electric and telephone. Rural Development has continuously promoted economic development by supporting loans to businesses through banks, credit unions, and community-managed lending pools. They offer technical assistance and information to help agricultural producers and cooperatives get started and improve the effectiveness of their operations. Additionally, they have provided technical assistance to help communities undertake empowerment programs.

USDA Rural Development has a multi-billion dollar portfolio of loans and will administer billions in loans, loan guarantees, and grants through their programs in the current fiscal year. To achieve their mission, Rural Development assists rural individuals, communities, and businesses obtain the financial and technical assistance needed to address their diverse and unique needs through their specific programs.

1) Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee

The Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program (Broadband Program) furnishes loans and loan guarantees to provide funds for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide service at the broadband lending speed in eligible rural areas.

Who may apply to this program?

- Corporation;
- Limited liability company (LLC);
- Cooperative or mutual organization;
- A state or local unit of government
- Indian tribe or tribal organization
- Individuals and Partnerships are not eligible.

What is an eligible area?

- Proposed funded service areas must be completely contained within a rural area or composed of multiple rural areas, as defined in 7 CFR 1738
- At least 15 percent of the households in the proposed funded service area are unserved,
- No part of the proposed funded service area has three or more "incumbent service providers."
- No part of the proposed funded service area overlaps with the service area of current RUS borrowers or the service areas of grantees that were funded by RUS.
- ➤ Communities where USDA Rural Utilities Service has previously provided funding for construction of broadband infrastructure may not be eligible.

How may the funds be used?

- > Broadband loans provide funding on a technology-neutral basis for financing:
 - The construction, improvement, and acquisition of facilities required to provide service at the broadband lending speed including facilities required for providing other services through the same facilities
 - The cost of leasing facilities required to provide service at the broadband Lending speed if such lease qualifies as a capital lease under Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)
 - o An acquisition, under certain circumstances and with restrictions

What Kind of Funding is Available?

- ➤ Direct loans
- ➤ In general loan terms are limited to the expected composite economic life of the assets to be financed plus 3 years

How do you get started?

- Application periods for this program are announced through the national office on a periodic basis
- Program Resources are available online at rd.usda.gov
- Link to Fact Sheet here: link

2) Rural Business Service - Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program (REDLG)

The Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program provides funding for rural projects through local utility organizations. USDA provides zero-interest loans to local utilities which they, in turn, pass through to local businesses (ultimate recipients) for projects that will create and retain employment in rural areas. The ultimate recipients repay the lending utility directly. The utility is responsible for repayment to USDA. USDA provides grants to local utility organizations which use the funding to establish revolving loan funds (RLF). Loans are made from the revolving loan funds to projects that will create or retain rural jobs. When the revolving loan fund is terminated, the grant is repaid to USDA.

Who may apply to this program?

- To receive funding (which will be forwarded to selected eligible projects) an entity must be:
 - o A former Rural Utilities Service borrower who borrowed, repaid or pre-paid an insured, direct, or guaranteed loan
 - Nonprofit utilities that are eligible to receive assistance from the Rural Development Electric or Telecommunication Programs; or
 - o Current Rural Development Electric or Telecommunication Programs borrowers

What is an eligible area?

• Intermediaries may use funds to lend for projects in rural areas or towns with a population of 50,000 or less.

> How much funding is available to utilities?

- Up to \$300,000 in grants may be requested to establish the RLF
- Up to 10 percent of grant funds may be applied toward operating expenses over the life of the RLF
- Up to \$2 million in loans may be requested
- The local utility applies to USDA for funding support on behalf of specified local projects. Projects may begin after an application is submitted, but there is no guarantee of approval. USDA funds are issued to the local utility at project completion.

What are the terms for the local utility?

- o 10 years at 0 percent
- o Grants require a 20 percent match from the intermediary
- o Grants must be repaid to USDA upon termination of the RLF

> How may funds be used?

- o The local utility passes the funding to ultimate recipients for such eligible projects as
 - Business incubators
 - Community development assistance to nonprofits and public bodies (particularly for job creation or enhancement)
 - Facilities and equipment to educate and train rural residents to facilitate economic development
 - Facilities and equipment for medical care for rural residents
 - Start-up venture costs, including, but not limited to, financing fixed assets such as real estate, buildings, equipment or working capital
 - Business expansion
 - Technical assistance

Mow much funding is available to business and community borrowers (ultimate recipients) through the RLF?

o An ultimate recipient may request up to 80 percent of project costs using these funds, with the remainder provided by the ultimate recipient or the local utility.

What are the terms on the loan to the ultimate recipient?

- Interest rate is 0 percent
- Up to 80 percent of project costs; 20 percent must be provided by the ultimate recipient or the local utility
- The local utility may incorporate interest rates or administrative loan fees after the funds have been loaned out and revolved once. First-time loans are at 0 percent interest.
- Repayment may be deferred up to two years for projects including a start-up venture or Community Facilities project.

► How do we get started?

o Applications for this program are accepted through your local office year round. Program Resources are available online (includes forms needed, guidance, certifications etc.)

What are the application dates?

- o Program is open
- o Program Period application for quarterly funding are due by 4:30 p.m. on:
 - o First Quarter, September 30;
 - o Second Quarter, December 31;
 - o Third Quarter, March 31;
 - o Fourth Quarter, June 30.

Contact:

> U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development

The Galleries of Syracuse

441 South Salina Street, Suite 357

Syracuse, NY 13202-3541 Telephone: (347) 370-4550

Website (Federal): https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-economic-development-

loan-grant-program

Website (State): https://www.rd.usda.gov/ny

3) Rural Utilities Service – The ReConnect Program

> The ReConnect Program offers loans, grants, and loan-grant combinations to facilitate broadband deployment in areas of rural America that currently do not have sufficient access to broadband. In facilitating the expansion of broadband services and infrastructure, the program will fuel long-term rural economic development and opportunities in rural America.

Who may apply?

The entities considered eligible to apply for assistance under the ReConnect Program include:

- Corporations
- Limited Liability Companies and Limited Liability Partnerships
- Cooperatives or mutual organizations
- States or local governments, including any agency, subdivision, instrumentality of political subdivision thereof
- A territory or possession of the United States
- An Indian Tribe, as defined in Section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. §450b)

What are eligible funding purposes?

- To fund the construction or improvement of facilities required to provide fixed terrestrial broadband service.
 - Eligible facilities include buildings, land, and fixed wireless service. If other services will be provided over these facilities, then award funds may also be used to acquire the additional equipment.
- To fund reasonable pre-application expenses.
 - Funding for pre-application expenses may not exceed five percent of the award. Preapplication expenses must be included in the first request for advance of award funds and will be funded with either grant or loan funds. If the funding category applied for

has a grant component, then grant funds will be used for this purpose. If preapplication expenses are not included in the first request for advance of award funds, they will become an ineligible purpose.

- To fund the acquisition of an existing system that does not currently provide sufficient access to broadband (eligible for 100 percent loan requests only).
 - The cost of the existing system acquisition is limited to 40 percent of the award amount requested. After improvements are made, the upgraded system must meet the minimum requirements of the most recent FOA.

Are there funding limits?

- 100 Percent Grant
 - O Up to \$150,000,000 is available for grants. The maximum amount of grant funds that can be requested in an application is \$25,000,000. However, to encourage broadband deployment in remote areas, if an applicant provides supporting information that demonstrates that the PFSA(s) is comprised 100 percent of areas classified by the USDA Economic Research Service as Frontier and Remote Area (FAR) Level 4, the applicant may request up to \$35,000,000. A GIS layer of FAR Level 4 areas can be found on the ReConnect Program Service Area Map.
- 100 Percent Grant for Alaska Native Corporations, Tribal Governments, Colonias, Persistent Poverty Areas and Socially Vulnerable Communities
 - O Up to \$350,000,000 is available for grants. The maximum amount of grant funds that can be requested in an application is \$25,000,000. However, to encourage broadband deployment in remote areas, if an applicant provides supporting information that demonstrates that the PFSA(s) is comprised 100 percent of locations within areas classified by the USDA Economic Research Service as FAR Level 4, the applicant may request up to \$35,000,000. A GIS layer of FAR Level 4 areas can be found on the ReConnect Program Service Area Map.
- 50 Percent Loan / 50 Percent Grant Combination
 - O Up to \$150,000,000 is available for loans and up to \$150,000,000 is available for grants. The maximum amount that can be requested in an application is \$25,000,000 for the loan and \$25,000,000 for the grant. Loan and grant amounts will always be equal.
- 100 Percent Loan
 - O Up to \$150,000,000 is available for loans. The maximum amount that can be requested in an application is \$50,000,000.
- Projects serving areas where 90% of households lack sufficient access to broadband
 - O Up to \$200,000,000 is available for grants. The maximum amount that can be requested in an application is \$25,000,000. USDA reserves the right to offer funding to eligible Round 3 applicants once all awards from the current round have been made.

Are there financial feasibility and sustainability requirements?

• Only projects that USDA determines to be financially feasible and sustainable will be eligible for an award under the ReConnect program. An eligible project must demonstrate a positive ending cash balance as reflected in the cash flow statement for each year of the forecast period and demonstrate positive cash flow from operations by the end of the forecast period. Eligible projects must also meet at least two of the following requirements: a minimum Times Interest Earned Ratio (TIER) requirement of 1.2, a minimum Debt Service Coverage Ratio (DSCR) requirement of 1.2, and a minimum Current Ratio of 1.2.

• If an application has no existing debt, is not applying for any loans from this program or proposing to borrow funds from any other fund sources during the forecast period and is applying only for grant funds, only the Current Ratio will be applied and not the TIER or DSCR. For this situation, applications must only meet the minimum current ratio required of 1.2.

When are Applications Due?

• The application deadline is Nov. 2, 2022

Contact:

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development New York 441 South Salina Street, Suite 357 Syracuse, NY 13202-2541 (315) 477-6400

4) Rural Utilities Service – Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans & Loan Guarantees

The loan and loan guarantee program offers financial assistance to eligible service providers that will construct, improve, or expand telecommunication and broadband networks in rural areas.

Who may apply?

- State and local governmental entities
- Federally Recognized Tribes
- Non-profits, including Cooperatives, and limited dividend or mutual associations
- For-profit businesses (must be a corporation or limited liability company)

What is an eligible area?

- Rural areas and towns with a population of 5,000 or less
- Areas without telecommunications facilities or areas where the applicant is the recognized telecommunications provider are eligible
- Check with your local RD office to determine whether the proposed service area qualifies

What may the funds be used for?

- Loan funds may be used to finance telecommunications services in rural areas for:
 - New construction
 - o Improvements
 - o Expansions
 - o Acquisitions (the cost of acquisition must be incidental to the cost of improvements)
 - o Refinancing (the amount requested for refinancing cannot exceed 40 percent of loan amount). Refinancing is available both for outstanding Rural Utilities Service debt and other applicant debt
 - o For additional details, see 7 CFR 1735

What kind of funding is available?

- Cost-of-Money Loans are direct loans from USDA Rural Utilities Service
- Loan Guarantees through the Federal Financing Bank (FFB)
- Hardship Loans are direct loans from USDA Rural Utilities Service

What are the loan terms?

- Cost-of-money loans: fixed rate at current U.S. Treasury rates depending on loan maturity at time of each advance
- Loan Guarantees: fixed rate primarily from the Federal Financing Bank (FFB). Interest rates (Treasury rate plus 1/8 percent) vary depending on call options and the interim maturity rate selected at each advance, which may be as short as 90 days, with autorollover. Current rates available online, scroll down to "Treasury Constant Maturities" add 0.125 percent for FFB rate
- Hardship loans: fixed interest rate of 5 percent for up to 20 years and requires special qualifications

Are there additional requirements?

- Borrowers must have legal authority to provide, construct, operate and maintain the proposed facilities or services
- All facilities financed with the aid of federal dollars must be used for a public purpose
- May not duplicate similar services available in the same area
- Partnerships with other federal, state, local, private and non-profit entities are encouraged

Who currently participates in this program?

• See our Borrower Directory for a list of current participants.

How do we get started?

- Applications for this program are accepted by the National Office year-round.
- Applicants should work with their local <u>General Field Representative</u> to ensure complete and eligible applications prior to submission.

Contact:

For questions about the Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan Program, please call the Loan Origination and Approval Division at (202) 720-0800.

Website: https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/telecommunications-infrastructure-loans-loan-guarantees

5) Rural Housing Service – Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program

This program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. An essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local

community for the orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial or business undertakings.

Who may apply?

- Eligible borrowers:
 - Public bodies
 - o Community-based non-profit corporations
 - o Federally-recognized Tribes

What is an eligible area?

 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.

What kinds of funding are available?

- Low interest direct loans
- Grants
- A combination of the two above, as well as our loan guarantee program. These may be combined with commercial financing to finance one project if all eligibility and feasibility requirements are met.

What are the funding priorities?

- Priority point system based on population, median household income
 - Small communities with a population of 5,500 or less
 - Low-income communities having a median household income below 80% of the state nonmetropolitan median household income.

> How may funds be used?

- Funds can be used to purchase, construct, and / or improve essential community facilities, purchase equipment and pay related project expenses. Examples of essential community facilities include:
 - Health care facilities such as hospitals, medical clinics, dental clinics, nursing homes or assisted living facilities
 - Public facilities such as town halls, courthouses, airport hangers or street improvements
 - Community support services such as child care centers, community centers, fairgrounds or transitional housing
 - Public safety services such as fire departments, police stations, prisons, police vehicles, fire trucks, public works vehicles or equipment
 - o Educational services such as museums, libraries or private schools
 - o Utility services such as telemedicine or distance learning equipment
 - o Local food systems such as community gardens, food pantries, community kitchens, food banks, food hubs or greenhouses

What are the terms?

Funding is provided through a competitive process.

• Direct Loan:

- o Loan repayment terms may not be longer than the useful life of the facility, state statutes, the applicants authority, or a maximum of 40 years, whichever is less
- o Interest rates are set by Rural Development, contact us for details and current rates
- Once the loan is approved, the interest rate is fixed for the entire term of the loan, and is determined by the median household income of the service area and population of the community
- o There are no pre-payment penalties

• Grant Approval:

 Applicant must be eligible for grant assistance, which is provided on a graduated scale with smaller communities with the lowest median household income being eligible for projects with a higher proportion of grant funds. Grant assistance is limited to the following percentages of eligible project costs

Are there additional requirements?

- Applicants must have legal authority to borrow money, obtain security, repay loans, construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities
- Applicants must be unable to finance the project from their own resources and/or through commercial credit at reasonable rates and terms
- Tax exempt financing is not eligible for this program
- Lender responsible for determining credit quality and economic feasibility of proposed loan; adequacy of equity, cash flow, security, history and management capabilities
- Facilities must serve rural area where they are /will be located
- Project must demonstrate substantial community support
- Environmental review must be completed/acceptable

What is the program status?

• Program Status: OPEN

Program Period: Open Year Round

How do we get started?

• Lenders: contact your local Rural Development office to discuss your specific project

What is the program status?

Applications for this program are accepted year round

Contact:

➤ USDA Rural Development

The Galleries of Syracuse

441 South Salina Street, Suite 357

Syracuse, NY 13202-3541

Telephone: (347) 370-4550

Website (Federal): https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-guaranteed-

loan-program

Website (State): https://www.rd.usda.gov/ny

Section II

National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), U. S. Department of Commerce

1) Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program

Funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, BEAD is a federal grant program that aims to get all Americans online by funding partnerships between states or territories, communities, and stakeholders to build infrastructure where we need it to and increase adoption of high-speed internet. BEAD prioritizes unserved locations that have no internet access or that only have access under 25/3 Mbps and underserved locations only have access under 100/20 Mbps.

The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, provides \$42.45 billion to expand high-speed internet access by funding planning, infrastructure deployment and adoption programs in all 50 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Who may apply?

- All 50 States, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico
- Other Territories: U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

> How may funds be used?

- Planning for the deployment of high-speed Internet, including conducting research, collecting data, outreach, and training
- Deploying or upgrading Internet in unserved or underserved areas or improving service to community anchor organizations
- Installing Internet and Wi-Fi in multi-unit residential buildings
- Adoption and digital equity programs Workforce development programs and vocational training

What is the timeline?

- July 18, 2022 Letter of Intent due
- August 15, 2022 Initial planning funds application due
- 270 days after planning fund received 5-Year Plan due

Contact:

- National Telecommunications and Information Administration 1401 Constitution Ave., NW Washington, DC 20230
 - o <u>BEAD Planning Application Guidance</u>

2) The Enabling Middle Mile (MM) Broadband Infrastructure Program

Funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the MM Program is a program to expand middle mile infrastructure, to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas. Middle mile infrastructure broadly refers to the mid-section of Internet infrastructure that carries large amounts of data at high speeds over long distances. This program will also increase the resilience of Internet infrastructure. The Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program provides funding for this vital part of our nation's high-speed network. With \$1 billion in funding, the program will reduce the cost of bringing high-speed internet to unserved and underserved communities.

Who may apply?

- Government: States, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, other territories, Tribal government, local government
- Industry: Tech company, electric utility, utility cooperative, public utility district, telecom company/cooperative
- Non-profits and other associations: Non-profits, regional planning council, Native entity, or economic development authority
- Partnerships: A partnership of two or more entities described above

► How may funds be used?

- Grants can be used for the construction, improvement, or acquisition of middle mile infrastructure, including:
 - o Construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment
 - o Engineering design, permitting and work related to project reviews
 - o Personnel costs, incl. salaries and benefits for staff and consultants
 - Other costs necessary to programmatic activities

What is the timeline?

• September 30, 2022 - Application closes

Contact:

- National Telecommunications and Information Administration 1401 Constitution Ave., NW Washington, DC 20230
 - o Email: middlemile@ntia.gov

Section III

Federal Communications Commission

The Federal Communications Commission regulates interstate and international communications by radio, television, wire, satellite and cable in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories. An independent U.S. government agency overseen by Congress, the commission is the United States' primary authority for communications law, regulation and technological innovation. In its work facing economic opportunities and challenges associated with rapidly evolving advances in global communications, the agency capitalizes on its competencies in

- Promoting competition, innovation and investment in broadband services and facilities
- Supporting the nation's economy by ensuring an appropriate competitive framework for the unfolding of the communications revolution
- Encouraging the highest and best use of spectrum domestically and internationally
- Revising media regulations so that new technologies flourish alongside diversity and localism
- Providing leadership in strengthening the defense of the nation's communications infrastructure

1) Affordable Connectivity Program (APC)

The Affordable Connectivity Program is a \$14.2 billion program that supports eligible low-income households struggling to afford monthly internet service. This program ensures that households have the connections they need for work, school, healthcare, and more.

What Is the Benefit?

- The benefit provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands.
- Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price.
- The Affordable Connectivity Program is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per household.

➤ Who Is Eligible to Receive ACP Support?

- A household is eligible if a member of the household meets at least one of the criteria below:
 - Has an income that is at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines;
 Participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, SSI, WIC, or Lifeline;
 - o Participates in Tribal specific programs, such as Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal TANF, or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations;
 - Is approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program in the current or immediately preceding school year;
 - o Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year; or

 Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income program.

➤ How Does an Eligible Household Enroll in the Program?

- There are two steps to enrolling in the ACP:
 - o Complete and submit an online or mail-in application available at ACPBenefit.org.
 - Contact a participating provider to select an internet plan and have the ACP discount applied.

2) Lifeline Program

The Lifeline program provides a discount on phone and broadband service for qualifying lowincome consumers 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.

Do I qualify?

- You can get Lifeline if your income is 135 percent or less than the <u>federal poverty</u> guidelines. The guideline is based on your household size and state.
- Show <u>proof of income</u>, like three consecutive pay stubs or a tax return, when you apply for Lifeline.
- You can get Lifeline if you (or someone in your <u>household</u>) participates in one of these federal assistance programs:
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps
 - Medicaid
 - o Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - o Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
 - o Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit
 - o Tribal Programs (and live on federally-recognized Tribal lands)
 - O Show a card, letter, or official document, as proof that you participate in one of these programs when you apply for Lifeline.
- You can sign up for Lifeline if your child or dependent participates in any of the programs listed above.
- Tribal Lifeline takes up to an extra \$25 off your monthly bill, for a total Lifeline discount of up to \$34.25 per month.
- If you live on Tribal lands, you can qualify for Lifeline if you or someone in your household participates in:
 - o Any of the federal assistance programs listed above
 - O Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
 - Head Start (only households meeting the income qualifying standard)
 - o Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Tribal TANF)
 - o Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations
 - Show a card, letter, or another document as <u>proof that you participate</u> in one of these programs when you apply for Lifeline, and tell them you're applying for Tribal Lifeline.
- You are only allowed to get one Lifeline discount per household, not per person.

• If someone at your address already gets Lifeline, your company will use a Household Worksheet to see if more than one household lives at your address.

➤ How do I apply?

- Qualify
 - You can qualify for Lifeline through a government assistance program or your income.
 - You may need to show proof that you qualify for a Lifeline benefit using the following:
 - A card or award letter to prove participation in one of these programs. Medicaid, SNAP, Certain other programs
- Choose a company
 - O Use this tool to find a company in your area that offers Lifeline.
 - Ask your company for a Lifeline application. You will need the following information to apply:
 - Full legal name
 - Date of birth
 - Last 4 digits of your Social Security number (or Tribal identification number)
 - Address
 - O You should also show at least one of these items:
 - Unexpired ID such as a Driver's License
 - Social security card
 - Medicaid card
 - Prior year's tax return
 - Other documents that prove your identity
 - Your company will process your application and may ask you to fill out additional forms.
- Sign up
 - O If approved, you will receive your Lifeline discount toward your bill. Your company can also apply your discount to an existing service.

Contact

Telecommunications Access Policy Division

FCC Wireline Competition Bureau

Telephone: (202) 418-7400

Website: https://www.lifelinesupport.org/ls/default.aspx

If you have questions about your application, or would like an application mailed to you, contact

Lifeline at (800) 234-9473 or <u>LifelineSupport@usac.org</u>.

Section III

United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. HUD is working to strengthen the housing market to bolster the economy and protect consumers; meet the need for quality affordable rental homes; utilize housing as a platform for improving quality of life; build inclusive and sustainable communities free from discrimination, and transform the way HUD does business.

1) Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Program

- The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Program provides annual grants on a formula basis to entitled cities and counties to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons. The program is authorized under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, Public Law 93-383, as amended; 42 U.S.C.-5301 et seq.
- Entitlement communities develop their own programs and funding priorities. However, grantees must give maximum feasible priority to activities which benefit low- and moderate-income persons. A grantee may also carry out activities which aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight. Additionally, grantees may fund activities when the grantee certifies that the activities meet other community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community where other financial resources are not available to meet such needs. CDBG funds may not be used for activities which do not meet one of these national objectives.

Eligibility:

- > CDBG funds may be used for activities which include, but are not limited to:
 - Acquisition of real property
 - Relocation and demolition
 - Rehabilitation of residential and non-residential structures
 - Construction of public facilities and improvements, such as water and sewer facilities, streets, neighborhood centers, and the conversion of school buildings for eligible purposes
 - Public services, within certain limits
 - Activities relating to energy conservation and renewable energy resources
 - Provision of assistance to profit-motivated businesses to carry out economic development and job creation/retention activities
- Each activity must meet one of the following national objectives for the program:
 - Benefit low- and moderate-income persons

- Prevention or elimination of slums or blight, or
- Address community development needs having a particular urgency because existing
 conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community
 for which other funding is not available.
- ➤ Generally, the following types of activities are ineligible:
 - Acquisition, construction, or reconstruction of buildings for the general conduct of government
 - Political activities
 - Certain income payments
 - Construction of new housing (with some exceptions)
- Eligible Beneficiaries:
 - Over a 1, 2, or 3-year period, as selected by the grantee, not less than 70 percent of CDBG funds must be used for activities that benefit low- and moderate-income persons.
 - HUD does not provide CDBG assistance directly to individuals, businesses, nonprofit or
 organizations or other non-governmental entities. If you are interested in participating in
 this program, you need to contact your local municipal or county officials to find out how
 the program operates in your area. Participation requirements may differ from one grantee
 to another.

Citizen Participation:

- A grantee must develop and follow a detailed plan which provides for, and encourages, citizen participation and which emphasizes participation by persons of low- or moderate-income, particularly residents of predominantly low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, slum or blighted areas, and areas in which the grantee proposes to use CDBG funds. The plan must:
 - Provide citizens with reasonable and timely access to local meetings, information, and records related to the grantee's proposed and actual use of funds
 - Provide for public hearings to obtain citizen views and to respond to proposals and
 questions at all stages of the community development program, including at least the
 development of needs, the review of proposed activities, and review of program
 performance
 - Provide for timely written answers to written complaints and grievances
 - Identify how the needs of non-English speaking residents will be met in the case of public hearings where a significant number of non-English speaking residents can be reasonably expected to participate

2) State Community Development Block Grant Program (through New York State)

- ➤ Under the State CDBG Program, states award grants to smaller units of general local government that develop and preserve decent affordable housing, to provide services to the most vulnerable in our communities, and to create and retain jobs. Annually, each State develops funding priorities and criteria for selecting projects.
- ➤ Since States are in the best position to know, and to respond to, the needs of local governments, Congress amended the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (HCD Act) in 1981 to give each State the opportunity to administer CDBG funds for non-entitlement areas. Non-

entitlement areas include those units of general local government which do not receive CDBG funds directly from HUD. Non-entitlement areas are cities with populations of less than 50,000 (except cities that are designated principal cities of Metropolitan Statistical Areas), and counties with populations of less than 200,000.

Eligibility:

- > CDBG funds may be used for activities which include, but are not limited to:
 - o Acquisition of real property
 - o Relocation and demolition
 - o Rehabilitation of residential and non-residential structures
 - O Construction of public facilities and improvements, such as water and sewer facilities, streets, neighborhood centers, and the conversion of school buildings for eligible purposes
 - o Public services, within certain limits
 - o Activities relating to energy conservation and renewable energy resources
 - Provision of assistance to nonprofit and profit-motivated businesses to carry out economic development and job creation/retention activities
- Each activity must meet one of the following national objectives for the program:
 - o Benefit low- and moderate-income persons
 - o Prevention or elimination of slums or blight
 - O Address community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community for which other funding is not available. A need is considered urgent if it poses a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community and has arisen in the past 18 months.
- ➤ Generally, the following types of activities are ineligible:
 - O Acquisition, construction, or reconstruction of buildings for the general conduct of government;
 - o Political activities
 - o Certain income payments
 - o Construction of new housing (with some exceptions)
- States may up to 50 percent of costs it incurs for program administration, up to a maximum of three percent of its CDBG allocation. States may expend up to three percent of their CDBG allocation on technical assistance activities. However, the total a state spends on both administrative and technical assistance expenses may not exceed three percent of the state's allocation.
- Eligible Beneficiaries:
 - Over a 1, 2, or 3-year period, as selected by the grantee, not less than 70 percent of CDBG funds must be used for activities that benefit low- and moderate-income persons.
 - O HUD does not provide CDBG assistance directly to individuals, businesses, nonprofit or organizations or other non-governmental entities. If you are interested in participating in this program, you need to contact your local municipal or county officials to find out how the program operates in your area. Participation requirements may differ from one grantee to another.

Consolidated Plan and Citizen Participation:

- ➤ Under the State CDBG Program, states are responsible for:
 - O Designing the CDBG Program within statutory and regulatory parameters
 - o Setting priorities and deciding what activities to fund

- O Distributing funding according to the method of distribution
- O Establishing financial management, recordkeeping, reporting, monitoring, audit and closeout systems for their programs
- Ensuring compliance by state grant recipients
- Developing the Consolidated Plan
- The Consolidated Plan is a jurisdiction's comprehensive planning document and application for funding under the following Community Planning and Development formula grant programs: CDBG, Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA). The Consolidated Plan is carried out through Annual Action Plans which must contain the required certifications, description of CDBG eligible activities to be funded, and timetables for completing the projects.
- > Under the State CDBG Program, UGLG are responsible for:
 - o Prioritizing the types of activities they apply for
 - o Carrying out eligible activities
 - o Complying with federal and state requirements
 - o Handling local citizen participation
- As part of the Consolidated Planning process, units of local government receiving CDBG from their state must follow the requirements of 24 CFR 570.486 which provides for, and encourages, citizen participation and which emphasizes participation by persons of low- or moderate-income, particularly residents of predominantly low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, slum or blighted areas, and areas in which the local government proposes to use CDBG funds.
 - o The plan must:
 - Provide citizens with reasonable and timely access to local meetings, information, and records related to the grantee's proposed and actual use of funds
 - Provide for public hearings to obtain citizen views and to respond to proposals
 and questions at all stages of the community development program, including at
 least the development of needs, the review of proposed activities, and review of
 program performance
 - Provide for timely written answers to written complaints and grievances
 - Identify how the needs of non-English speaking residents will be met in the case of public hearings where a significant number of non-English speaking residents can be reasonably expected to participate

3) Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program

- ➤ The Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program (Section 108) provides communities with low-cost, flexible financing for economic development, housing rehabilitation, public facilities, and other physical infrastructure projects, including those to increase resilience to natural disasters. Section 108's unique flexibility and range of applications makes it one of the most potent and important public investment tools that HUD offers to state and local governments.
- Section 108 offers Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) recipients the ability to leverage their annual grant allocation to gain access to federally guaranteed loans large enough to pursue physical and economic development projects capable of revitalizing entire neighborhoods. This critical public investment is often needed to catalyze private economic activity in underserved areas in cities and counties across the nation. Section 108 loan guarantees are often the initial resource that provides the confidence private firms and individuals need to finance projects in areas that have experienced disinvestment.

Loans typically range from a few hundred thousand to several million dollars. The size of the guaranteed loan depends on several factors, including but not limited to, a community's maximum borrowing capacity under the program and an underwriting assessment of the project or loan fund. Section 108 can be used for specific projects or for communities to start a loan pool, similar to a line of credit for communities to fund multiple projects over time. Section 108's flexible repayment terms makes it ideal for layering with other sources of community and economic development financing such as New Market Tax Credits (NMTC), Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC), and Opportunity Zones funding. Under Section 108, communities can take advantage of lower interest rates than could be obtained from private financing sources.

Eligibility:

- Eligible applicants include the following public entities:
 - States
 - o Metropolitan cities and urban counties (i.e., CDBG entitlement recipients)
 - o Nonentitlement communities that are assisted in the submission of applications by States that administer the CDBG program
 - O Nonentitlement communities eligible to receive CDBG funds under the HUD-Administered Small Cities CDBG program (Hawaii). The public entity may be the borrower or it may designate a public agency as the borrower
- Eligible Section 108 Projects (24 CFR 570.703):
 - o For purposes of determining eligibility, the CDBG rules and requirements also apply. All projects and activities must either principally benefit low- and moderate-income persons, aid in the elimination or prevention of slums and blight, or meet urgent needs of the community.
 - Activities eligible under CDBG include:
 - Acquisition of real property
 - Rehabilitation of publicly owned real property
 - Housing rehabilitation eligible under CDBG
 - Construction, reconstruction, or installation of public facilities (including street, sidewalk, and other site improvements)
 - Related relocation, clearance, and site improvements
 - Payment of interest on the guaranteed loan and issuance costs of public offerings
 - Debt service reserves
 - Finance fees
 - Public works and site improvements in colonias
 - In limited circumstances, housing construction as part of community economic development
- Financing Infrastructure with Section 108 Loans
 - O Section 108 loans may be used to finance the construction, reconstruction, or installation of public facilities including street, sidewalk, and other site improvements that are part of the overall project. The funds can also be used for related relocation, clearance or site improvements.
- Administration of Section 108 Loans
 - O The borrower's cost of administering a Section 108 loan can be allocated to the CDBG administration cap of 20 percent, or the costs can be included as an activity delivery cost in carrying out the project. For example, if a borrower's employees underwrite economic

development loans that are to be made with CDBG funds, the portion of their salaries spent on this function can be treated as costs of carrying out the activity. This is important because these costs are not subject to the limitation on the use of CDBG funds to pay planning and administrative costs.

- ➤ Projects NOT eligible for 108 Loans (24 CFR 570.207(a)):
 - o Projects funded with Section 108 loans must meet basic CDBG criteria, including meeting a national objective and public benefits standards. Projects are also subject to compliance with all other local, state or federal regulations including cross cutting regulations. While a specific type of activity may not be prohibited by HUD, the borrower may have local priorities and projects that are deemed ineligible. There are some activities eligible under CDBG that are not eligible for Section 108, such as public services. Projects that are not CDBG eligible and are thus not eligible for Section 108 loans include the following:
 - Projects where the public benefits standards have been triggered (which is common for many large-scale projects) and where a sufficient level of public benefit is not achieved are ineligible.
 - Buildings used for the conduct of government are also ineligible even if they are to be funded as a commercial enterprise. For example, even though office buildings may be eligible in general as an economic development activity, an office building that will house a City Hall is not acceptable.
 - Projects that do not meet a national objective are not eligible. It is important to remember that while development of a high tech manufacturing facility may be an eligible special economic development activity, it cannot be funded unless it also meets a national objective.
 - All other projects deemed ineligible under 24 CFR 570.207(a) cannot be undertaken as a large-scale development project.

4) Multifamily Housing Neighborhood Networks

- ➤ In 1995, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) had a vision. Create an initiative that would accomplish two goals—promote self-sufficiency and deliver computer access to low- and moderate-income residents living in privately owned HUD-insured and assisted multifamily housing. The result of this vision was the Neighborhood Net-works Initiative, and since its creation more than a decade ago, Neighborhood Networks has connected residents to infinite opportunities.
 - o Providing onsite and remote technical assistance on topics critical to center development and sustainability.
 - o Maintaining the Neighborhood Networks Web site that includes news, success stories, online publications, and contact information.
 - o Identifying regional and national funding opportunities that provide owners, managers, and center staff members with additional sources of revenue.
 - Providing access to the Strategic Tracking and Reporting Tool (START) that allows center staff to develop online business plans to better manage their centers.
 - O Assisting with the development of partnerships with businesses, nonprofits, government and social service agencies, educational and health institutions, faith-based organizations, civic organizations, and foundations that can provide cash and in-kind support.
 - o Hosting monthly conference calls on a wide range of subjects, such as grantwriting, fundraising, resident involvement, partnership development, and staffing.

What Funding Is Needed?

- Perhaps the most important issue to consider when opening a Neighborhood Networks center is funding. Funding considerations should include startup costs, followed by operational costs that will enable the center to expand and sustain programs and services. Funding issues to consider include:
 - o What are the estimated startup costs?
 - O What funds are available to help the center open?
 - o What funds are needed to offer and sustain the programs and services that residents need and want?
- A variety of funding options are available:
 - On a case-by-case basis, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) can consider approving the use of funds from a property's Residual Receipts Account, the Reserve for Replacement Account, excess income, and owner's equity, as well as rent increases and adjustments.

Contact: (888) 312-2743 for more information on Neighborhood Networks

5) Indian Community Development Block Grant

The Indian Community Development Block Grant offers grants on a competitive basis to eligible Indian tribes and Alaska Native Villages to improve the housing stock, provide community facilities, make infrastructure improvements, fund microenterprises, and expand job opportunities. Eligible activities include housing rehabilitation, acquisition of land for housing, and assistance for homeownership opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons. Grantees may also use funds for construction of single- or multi-use facilities, streets, and public facilities, as well as for economic development projects, especially those sponsored by nonprofit tribal organizations or local development corporations. Funds may not be used for constructing or improving government facilities, for new housing construction (unless carried out by an eligible nonprofit organization), for general government or income expenses, for operating or maintenance expenses, for political activities, or to purchase equipment.

Eligibility:

Eligible applicants for assistance include any Indian tribe, band, group, or nation (including Alaska Indians, Aleut, and Eskimos) or Alaska Native village which has established a relationship to the Federal government as defined in the program regulations. In certain instances, tribal organizations may be eligible to apply.

Categories:

- The ICDBG program can provide funding for recipients in the following categories:
 - o Housing rehabilitation, land acquisition to support new housing construction, and under limited circumstances, new housing construction.
 - o Infrastructure construction, e.g., roads, water and sewer facilities; and, single or multipurpose community buildings.
 - Wide variety of commercial, industrial, agricultural projects which may be recipient owned and operated or which may be owned and/or operated by a third party.

Funding Distribution:

➤ Under Section 106 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, one percent of the Title I CDBG appropriation, excluding amounts appropriated for use under Section 107, is allocated for grants to Indian tribes. This regional allocation, which goes to the Area Offices of Native American Programs (ONAP) responsible for the program, consists of a base amount plus a

formula share of the balance of the Indian CDBG program funds. The funds are distributed by the Area ONAP Offices to Indian tribes and Alaska Native Villages on a competitive basis, according to selection criteria set forth in a regulation and Notice of Funding Availability.

6) Public Housing Networks (NN) Program (Public and Indian Housing)

- This funding program provided grants to Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) to establish, expand and/or update community technology centers.
- In lieu of direct grant funding, by statute, PHAs may use their 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. An overview of how PHAs may use their Capital and Operating funds to support this type of work is provided here:
 - O The Public Housing Capital Fund can be used to open a Neighborhood Networks computer lab. Equipment, Internet connectivity, space renovation/remodeling, staff salary, and insurance costs can be paid for using Capital Funds. These funds can be used for the first year of the center's operation. Subsequently, PHAs can use their Operating Funds for the continued operation of the Neighborhood Networks center. However, any equipment upgrades over the life of the Neighborhood Networks center would come from the Capital Fund. Similarly, PHAs can use their Capital Funds to purchase routers for individual units (across an entire building or development, not on a case-by-case basis). However, neither Capital Funds nor Operating Funds can be used to pay for residents' inunit Internet access. Please see below for a comprehensive list of activities that may be paid for out of each fund.

Capital Fund:

- May be used for the establishment and initial operation of a Neighborhood Networks computer center for such things as:
 - o Computer equipment (CF management improvement or Operating Fund)
 - o Equipment upgrades (over the life of the center from CF management improvement or Operating Fund)
 - o Space renovations (could be initial CF and later CF modernization expense)
 - o Internet connection and utilities (for initial operation of NN center)
 - o Staff salary (for initial operation of NN center)
 - o Insurance (for initial operation of NN center)
 - Routers for individual units (not Internet connectivity) initial CF expense, ongoing maintenance costs from Operating Fund
- > Statutory Authority: Capital Funds may be used for the initial operation of a Neighborhood Networks center per Section 9 (d) Capital Fund (of the 1937 Housing Act as amended) subparagraph (1)(E)
 - o The statute can be found by going here: https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/granule/USCODE-2010-title42-chap8-subchapI-sec1437g/content-detail.html
- Capital Fund Rule References:

- o Federal Register Notice New Capital Fund Rule: https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/10/24/2013-23230/public-housing-capital-fund-program
- New Capital Fund Rule, Overview Training: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CWpULWyDx9E

Operating Fund:

- Must be used for the ongoing costs of operating computer centers in public housing
 - o Ongoing Internet connection fees and utilities
 - o Staff salary
 - o Insurance
 - Ongoing maintenance of in-unit routers
 - Other activities related to the computer center (e.g., training programs) would be an Operating Fund expense
 - O Statutory Authority: Costs associated with the ongoing operation of a Neighborhood Networks/computer lab are specifically cited in the HUD statute as follows:
 - Section 9 (e) Operating Fund (of the 1937 Housing Act as amended) subparagraph (1)(K): the costs of operating computer centers in public housing through a Neighborhood Networks initiative described in subsection (d)(1)(E) of this section.

Deadline

Applications accepted on an ongoing basis

7) Title VI Loan Guarantee (Public and Indian Housing)

- Title VI is an effective public investment tool that HUD offers to federally recognized tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs). It provides an additional source of financing for affordable tribal housing activities. It may be used to:
 - o Create new housing
 - o Rehabilitate housing
 - Build infrastructure
 - o Construct community facilities
 - o Acquire land to be used for housing
 - o Prepare architectural & engineering plans
 - o Fund financing costs

Authorization:

The Title VI Loan Guarantee Program is authorized by the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996, as amended (25 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.), (NAHASDA), in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations at 24 CFR Part 1000. NAHASDA and the regulations also authorize the Indian Housing Block Grant Program (IHBG). The requirements of NAHASDA and the regulations apply to all projects using Title VI financing.

Purpose:

- 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.

Benefits:

- > Title VI loans benefit tribes and lenders. Tribes benefit by building more housing at today's costs and using the loan to leverage additional funds from other sources. Improved financial services from lenders permit flexible financing terms. Additionally, tribes are not required to use land as collateral for loans.
- Likewise, lenders benefit from administering Title VI loans. Some of these benefits include: limited risk exposure, reduced costs, increased loan marketability, and improved opportunities to market financial services and credit towards meeting community reinvestment goals.

How Does the Title VI Loan Guarantee Program Work?

- A tribe/TDHE uses IHBG funds to leverage additional funds to finance affordable housing activities, so that it can undertake larger projects and build at today's costs. This leverage is created by pledging the need portion of the tribe's annual IHBG grant and the project's income as security to HUD in exchange for a Title VI loan guarantee.
- In turn, HUD provides a 95 percent guarantee of outstanding principal, plus accrued and unpaid interest as collateral to the lender. The lender then, provides the financing to the tribe.
- Although a tribe/TDHE pledges the need portion to HUD, the funds are not obligated. A tribe/TDHE may use the need portion for completion of the project, other eligible grant activities, or to repay the loan.
- The maximum guarantee amount that a tribe/TDHE can borrow is approximately five times the need portion. A tribe/TDHE may have one or more Title VI loans, but the combined total may not exceed the maximum guarantee amount. Click here.
- A tribe/TDHE must repay its Title VI loan. However, the repayments may be stretched to 20 years. As the amortization period increases, the annual debt service payments decrease. If a tribe/TDHE fails to repay the debt and a default is declared, HUD will make the loan payments to the lender. HUD will then seek reimbursement from the borrower's pledged funds. Click here.

Title VI Application Process:

- The Title VI program uses a team approach with regular conference calls to help ensure project success by providing technical assistance, answering questions, and coordinating the various parties to keep the project on schedule. The main participants include:
 - O 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. The project must meet Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) program regulations at 24 CFR Part 1000.
 - o The lender, who provides loan financing to the borrower. In general, any lender that is supervised, regulated, or insured by any agency of the United States is eligible to participate in the Title VI program. In addition, the Secretary of HUD may approve a lender.
 - o The Office of Native American Programs, which administers IHBG and other programs for Native Americans. The office is divided into six Area Offices. These offices provide technical assistance on grants and monitors grant and Title VI regulatory compliance. Each Area Office has an individual assigned to assist with the Title VI project.
 - The Office of Loan Guarantee administers Title VI, Section 184, and the Section 184A programs. OLG staff is located at HUD Headquarters in Washington D.C.
- Although every project is different, HUD has developed a general <u>checklist</u> for the Title VI Loan Guarantee application process. The two-step process consists of the tribe's/TDHE's request for a Preliminary Letter of Acceptance and the lender's Firm Commitment Request.

Preliminary Letter of Acceptance:

- The Preliminary Letter of Acceptance (PLA Request) is the Office of Loan Guarantee's (OLG) preliminary approval of a guarantee to a tribe/TDHE. It is not an approval of a Title VI loan application or a commitment to approve/guarantee the Title VI loan. The preliminary review is recommended by HUD, and is beneficial because it:
 - O Verifies the amount of the available guarantee
 - o Permits an early compliance check and feasibility review
 - Offers an opportunity to identify and address potential issues before they create project delays
 - o Increases lender interest by documenting HUD's willingness to issue the guarantee
 - o Provides an opportunity for the local <u>Office of Native American Programs</u> and OLG to offer technical assistance
- A tribe/TDHE makes a request for a PLA to its Area Office of Native American Programs, which is then reviewed by the Area Office and OLG. Once accepted, HUD will issue a preliminary letter of acceptance (PLA). Because project planning takes time, HUDs PLA's are good for 120 days (4 months), with extensions available on a case-by-case basis. Due to project changes, the tribe/TDHE is expected to submit updated material to its selected lender for inclusion in the lender's Firm Commitment Request for the guarantee.

Firm Commitment:

- The tribe's/TDHE's lender makes a Firm Commitment to OLG. The lender is responsible for maintaining loan application documentation, including receipt of the tribe's/TDHE's current project documents.
- The documents sent to OLG should be submitted according to the order shown on the checklist.
- ➤ If the application is incomplete, OLG will request additional information and place the request on hold.
- ➤ If the request is approved, HUD will issue a Firm Commitment to the lender. The Firm Commitment will identify any outstanding items the lender must submit, and closing conditions that the lender must meet prior to the issuance of a guarantee.
- The Firm Commitment is valid for 90 days, with extensions available on a case-by-case basis.

Issuance of the Loan Guarantee:

➤ Once the lender meets the conditions in the Firm Commitment letter and forwards remaining outstanding items to OLG, the loan will be ready to close. After the loan has closed, OLG will execute agreements with the lender and tribe/TDHE and issue a guarantee to the lender. The lender will provide copies of the documents to the tribe and TDHE.

Summary:

- The entire Title VI process from the request for the Preliminary Letter of Acceptance to the issuance of a guarantee is flexible to meet the needs of the project, the tribe, and the borrower. If the tribe/TDHE is submitting project information to other funding sources, that information may be sufficient for documenting the Title VI request. If OLG requires additional information, it will notify the borrower or lender.
- There is no application deadline for the Title VI Loan Guarantee Program, and the guarantee is not competitive. 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.
- Click here to contact the OLG in your region.

Contacts for Regional HUD Offices:

➤ Buffalo Field Office
William O'Connell, Director, CPD
465 Main Street
2nd Floor
Buffalo, NY 14203
(716) 551-5755, ext. 5800
William.T.OConnell@hud.gov

New York Regional Field Office Vincent Hom, Director, CPD 26 Federal Plaza Suite 3513 New York, NY 10278 (212) 542-7428 Vincent.Hom@hud.gov



Section IV

United States Department of Education

ED's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

Congress established the U.S. Department of Education (ED) on May 4, 1980, in the Department of Education Organization Act (Public Law 96-88 of October 1979). Under this law, ED's mission is to:

- > Strengthen the Federal commitment to assuring access to equal educational opportunity for every individual;
- Supplement and complement the efforts of states, the local school systems and other instrumentalities of the states, the private sector, public and private nonprofit educational research institutions, community-based organizations, parents, and students to improve the quality of education;
- Encourage the increased involvement of the public, parents, and students in Federal education programs;
- ➤ Promote improvements in the quality and usefulness of education through Federally supported research, evaluation, and sharing of information;
- > Improve the coordination of Federal education programs;
- > Improve the management of Federal education activities; and
- > Increase the accountability of Federal education programs to the President, the Congress, and the public.

1) Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions Program

- ➤ This program provides grants and related assistance to Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions to enable such institutions to improve and expand their capacity to serve Asian Americans and Native American Pacific Islanders and low-income individuals.
- This guide provides information on the Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving Institutions Program authorized by the Higher Education Opportunity Act, 2008 (HEA, Title III, Part A, Section 320; CFDA# 84.031L) as well as the Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving Institutions Program originally authorized by the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 (HEA, Title III, Part F, Section 371; CFDA# 84.382B).

Types of Projects:

- ➤ 84.031L
 - o Renovation and improvement in classrooms, libraries, laboratories, and other instructional facilities.
 - o Establishing or improving an endowment fund.
 - o Establishing partnerships with community-based organizations serving Asian Americans and Native American Pacific Islanders.
 - O Purchase, rental, or lease of scientific or laboratory equipment for educational purposes, including instructional and research purposes.
- ➤ 84.382B
 - o Purchase, rental, or lease of scientific or laboratory equipment for educational purposes, including instructional and research purposes.

- O Construction, maintenance, renovation, and improvement in classrooms, libraries, laboratories, and other instructional facilities, including the integration of computer technology into institutional facilities to create smart buildings.
- Development and improvement of academic programs
- o Joint use of facilities, such as laboratories and libraries.
- Creating or improving facilities for Internet or other distance learning academic instruction capabilities, including purchase or rental of telecommunications technology equipment or services.

2) Impact Aid Programs

- Many local school districts across the United States include within their boundaries parcels of land that are owned by the Federal Government or that have been removed from the local tax rolls by the Federal Government, including Indian lands. These school districts face special challenges they must provide a quality education to the children living on the Indian and other Federal lands and meet the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act, while sometimes operating with less local revenue than is available to other school districts, because the Federal property is exempt from local property taxes.
- ➤ Since 1950, Congress has provided financial assistance to these local school districts through the Impact Aid Program. Impact Aid was designed to assist local school districts that have lost property tax revenue due to the presence of tax- exempt Federal property, or that have experienced increased expenditures due to the enrollment of federally connected children, including children living on Indian lands. The Impact Aid law (now Title VII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA)) provides assistance to local school districts with concentrations of children residing on Indian lands, military bases, low-rent housing properties, or other Federal properties and, to a lesser extent, concentrations of children who have parents in the uniformed services or employed on eligible Federal properties who do not live on Federal property.
- In past years, over 93 percent of the appropriated funds were targeted for payment to school districts based on an annual count of federally connected school children. Slightly more than 5 percent assists school districts that have lost significant local assessed value due to the acquisition of property by the Federal Government since 1938. Funds are also available for formula construction grants.
- ➤ The Impact Aid law (now Title VII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) has been amended numerous times since its inception in 1950. The program continues, however, to support local school districts with concentrations of children who reside on Indian lands, military bases, low-rent housing properties, and other Federal properties, or have parents in the uniformed services or employed on eligible Federal properties. The law refers to local school districts as local educational agencies (LEAs).

How Do School Districts Use Impact Aid?

Most Impact Aid funds, except for the additional payments for children with disabilities and construction payments, are considered general aid to the recipient school districts; these districts may use the funds in whatever manner they choose in accordance with their local and State requirements. Most recipients use these funds for current expenditures, but recipients may use the funds for other purposes such as capital expenditures. Some Impact Aid funds must be used for specific purposes. All payments are distributed by wire transfer directly to the bank accounts of school districts.

School districts use Impact Aid for a wide variety of expenses, including the salaries of teachers and teacher aides; purchasing textbooks, computers, and other equipment; after-school programs and remedial tutoring; advanced placement classes; and special enrichment programs. Payments for Children with Disabilities must be used for the extra costs of educating these children.

Impact Aid Program Components:

- Payments for Federal Property (Section 7002)
 - O Payments for Federal Property assist local school districts that have lost a portion of their local tax base because of Federal ownership of property. To be eligible, a school district must demonstrate that the Federal Government has acquired, since 1938, real property with an assessed valuation of at least 10 percent of all real property in the district at the time of acquisition.
- ➤ Basic Support Payments (Section 7003(b))
 - O Basic Support Payments help local school districts that educate federally connected children. These may be the children of members of the uniformed services, children who reside on Indian lands, children who reside on Federal property or in federally subsidized low-rent housing, and children whose parents work on Federal Property. In general, to be eligible for assistance a local school district must educate at least 400 such children in average daily attendance, or the federally connected children must make up at least 3 percent of the school district's total average daily attendance. Heavily Impacted Districts that enroll certain percentages of federally connected children and meet other specific statutory criteria, receive increased formula payments under Section 7003(b)(2).
- > Children With Disabilities Payments (Section 7003(d))
 - O Payments for Children with Disabilities provide additional assistance to school districts that educate federally connected children who are eligible for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA). These payments are in addition to Basic Support Payments and IDEA funds provided on behalf of these children. A school district that receives these funds MUST use them for the increased costs of educating federally connected children with disabilities.
- Construction Grants (Section 7007)
 - O Construction Grants go to local school districts that educate high percentages of certain federally connected children both children living on Indian lands and children of members of the uniformed services. These grants help pay for the construction and repair of school buildings. Section 7007(a) provides formula grants to the local school districts based on the number of eligible federally connected children they educate. There is no separate application process required for this grant. The formula distribution is based on the 7003 application. Section 7007(a) was funded in fiscal year 2016. Section 7007(b) provides competitive grants for emergency repairs and modernization.

Section 7003-Federal Children Payment

- Eligibility:
 - O Section 7003 establishes several broad categories of federally connected school children who may generate payments for their school districts. Following are brief descriptions of the categories:
 - Child resides on federal property with a parent employed on federal property situated in whole or in part within the boundaries of the school district.
 - Child resides on federal property with a parent who is both an accredited official of a foreign government and a foreign military officer.

- Child resides on federal property and has a parent on active duty in the uniformed services of the United States.
- Child resides on eligible Indian lands (no employment requirement).
- Child has a parent on active duty in the uniformed services of the United States.
- Child has a parent who is both an accredited official of a foreign government and a foreign military officer.
- Child resides in eligible low-rent housing.
- Child resides on federal property.
- Child resides with a parent employed on federal property located in the same state as the school district.

➤ Threshold Eligibility

- O To qualify for section 7003 funding, an LEA must meet one of the following threshold eligibility requirements:
 - The LEA must be serving eligible federally connected children numbering at least 400 in ADA; or
 - At least 3 percent of the total number of children in ADA must be such children

> Children with Disabilities

- O LEAs that serve federally connected children with disabilities may receive an additional payment to assist with the excess costs of providing educational services to these children. An LEA must provide services for all children with disabilities claimed on its application in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- > 7007a (Construction Payment)
 - O This section authorizes payments for capital expenditure assistance to LEAs that receive a Basic Support Payment under section 7003 and that meet one of the following criteria:
 - The number of children in average daily attendance in the schools of the LEA who reside on Indian lands equals at least 50 percent of the total student enrollment in the schools of the LEA.
 - The number of children in average daily attendance in the schools of the LEA who have a parent on active duty in the uniformed services of the United States equals at least 50 percent of the total student enrollment in the schools of the LEA.
 - The LEA receives a payment under section 7003(b)(2).
 - o LEAs must use these funds for construction activities, which may include:
 - Preparing drawings and specifications for school facilities
 - Erecting, building, acquiring, altering, remodeling, repairing or extending school facilities
 - Inspecting and supervising the construction of school facilities
 - Debt services for construction activities

Applicant Information:

- o Eligible local educational agencies that wish to apply for Impact Aid must apply online each year using the Impact Aid Grant System.
- O The application becomes available each year in November and must be submitted by the following January 31. There in no grace period for submitting required information. A potential applicant should review the Impact Aid Program law and regulations to determine if it might be eligible before applying for Impact Aid.
- o If you have questions about the application process, please call us at (202) 260-3858 or contact us by e-mail at Impact.Aid@ed.gov.

Section 7007b-Construction Grants

- Impact Aid discretionary construction grants fund emergency repairs and modernization of school facilities to certain eligible local educational agencies (LEAs) that receive Impact Aid.
 - Emergency repair grants must be used to repair, renovate, or alter a public elementary or secondary school facility to ensure the health, safety, and wellbeing of students and school personnel.
 - Modernization grants may be used to extend a public elementary or secondary school facility to ease overcrowding and provide facilities that support a contemporary educational program.
- ➤ The law specifies that applications for Emergency grants receive first and second priority in the competition, while applications for Modernization grants are treated as third and fourth priorities. The Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended, authorizes Impact Aid discretionary construction grant under Section 7003(b).
- Eligibility:
 - O An LEA is eligible to receive an emergency grant under section 7007(b) of the Act if it has a school facility emergency that the Secretary has determined poses a health or safety hazard to students and school personnel.
 - o To qualify under the first priority, the LEA must meet one of the following two criteria:
 - The LEA is eligible to receive formula construction funds for the fiscal year under section 8007(a) of the Act (20 U.S.C. 7707(a)) because it enrolls a high percentage (at least 50 percent) of federally connected children in average daily attendance (ADA) who either reside on Indian lands or who have a parent on active duty in the U.S. uniformed services. If qualifying under this criterion, the LEA must additionally:
 - Have no practical capacity to issue bonds
 - Have minimal capacity to issue bonds and have used at least 75 percent of its bond limit.
 - The LEA is eligible to receive funds for the fiscal year for heavily impacted districts under section 8003(b)(2) of the Act (20 U.S.C. 7707(b)(2))

<u>Impact Aid Section 7002 – Payments for Federal Property</u>

- Payments for Federal Property assist local school districts that have lost a portion of their local tax base because of Federal ownership of property. To be eligible, a school district must demonstrate that the Federal Government has acquired, since 1938, real property with an assessed valuation of at least 10 percent of all real property in the district at the time of acquisition.
- Eligibility:
 - O A local educational agency (LEA) is generally eligible for section 7002 assistance if it meets the following basic requirements:
 - The United States has acquired ownership of real property within the school district since 1938.
 - Such property was not acquired by exchange for other Federal property that the Federal Government owned before 1939, or
 - The assessed valuation of such property represented 10 percent or more of the total assessed valuation of all real property in the LEA at the time or times of Federal acquisition.
 - An LEA may base its eligibility on a former district contained within its boundaries.
 - o The law provides a special exception for certain LEAs that meet the following criteria:
 - The LEA contains between 20,000 and 60,000 acres of land that has been acquired by the U. S. Forest Service between 1915 and 1990 as demonstrated by U.S. Forest

Service records, and the LEA serves a county chartered by State law in 1875 or 1890

3) Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions

- This program provides grants and related assistance to Native American-serving, nontribal institutions to enable such institutions to improve and expand their capacity to serve Native Americans and low-income individuals.
- ➤ This Web site provides information on the Native American-serving Nontribal Institutions Program authorized by the Higher Education Opportunity Act, 2008 (HEA, Title III, Part A, Section 319; CFDA# 84.031X) as well as the Native American-serving Nontribal Institutions Program Program originally authorized by the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 (HEA, Title III, Part F, Section 371; CFDA# 84.382C).

Types of Projects:

- Frants awarded under this section shall be used by Native American nontribal-serving institutions to assist such institutions to plan, develop, undertake, and carry out activities to improve and expand such institutions' capacity to serve Native and low-income individuals.
- > Types of projects may include:
 - O Purchase, rental, or lease of scientific or laboratory equipment for educational purposes, including instructional and research purposes;
 - o Renovation and improvement in classroom, library, laboratory, and other instructional facilities;
 - O Support of faculty exchanges, and faculty development and faculty fellowships to assist in attaining advanced degrees in the faculty's field of instruction;
 - o Curriculum development and academic instruction;
 - o Purchase of library books, periodicals, microfilm, and other educational materials;
 - Funds and administrative management, and acquisition of equipment for use in strengthening funds management;
 - o Joint use of facilities such as laboratories and libraries;
 - o Academic tutoring and counseling programs and student support services; and
 - Education or counseling services designed to improve the financial and economic literacy of students or the students' families.

Eligibility:

You must be designated an eligible institution before applying for funding under this program. The latest application to request designation as an eligible institution and to request a waiver of the non-federal cost share requirement is available. Please note the closing date(s) and refer to the Federal Register Notice.

Applicant Information:

- There are two application processes for this program -- one for eligibility and one for grant funding.
- All applicants are required to submit an application online through Grants.gov. Grants.gov is a single access point for over 1,000 grant programs offered by federal and other grant-making agencies.
- Through this site, you will be able to download a copy of the application package, complete it offline, and then upload and submit your application. If you experience problems submitting your application through Grants.gov, contact the Grants.gov Support Desk, toll free, at 1-800-518-4726. For program-specific questions, contact the program officer(s) below.

8) Rural and Low-Income School Program

The purpose of the Rural and Low-Income School (RLIS) grant program is to provide rural districts with financial assistance for initiatives aimed at improving student achievement. The grant is non-competitive, and eligibility is determined by statute. Awards are issued annually to state education agencies (SEAs), which make sub-grants to local education agencies (LEAs) that meet the applicable requirements. Awards are made to all SEAs that apply and meet the applicable requirements of the act (see legislative citation above).

Program Description:

➤ Under the RLIS program grants are made to State educational agencies with eligible school districts. State education agencies subgrant RLIS funds to eligible school districts to pay for activities authorized under Titles I-IV of the ESEA, as well as parental involvement activities. If a State elects to not participate in the RLIS program, eligible school districts from that State are consider specially qualified agencies (SQAs) and can apply directly to the Department for RLIS awards. In order to be eligible school districts must have at least 20 percent of the children they serve come from families with incomes below the poverty line and be located in a rural area. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) numbers for the RLIS and SQA programs are 84.358B and 84.358C.

Use of Funds:

- LEAs that receive RLIS grants may use the funds to carry out the following types of activities:
 - o Parental involvement activities
 - o Title I-A (Improving Basic Programs Operated by local education agencies)
 - o Title II-A (Supporting Effective Instruction)
 - o Title III (Language Instruction for English Learners and Immigrant Students)
 - o Title IV-A (Student Support and Academic Enrichment)

9) Small and Rural School Achievement Program

- The purpose of the Small, Rural School Achievement (SRSA) program is to provide rural LEAs with financial assistance to fund initiatives aimed at improving student academic achievement.
- Local education agencies (LEAs) are entitled to funds if they meet basic eligibility and application requirements. Awards are issued annually, and award amounts are determined using a formula.

Use of Funds:

- Grantees may use SRSA funds to carry out activities authorized under any of the following federal programs:
 - Title I-A (Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Education Agencies) Example: A school district develops an entrepreneurial education program to supplement its civics curriculum.
 - o Title II-A (Supporting Effective Instruction) Example: A school district pays the stipend for a prospective teacher to work alongside an effective teacher, who is the teacher of record, for a full academic year.
 - O Title III (Language Instruction for English Learners and Immigrant Students) Example: A school district offers an afterschool enrichment program for English learners.
 - o Title IV-A (Student Support and Academic Enrichment) Example: A school district purchases a bully prevention program for all schools.
 - o Title IV-B (21st Century Community Learning Centers) Example: A school district purchases instruments to supplement schools' band and orchestra programs.

Alternative Uses of Funds Authority:

- The Alternative Uses of Funds Authority allows SRSA-eligible LEAs greater flexibility in spending the funds they receive under Title II, Part A and Title IV, Part A, to best address the LEA's particular needs. Under the Alternative Uses of Funds Authority, LEAs are able to use their Title II, Part A and Title IV, Part A, funds to pay for activities under any of the allowable uses for SRSA grant funds. (See Section 5211(a) of the ESEA, as amended, for more information.)
 - o An SRSA-eligible LEA does not have to apply for SRSA funds in order to exercise the Alternative Uses of Funds Authority.
 - O An LEA that is eligible for both SRSA and RLIS may exercise this authority even if the LEA chooses to participate in RLIS instead of SRSA.
 - O Before exercising the Alternative Uses of Funds Authority, an eligible LEA must notify its state educational agency (SEA) of its intent to do so by the deadline established by the SEA. Eligible LEAs should reach out to their SEA contact for more information about the SEA's reporting requirements deadline.

10) Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program

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; and (3) improve the use of technology in order to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy for all students.

Eligibility:

- ➤ Who May Apply
 - State Educational Agencies

Applicant Information:

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

Section V

United States Department of Transportation

The Mission of the Department of Transportation is to ensure our nation has the safest, most efficient and modern transportation system in the world; that improves the quality of life for all American people and communities, from rural to urban, and increases the productivity and competitiveness of American workers and businesses.

1) RAISE Grants

- The Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity, or RAISE Discretionary Grant program, provides a unique opportunity for the DOT to invest in road, rail, transit and port projects that promise to achieve national objectives. Previously known as the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) and Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants, Congress has dedicated nearly \$9.9 billion for thirteen rounds of National Infrastructure Investments to fund projects that have a significant local or regional impact.
- ➤ In each competition, DOT receives hundreds of applications to build and repair critical pieces of our freight and passenger transportation networks. The RAISE program enables DOT to examine these projects on their merits to help ensure that taxpayers are getting the highest value for every dollar invested.
- The eligibility requirements of RAISE allow project sponsors at the State and local levels to obtain funding for multi-modal, multi-jurisdictional projects that are more difficult to support through traditional DOT programs. RAISE can fund port and freight rail projects, for example, which play a critical role in our ability to move freight, but have limited sources of Federal funds. RAISE can provide capital funding directly to any public entity, including municipalities, counties, port authorities, tribal governments, MPOs, or others in contrast to traditional Federal programs which provide funding to very specific groups of applicants (mostly State DOTs and transit agencies). This flexibility allows RAISE and our traditional partners at the State and local levels to work directly with a host of entities that own, operate, and maintain much of our transportation infrastructure, but otherwise cannot turn to the Federal government for support.

How to Apply:

Instructions for completing a Project Information Form are posted at http://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/raise-info. Please read the instructions thoroughly to ensure your Project Information Form is successfully completed.

Section VI

United States Department of Treasury

The U.S. Department of the Treasury's mission is to maintain a strong economy and create economic and job opportunities by promoting the conditions that enable economic growth and stability at home and abroad, strengthen national security by combating threats and protecting the integrity of the financial system, and manage the U.S. Government's finances and resources effectively.

1) Capital Projects Fund

- The Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (Capital Projects Fund), established by Section 604 of the Social Security Act (the Statute), as added by Section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (American Rescue Plan). The American Rescue Plan appropriated \$10 billion to Treasury to provide payments to States, territories, freely associated states, and Tribal Governments "to carry out critical capital projects directly enabling work, education, and health monitoring, including remote options, in response to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)." Treasury has separately published the allocations available to each eligible entity in accordance with Section 604(b), which is available at: treasury.gov/CPF. Although this is not a competitive grant program, States, territories, and freely associated states must submit an Application and a Grant Plan; for Tribal Governments, the Application also serves as their Grant Plan.
- The Capital Projects Fund allows for investment in high-quality broadband infrastructure as well as other connectivity infrastructure, devices, and equipment. Treasury encourages consultation with the statewide entity or office that oversees broadband planning and implementation, where such an entity or office exists, when planning for the use of Capital Projects Fund grant funding.
- In addition to supporting broadband, it also provides flexibility for each State, territory, freely associated state, and Tribal Government to make investments in other Capital Projects designed to directly enable work, education, and health monitoring and that meet Treasury's other criteria.

Eligible Applicants:

- Eligible states ("States") are each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.
- The seven eligible territories and freely associated states are the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau.
- Eligible Tribal governments

Eligible Projects:

- For a Capital Project to be an eligible use of Capital Projects Fund grant funds, it must meet all of the following criteria:
 - The Capital Project invests in capital assets designed to directly enable work, education, and health monitoring.
 - o The Capital Project is designed to address a critical need that resulted from or was made apparent or exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency.
 - o The Capital Project is designed to address a critical need of the community to be served by it

Presumptively Eligible Projects

- Broadband Infrastructure Projects. The construction and deployment of broadband infrastructure projects ("Broadband Infrastructure Projects") are eligible for funding under the Capital Projects Fund program if the infrastructure is designed to deliver, upon project completion, service that reliably meets or exceeds symmetrical download and upload speeds of 100 Mbps. If it would be impracticable, because of geography, topography, or excessive cost, for a Broadband Infrastructure Project to be designed to deliver services at such a speed, the Project must be designed so that it reliably meets or exceeds 100 Mbps download speeds and between 20 Mbps and 100 Mbps upload speeds and be scalable to a minimum of 100 Mbps symmetrical for download and upload speeds. Treasury encourages Recipients to focus on projects that will achieve last-mile connections. Recipients considering funding middle-mile projects are encouraged to have commitments in place to support new and/or improved last-mile service.
- Digital Connectivity Technology Projects. The purchase and/or installation of devices and equipment to facilitate broadband internet access are eligible for funding under the Capital Projects Fund program where affordability has been identified by the Recipient as a barrier to broadband adoption and use. Permitted devices and equipment include laptops, tablets, and desktop personal computers6 for distribution to members of the public through a short- or long-term loan program or to be made available for use in public facilities. Permitted equipment includes equipment installed as part of public wi-fi infrastructure (e.g., access points, repeaters, routers).

Contact Information

CapitalProjectsFund@treasury.gov U.S. Department of the Treasury Attn: Capital Projects Fund 1500 Pennsylvania Ave NW Washington, DC 20220 https://www.treasury.gov/CPF

2) Community Reinvestment Act (CRA)

➤ The Community Reinvestment Act of 1977 (CRA) encourages certain insured depository institutions to help meet the credit needs of the communities in which they are chartered, including low- and moderate-income (LMI) neighborhoods, consistent with the safe and sound operation of such institutions.

3) New Markets Tax Credit Program

➤ The NMTC Program attracts private capital into low-income communities by permitting individual and corporate investors to receive a tax credit against their federal income tax in exchange for making equity investments in specialized financial intermediaries called Community Development Entities (CDEs). The credit totals 39 percent of the original investment amount and is claimed over a period of seven years.

Eligibility:

- NMTC Program applicants must be certified as CDEs by the CDFI Fund. For more information on CDE Certification, please see our CDE Certification page.
- ➤ CDE Certification is intended for community development financing intermediaries. Businesses seeking NMTC-enhanced financing should not apply for CDE Certification, but should instead contact CDEs directly. To locate a CDE serving your area, please visit our NMTC Awardee States Served map.

Section VII

United States Economic Development Administration

The U.S. Economic Development Administration's investment policy is designed to establish a foundation for sustainable job growth and the building of durable regional economies throughout the United States. This foundation builds upon two key economic drivers - innovation and regional collaboration. Innovation is key to global competitiveness, new and better jobs, a resilient economy, and the attainment of national economic goals. Regional collaboration is essential for economic recovery because regions are the centers of competition in the new global economy and those that work together to leverage resources and use their strengths to overcome weaknesses will fare better than those that do not. EDA encourages its partners around the country to develop initiatives that advance new ideas and creative approaches to address rapidly evolving economic conditions. Link to funding opportunities at: https://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities/

1) Public Works (PW) and Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA)

EDA Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance program:

- ➤ Application submission and program requirements
 - The Economic Development Administration's (EDA's) mission is to lead the Federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American regions for economic growth and success in the worldwide economy. EDA fulfills this mission through strategic investments and partnerships that create the regional economic ecosystems required to foster globally competitive regions throughout the United States. EDA's Public Works and 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 the DOC Strategic Plan (2018-2022) by, among other things, leading to the creation and retention of jobs and increased private investment, advancing innovation, enhancing the manufacturing capacities of regions, providing workforce development opportunities and growing ecosystems that attract foreign direct investment. Through these programs, EDA supports bottom-up strategies that build on regional assets to spur economic growth and resiliency.
 Under this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), EDA solicits applications from
 - O Under this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), EDA solicits applications from applicants in order to provide investments that support construction, non-construction, planning, technical assistance, and revolving loan fund projects under EDA's Public Works program and Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) programs (which includes Assistance to Coal Communities). Grants and cooperative agreements made under these programs are designed to leverage existing regional assets and support the implementation of economic development strategies that advance new ideas and creative approaches to advance economic prosperity in distressed communities, including those negatively impacted by changes to the coal economy.

Deadlines:

There are no submission deadlines under this opportunity. 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.

Research and National Technical Assistance (RNTA) 2)

- > Through the R&E program, EDA supports the development of tools, recommendations, and resources that shape Federal economic development policies and inform economic development decision-making. R&E program investments provide critical, cutting-edge research and best practices to regional, state, and local practitioners in the economic development field, thereby enhancing understanding and implementation of economic development concepts throughout the country. EDA also regularly evaluates the impacts and outcomes of its various programs as a means of identifying policy and program modifications that will increase the Agency's efficiency and effectiveness.
- EDA's NTA program supports a small number of projects that provide technical assistance at a national scope. These projects support best practices among communities trying to solve problems related to economic development goals. By working in conjunction with its national technical assistance partners, EDA helps States, local governments, and community-based organizations to achieve their highest economic potential. The NTA program supports activities that are beneficial to the economic development community nationwide and includes, but is not limited to, outreach, training, and information dissemination. It can also provide assistance with implementation of economic development best practices and proven techniques.

Current Closing Date for Applications:

There are no submission deadlines under this NOFO. Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis until the termination of this NOFO or publication of a superseding RNTA NOFO.

EDA Planning Program and Local Technical Assistance Program

Through its Planning and Local Technical Assistance programs, EDA assists eligible recipients in developing economic development plans and studies designed to build capacity and guide the economic prosperity and resiliency of an area or region. The Planning program helps support organizations, including District Organizations, Indian Tribes, and other eligible recipients, with Short Term and State Planning investments designed to guide the eventual creation and retention of high-quality jobs, particularly for the unemployed and underemployed in the Nation's most economically distressed regions. As part of this program, EDA supports Partnership Planning investments to facilitate the development, implementation, revision, or replacement of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS), which articulate and prioritize the strategic economic goals of recipients' respective regions. The Local Technical Assistance program strengthens the capacity of local or State organizations, institutions of higher education, and other eligible recipients to undertake and promote effective economic development programs through projects such as feasibility studies and impact analyses.

Section VIII

Institute of Museum and Library Services

The mission of IMLS is to advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development.

IMLS Strategic Goals are as follows:

- ➤ Promote Lifelong Learning: IMLS supports learning and literacy for people of all ages through museums and libraries.
- ➤ Build Capacity: IMLS strengthens the capacity of museums and libraries to improve the well-being of their communities.
- ➤ Increase Public Access: IMLS makes strategic investments that increase access to information, ideas, and networks through libraries and museums.
- Achieve Excellence: IMLS strategically aligns its resources and relationships to support libraries and museums nationwide.

1) Grants to States Program

- ➤ Using a population based formula, grants are distributed among the State Library Administrative Agencies (SLAAs) every year. SLAAs are official agencies charged by law with the extension and development of library services, and they are located in:
 - o Each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia;

What Do the Funds Support?

- Each year, over 1,500 Grants to States projects support the purposes and priorities outlined in the <u>Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA)</u>. SLAAs may use the funds to support statewide initiatives and services, and they may also distribute the funds through competitive subawards to, or cooperative agreements with, public, academic, research, school, or special libraries or consortia (for-profit and federal libraries are not eligible).
- ➤ States and subrecipients have partnered with community organizations to provide a variety of services and programs, including access to electronic databases, computer instruction, homework centers, summer reading programs, digitization of special collections, access to e-books and adaptive technology, bookmobile service, and development of outreach programs to the underserved. To find out more about how funds are used in your state, search projects from the State Program Report (SPR). For more information about each SLAA and its priorities, visit your state profile page.

Who Does the Program Serve?

Frants to States funds have been used to meet the needs of children, parents, <u>teenagers</u>, adult learners, <u>senior citizens</u>, the unemployed, and the business community. One of the program's statutory priorities is to address underserved communities and persons having difficulty using a library, and approximately ten percent of grant funds in recent years have supported library services for the blind and physically handicapped. The program also meets the needs of the current and future library workforce.

How Are Funds Allocated?

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

How is the Program Evaluated?

- The Library Services and Technology Act requires each SLAA to submit a plan that details library services goals for a five-year period. SLAAs must also conduct a five-year evaluation of library services based on that plan. These plans and evaluations are the foundation for improving practice and informing policy. View all the states' five-year plans and five-year evaluations for library services.
- To strengthen the impact of the federal investment in the Grants to States program, IMLS and SLAAs have partnered to shift the way in which Grants to States program information is gathered and shared, improve program evaluation and reporting, and highlight evidence-based best practices. Results of this work are incorporated in the publicly accessible annual reporting tool known as the State Program Report (SPR).

Apply for a Grant:

- > Search for available grants
 - O Grant programs and deadlines can be searched by name, by eligible institution type, and by project type.
- Check eligibility requirements
 - o Eligibility criteria will vary by program. Checking the program-specific criteria will help you ensure you're applying for the right grant for your institution.
- ➤ Read application Notice of Funding Opportunities
 - o Read through the application Notice of Funding Opportunities carefully to get all the information you need on the grant program.
- Compose your application
 - O Use the following Applicant Tools & Materials links to help you compose a stronger, more competitive application.
 - Sample Applications Examples of successful applications from previous years
 - Outcome Based Evaluations Introduction to and resources for successful program evaluation
 - <u>Shaping Outcomes</u> An IMLS-funded online course on outcomes-based planning and evaluation, which will help participants improve program designs and evaluations.
 - Grantee Requirements Administration and dissemination requirements for all grantees
 - Reviewer Materials Guidelines and handbooks used during application review
- Contact an IMLS Staff Member
 - We welcome calls from applicants and are happy to answer any questions about the grant application and review process. Conversations with staff can provide useful guidance and help you to explore how your idea may match the goals of a grant program. To reach an IMLS staff member please click on a link below for the grant program in which you are interested.
- Submit your application via Grants.gov
 - Consult our Grants.gov guidelines to ensure we will receive your application, complete and on-time. <u>Read more</u>.
- ➤ What happens next?
 - Learn how applications are reviewed and when grant announcements are made. <u>Read</u> more.

2) Native American Library Services Basic Grants

The goal of the Native American Library Services Basic Grants Program is to support existing library operations and maintain core library services.

Eligibility:

➤ Indian tribes are eligible to apply for funding under the Native American Library Services Basic Grants Program. See the Notice of Funding Opportunity for eligibility criteria for this program.

Cost Share Requirements:

There are no requirements for cost sharing in this program.



Section IX

Northern Border Regional Commission

The Northern Border Regional Commission is a Federal-State partnership for economic and community development in northern Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York. Each year, the NBRC provides Federal funds for critical economic and community development projects throughout the northeast. These investments lead to new jobs being created and leverages substantial private sector investments. NBRC website can be found at: https://www.nbrc.gov/

The NBRC can invest in economic and infrastructure projects in the following New York counties: Cayuga, Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Genesee, Greene, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Livingston, Madison, Montgomery, Niagara, Oneida, Orleans, Oswego, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Seneca, St. Lawrence, Sullivan, Washington, Warren, Wayne, Yates.

1) Economic & Infrastructure Development Program (SEID)

➤ Since its founding in 2008, the NBRC Federal - State partnership has provided Federal grants to employment generating projects that have helped reduce poverty, unemployment, and outmigration. This is primarily accomplished through the NBRC's Economic & Infrastructure Development Investment program.

Who Can Apply?

- ➤ Local governments (village, town, city, and county)
- > Other political subdivisions of States (regional planning commissions, authorities of the state)
- ➤ Indian Tribes: § 200.54 Indian tribe (or "federally recognized Indian tribe").
- Non-profit entities.

What are Eligible Purposes?

- The following funding categories constitute eligible activities for NBRC investments as defined in NBRC's enabling legislation. Congress requires NBRC to award 40% of all funds to public infrastructure projects. Congress defines public infrastructure projects (in NBRC's authorizing language) as "transportation", "basic public," "telecommunications," and "energy". NBRC allows infrastructure projects a maximum grant amount of \$1M to ensure the 40% threshold is met
 - Infrastructure Categories, \$1MM maximum award:
 - o Transportation Infrastructure
 - o Basic Public Infrastructure
 - o Telecommunications Infrastructure
 - o Renewable and Alternative Energy
 - Non-Infrastructure Categories, \$350,000 maximum award:
 - o Business and Workforce Development
 - o Basic Health Care
 - o Resource Conservation, Tourism, Recreation

Decision Making Process:

Consensus between the four State Governors and the Federal Co-Chair based on applications being prioritized by the States. State economic development plans influence decision-making as does the NBRC's Five Year Strategic Plan.

Are There Restrictions?

Yes. Per statute, the NBRC annually assesses the economic and demographic distress of all NBRC counties. That data determines whether or not the Commission can provide investments within a county as well as what level of match is required for Commission funded projects.



Section X

National Science Foundation

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is an independent federal agency created by Congress in 1950 "to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense..." NSF is vital because we support basic research and people to create knowledge that transforms the future. This type of support:

- ➤ Is a primary driver of the U.S. economy.
- > Enhances the nation's security.
- Advances knowledge to sustain global leadership.

We are the funding source for approximately 24 percent of all federally supported basic research conducted by America's colleges and universities. In many fields such as mathematics, computer science and the social sciences, NSF is the major source of federal backing.

1) Campus Cyberinfrastructure

The Campus Cyberinfrastructure (CC*) program invests in coordinated campus-level networking and cyber infrastructure improvements, innovation, integration, and engineering for science applications and distributed research projects. Learning and workforce development (LWD) in cyberinfrastructure is explicitly addressed in the program. Science-driven requirements are the primary motivation for any proposed activity.

Eligibility:

- Who may submit proposals:
 - o Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) Two- and four-year IHEs (including community colleges) accredited in, and having a campus located in the US, acting on behalf of their faculty members. Special Instructions for International Branch Campuses of US IHEs: If the proposal includes funding to be provided to an international branch campus of a US institution of higher education (including through use of subawards and consultant arrangements), the proposer must explain the benefit(s) to the project of performance at the international branch campus, and justify why the project activities cannot be performed at the US campus.
 - Non-profit, non-academic organizations: Independent museums, observatories, research labs, professional societies and similar organizations in the U.S. associated with educational or research activities.
- Limit on Number of Proposals per Organization:
 - o None

Proposal Preparation and Submission Instructions:

- Letters of Intent: Not required
- Preliminary Proposal Submission: Not required
- ➤ Full Proposals: Full Proposals submitted via FastLane: NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG) guideline sapply. The complete text of the PAPPG is available electronically on the NSF website at:
 - https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=pappg.

- Full Proposals submitted via Research.gov: NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG) guidelines apply. The complete text of the PAPPG is available electronically on the NSF website at: https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=pappg.
- ➤ Budgetary Information Cost Sharing Requirements: Inclusion of voluntary committed cost sharing is prohibited.
- ➤ Indirect Cost (F&A) Limitations: Not Applicable Other Budgetary Limitations: Not Applicable

2) Regional Innovation Engines

Through a bold, new U.S. National Science Foundation initiative, the Regional Innovation Engines, or NSF Engines, program catalyzes and fosters innovation ecosystems across the U.S. to:

- Advance critical technologies
- Address national and societal challenges
- Foster partnerships across industry, academia, government, nonprofits, civil society, and communities of practice
- Promote and stimulate economic growth and job creation
- Spur regional innovation and talent

The NSF Engines program uniquely harnesses the nation's science and technology research and development enterprise and regional-level resources. NSF Engines can catalyze robust partnerships rooted in scientific and technological innovation to positively impact the economy within a geographic region, address societal challenges, and advance national competitiveness.

The NSF Engines program provides up to 10 years of funding to establish each Engine, with up to an additional two years of development funding even before the official launch of an Engine. Each NSF Engine can receive up to \$160 million to support the development of diverse regional coalitions to engage in use-inspired research and development, translation of innovation to society, and workforce development — with the goal of growing and sustaining regional innovation ecosystems throughout the U.S.

What type of awards are there?

- Type-1 Awards
 - o Up to \$1 Million and Up to Two Years.
 - O Type-1 awards enable awardees to lay the groundwork for establishing a new NSF Engine in their region for a given topic area.
 - o The Type-1 award begins and ends in the Development Phase, where the Engine develops its structure and scope and begins to establish partnerships.
 - o At the end of the Type-1 award period, awardees are expected to be well-prepared to set up an NSF Engine in the Nascent phase.
- Type-2 Awards
 - O Up to \$160 Million and Up to 10 years
 - Type-2 awards fund Engines across three distinct phases—the Nascent, Emergent and Growth Phases.
 - Throughout the three phases, the Engine
 - o Creates firm partner and stakeholder commitments

- Seeks continuing growth of its innovation ecosystem through expansion of scientific, technical, education, and workforce development
- Help its regional innovation ecosystems emerge as a national leader in its topic area during the Growth Phase

Who is eligible to apply?

- These organizational types are encouraged to submit proposals for the NSF Engines program:
- U.S. accredited institutions of higher education with a campus located in the U.S.
- U.S.-based non-profit organizations
- U.S.-based for-profit organizations
- In addition to the above, federally funded research and development centers, national laboratories, and state, local, and tribal governments (limited to agencies, offices, or divisions specifically dedicated to innovation, economic and/or workforce development) can receive NSF funds through subawards. For more information on eligibility, refer to the Funding Opportunities and Deadline page.

3) US Ignite

- US Ignite is an initiative that seeks to promote US leadership in the development and deployment of next-generation gigabit applications with the potential for significant societal impact. The primary goal of US Ignite is to break a fundamental deadlock: there is insufficient investment in gigabit applications that can take advantage of advanced network infrastructure because such end-to-end infrastructure is rare and geographically dispersed. And conversely, there is a lack of broad availability of advanced broadband infrastructure for open experimentation and innovation because there are few advanced applications and services to justify it. US Ignite aims to break this deadlock by providing incentives for imagining, prototyping, and developing gigabit applications that address national priorities, and by leveraging and extending this network testbed across US college/university campuses and cities.
- Finis solicitation builds on the experience and community infrastructure gained from initial US Ignite activities to further engage the US academic research and non-profit communities along with local cities, municipalities, and regions in exploring the challenges of developing and applying next-generation networking to problems of significant public interest and benefit. In particular, this solicitation has two focus areas: the first encourages the development of application ideas and prototypes addressing national priority areas that explore new uses for high-speed networks and give rise to the Smart & Connected Communities of the future, as well as novel networking and application paradigms; and the second pursues fundamental research advances in networking technology and protocols that will further both the capabilities and our understanding of gigabit networking infrastructure to meet current and future application demands. In 2016, NSF is also working with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Office for Access to Justice (ATJ) to identify additional application ideas and prototypes and basic research directions that may serve national priority areas of mutual interest.

Section XI

Appalachian Regional Commission

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is a regional economic development agency that represents a partnership of federal, state, and local government. Established by an act of Congress in 1965, ARC is composed of the governors of the 13 Appalachian states and a federal co-chair, who is appointed by the president.

The Appalachian Regional Commission covers 423 counties across 13 states and spans 206,000 square miles. In New York State the following fourteen counties are included in the Appalachian Regional Commission's covered territory: Allegany, Broome, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Otsego, Schoharie, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga and Tompkins.

Local participation is provided through multi-county local development districts. ARC invests in activities that address the five goals identified in the Commission's strategic plan:

- > Economic Opportunities
 - Invest in entrepreneurial and business development strategies that strengthen Appalachia's economy.
- Ready Workforce
 - Increase the education, knowledge, skills, and health of residents to work and succeed in Appalachia.
- > Critical Infrastructure
 - o Invest in critical infrastructure—especially broadband; transportation, including the Appalachian Development Highway System; and water/wastewater systems.
- Natural and Cultural Assets
 - O Strengthen Appalachia's community and economic development potential by leveraging the Region's natural and cultural heritage assets.
- Leadership and Community Capacity
 - o Build the capacity and skills of current and next-generation leaders and organizations to innovate, collaborate, and advance community and economic development.

ARC uses Congressionally appropriated funds to invest in the Region's economic and community development through grants. ARC also issues specific Requests for Proposals for <u>research</u> and evaluation contracts on topics directly impacting economic development in the Appalachian Region.

Explore available opportunities below to learn more about applying for ARC funds at: https://www.arc.gov/available-opportunities/

1) Area Development Program

- ARC's Area Development program relies on a flexible "bottom up" approach to economic development, empowering Appalachian communities to work with their state governments to design impactful investment opportunities supporting our mission and <u>investment priorities</u>.
- ➤ ARC's Area Development program makes investments in two general areas:

- O Critical infrastructure: Critical infrastructure investments mainly include water and wastewater systems, transportation networks, broadband, and other projects anchoring regional economic development.
- Business and workforce development: Business and workforce investments primarily focus
 on entrepreneurship, worker training and education, food systems, leadership, and other
 human capital development.
- ➤ In addition, ARC invests in <u>Business Development Revolving Loan Funds</u> to help the Region's smaller businesses access capital. All ARC Area Development grant proposals originate at the state level in consultation with the ARC <u>state program manager</u>.

2) Appalachian Regional Initiative for Stronger Economies (ARISE) Initiative

ARISE is a new \$73.5 million initiative that aims to drive large-scale, regional economic transformation through multi-state collaborative projects across Appalachia. ARISE is intended to support economic, workforce, and community development projects through partnerships across states in the Appalachian Region with planning and implementation grants funded under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021.



Section VII

Letters of Support from Senator Gillibrand

While Senator Gillibrand does NOT decide which organizations are awarded grants, there are instances in which it is appropriate for Senator Gillibrand to write a letter of support for an application. If you wish to request a letter of support for your application, you must supply Senator Gillibrand with the following:

- 1. A description of your organization
- 2. Summary of the application
- 3. a description of what the money will be used for
- 4. a draft letter of support

Please forward this information to the nearest regional office

Capital District

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand Leo W. O'Brien Federal Office Building 11A Clinton Avenue

Room 821 Albany, NY 12207 Tel: (518) 431-0120

Fax: (518) 431-0128

Western New York

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand Larkin at Exchange 726 Exchange Street, Suite 511 Buffalo, NY 14210

Tel: (716) 854-9725 Fax: (716) 854-9731

Long Island

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand 155 Pinelawn Road Suite 250 North Melville, NY 11747 Tel: (631) 249-2825

Fax: (631) 249-2847

New York City

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand 780 Third Avenue Suite 2601 New York, New York 10017 Tel. (212) 688-6262 Fax (866) 824-6340

North Country

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand PO Box 749 Lowville, NY 13367 Tel. (315) 376-6118

Rochester-Finger Lakes Region

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand Kenneth B. Keating Federal Office Building 100 State Street Room 4195 Rochester, NY 14614 Tel. (585) 263-6250 Fax (585) 263-6247

Central New York

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand James M. Hanley Federal Building 100 South Clinton Street Room 1470 PO Box 7378 Syracuse, NY 13261

Tel. (315) 448-0470

Fax (315) 448-0476

Hudson Valley

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand P.O Box 749 Yonkers, NY 10710 Tel. (845) 875-4585

Washington D.C.

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand United States Senate 478 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Tel. (202) 224-4451 Fax (202) 228-0282 TTY/TDD: (202) 224-6821



Grant Guide Order Form

If you would like to order additional grant guides from our office, please indicate what guides you would like to have and complete the below address information. If you have any questions, please contact us at (212) 688-6262.

Guide				
Affordable HousingAg/ Rural DevelopmentAt Risk Youth / Anti GangBroadbandBrownfields/Superfund Site CleanupCity InfrastructureFaith-Based / Community InitiativesFire and Emergency ServicesGeneral GrantsGreen Energy and Clean TechnologyGreen Schools	Home Heating and WeatherizationHomeland SecurityInnovation and Cluster Based Economic DevelopmentK-12 Education and LibrariesLead Paint RemediationMinority and Women Owned BusinessObesity Prevention / Nutritious FoodsSenior ServicesSmall BusinessSocial Services / Community Groups			
Higher EducationHistoric Preservation/Arts/Culture/Tourism	Veterans ServicesWater and Wastewater Funding			
Mail to: Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, 780 Third A Name: Title: Organization: Address: City, State, ZIP:	A			

Casework Form

If you have encountered a problem involving a federal government agency or federally subsidized benefit that you have not been able to successfully resolve, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand's staff of constituent liaisons may be able to assist you in the following areas:

Employment Issues: including assistance with disability benefits, employer-provided health care plans and COBRA, Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) benefits, pensions, unemployment benefits, Federal and State Workers Compensation claims, and retirement-related issues.

Consumer Affairs: including assistance obtaining a home loan modification under the Making Home Affordable Program, insurance claims, dissatisfaction with consumer products or services, environmental regulations, and concerns regarding air quality, water or land contamination.

Immigration Issues: including issues with visitor visas, family and employment based visas, lawful permanent resident status, naturalization, international adoptions, detention, passports, customs and border issues, and assistance to American Citizens in crisis abroad.

Veteran Issues: including issues with VA pension and disability benefits, education benefits, veteran burial or funeral issues, and issues regarding the VA medical centers.

IRS Issues: including connecting constituents with the Taxpayer Advocate Service to address federal tax issues including lost or delayed tax refunds, penalty abatements, payment installation plans, tax credits, referrals to IRS Low Income Tax Clinics and paper tax forms.

Military Issues: including issues pertaining to the Department of Defense, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Reserves and New York State National Guard, as well as obtaining military records, medals and academy nominations.

Health Care Issues: including issues with Medicare and Medicaid, health insurance, insurance providers, nursing homes, hospitals, prescription drugs, and 9/11 health matters.

Social Security: including issues with Supplemental Security Income, Social Security Disability, survivors' benefits, and retirement benefits.

Social Services: including issues with food stamps, HEAP (low-income heating program), FEMA and disaster relief, and issues related to federally subsidized housing.

Please visit the "Help" section of www.gillibrand.senate.gov or call (212) 688-6262 for further information. Please note that if you are seeking assistance with a case that involves a lawsuit or litigation, Senate Rules prohibit the Office of Senator Gillibrand from giving legal advice or intervening in the proceedings.