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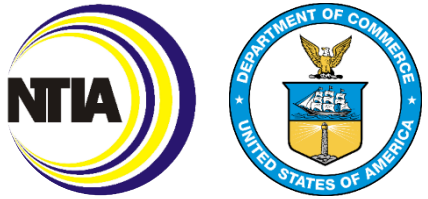
The presentation along with a transcript and recording will be available on the BroadbandUSA website under Events/Past Event on or before June 30, 2021.

Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program

June 23 & 24, 2021



Housekeeping

Questions

- Type questions in the Q&A box on the right-hand side of the screen. Questions and answers will be available on the FAQ section of our website.
- Overview of Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 | BroadbandUSA (doc.gov)

Presentation

- The presentation along with a transcript and recording will be available on the BroadbandUSA website under Events/Past Event on or before June 30, 2021.
- https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/past-event

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

Moderator:

- Gilbert Resendez, Broadband Program Specialist, BroadbandUSA, NTIA

Presenters:

- Scott Woods, Senior Broadband Program Specialist, NTIA
- Francine Alkisswani, Senior Policy Analyst, NTIA

Agenda

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Questions and Answers	All

Gilbert Resendez
Broadband Program Specialist

Codification & Overview of the CMC Pilot Program

Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program

- NTIA published the Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program Final Rule in the Federal Register on Tuesday, June 15.
- The Final Rule establishes the regulations for the program, as required by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, and lays out the programmatic scope, eligibility criteria, and general guidelines for the program.
- NTIA's press release on the Final Rule is available here.
- NTIA will subsequently publish a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) on Grants.gov that will provide more details regarding the CMC eligibility guidelines, application instructions, and program requirements.

Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program

How Much	$268 Million
Who can apply "Eligible Recipients"	• Historically Black Colleges or Universities (HBCUs); • Tribal Colleges or Universities (TCUs); • Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs); • Consortiums led by HBCUs, TCUs, or MSIs that include a Minority Business Enterprise or Tax-Exempt 501(c)(3) Organization.
For What	The purchase of broadband Internet access service or any eligible equipment, or to hire and train information technology personnel: (1) for the educational institution to facilitate educational instruction and learning, including through remote instruction; or (2) to operate the Minority Business Enterprise; or (3) to operate the Tax-Exempt 501(c)(3) Organization.
When	NTIA anticipates opening the application window for the CMC Pilot Program in mid-August 2021.

CMC| Program Requirements

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

Scott D. Woods
Senior Broadband Program Specialist

Overview of CMC Final Rule

CMC Pilot Program- Funding Purpose

Grant funds awarded may only be used for the following purposes:

- The purchase of broadband Internet access service, including the installation or upgrade of broadband facilities on a one-time, capital improvement basis to increase or expand broadband capacity and/or connectivity at the eligible institution;

- The purchase or lease of eligible equipment and devices for student or patron use, subject to program restrictions and prohibited uses; and

- To hire and train information technology personnel who are a part of the eligible institution, MBE or Tax-Exempt 501(c)(3) Organization.

CMC Pilot Program Overview of Final Rule

Eligible Entities – Act directed NTIA to develop new methods to establish and verify CMC eligibility:

1. Identify and verify that an applicant is an HBCU, TCU, or MSI (eligible recipient).
2. Identify and map ***anchor communities*** that are within a 15-mile radius of each eligible HBCU, TCU, or MSI and that meets the estimated median annual household income of not more than 250 percent of the poverty threshold.
3. In consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, determine a separate anchor community boundary for TCU anchor community located on land held in trust by the United States, so long as NTIA can ensure that such anchor communities are statistically comparable to anchor communities defined as not more than 15 miles from an HBCU, TCU or MSI (where applicable).
4. Identify which eligible recipients have the greatest unmet financial need.
5. Verify that a designated Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) or a Tax-Exempt 501(c)(3) Organization applying as a member of the consortium is an eligible entity (consortium applicants).

CMC Eligible Entities| Greatest Unmet Financial Need

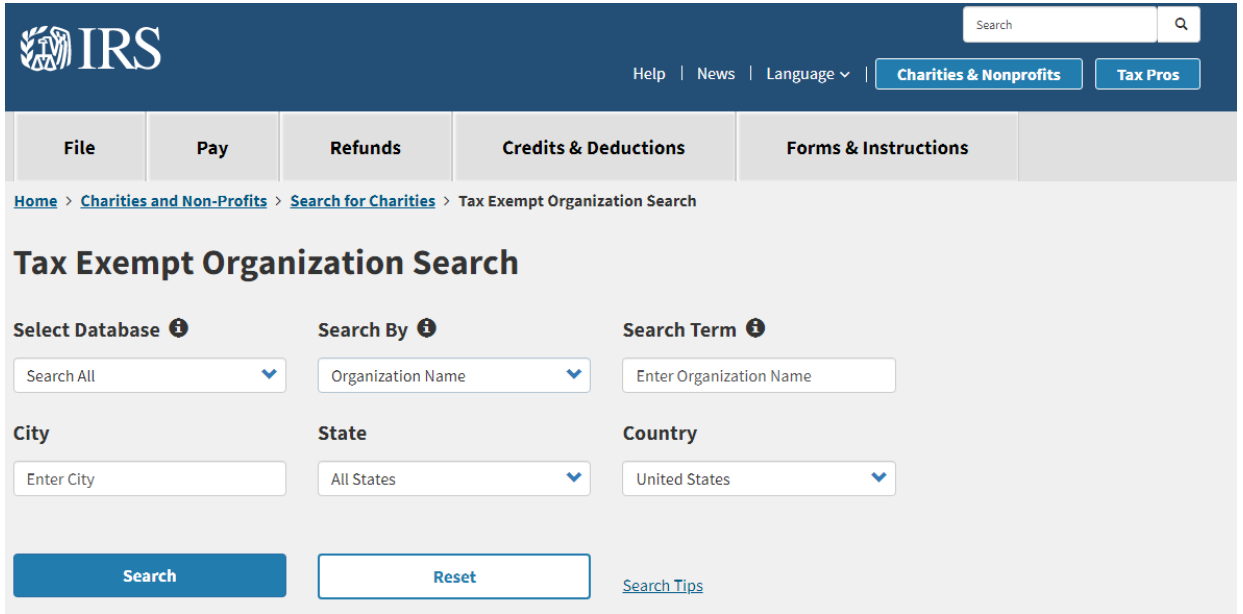
To determine which eligible recipients have students with the greatest unmet financial needs, each applying eligible institution must provide the following information (or as much of the information as is reasonably available to the institution) in their application for funding, to include any supplementary information to explain the data:

(i) Student population size;
(ii) Number and percentage of students who are eligible to receive Federal Pell Grants;
(iii) Number and percentage of students who receive other need-based financial aid from the Federal Government, a State, or that institution;
(iv) Number and percentage of students who qualify as low-income consumers;
(v) Number and percentage of students who are low-income individuals; and
(vi) Number and percentage of students who have been approved to receive unemployment insurance benefits under any Federal or State law since March 1, 2020.

During the Merit Review phase, NTIA will analyze the submitted information for each of these criteria and will develop an assessment of each institution's student body-based unmet financial needs. These assessments will be ranked and compared across all submitted applications during the merit review phase and program eligibility determinations will be made based on an evaluation of the data provided and accompanying explanatory information. Final recommendations for project approval and grant funding will be made for those eligible anchor institutions that have demonstrated the greatest unmet financial need.

CMC Eligible Entities| Consortium

- Self-Certify Minority Business Enterprise Status
- Tax-Exempt 501(c)(3) Organization Status - Program Office will check status during application review phase - [Tax Exempt Organization Search (irs.gov)]

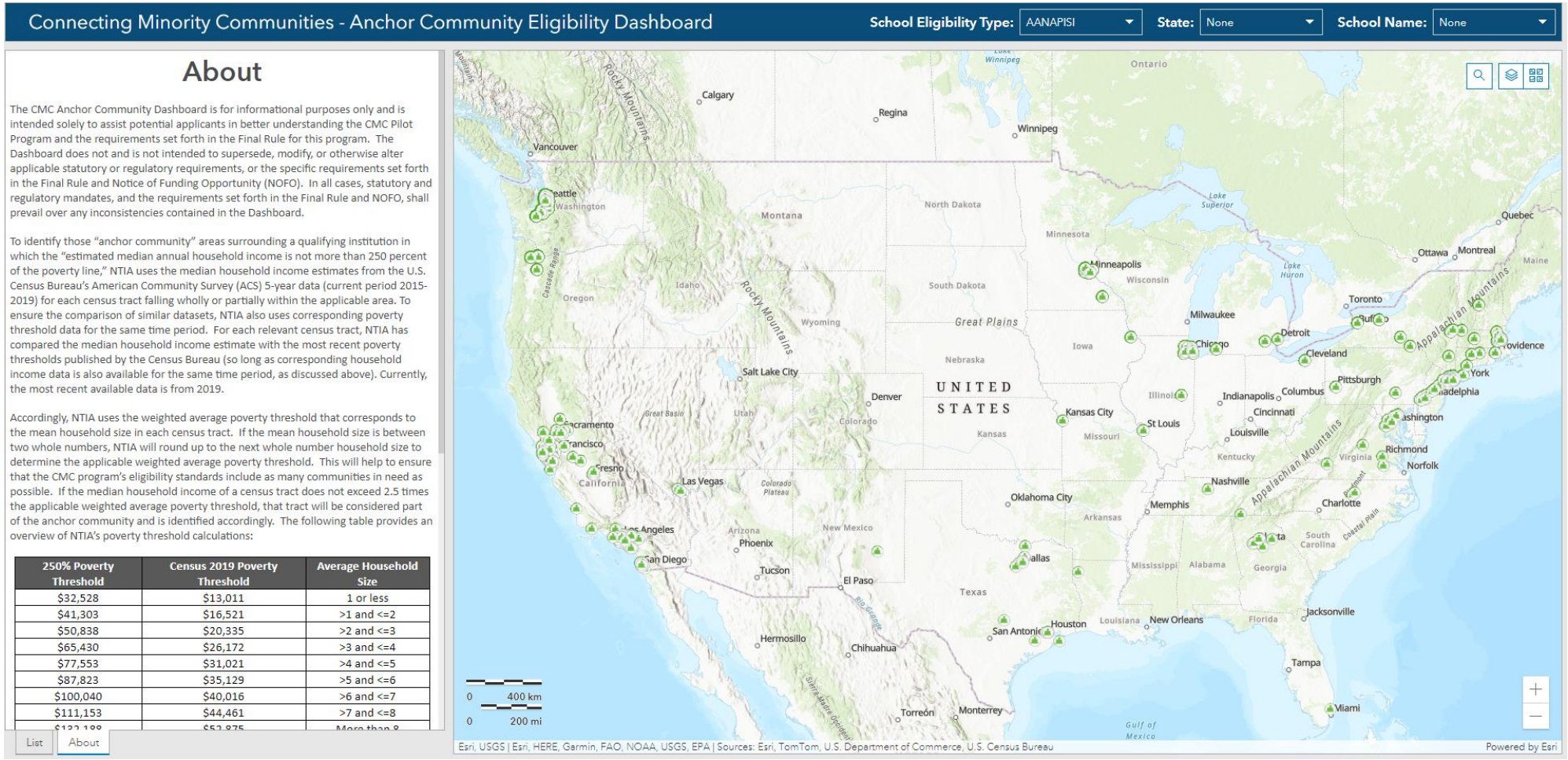


https://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/

Scott D. Woods
Senior Broadband Program Specialist

CMC Anchor Community Eligibility Dashboard

CMC Anchor Community Eligibility Dashboard - Demonstration



[CMC Anchor Community Eligibility Dashboard](https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/cmcdashboard)

https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/cmcdashboard

Francine Alkisswani
Senior Policy Analyst
BroadbandUSA, NTIA

Stakeholder Outreach & Technical Assistance

Stakeholder Outreach

Innovative Approaches

Consortia Collaborations

Project Activities

Reporting/Evaluation

Technical Assistance

Scott D. Woods
Senior Broadband Program Specialist

CMC Next Steps

Next Steps

- ✓ **Federal Register Publication of CMC Final Rule – June 15th**
  - ✓ Stakeholder Outreach & Pre-Application Technical Assistance
  - ✓ Call For Merit Reviewers
  - ❑ Approval & Publication of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
    - Anticipate NOFO publication and opening of application window by mid-August
  - ❑ NIST Grants Office Requirements – Grants & Financial Management Best Practices
  - ❑ Merit & Program Reviews
  - ❑ Official Notification of Acceptance & Grants Documentation
  - ❑ Project Launch, Assignment of CMC Federal Program Officer & NIST Grants Officer

Gilbert Resendez
Broadband Program Specialist

Call for Merit Reviewers

Call for Merit Reviewers

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

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

Call for Merit Reviewers

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

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

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

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

Q & A

Join again for the grants webinar series!

Broadband Infrastructure Program	Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program	Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program
April 28 Recording	April 21 Recording	May 5 Recording
April 29 Recording	April 22 Recording	May 6 Recording
June 9 & 10	June 16 & 17	June 23 & 24
July 14 & 15	July 21 & 22	July 28 & 29

Webinars start at 2:30 pm ET

Registration is required for each webinar and is limited to 1,000

broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/events/latest-events

Thank you for attending

The slides, transcript, and a recording will be posted on the BroadbandUSA website by June 30.

https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/past-event

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gresendez@ntia.gov

CMC Anchor Community Eligibility Dashboard:
https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/cmcdashboard