Welcome to the BroadbandUSA Grants Roundup!

In this update, NTIA is providing you all the latest news about our three new grant programs – the Broadband Infrastructure Program, the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP), and the Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program – all in one place. Stay tuned for information regarding Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs), future rounds of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), upcoming grant program webinars, and more.

Broadband Infrastructure Program

NTIA's Broadband Infrastructure Program Receives Over 230 Applications, More Than $2.5 Billion in Funding Requests

NTIA announced that it has received more than 230 applications for the Broadband Infrastructure Program, for a total of more than $2.5 billion in funding requests across 49 states and U.S. territories.

NTIA has begun reviewing the applications as part of the $288 million grant program, which was funded by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (the Act). Grants will be awarded to covered partnerships between a state, or political subdivisions of a state, and providers of fixed broadband service. The program's 90-day application window closed on Tuesday, August 17.

Due to the high volume of applications, the award process will be highly competitive. As outlined in the Act, priority will be given to applications with proposed projects that:

1. Provide broadband service to the greatest number of households in an eligible service area;

2. Provide broadband service to rural areas;

3. Are most cost-effective in providing broadband service; or

4. Provide broadband service with a download speed of at least 100 Mbps and an upload speed of at least 20 Mbps.

NTIA will thoroughly and objectively review applications using a three-stage process: Initial Administrative and Eligibility Review of Complete Application Packets, Merit Review, and Programmatic Review. Reviewers will evaluate applications according to the criteria provided in Section V of the **Notice of Funding Opportunity**.

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

Available Now: Session 5 Webinar Presentation, Transcripts, and Recordings
Thank you to all who were able to join us for our recent Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Session 5a and 5b webinars. Were you unable to attend? Or maybe you want to go back and review the information presented? The presentations, transcripts, and webinar recordings are now available on these webpages:
Session 5a – Held August 11, 2021 at 2:30pm ET
Session 5b – Held August 12, 2021 at 2:30pm ET

Available Soon: Session 6 Webinar Presentation, Transcripts, and Recordings
Thank you to all who were able to join us for our recent Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Session 6a and 6b webinars. Were you unable to attend? Or maybe you want to go back and review the information presented? The presentations, transcripts, and webinar recordings will be available on these webpages by close of business on August 30:
Session 6a – Held August 23, 2021 at 2:30pm ET
Session 6b – Held August 24, 2021 at 2:30pm ET

FAQs and Additional Resources
NTIA has recently published its third set of FAQs regarding the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program. This document offers a deeper dive into some of the most commonly asked questions we have been receiving from prospective applicants regarding eligibility, other broadband funding programs and eligible service areas, application requirements/process, and post awards requirements. Subsequent FAQ sets will be published periodically throughout the application window. See the new set of FAQs below:

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) 07-28-2021

Additional resources to help you with your Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program application are available on the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program webpage on the BroadbandUSA website.

Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program

Available Now: Session 5 Webinar Presentation, Transcripts, and Recordings
Thank you to all who were able to join us for our recent Connecting Minority Communities Session 5a and 5b webinars. Were you unable to attend? Or maybe you want to go back and review the information presented? The presentations, transcripts, and webinar recordings are now available on these webpages:
Session 5a – Held August 18, 2021 at 2:30pm ET
Session 5b – Held August 19, 2021 at 2:30pm ET

Register Today for Upcoming Webinars
Join NTIA staff for our upcoming Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program webinars! These sessions will help prospective applicants further understand the grant programs and assist applicants to prepare high quality grant applications. Learn more and register today:
Session 6a – September 22, 2021 at 2:30pm ET

Session 6b – September 23, 2021 at 2:30pm ET

Session 7a – October 20, 2021 at 2:30pm ET

Session 7b – October 21, 2021 at 2:30pm ET

FAQs and Additional Resources
NTIA has recently published its second set of FAQs regarding the Connect Minority Communities Pilot Program. This document offers a deeper dive into some of the most commonly asked questions we have been receiving from prospective applicants regarding eligibility, other broadband funding programs and eligible service areas, application requirements/process, and post awards requirements. Subsequent FAQ sets will be published periodically throughout the application window. See the new set of FAQs below:

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) 08-17-2021

Additional resources to help you with your Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program application are available on the Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program webpage on the BroadbandUSA website.

Call for Merit Reviewers
NTIA is soliciting experts to evaluate grant proposals for the Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program. NTIA will conduct a merit review of applications submitted to this program. The merit review will involve teams of technical experts that evaluate applications against established review criteria specific to the Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program.

NTIA is seeking qualified volunteers with expertise and experience in one or more of the following areas:

- Knowledge and experience with Historically Black Colleges or Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges or Universities (TCUs), and/or Minority-serving institutions (MSIs) including

  o Alaska Native or Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions (ANNHs)

  o Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs)

  o Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)

  o Native American serving Non-Tribal Institutions (NASNTIs)

  o Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs)

- Experience with Information Technology including planning or implementing campus IT upgrades, network expansions, and cybersecurity improvements

- Knowledge and experience with broadband adoption, digital inclusion, workforce development, digital training and entrepreneurship programs in minority communities

- Knowledge and experience with digital skills and IT workforce training programs including STEM/STEAM, coding, cybersecurity, technician, and work-based learning

- Knowledge and experience with design, evaluation or implementation of innovative remote learning solutions that address student barriers/constraints related to distance learning

- Understanding of current discount and subsidized broadband subscription and device programs

- Experience with federal grants experience, including experience with being a grants writer, grant recipient, grant reviewer.

NTIA projects that merit reviews for this program will start in December and extend through January 2022. We are committed to ensuring that reviewers come from diverse backgrounds and areas of the United States. Please feel free to circulate this "Call for Reviewers" to other individuals or organizations that may be sources of qualified reviewers.

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

- 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 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. If you have questions, please send them by email to: grantreviewer@ntia.gov.

NTIA's BroadbandUSA program promotes innovation and economic growth by supporting efforts to expand broadband connectivity and digital inclusion across America. In this role, BroadbandUSA serves state and local government, industry and non-profits that want to expand broadband infrastructure and promote digital inclusion.

Follow us online:

To be added or removed from the BroadbandUSA mailing list, please contact broadbandusa@ntia.gov