Technical Assistance Overview: Broadband Infrastructure

About Us: The U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) promotes innovation and economic growth by working to expand broadband connectivity and use across America.

Who We Serve: BroadbandUSA provides assistance to: local and state governments, federal agencies, Internet service providers, non-profits, co-ops, universities, private businesses and other organizations with broadband infrastructure and digital inclusion initiatives.

What is BroadbandUSA's Technical Assistance Program?

NTIA's BroadbandUSA team provides expert assistance and support to stakeholders that are interested in broadband infrastructure and digital inclusion programs that advance economic development, education and public safety initiatives. BroadbandUSA staff have decades of combined experience, and can provide technical assistance that focuses on planning, funding and implementing broadband initiatives. Our engagements can vary from just a few practicable conversations with stakeholders, to long-term project or program support.

What is the Technical Assistance process?

Intake: After a stakeholder contacts BroadbandUSA, our staff will **send an Intake form** to request information about any broadband challenges or goals.

Assess: Next, our staff will review the Intake Form, **perform initial research** and schedule an introductory call or meeting.

Engage: BroadbandUSA staff will **tailor their approach** to meet the needs of each stakeholder based on their unique challenges. BroadbandUSA can serve as a sounding board or provide an in-depth evaluation of a broadband plan.

What additional support is available?

✦ **Events and Speaking Engagements:** Presentations on best practices, trends or key topics, as requested

✦ **Workshops:** BroadbandUSA-facilitated working sessions that provide a substantive review of broadband topics

✦ **Resources:** Solution-neutral guides and tools provide self-help options for expanding broadband connectivity

✦ **Newsletters:** Monthly emails share industry events, helpful articles and new resources

✦ **Webinars:** 'Practical Conversations' convene broadband stakeholders to discuss emerging trends or issues and share lessons learned

✦ **Group Technical Assistance:** Smaller, virtual group discussions on common issues and potential solutions

Example Resources:

BroadbandUSA developed the following resources that may be helpful to your broadband infrastructure efforts:

Broadband Glossary
Fundamental abbreviations, acronyms and technical terms associated with broadband
https://go.usa.gov/xRRRb

Network Costs-at-a-Glance
Information about typical network construction expenses that can help stakeholders understand potential costs and engage with vendors
https://go.usa.gov/xRRRD

Guide to Federal Funding
Overview of federal programs that are available to support broadband projects across the country
https://go.usa.gov/xRRRB

What are some examples of Technical Assistance support?

BroadbandUSA's services focus on three primary phases of the broadband lifecycle: **planning**, **funding** and **implementation**. Our infrastructure engagements generally provide support in one or more of these areas, which often occur in parallel. Below are a few examples of project milestones that the BroadbandUSA team can support in each phase of your infrastructure effort.

Planning
BroadbandUSA can help you think about how to determine your broadband infrastructure goals and develop a plan to achieve them.

Example TA Milestones
+ Asset inventory
+ RFP and business plan development or review
+ Regulatory planning

Funding
Funding a broadband infrastructure effort can be a complex endeavor and often requires a mix of sources. Our experts can help you consider what resources you need to bring the broadband infrastructure program to fruition.

Example TA Milestones
+ Guidance on public-private partnerships
+ Identifying funding opportunities
+ Financial model review

Implementation
After planning for your broadband infrastructure program and securing funding, implementation brings your project to life. Our team helps you assess deployment options and works through the challenges of a complex infrastructure effort to help you meet your project's goals.

Example TA Milestones
+ Network deployment
+ Equipment upgrades
+ Rights-of-way/permitting

The BroadbandUSA team can walk you through what it takes to fully implement a broadband project or provide a substantive review of any aspect of your infrastructure effort. Once the engagement is complete, BroadbandUSA is available to re-engage on existing initiatives or begin assisting you with any new broadband needs.

Ready for the next step?

For more information, please contact BroadbandUSA

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