



**Broadband Technology Opportunities Program  
Glossary of Terms – January 2010**

Understanding the following key terms is important to planning and preparing your Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) application and understanding the January 2010 Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA). Please note that some definitions have changed since the July 2009 NOFA. For further guidance on definitions, please refer to Section III of the January 2010 NOFA.

**Census Block Group (CBG)** – A cluster of Census blocks having the same first digit in the four-digit identifying numbers within a Census tract. A CBG is above Census block in the geographic hierarchy.

**Census Tracts (CTs)** – Small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county. CTs are delineated for most metropolitan areas and other densely populated counties by local Census statistical areas committees. The size of CTs varies depending on the density of the settlement, usually have between 2,500 and 8,000 persons, and do not cross county boundaries.

**Community Anchor Institutions** – Schools, libraries, medical and healthcare providers, public safety entities, community colleges and other institutions of higher education, and other community support organizations and agencies that provide outreach, access, equipment and support services to facilitate greater use of broadband service by vulnerable populations, including low-income, the unemployed and the aged.

**Direct Costs** – Costs directly related and traceable to the cost of the project being supported. For more information on direct costs for each project, see NOFA Section V.E.1.

**Economically Distressed Area** – An area that has: (1) a per capita income of 80 percent or less of the national average; and (2) an unemployment rate that is, for the most recent 24-month period for which data are available, at least one percent greater than the national average unemployment rate.

**Indirect Costs** – Indirect costs are those that are incurred for the overall functions of the organization but cannot be readily or specifically identified with a particular federally-assisted project (e.g., overhead). Indirect costs will be considered eligible provided they are included as a line item in the applicant's budget and the applicant has established an approved indirect cost rate or commits to apply for one. For more information on indirect costs, refer to the NOFA, Section V.E.1.

**In-Kind Contributions** – Non-cash donations to a project that may count toward satisfying the non-federal matching requirement of a project's total budgeted costs. In-kind contributions must be an allowable project expense.

**Last Mile** – Those components of a CCI project that provide broadband service to end-user devices through an intermediate point of aggregation. In most cases, the last mile connection goes from the end-user device through an intermediate point of aggregation (i.e., a remote terminal, fiber node, wireless tower, or other equivalent access point) to a primary IP routing entity in a centralized facility. Last mile also includes equivalent services that, solely because of close proximity between the customer and centralized facility, are routed directly to the centralized facility. The last mile will terminate at and include the initial customer-facing router or aggregation switch in the centralized facility that is utilized to deliver last mile broadband service.

**Last Mile Service Area** – The service area of a last mile component of a CCI project, composed of one or more contiguous census block groups or tracts, where the applicant is requesting BTOP funds to provide broadband service to end-user devices through an intermediate point of aggregation and terminating at the initial customer-facing router or aggregation switch in the centralized facility used to deliver the last mile broadband service.





**Middle Mile** – Those components of a CCI project that provide broadband service from one or more centralized facilities, to an Internet point of presence. The middle mile includes, among other things, the centralized facilities and all of the equipment in those facilities, except for any equipment that would qualify as part of a last mile component as defined in the NOFA.

**Middle Mile Service Area** – Project service area, composed of one or more contiguous Census block groups or tracts, where the applicant is requesting BTOP funds to provide broadband service from one or more centralized facilities, to an Internet point of presence.

**Pre-application Expense** – Any reasonable expense incurred after the release of the January 2010 NOFA to prepare an application, including engineering costs, accountant or other consultant fees, costs related to implementing the project concept, and costs incurred up to the issuance of the grant award from NTIA. Lobbying costs and contingency fees are not included as pre-application expenses.

**Proposed Funded Service Area** – Total service area of a CCI project where broadband service will be provided.

**Public Computer Center** – A place, including but not limited to community colleges, libraries, schools, youth centers, employment service centers, Native American chapter houses, community centers, senior centers, assistive technology centers for people with disabilities, community health centers, and Neighborhood Network Centers in public housing developments that provide broadband access to the general public or a specific vulnerable population, such as low-income, unemployed, aged, children, minorities, and people with disabilities.

**Rural Area** – Any area, as confirmed by the latest decennial census of the Bureau of the Census, which is not located within: 1) A city, town or incorporated area that has a population of greater than 20,000 inhabitants; or 2) An urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to a city or town that has a population of greater than 50,000 inhabitants. For purposes of the definition of rural area, an urbanized area means a densely populated territory as defined in the latest decennial census of the U.S. Census Bureau.

**Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Small Business Concern** – A firm, together with its controlling interests and affiliates, with average gross revenue not exceeding \$40 million for the preceding three years, and which meets the definition of a socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern under the Small Business Act.

**Underserved Area** – Service area, where at least one of the following factors is met: (1) no more than 50 percent of the households in the last mile or middle mile service area have access to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service at greater than the minimum broadband transmission speed (set forth in the definition of broadband above); (2) no fixed or mobile terrestrial broadband service provider advertises broadband transmission speeds of at least three megabits per second (Mbps) downstream in the last mile or middle mile service area; (3) the rate of terrestrial broadband subscribership for the last mile or middle mile service area is 40 percent of households or less. An underserved area may include individual census block groups or tracts that on their own would not be considered underserved. The availability of or subscribership rates for satellite broadband service is not considered for the purpose of determining whether an area is underserved.

**Unserviced Area** – A service area where at least 90 percent of the households lack access to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service, either fixed or mobile, at the minimum broadband transmission speed (set forth in the definition of broadband above). An unserved area may include individual census block groups or tracts that on their own would not be considered unserved. A household has access to broadband service if the household can readily subscribe to that service upon request. The availability of or subscribership rates for satellite broadband service is not considered for the purpose of determining whether an area is unserved.

All applications for funding BTOP projects must be submitted between February 16, 2010, at 8:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) and March 15, 2010, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). The application packages for electronic submissions will be available at <http://www.broadbandusa.gov>. All applicants are required to submit their applications electronically at <https://applyonline.broadbandusa.gov>. Please note that applications will not be accepted via paper, fax, electronic mail, or other media format.

