



**Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
New Guidelines – January 2010 Notice of Funds Availability**

The January 2010 Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) establishes Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) funding priorities for the second round and introduces changes that improve the application process. Following is a summary of updates and changes. It is especially important for you to review these changes if you submitted an application in August 2009 since many details have changed.

Updates and Changes

■ NOFA Separation

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) and Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) are issuing separate NOFAs for the Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP) and BTOP funding.
- RUS and NTIA have eliminated the option of allowing applicants to file joint BIP/BTOP applications in the second round of funding.
- NTIA has separated the Sustainable Broadband Adoption (SBA) application from the Public Computer Centers (PCC) application.

■ The Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Project Category

- NTIA replaced the Broadband Infrastructure project category with the new Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) project category.
- CCI projects focus primarily on middle mile components and emphasize capabilities that will advance multiple BTOP priorities.

■ Funding Priorities

- The second round of BTOP funding places a priority on CCI projects deploying middle mile broadband infrastructure that:
 - Commit to serve community anchor institutions.
 - Incorporate a public-private partnership among government, not-for-profit and for-profit entities, and other key community stakeholders.
 - Intend to bolster growth in economically distressed areas.
 - Commit to serve community colleges.
 - Commit to serve public safety entities.
 - Include a last mile infrastructure component or have received commitments or non-binding letters of intent from one or more last mile broadband service providers.
 - Propose to contribute a non-federal cost match that equals or exceeds 30 percent of the total eligible costs of the project.





Updates and Changes

■ Application Eligibility and Review Factors

- NTIA reorganized the section on initial eligibility factors to focus on three criteria:
 - Eligible entities.
 - Fully completed application.
 - Matching.
- The preliminary review of these three factors will determine whether an application will be eligible for consideration.
- NTIA will collect more information in the application, with the option to collect additional data during the due diligence review.
- NTIA has reduced the number of expert reviewers from three to at least two in order to make the peer review process as efficient as possible, without jeopardizing the quality or rigor of review.
- NTIA expects to make awards within the following funding ranges. These ranges are not required minimums and maximums, but applicants requesting amounts for projects outside of these ranges must provide a reasoned explanation for the variance in their project size.
 - Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI): \$5 million - \$150 million
 - Public Computer Centers (PCC): \$500,000 - \$15 million
 - Sustainable Broadband Adoption (SBA): \$500,000 - \$15 million

■ Proposed Funded Service Areas

- NTIA shifted definitions from Census blocks to Census tracts and block groups to evaluate proposed funded service areas.
- NTIA will no longer use the proposed funded service area mapping tool used in Round 1 to help assess whether a proposed service area is unserved and underserved.
- Infrastructure applicants for Round 2 must submit maps of proposed funded service areas as supplemental attachments.

■ Award Information

- In this round of BTOP funding, NTIA will award approximately \$2.6 billion for broadband projects.
- NTIA intends to award approximately \$2.35 billion for Comprehensive Community Infrastructure projects, at least \$150 million for Public Computer Center projects, and at least \$100 million for Sustainable Broadband Adoption projects.

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.

