# Broadband Funding Guide

**Department of Agriculture**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Federal Agency</strong></th>
<th>Rural Business Service</th>
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</table>

**Agency Overview**

USDA Rural Development is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in rural America. The agency offers loans, grants and loan guarantees to help create jobs and support economic development and essential services such as housing, health care, first responder services and equipment, and water, electric and communications infrastructure.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Program Name</strong></th>
<th>Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program (REDLG)</th>
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**Program Website**

https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-economic-development-loan-grant-program

**Program Overview**

The Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program provides funding for rural projects through local utility organizations. USDA provides zero-interest loans to local utilities which they, in turn, pass through to local businesses (ultimate recipients) for projects that will create and retain employment in rural areas. The ultimate recipients repay the lending utility directly. The utility is responsible for repayment to USDA.

**Program Purpose**

- ☐ Planning (e.g., feasibility)
- ☒ Broadband Infrastructure (e.g., construction)
- ☐ Broadband Adoption
- ☐ Digital Skills Training
- ☐ Public Computer Access
- ☐ Smart Cities
- ☐ Evaluation
- ☐ Research
- ☐ Broadband Financing
- ☐ Other: ________________

**Eligible Recipients**

- ☐ Libraries
- ☐ K-12 Schools
- ☐ Higher Education Institutions
- ☐ Hospitals
- ☐ Public Safety Entities
- ☐ State and Local Governments
- ☐ Tribal Entities
- ☒ Commercial/Internet Service Providers
- ☐ Non-Profit Organizations
- ☐ Small Businesses
- ☐ Rural Recipients
- ☒ Electric Utilities/Co-ops
- ☐ Financial Institutions
- ☐ Other: ________________

**Agency Contact**

Various by state. See agency website.

**Funding Type**

Loan and Grant
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY2018 Funding Amount</th>
<th>$43,000,000</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY2019 Funding Amount</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
| FY2020 Funding Amount | • Loan: $50,506,394  
                        | • Grant: $10,900,000 |