

FY23 BroadbandUSA Federal Funding Site Update

Department: Department of Education

1	Federal Agency/Bureau	Department of Education
2	Program Name	Rural, Low-Income School Program
3	Authorizing Legislation	Part B of Title V of the ESEA
4	Program Overview	The purpose of the Rural and Low-Income School (RLIS) grant program is to provide poor, rural districts with financial assistance to address the unique needs of rural school districts that frequently lack the personnel and resources needed to compete effectively for Federal competitive grants and receive formula grant allocations in amounts too small to be effective in meeting their intended purposes. The grant is non-competitive, and eligibility is determined by statute. Awards are issued annually to state educational agencies (SEAs), which make sub-grants to local educational agencies (LEAs) that meet the applicable requirements. Awards are made to all SEAs with eligible LEAs that apply and meet the applicable requirements of the act (see legislative citation above).
5	CFDA	84.358B
6	Program Website	https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-formula-grants/rural-insular-native-achievement-programs/rural-education-achievement-program/rural-and-low-income-school-program/
7	Type of funding	<input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary <input type="checkbox"/> Subsidy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Formula <input type="checkbox"/> Loan or loan guarantee <input type="checkbox"/> Other (i.e. loan-grant combo; if there is a set-aside amount for certain recipients please indicate the amount):
8	Link to application site, NOFO, FOA, or Grants.gov (if different from program website above)	Not Applicable
9	Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) or Federal Opportunity Announcement (FOA) Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Initial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Modification <input type="checkbox"/> Reissue/Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> Other (i.e. one-time funding):
10	Important Dates (if applicable)	Not Applicable

12	FY2023 Appropriations Amount	Total Amount:\$107,500,000 Amount Available Towards Broadband (if specified):
13	Matching Requirement	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, what is the matching requirement: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other (i.e. if match is beneficial to an application but not required):
14	Complementary Federal Funding Option	Not Applicable
15	Broadband-related Program Purpose/Eligible Expenditures (check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Planning (e.g., feasibility, data collection, mapping) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Broadband Infrastructure Deployment (e.g., construction, equipment, materials) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Digital Inclusion (e.g. Broadband Adoption, Devices, Public Access, Digital Skills Training, Tech Support) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: (e.g. Research and/or Evaluation, Telehealth, etc): Research and/or Evaluation
16	Speed/Technical Requirement for Broadband Infrastructure	Not Applicable
17	Eligible Recipients (check all that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Libraries <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> K-12 Schools <input type="checkbox"/> Higher Education Institutions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Government <input type="checkbox"/> Territorial Governments <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal/Native American Government, Alaska Native Controlled Organizations, and Native Hawaiian Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> Public Safety Entities <input type="checkbox"/> Healthcare Facilities <input type="checkbox"/> For-Profit Organizations (including Internet Service Providers) <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> Electric Utilities/Co-ops <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Institutions <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals/Households <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
18	Criteria for Eligible Recipients	<p>An LEA is eligible to participate in the RLIS program if it meets the statutory criteria of being both low-income and rural. To be considered low-income, 20 percent or more of the children ages five to 17 served by the LEA must be from families with incomes below the poverty line, based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau's Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE). Rural non-geographic LEAs for which SAIPE data are not available that are eligible based on the same State-derived equivalent of SAIPE data that the State uses to make allocations under Part A of Title I of the ESEA, consistent with 34 C.F.R. § 200.72, are also eligible for RLIS funds. To be considered rural, all schools comprising the LEA must have a school locale code of 32, 33, 41, 42, or 43 (assigned by NCES), or be located in an area of the State defined as rural by a governmental agency of the State .</p>

19	Grant Beneficiaries (if different from eligible recipients)	Not Applicable
20	Programmatic Resources	<u>Rural and Low-Income School Program - Office of Elementary and Secondary Education</u>
21	Reporting Requirements	Not Applicable
22	Publicly-available programmatic data	<u>RLIS Eligibility - Office of Elementary and Secondary Education</u> , includes current and previous year REAP Master Eligibility Spreadsheets, which includes eligibility and award information for States and individual LEAs.
23	Contact information	reap@ed.gov; 202-401-0039
24	Additional Information	<p>This is one of a number of Department programs that provides funds that could be used to support broadband access. School districts may use Rural and Low-Income School funds to pay for activities that are allowable under Title I, Part A, Title II, Part A, Title III, and Title IV, Part A, as well as parental involvement activities. The allowability of costs is always situation and program specific. For that reason, if you decide to use funds under one of these programs for costs related to device or mobile hotspot access, you must be sure that the use of the funds is, under the specific circumstances of the expenditure and the program authority selected, reasonable and necessary for the purposes of that program, and does not violate other program requirements, such as the “supplement not supplant” requirement. We also note that, while funds under one of these programs can be used on broadband access, the programs’ purpose is not primarily focused on that issue.</p> <p>The use of Rural and Low-Income School Program funds for broadband infrastructure must be consistent with the definition of “minor remodeling” in 34 CFR Part 77. That definition of minor remodeling means “minor alterations in a previously completed building. The term also includes the extension of utility lines, such as water and electricity, from points beyond the confines of the space in which the minor remodeling is undertaken but within the confines of the previously 20 completed building. The term does not include building construction, structural alterations to buildings, building maintenance, or repairs.”</p> <p>Expenditures for construction are prohibited under this program.</p>

		For more information, see the REAP Informational Document, which can be downloaded on the REAP website: REAP Resources - Office of Elementary and Secondary Education .
25	Updated	March 2023