

Overview of Rural Utilities Service Broadband Programs

Utah Broadband Confluence
June 7, 2023

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Telecommunications Program



Funding for Rural Broadband

- Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan Program
- Rural Broadband Program
- Community Connect Grant Program
- ReConnect Program



Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan Program

Funding Type	Rural Focus	Funding Thresholds	How to Apply	When Applications are Accepted
Loans/Loan Guarantees	Primarily benefits communities ≤5K	N/A	Submit through the RD Apply online application system	Year-round

Available Funding	Program Updates
<p><u>FY2019</u> \$690 million available</p> <p><u>FY2020</u> \$690 million available</p> <p><u>FY2021</u> \$690 million available</p> <p><u>FY2022</u> \$690 million received in appropriations</p> <p>https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/telecommunications-infrastructure-loans-loan-guarantees</p>	<p><u>FY2019</u> 12 loans approved: \$181.5 million/10 states impacted</p> <p><u>FY2020</u> 8 loans approved: \$98.6 million/10 states impacted</p> <p><u>FY2021</u> 4 loans approved: \$71 million/3 states impacted</p> <p><u>FY2022</u> 5 loans approved: \$106.2 million/ 6 states impacted 1 loan in process: \$3.8 million</p>

Community Connect Grant Program

Funding Type	Rural Focus	Funding Thresholds	Matching Requirement	Broadband Service Speeds	How to Apply	When Applications are Accepted
Grants	Areas with populations ≤ 20K	\$100,000 - \$5,000,000	15% of requested grant amount	Broadband Service: <25/3 Mbps Broadband Grant Speed: ≥100/20 Mbps	Submit through the Community Connect Portal	Until 11:59 a.m. ET June 20, 2023

Available Funding

FY2019

\$33 million available

FY2020

\$29 million available in FY2020 after awarding 8 grants from FY2019 application cycle

FY2021

\$35 million available

FY2022

\$35 million received in appropriations

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-connect-grants>

Program Updates

FY2019

12 grants approved: \$24.3 million/9 states impacted

FY2020

8 grants approved: \$15.7 million/7 states impacted(from the FY2019 Application window)

FY2021

73 Applications received: \$146.4 million

23 grants approved: \$47 million/15 states impacted

FY2022

4 grants approved: \$10 million/3 states impacted (from the FY2021 Application window)

ReConnect Program

Funding Type	Rural Focus	Funding Thresholds	Matching Requirement	Broadband Service Speeds	How to Apply	When Applications are Accepted
Loan/Grants/ Loan-Grant Combinations	Areas with populations ≤ 20K	≤\$50 million for loans & loan-grant combinations ≤\$25 for grants	For grant-only: 25% of requested grant amount*	Broadband Service: <100/20 Mbps Broadband Buildout Speed: ≥100/100 Mbps	Submit through the RUS online application system	Applications are not accepted at this time

Available Funding

FY2019

\$550 million available

FY2020

\$655 million available in FY2020 (includes CARES funding)

FY2021

\$635 million available

FY2022

\$2.3 billion received in appropriations

- **\$1.9 billion** received in the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA)
- **\$436.6 million** received in annual appropriations

<https://www.usda.gov/reconnect>

Program Updates

FY2019 – “Round One”

146 Applications processed: **\$1.4 billion**

- **76** active awards: **\$656 million**/33 States impacted

FY2020/FY2021 – “Round Two”

172 Applications submitted: **\$1.57 billion** requested

- **181** active awards: **\$1.5 billion**/38 States impacted

FY2022 – “Round 3”

305 Applications submitted: **\$4.8 billion** requested

- **103** project funded for 1.68 billion

FY2023 – “Round 4”

258 Applications submitted: **\$4.4 billion** requested

Broadband Technical Assistance Program

Broadband Technical Assistance (BTA)

- Funds promote broadband expansion in eligible rural areas (planning, operations, financial sustainability, environmental compliance, construction and engineering planning, and data collection and reporting)
- \$20 Million (\$7.5 million for Providers, \$7.5 million for Recipients, \$5 million to support cooperatives)
- Funding Opportunity Announcement published April 19th, 2023, application window closes **June 20, 2023**

[Broadband Technical Assistance | Rural Development \(usda.gov\)](#)

Keys to Consider

- Sign up for GovDelivery: [USDA Rural Development \(govdelivery.com\)](https://govdelivery.com)
- Maximize your points in ReConnect FOA Funding Category, competitive scoring
- Research Proposed Funding Service Area (PFSA) for level of existing service
- [ReConnect Loan and Grant Program | USDA](#) (Website is a great resource)
 - Awardees, Mapping Tools, Funding Categories, FAQs, Webinars, Workshop Materials
- Don't wait until the last day to submit application
- Be realistic on project costs, overages will fall back on the awardee
 - Consider inflation
 - Increasing supply and labor costs
 - Project start date
- Be aware of Environmental Costs and include on application (Environmental consultants, Class 1 reports, etc.)
- Accurate timelines and managing expectations
 - Application deadline to award notification, ER Clearance, Legal Documents, Release of Funds, Engineering Contracts, Construction Contracts



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