Technical Assistance Overview: Broadband Infrastructure Efforts

About Us: The U.S. Department of Commerce’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) promotes innovation and economic growth by working to expand broadband connectivity and use across America.

Who We Serve: BroadbandUSA provides assistance to: local and state governments, federal agencies, community advocates, nonprofits, co-ops, universities, private businesses and other organizations with broadband infrastructure initiatives.

What is Technical Assistance?
NTIA’s BroadbandUSA team provides expert assistance and support to communities and organizations that are interested in broadband infrastructure and digital inclusion programs that advance economic development, education and public safety initiatives. BroadbandUSA staff have decades of combined experience, and can provide technical assistance that focuses on planning, funding and implementing broadband initiatives. Engagements can vary from just a few practicable conversations with stakeholders, to long-term project or program support.

What is the Technical Assistance process?
- **Intake:** After a community or partner contacts BroadbandUSA by phone or email, our staff will send an Intake Form requesting information about any broadband challenges or goals.
- **Assess:** Next, the team’s broadband development officers will review the Intake Form, perform initial research and schedule an introductory call or meeting.
- **Engage:** Finally, the team tailors its approach based on the unique challenges of the community or organization. BroadbandUSA can serve as a sounding board or provide an in-depth evaluation of a broadband plan.

What other support is available?
- **Events and Speaking Engagements:** Presentations on broadband best practices, trends or key topics, as requested.
- **Workshops:** BroadbandUSA-facilitated working sessions that take a deep dive into broadband topics.
- **Resources:** Solution-neutral guides and tools provide self-help options for expanding broadband connectivity.
- **Newsletters:** Monthly emails share industry events, helpful articles and new resources.
- **Webinars:** ‘Practical Conversations’ convene broadband stakeholders to discuss emerging trends or issues and share lessons learned.
- **Group Technical Assistance:** Smaller, virtual group discussions on common issues and potential solutions.
What are some examples of Technical Assistance support?

BroadbandUSA’s services focus on three primary phases of the broadband lifecycle: planning, funding and implementation. Almost all of the team’s engagements provide support in one or more of these areas, which often occur in parallel. Below are a few examples of project milestones that the BroadbandUSA team can support in each phase of your infrastructure effort.

**Planning**

Effective planning is critical to a program’s success. BroadbandUSA can help you think about how to determine your community’s or organization’s broadband goals and how to achieve them.

- **Example TA Milestones**
  + Asset inventory
  + RFP and business plan development or review
  + Regulatory planning

**Funding**

Funding a broadband effort can be a complex endeavor and often requires a mix of sources. Our experts can help you consider what resources your community or organization needs to bring the network to fruition.

- **Example TA Milestones**
  + Guidance on public-private partnerships
  + Identifying funding opportunities
  + Financial model review

**Implementation**

After planning for your network and securing funding, implementation brings your project to life. Our team helps you assess deployment options and works through the challenges of a complex infrastructure effort, helping you meet your project’s goals.

- **Example TA Milestones**
  + Network deployment
  + Equipment upgrades
  + Rights-of-way/permitting

The BroadbandUSA team can walk you through what it takes to fully implement a broadband infrastructure effort or take a deep dive into any aspect of your project. Once the engagement is complete, BroadbandUSA is available to re-engage on existing initiatives or begin assisting you with any new broadband needs.

**Ready for the next step?**

For more information, please contact BroadbandUSA

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