



# FUNDING ALERT!

Professional Assistance for Today's Unprecedented Funding Opportunities

## Enabling Middle Mile Infrastructure Program

### Program Name

Enabling Middle Mile Infrastructure Program

### Background

**\$980 million**

**Administrator:** National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), U.S. Department of Commerce

**Authorizing Legislation:** Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

**Available Funds:** \$980 million

**Allocation Approach:** Competitive grant program

**Program Purpose:** Expand and extend middle mile infrastructure to reduce the cost of connecting areas that are unserved (no access to 25/3 service) or underserved (no access to 100/20 service) to the internet backbone

### Funding Amounts

- Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Grant (MMG) Program provides \$1 billion in funding for the construction, improvement, or acquisition of middle mile infrastructure
- Minimum award: \$5 million
- Maximum award: \$100 million

### Key Dates

**Application Window Opens** – June 21, 2022

**Application Window Closes** – September 30, 2022 at 11:59 pm EDT

**NTIA Review and Selection Expected Completion** – February 16, 2023

**Rolling Award Announcements Expected to Begin** – March 1, 2023

**Period of Performance** – 5 years from the date on which the grant funds are made available to the eligible entity

### Eligible Entities

**Eligible applicants include:**

- Government - State governments, political subdivisions of states, Tribal governments
- Industry - technology company, electric utilities, utility cooperatives, public utility districts, telecommunications companies, telecommunications cooperatives
- Non-profits and Associations - Non-profit foundations, non-profit corporations, non-profit institutions, non-profit associations, regional planning councils, Native entities, economic development authorities
- Partnerships - Any partnership of two or more of the entities listed above

**Any eligible applicant must:**

- Be capable of carrying out the proposed project in a competent manner, including a plan to attract, train, or retain an appropriately skilled and credentialed workforce; and
- Have the financial, managerial, technical, and operational capability to carry out the proposed project and operate the resulting middle mile broadband network

**Tribal government and Native entity applicants may be able to leverage waivers and alternative requirements**

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## Eligible Projects & Matching Requirement

**Projects that involve the construction, improvement, or acquisition of middle mile infrastructure**

**Applicants must prioritize at least one of the following:**

- Connecting middle mile infrastructure to last mile networks that provide or plan to provide broadband service to households in unserved areas according to most recent mapping data available
- Connecting non-contiguous trust lands
- The offering of wholesale broadband service at reasonable rates on a carrier-neutral basis

**The amount of a middle mile grant awarded to an eligible entity through this program may not exceed 70 percent of the total project cost**

- IIJA does not contemplate waiver of this requirement and the NTIA will not entertain requests for waivers except for grants made to Tribal Governments and Native entities
- Matching funds may be cash or in-kind contributions consistent with federal cost principles, can include: access to rights of way, pole attachments, conduits, easements, or access to other types of infrastructure
- Federal funds may not be used as non-federal match, except as expressly provided by federal statute

## Selection Criteria

**Applications meeting at least two of the five criteria listed below will be prioritized. The eligible entity should:**

- Adopt fiscally sustainable middle mile strategies
- Commit to offering non-discriminatory interconnection to terrestrial and wireless last mile broadband providers and any other party making a bona fide request
- Identify specific terrestrial and wireless last mile broadband providers that have:
  - (i) expressed written interest in interconnecting with middle mile infrastructure planned to be deployed by the eligible entity; and
  - (ii) demonstrated sustainable business plans or adequate funding sources with respect to such interconnection described in (i)
- Identify supplemental investments or in-kind support (such as waived franchise or permitting fees) that will accelerate the completion of the planned project
- Demonstrate that the middle mile infrastructure will benefit national security interests of the United States and the Department of Defense

**Program Priorities:**

- Unserved/underserved
- Affordability
- Geographic Diversity
- Priority Communities
- Open Access
- Resiliency
- Shovel Ready (completion within 2-year period)
- Fiscal Sustainability

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## **Allowable Costs**

Construction, engineering design, permitting, personnel costs, pre-application expenses, other necessary programmatic activities

## **Prohibited Costs**

Purchase of covered communications equipment or service, profit or fee applied above actual cost, use of grant funds to support or oppose union organizing, use of funds for non-middle mile infrastructure, use of funds as collateral for a loan

## **Application Sections**

1. Standard Form 424: Application for Federal Assistance
2. Standard Form 424C: Budget Information for Construction Programs
3. CD-511 Certification Regarding Lobbying
4. Standard Form LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (if applicable)
5. Detailed Budget
6. Budget Narrative
7. Project Details and Narrative
8. Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable)
9. Any materials on which the applicant seeks to rely in demonstrating its satisfaction of the eligibility criteria, merit review criteria, and programmatic review criteria

## **Application Requirements**

Applicants must fulfill a number of requirements, including:

- Letter of Credit valued at no less than 25% of requested award
- Audited Financial Statements
- Description of Managerial Capability (resumes for management and key personnel)
- Certification of Technical Capability & Network Design Diagram
- Project Costs
- Build-out Timeline
- Capital Investment Schedule
- Certification of Applicant's Operational Capability, filing of Form 477 and submission of Broadband DATA Act
- Submission of required operating or financial reports is required (if applicant has operated only as an electric transmission or distribution service)
- Ownership Information
- Buildout benchmarks
- Connections to anchor institutions within 1,000 feet of the middle mile infrastructure
- Fair Labor Practices
- Equitable Workforce Development
- Climate Resilience
- Civil Rights and Non-discrimination Law Compliance

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## Links & Emails

[MIDDLE MILE NOFO.pdf \(doc.gov\)](#)

[Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program | Internet for All  
Internet for All](#)

[MM Info Sheet - IFA Launch - Final.pdf \(internetforall.gov\)](#)

[Middle Mile Grant Program Application Checklist and Packet \(ZIP file\)](#)

[Webinars and Events](#)

[NTIA Grants Portal \(ntia.gov\)](#)

Please submit questions to [BEAD@NTIA.gov](mailto:BEAD@NTIA.gov)

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[funding@nrtc.coop](mailto:funding@nrtc.coop)

Contact us for Funding Assistance. NRTC's  
Funding Practice offers key benefits including:

- Opportunity Evaluation
- Effective Grant Writing
- Track Record of Success