FUNDING ALERT!

Professional Assistance for Today's Unprecedented Funding Opportunities

Funding Amount: **$20 Million**

Program Name

USDA Broadband Technical Assistance (BTA)

Funding Amount

$20 Million technical assistance funds authorized for USDA ReConnect by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

- $7.5 million for Technical Assistance Providers – Min award: $50,000 Max award: $1 million
- $7.5 million for Technical Assistance Recipients – Min award: $50,000 Max award: $250,000
- $5 million for projects supporting cooperatives – Min award: $50,000 Max award: $1 million

BTA is funded through a cooperative agreement and requires substantial involvement from the awarding agency (USDA RUS)

Key Dates

- **April 19 –** Applications open
- **May 8 –** Broadband Technical Assistance Funding Opportunity Announcement Webinar
- **May 18 –** Broadband Technical Assistance Webinar for Tribes and Tribal Entities
- **June 20 – Application deadline**

Eligible Applicants

- Federally-recognized Tribes and Tribal entities
- State or local governments, including agencies and subdivisions, among others
- Territories or possessions of the United States
- Institutions of higher education (including 1862 Land-Grant Institutions, 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, 1994 Land-Grant Institutions, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities)
- Nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) IRS status
- Cooperatives or mutual organizations
- Corporations
- Limited Liability Companies or Limited Liability Partnerships

Eligible Projects

- Project must promote broadband expansion to a rural community, including:
  - Helping recipients identify broadband resources and planning for delivering broadband
  - Identifying public and private resources to finance broadband facilities
  - Preparing studies, reports, and surveys necessary to support broadband services, or to request financial assistance to develop broadband facilities
  - Improving broadband facilities management and operations
- No cost sharing or match requirement

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Eligible Areas

- Targeted communities:
    - Tribes and Tribal entities
    - Colonia areas
    - Persistent poverty counties
    - Distressed energy communities
- A rural area is defined as:
    - Any area not located in a city, town, or incorporated area with a population greater than 20,000
    - An urbanized area next to a city, town or incorporated area with a population greater than 50,000
- Must be completely contained within a rural area or composed of multiple rural areas
- Additional eligibility information can be viewed with the Broadband Technical Assistance Map

Evaluation Criteria

- Work Plan – 30 points
- Organizational Capacity – 20 points
- Targeted Communities – 20 points
- Rurality – 20 points
- Economic Need – 20 points
- Performance Measures – 10 points

Application Contents

- Credentials and Registrations
- Application
    - Written Narrative – max 25 pages
        - Work Plan
        - Organizational Capacity
        - Targeted Communities
        - Rurality
        - Economic Need
        - Performance Measures
        - Funding Category Identified
    - Worksheets
        - Communities Worksheet
        - Budget Worksheet
    - Other
        - Tribal Letter of Support (if applicable)
- Forms: SF-424; SF-424B; RD 400-4

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Links & Contact

- [Broadband Technical Assistance | Rural Development (usda.gov)](#)
- [USDARD RUS Broadband Technical Assistance Application Guide for Fiscal Year 2023](#)
- [Broadband Technical Assistance | Fact Sheet (usda.gov)](#)
- [Broadband Technical Assistance Map](#)
- Please use this [contact form](#) for any questions