

nrtc **FUNDING ALERT!**

Professional assistance for today's unprecedented funding opportunities



Funding Amount: **\$77.5 million**

Program Details

Program Name: The Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant (ORBEG)

Administrator: Broadband Ohio (division of Ohio Department of Development)

Authorizing Legislation: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and Capital Funds Project (CPF)

Funding Details

Award: No limit

Match Requirement: Not required

Key Dates

November 6, 2023 – Application Period Opens

January 5, 2024 – **Application Period Closes @ 5:00 p.m. CST**

April 12, 2024 – Application Challenge Deadline

Deadline to Refile Suspended Application – 14 Days after application suspended

Application Review Period – Up to 30 days

Award Announcement – Up to 30 Days

Eligible Applicants

- Internet Service Providers

Eligible Areas

- Unserved: Lack of access to speeds of at least 25/3 Mbps
- Underserved: Lack access to wire-line broadband speeds of at least 100/20 Mbps

Eligible Projects

- Projects that expand broadband infrastructure supporting at least 100/20 Mbps, scalable to 100/100 Mbps, to unserved and underserved populations

Eligible Costs

- Labor
- Network Construction and Materials
- Customer Premise Equipment and Installation
- Electronics
- Permits
- Professional Services and Engineering
- Infrastructure Equipment and Materials
- Fiber Equipment

Selection Criteria

Scoring (maximum of 1,065 points):

- **Eligible Projects for Unserved and Underserved Areas– up to 300 points**
 - Formula: $[300 \times (\text{percentage of houses in unserved areas})] + [300 \times (\text{percentage of passes in underserved areas}/2)]$
- **Broadband Service Speed Based on a Graduated Scale – up to 200 points**
 - **25 points:** $\geq 100/100$ Mbps but $< 250/200$ Mbps
 - **50 points:** $\geq 200/200$ Mbps but $< 300/300$ Mbps
 - **100 points:** $\geq 300/300$ Mbps but $< 500/500$ Mbps
 - **125 points:** $\geq 500/500$ Mbps but $< 750/750$ Mbps
 - **150 points:** $\geq 750/750$ Mbps but $< 1/1$ Gbps
 - **200 points:** $\geq 1/1$ Gbps
- **Rating Broadband Service Cost – up to 150 points**
 - The sum of the applicant's:
 - Grant Cost Percentile multiplied by 75
 - The number of points equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the applicant's percentage of eligible project funding from all sources other than the ORBEG program
 - Grant Cost Percentile calculated by comparing the cost per address for each application, and assigning a percentage based on this number, the highest percentiles assigned to applicants with the lowest cost per address
- **Tier 2 Service Coverage or Greater to Eligible Addresses in an Eligible Project – up to 100 points**
 - **10 points:** for coverage to ≥ 500 , but $< 1,000$ eligible addresses
 - **20 points:** for coverage to ≥ 1000 , but $< 1,500$ eligible addresses
 - **30 points:** for coverage to $\geq 1,500$, but $< 2,000$ eligible addresses

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

Selection Criteria (cont'd)

- **40 points:** for coverage to $\geq 2,000$, but $< 2,500$ eligible addresses
- **50 points:** for coverage to $\geq 2,500$, but $< 3,000$ eligible addresses
- **60 points:** for coverage to $\geq 3,000$, but $< 3,500$ eligible addresses
- **70 points:** for coverage to $\geq 3,500$, but $< 4,000$ eligible addresses
- **80 points:** for coverage to $\geq 4,000$, but $< 4,500$ eligible addresses
- **90 points:** for coverage to $\geq 4,500$, but $< 5,000$ eligible addresses
- **100 points:** for coverage to $\geq 5,000$ eligible addresses
- **Local Support – up to 100 points**
 - **25 points:** if the application includes a resolution of support from the board of county commissioners in the county where the eligible project is located
 - **15 points:** if the application includes a letter of support from a board of township trustees, village, or municipal corporation
 - **10 points:** for letters of support from a local economic development agency or a chamber of commerce
- **Broadband Provider Experience. Technical and Financial Ability:** Points awarded upon Authority's judgment; partial points may be awarded for this factor – **up to 75 points**
- **Broadband Provider Experience Based on Years Provider Has Been Providing Tier 2 Service – up to 75 points**
 - **10 points:** 4 years, but < 5 years of experience
 - **20 points:** 5 years, but < 6 years of experience
 - **30 points:** 6 years but < 7 years of experience
 - **40 points:** 7 years but < 8 years of experience
 - **50 points:** 8 years but < 9 years of experience
 - **60 points:** 9 years but < 10 years of experience
 - **75 points:** $>$ ten or more years of experience
- **County Median Income Based on the Median County Per Capita Income** Projects spanning multiple counties, the score will be based on the percentage of eligible addresses for the eligible project in each affected county – **up to 50 points**
- **Affordability:** Applicant offers 100/100 Mbps or greater at a fixed monthly rate– **up to 15 points**

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Application Process

- Applications can be submitted by the following:
 - In Person or Certified Mail to:
Ohio Department of Development
Office of BroadbandOhio
ATTN: Carley Circosta, Manager of Grants and Special Projects
77 South High Street, 29th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
 - Email @ bbohgrants@development.ohio.gov
 - [Online Portal Link](#)
- [Online application Form](#)

Links & Contacts

- [Ohio NOFO](#)
- [Ohio State Broadband Office](#)
- [Ohio CPF Fact Sheet](#)
- [FCC Map](#)
- Please submit questions to: bbohgrants@development.ohio.gov

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