



Together, America Prospers

Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program



Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program

The program provides or improves Distance Learning and/or Telemedicine Services in Rural America by funding equipment that allows rural residents to access distance learning or telemedicine services from hub sites located in larger urban or suburban areas

Overcoming the effects of remoteness and low population density.



Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Program Eligible Equipment

The following are examples of eligible equipment

- Computer hardware and software
- Computer network components
- Data terminal equipment
- Inside wiring
- Audio and video equipment
- Telecommunications terminal equipment
- Interactive audio/video equipment
- Broadband facilities, if owned by the applicant
- The application must demonstrate both that the predominant purpose (50% or more of use) of every line-item in the grant and match budget meets the DLT Grant definition of distance learning and/or telemedicine.
- All equipment must be new and non-depreciated

Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Program Additional Eligibility Criteria

Matching Contribution:

The grant applicant's minimum matching contribution must equal 15 percent of the grant amount requested and be used for eligible grant purposes.

There are special matching provisions for American Samoa, Guam, Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands for eligibility purposes.

See page 20 of the DLT Application Guide for more detail

Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Program

Additional Links

DLT Program Website

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/distance-learning-telemedicine-grants>



Community-Oriented Connectivity Broadband Grant Program

Community Connect

Brian Smith



Key Definitions and Limits

Broadband Service means any terrestrial technology having the capacity to provide transmission facilities that enable subscribers of the service to originate and receive high-quality voice, data, graphics, and video at the minimum rate of 10 megabits per second download and 1 megabits per second upload. (10 X 1)

Broadband Grant Speed means the minimum bandwidth of 25 megabits per second download and 3 megabits per second upload that an applicant must propose to deliver to every customer in the PFSA. (25 X 3)

Minimum and Maximum Grant Amounts:

- \$100,000 minimum
- \$5,000,000 maximum

Eligible Applicants

- An Indian Tribe or tribal organization, as defined in 25 U.S.C. 450b(e).
- A state or local unit of government, or
- An incorporated organization,
- A cooperative, private corporation or limited liability company organized on a for-profit or not-for-profit basis.

Individuals and Partnerships are not Eligible.

Applicants must have the legal capacity and authority to apply for funding and enter into a contract with RUS.

Applicants must have the legal capacity to own and operate a broadband delivery system.

Eligible Projects

To be eligible for a Community Connect grant, the Project must:

- Serve a Proposed Funded Service Area (PFSA) in which Broadband Service (10 X 1) does not exist;
- Offer service at the Broadband Grant Speed (25 X 3) to all residents and business customers within the PFSA;
- Offer free service at the Broadband Grant Speed to all Critical Community Facilities (CCF) located within the PFSA for at least 2 years starting from the time service becomes available to each CCF. Critical Community Facilities means the Community Center; any public school, public education center, public library, public medical clinic, public hospital, community college, public university; or law enforcement, fire or ambulance station in the Proposed Funded Service Area.
- Provide a Community Center with at least two Computer Access Points and wireless access at the Broadband Grant Speed, free of all charges to users for at least 2 years and is open and accessible to area residents before, during and after normal working hours and on Saturday and/or Sunday.

Ineligible Grant Purposes

- 1) Funds may not be used to finance the duplication of any existing Broadband Service provided by other entities.
- 2) Operating expenses are ineligible with the exception of lease costs for facilities used to deploy broadband service and bandwidth expenses.



Matching Contribution

- Applicants must provide a Matching Contribution which is at least 15% of the total amount of financial assistance being requested.
- Matching Contributions cannot include any financial assistance from federal sources unless there is a federal statutory exception.
- At the time of closing of the award, the awardee must contribute or demonstrate available cash reserves in an account(s) of the awardee equal to at least 15% of the grant.
- The Matching Contribution must be in the form of cash, to be used to fund operations of the project.



Scoring

Up to 100 points are available. These points are broken into 3 Scoring Components:

- PFSA Challenges (up to 50 points are available)
- Local Participation (up to 40 points are available)
- Management Experience (up to 10 points are available)



Rural e-Connectivity Reconnect

Program Overview

Brian Smith



Who can apply?

- v States, local governments, or any agency, subdivision, instrumentality, or political subdivision thereof
- v A territory or possession of the United States
- v An Indian tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act
- v Non-profit entities
- v For-profit corporations
- v Limited liability companies
- v Cooperative or mutual organizations



Application Eligibility Factors

- Unqualified Audited Financial Statement
- Fully Complete Application
- Timely Buildout Completion
- Financial Feasibility and Sustainability
- Technical Feasibility
- Service Areas
- Fully Funded



Funding Types

	100% Loan	50% Loan-50% Grant Combination	100% Grant
Terms	Max Award: \$50 million Minimum Award: \$100,000 2% Interest Rate	Max Award: \$50 million Minimum Award: \$100,000 UST Interest Rate**	Max Award: \$25 million* Minimum Award: \$100,000 25% matching funds***
Application Review	Conducted on a rolling basis	Competitive	Competitive
Round 4 Federal Funds	\$150 million	\$300 million	\$150 million
Buildout Speed	100 Mbps symmetrical service to every premise in the PFSA.		

*Applicants may request up to \$35 million by providing supporting information that demonstrates that the PFSA(s) is comprised 100 percent of locations within areas classified by the USDA Economic Research Service as FAR Level 4

** Loans in the 50/50 funding category bear interest equal to the cost of borrowing to the Department of Treasury for obligations of comparable maturity.

*** Awardees may deposit matching funds into the Pledged Deposit Account on a rolling basis

Symmetrical service means same download and upload speeds

Funding Types (continued)

	100% Grant for Alaska Native Corporations, Tribal Governments, Colonias, Persistent Poverty Areas and Socially Vulnerable Communities	100% Grant for Projects where 90 percent of households lack sufficient access to broadband.
Terms	Max Award: \$25 million* Minimum Award: \$100,000 No matching fund requirement	Max Award: \$25 million Minimum Award: \$100,000 No matching fund requirement
Application Review	Competitive	Competitive
Round 4 Federal Funds	\$350 million	\$200 million
Buildout Speed	100 Mbps symmetrical service to every premise in the PFSA.	

*Applicants may request up to \$35 million by providing supporting information that demonstrates that the PFSA(s) is comprised 100 percent of locations within areas classified by the USDA Economic Research Service as FAR Level 4

Symmetrical service means same download and upload speeds

FOA 4 Scoring Criteria

Points	Criteria
25 Points	Rurality of the Proposed Service Area
25 Points	Level of Existing Service
20 Points	Economic Need of the Community
20 Points	Affordability
20 Points	Labor Standards
15 Points	Tribal Areas
15 Points	Local Governments, Non-Profits, and Cooperatives
15 Points	Socially Vulnerable Communities
10 Points	Net Neutrality
10 Points	Wholesale Broadband Services
Total: 175 Points	

For help or questions contact us at

Reconnect Support

<https://reconnect.usda.gov>



Contact Information

Billy.Kinter@usda.gov AZ/NM GFR

Guadalupe.valdes@usda.gov ReConnect GFR

Go to: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs/telecom-programs>

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



Q & A

