

**NATIVE AMERICAN BROADBAND ASSOCIATION**  
**Guide to NTIA BTOP Broadband Grants**  
**Round Two**

- 1. Overview of BTOP Broadband Grants**
  - 1.1. Funding – \$2.6 billion dollars available**
  - 1.2. Application Period – February 16, 2010 to March 15, 2010**
    - 1.2.1. Funding decisions on rolling basis starting June 2010**
    - 1.2.2. All awards to be announced by September 30, 2010**
  - 1.3. Applicants – Corporations, LLCs, not-for-profits, governments, tribes**
  - 1.4. Funding Options**
    - 1.4.1. Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Middle Mile Projects to extend broadband to underserved and unserved areas - \$2.35 billion**
    - 1.4.2. Public Computer Centers - \$150 million**
    - 1.4.3. Sustainable Broadband Adoption projects - \$100 million**
  
- 2. Overview of BIP Broadband Grants**
  - 2.1. Funding – \$2.2 billion dollars available**
  - 2.2. Application Period – February 16, 2010 to March 15, 2010**
    - 2.2.1. No specific date set for funding decisions**
    - 2.2.2. All awards to be announced by September 30, 2010**
  - 2.3. Applicants – Corporations, LLCs, not-for-profits, governments, tribes**
  - 2.4. Funding Options**
    - 2.4.1. Broadband Initiatives Program (“BIP”) for Last Mile Projects in rural areas - \$1.7 billion**
    - 2.4.2.**
    - 2.4.3. Subsequent round of funding for satellite projects in 8 regions**
    - 2.4.4. Subsequent round for Rural Libraries (\$5 million) and Regional Planning grants**
  
- 3. The Government Agencies, Grants, National Broadband Map and Plan**
  - 3.1. U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Utility Service (“RUS”)**
    - 3.1.1. Administers Broadband Initiative Program (“BIP”)**
      - 3.1.1.1. \$2.2 Billion dollars in second round**
      - 3.1.1.2. Only for rural areas**
      - 3.1.1.3. Only for last mile projects or middle mile projects of prior RUS programs**
      - 3.1.1.4. BIP applications and BTOP applications are filed separately in this second round**
      - 3.1.1.5. RUS will have a third round for satellite services for remaining unserved areas**
      - 3.1.1.6. All funding will be 75% grants/25% loans, but RUS can waive loan requirement**
  - 3.2. Department of Commerce’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration**
    - 3.2.1. Administers Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (“BTOP”)**
      - 3.2.1.1. \$2.6 dollars in second round (\$4.7 billion dollars total)**
      - 3.2.1.2. Provides up to 80% grants**
      - 3.2.1.3. Underserved or unserved areas preferred**
      - 3.2.1.4. Middle Mile projects only (must be less than 20% Last Mile)**
      - 3.2.1.5. Grants for infrastructure, public computer centers and adoption**
      - 3.2.1.6. States and tribes get chance to comment on applications**
    - 3.2.2. Tasked with creating the National Broadband Map**
      - 3.2.2.1. \$350 million allocated for mapping**
      - 3.2.2.2. Each state gets \$1.2 – 2.2 million to gather map info**

3.2.2.3. National map due 2/17/11

### **3.3. Federal Communications Commission**

#### **3.3.1. National Broadband Plan**

3.3.1.1. FCC has no money for funding projects

3.3.1.2. National plan originally to be issued by 2/17/10 now changed to 3/17/10

## **4. NTIA's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program ("BTOP")**

### **4.1. 1.1.1. Statutory Purposes**

4.1.1. Broadband service in unserved areas of the country;

4.1.2. Improved access in underserved areas;

4.1.3. To provide broadband education, training, access, equipment, and support to:

4.1.3.1. schools, libraries, medical and healthcare providers, community colleges and other institutions of higher learning, and other community support organizations;

4.1.3.2. vulnerable populations (*e.g.*, low-income, unemployed, aged); or

4.1.3.3. Job creation in state- or federally-designated economic development zones;

4.1.4. To improve access to, and use of, broadband service by public safety agencies; and

4.1.5. To stimulate the demand for broadband, economic growth, and job creation.

### **4.2. Definitions**

4.2.1. **Community anchor institutions** means schools, libraries, medical and healthcare providers, public safety entities, community colleges and other institutions of higher education, and other community support organizations and agencies that provide outreach, access, equipment, and support services to facilitate greater use of broadband service by vulnerable populations, including low-income, the unemployed, and the aged.

4.2.2. **Economically distressed area** means an area that has:

4.2.2.1. a per capita income of 80 percent or less of the national average; and

4.2.2.2. an unemployment rate that is at least one percent greater than the national average unemployment rate

4.2.3. **Rural area** means not in a town of more than 20,000 or next to city of 50,000 plus

3.2.4. **Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Small Business Concern** means a firm, average gross revenue not exceeding \$40 million and that meets the definition in Small Business Act.

3.2.5. **Tribe** means an Indian tribe per Section 4(e) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act.

### **3.3. Funds** - Total of \$2.6 billion available in second round

3.3.1. \$2.35 billion for Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI)

3.3.2. \$150 million for Public Computer Centers (PCC)

3.3.3. \$100 million for Sustainable Broadband Adoption (SBA)

### **3.4. Award amounts**

3.4.1. CCI: \$5 million - \$150 million

3.4.2. PCC: \$500,000 - \$15 million

3.4.3. SBA: \$500,000 - \$15 million

### **3.5. Types of Funding**

3.5.1. Applicants need to provide at least 20% matching funds

3.5.1.1. Asst. Secretary can waive 20% match

3.5.1.2. In-kind contribution can be counted, but all cash favored

3.5.1.3. Pre-application costs can be included

3.5.2. Applicant must show project would not be done but for BTOP grant

**3.5.3. Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) (\$2.35B) - Middle Mile Projects**

**3.5.3.1. CCI priority criteria**

- 3.5.3.1.1. Middle Mile broadband infrastructure for community anchor institutions.
- 3.5.3.1.2. Middle Mile broadband infrastructure with a public-private partnership among government, non-profit and for-profit entities, and other key community stakeholders
- 3.5.3.1.3. projects that bolster growth in economically distressed areas;
- 3.5.3.1.4. projects to serve community colleges
- 3.5.3.1.5. public safety entities
- 3.5.3.1.6. projects that are for unserved or underserved areas; or
- 3.5.3.1.7. Last Mile service in rural areas (but must be less than 20%),and
- 3.5.3.1.8. Project where applicant contributes 30% or more

3.5.3.2. Applications are reviewed first that have all the criteria above then first five, then first four, etc. If not serving community anchor institutions then reviewed last

**3.5.4. Public Computer Centers (\$150M)**

3.5.4.1. Must expand or create computer centers available to the public a specific vulnerable population

3.5.4.2. Libraries, community colleges, “Native American chapter houses”

**3.5.5. Sustainable Broadband Adoption (\$100M)**

3.5.5.1. Innovative projects that promote broadband uses especially among vulnerable populations where broadband is underutilized

**3.6. CCI Areas to be Funded are Underserved/Unserved but only a factor**

**3.6.1. Unserved Areas**

3.6.1.1. At least 90% of the household in a census block group don't have access to broadband

**3.6.2. Underserved Area (3 options)**

3.6.2.1. Penetration – At least 50% of households don't have access to broadband,

3.6.2.2. Slow Broadband – No one in service area advertises broadband great than 3Mbps, or

3.6.2.3. Low Usage – Less than 40% of households subscribe to broadband

3.6.3. At least 75% of area in application has to be un/underserved

3.6.4. Broadband – At least 768 Kbps to end-user and 200 Kbps upload speeds

**3.7. Application and Funding Process**

3.7.1. Application filing period 2/16/10 to 3/15/10

3.7.2. Review for completeness

3.7.2.1. If application complete forwarded to 2 reviewers for evaluation

3.7.2.2. If the application is not complete then rejected

3.7.3. Evaluation step

3.7.3.1. Reviewed in order of number of items meeting funding criteria

3.7.3.2. Two reviewers score and scores averaged

3.7.3.3. Highly qualified projects move to Step 2 due diligence

3.7.4. Due diligence step

3.7.4.1. NTIA requests detailed information on project

3.7.4.2. Reviews and ranks projects

3.7.5. States and tribes can comment on projects that serve their area

3.7.6. Awards and documentation

3.7.6.1. Awards made by NTIA Asst. Secretary

3.7.6.2. Awards made on a rolling basis starting in June 2010

3.7.6.3. All awards will be made by September 30, 2010

3.7.7. Completion schedule

3.7.7.1. All projects substantially complete in 2 years

3.7.7.2. All project fully complete in 3 years

**3.8. CCI Scoring Process (Total 100 points)**

**3.8.1. Project Purpose (20 points)**

3.8.1.1. Fit with Statutory Purposes.

3.8.1.2. Fit with BTOP Priorities.

3.8.1.3. Potential for Job Creation.

3.8.1.4. Recovery Act and Other Governmental Collaboration.

3.8.1.5. *Indian Tribes* or Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Small Businesses.

**3.8.2. Project Benefits (20 points)**

3.8.2.1. Level of Need in the Proposed Funded Service Area.

3.8.2.2. Impact on the Proposed Funded Service Area(s)

3.8.2.3. Network Capacity and Performance.

3.8.2.4. Affordability of Services Offered.

3.8.2.5. Nondiscrimination, Interconnection, and Choice of Provider.

**3.8.3. Project Viability (30 points)**

3.8.3.1. Technical Feasibility of the Proposed Project.

3.8.3.2. Applicant's Organizational Capability.

3.8.3.3. Level of Community Involvement in the Project

**3.8.4. Project Budget and Sustainability (30 points)**

3.8.4.1. Reasonableness of the Budget.

3.8.4.2. Sustainability of the Project.

3.8.4.3. Leverage of Outside Resources - Additional consideration if applicants provide 30 percent or greater of project costs

**For further information contact:**

Harold Pruner  
Chairman  
904-285-4257 (off.)  
hpruner33@comcast.net

Mark Pruner  
President  
203-969-7900 (off)  
mark@webcounsel.com