Community Connect Grants

What does this program do?

This program provides financial assistance to eligible applicants that will provide high speed internet service in rural communities. The projects funded by these grants help rural residents tap into the enormous potential of the internet for jobs, education, healthcare, public safety and community development.

Who can apply for this program?

Eligible applicants include:

- **State and local governments**
- **Federally recognized Tribes**
- **Nonprofits**
- **For-profit corporations**
- **Limited liability companies**

Community Connect Grants Website

What is an eligible area?

Rural areas that lack internet speeds of 10 megabits per second (Mbps) downstream and 1Mbps upstream.

The Broadband Mapping Tool provides guidance on rural areas currently eligible for Community Connect Grants.

How can funds be used?

Funds can be used for the construction, acquisition, or leasing of facilities, spectrum, land or buildings used to deploy broadband service for:

- All residential and business customers located within the Proposed Funded Service Area
- All participating essential community facilities (such as public schools, fire stations, public libraries, and public safety stations)

Funds may also be used to:

- Cover the cost of providing high-speed internet free of charge to essential community facilities for 2 years
- Up to 10 percent of the grant may be used for the improvement, expansion, construction, or acquisition of a community center that provides online access to the public

Are there other requirements?

Other program requirements include:

- Documentation supporting the scoring criteria
- An executive summary of the proposed project
- Grantees must have legal authority to provide, construct, operate and maintain the proposed facilities or services
- Matching funds of at least 15 percent from non-federal sources are required and can be used for operating costs
- Partnerships with other federal, state, local, private, and nonprofit entities are encouraged

Who can answer questions about this program?

- Please use the Contact Us form available at: tinyurl.com/RUSCommC.
- Contact our Loan Origination and Approval Division at 202-720-0800.
- Contact your General Field Representative. A list is available at this link: tinyurl.com/RUSGFR-T.

What governs this program?

7 CFR, Part 1739, available at this link: tinyurl.com/7CFR1739

NOTE: Because information changes, always consult official program instructions or contact your local USDA Rural Development office for help. A list is available at this link: tinyurl.com/RDStateOffices**. You will find additional RD program resources at** rd.usda.gov**. Information about other USDA programs and services is available at this link:** ask.usda.gov/s/**.USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.**

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