



ARRA Broadband Funds: Community Planning

Greater Nashville Regional Council

A Connected Tennessee Webinar

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Overview of Webinar

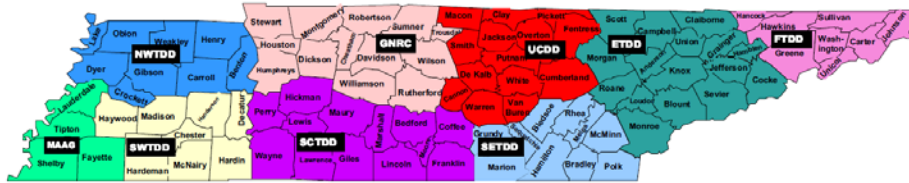
- 60 minutes
 - Presentation (40 min.)
 - Q & A (20 min.)
- Agenda
 - Review of funding available
 - State of Tennessee Approach
 - Where to start?
 - Q & A
- Submit your questions to the moderator

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Webinars: Communities & Providers



- First Tennessee
- Upper Cumberland
- Greater Nashville
- Northwest
- Memphis Area
- East Tennessee
- Southeast Tennessee
- South Central
- South West
- Broadband Providers

ARRA Broadband Funding Provisions



American Recovery & Reinvestment Act Broadband Funds

Program	Amount	Notes
NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (Infrastructure)	\$3.9 Billion	20% Non-federal Match
NTIA State Broadband Data & Development Grant	Up to \$350 Million	Implementation of S.1492
NTIA TOP Sustainable Broadband Adoption Grant	At least \$250 Million	Intended to fund innovative programs that will increase demand for and adoption for bb
NTIA TOP Public Computing Center	At least \$200 Million	Intended to increase availability to computers at sites like libraries and community colleges
USDA RUS Distance Learning, Telemedicine, & BB Grant	\$2.5 Billion	75% of area in each project funded must be rural
Total	\$7.2 Billion	

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NTIA BTOP Program Goals

1. Begin to close the broadband gap across America.
2. Stimulate investment by requiring companies that take federal money to invest their own funds as well.
3. Create Jobs.
4. Take steps toward ensuring that (public safety), schools, universities, libraries and community centers, job training centers and hospitals have high-speed access.
5. Encourage the demand for Broadband.

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Paraphrased from Rick Wade, Senior Advisor and Acting Chief of Staff, US Department of Commerce

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Eligible Entities (BTOP Program)

a State or political subdivision thereof, the District of Columbia, a territory or possession of the United States, an Indian tribe ... or native Hawaiian organization;

a nonprofit—
 (i) foundation, (ii) corporation,
 (iii) institution, or (iv) association;

any other entity, including a broadband service or infrastructure provider, that the Assistant Secretary finds by rule to be in the public interest.



Grant Considerations (BTOP Program)



If awarded, will the project:

(A) increase the **affordability** of, and **subscriptions** to, service to the greatest population of users in the area;

(B) provide the **greatest broadband speed** possible to the greatest population of users in the area;

(C) **enhance** service for **health care** delivery, **education**, or **children** to the greatest population of users in the area;

(D) **not result** in unjust enrichment as a result of support for **non-recurring costs** through another Federal program for service in the area; and

consider whether the applicant is a **socially and economically disadvantaged small business**



RUS Grant Guidelines

Expects to use 100% of funds for **rural areas**

That **priority** for awarding such funds shall be given to project applications for broadband systems that will deliver end users a **choice of more than one service provider**.

That **priority** for awarding funds made available under this paragraph shall be given to projects that provide service to the highest proportion of rural residents that **do not have access to broadband service**.

That **priority** shall be given for project applications from **borrowers or former borrowers** under Title II of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 and for project applications that include such borrowers or former borrowers.



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More Grant Information

- “Best bang for the buck”
 - Collaboration is encouraged
- NTIA
 - Rural / Urban / Suburban Area Focus
 - Initial Plan – 3 Rounds
 - 1st round to start around June
- RUS
 - Rural Area Focus
 - Initial Plan – At least 3 NOFAs
 - 1st round to start in June with 60-day window.

State of Tennessee Approach

Tennessee State Strategy -In Process

Tennessee State Broadband Strategy

Executive Team includes:

Office of Information Resources, Tennessee Comptroller's Office,
Department of Economic & Community Development,
Tennessee Regulatory Authority, University of Tennessee,
Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Connected Tennessee

Broadband Availability - Unserved / Underserved Areas

Education

Government

Healthcare

Public Safety

Libraries

Non Profits

Energy



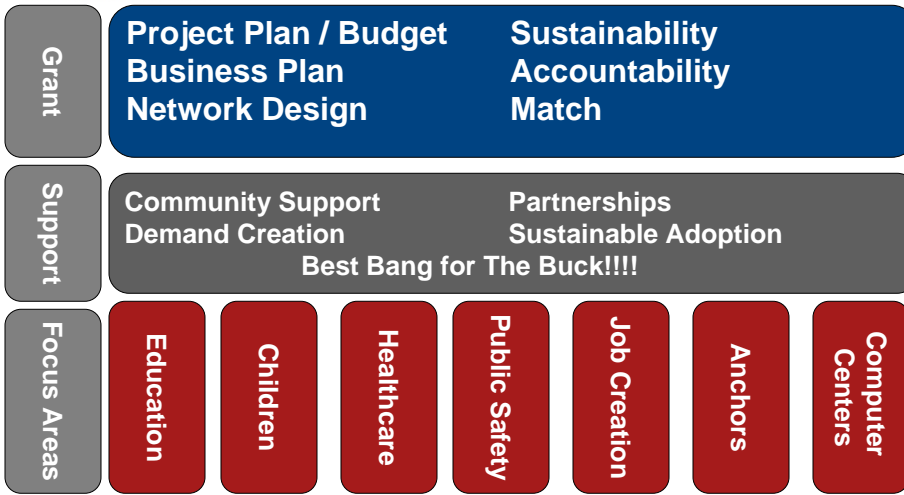
State Endorsement Process

Goal: Create a method for the State of Tennessee to identify where to put its limited resources while providing a valuable framework for all proposals.



Community Planning

Start Planning Now: 3 Levels



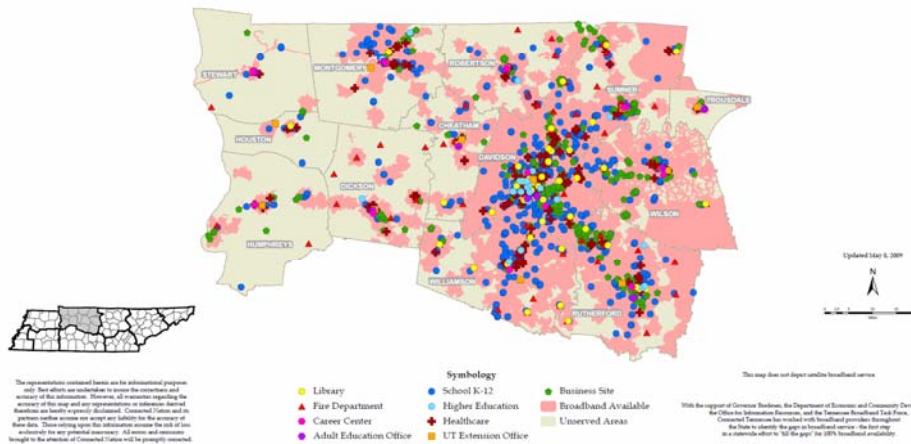
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Greater Nashville Regional Council Broadband Service Inventory and Facilities

Subject questions or recommended changes to map@connectedtennessee.org



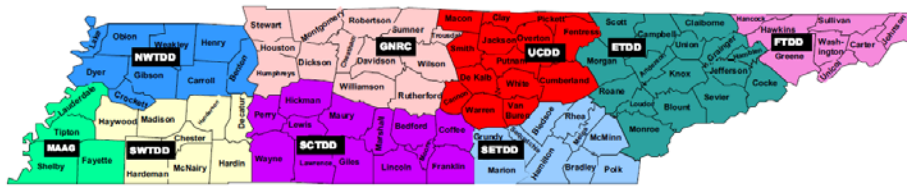
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For More Information:



Contact Your Development District.



For More Information:



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Important Websites

- Tennessee Recovery Website
www.tnrecovery.gov
- NTIA Broadband Grants Program
www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants
- RUS Telecom Program
www.usda.gov/rus/telecom
- Connected Tennessee
www.connectedtennessee.org



Follow Up / Next Steps

- Group Viewing
 - If in a group, please submit your contact information so we can send follow-up information.
- We will send e-mail with PPT
- Once rules and additional information come out, we will send additional information.
- If interested in learning more, please let us know.

Questions / Answers

