

Stimulus Briefing Begins at 1 p.m. ET

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Update on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

for the Internet2 Community

July 2, 2009



Internet2 Stimulus Resource Page:

[http://www.internet2.edu/
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Today's Update:

- NTIA BTOP & USDA RUS BIP “Notice of Funding Availability”
- CATALYST@EDU



Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)

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About BTOP:

Funded at \$4.7 billion, BTOP provides grants to support the deployment of broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas, to enhance broadband capacity at public computer centers, and to encourage sustainable adoption of broadband service. Through this support, BTOP will also advance the Recovery Act's objectives to spur job creation and stimulate long-term economic growth and opportunity.

What's New?

[Federal Register Notice: Buy American Exemption under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009](#) (Acrobat PDF 56 Kb)

July 1, 2009

[Press Release: U.S. Senate Confirms Lawrence E. Strickling As Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information](#)

(Print version Acrobat PDF 23 Kb)

June 26, 2009

For news media inquiries, please contact Mark Tolbert at press@ntia.doc.gov.

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National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW Washington, DC 20230



Welcome to Broadband USA

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The portal to apply for broadband funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The Recovery Act appropriated \$7.2 billion and directed the [Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service \(RUS\)](#) and The [Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications Information Administration \(NTIA\)](#) to expand broadband access to unserved and underserved communities across the U.S., increase jobs, spur investments in technology and infrastructure, and provide long-term economic benefits.

The result is the RUS Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP) and the NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP).

BIP will make loans and grants for broadband infrastructure projects in rural areas. BTOP will provide grants to fund broadband infrastructure, public computer centers and sustainable broadband adoption projects.

For details on the definitions and requirements of these programs, please refer to the [Notice of Funding Availability \(NOFA\)](#).

For details on the "Buy America" waiver for the RUS broadband initiative, please refer to the July 1 [Federal Register notice](#).

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NTIA BTOP & RUS BIP NOFA

- Single NOFA, Common Application, but two different programs
- August 14 proposal deadlines
- Two additional rounds after this, all funding to be awarded by Sep 30 '10
- RUS: \$2.5 B in ARRA funds will support \$2B in grants, \$7B in loans/guarantees

NTIA BTOP & RUS BIP NOFA

- RUS “Broadband Initiatives Program”
 - \$1.2 B for last-mile projects
 - (\$400 M for remote, \$800 M for non-remote areas)
 - \$800 M for loan or loan-grant combinations for middle-mile projects
 - \$325 set aside for “national reserve”
 - “Grants under BIP are to be used exclusively to serve remote, unserved, rural areas”

NTIA BTOP & RUS BIP NOFA

- NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
 - \$1.2 B for infrastructure grants to unserved and underserved areas
 - Up to \$50 M for “public computer centers”
 - Up to \$150 M for “sustainable broadband adoption”
 - Up to \$200 million for a national reserve

NTIA BTOP & RUS BIP NOFA

- NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program- 5 Objectives:
 - (1) Access to broadband to consumers in unserved areas
 - (2) Improved access to consumers in underserved areas
 - (3) Access, education, awareness, training, equipment & support to community anchor institutions (schools, libraries, health), or organizations serving vulnerable populations, or job creating strategic facilities

NTIA BTOP & RUS BIP NOFA

- NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program- 5 Objectives:
 - (4) improve access to, and use of, broadband by public safety agencies
 - (5) stimulate the demand for broadband, economic growth & job creation

NTIA BTOP & RUS BIP NOFA

- NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program- 3 Categories:
 - Broadband Infrastructure – to unserved and underserved areas
 - Last Mile
 - Middle Mile
 - Public Computer Center
 - Sustainable Broadband Adoption

NTIA BTOP & RUS BIP NOFA

- Private companies eligible to apply for BTOP grants – finding by Secretary

NTIA BTOP & RUS BIP NOFA

- Applicants will be reviewed by 3 reviewers and scored
- “Finalists” announced by Sept. 15
- States (Governors) will be asked to recommend priorities among the finalists
- “Due Diligence” next step (thru Nov 7)
- Awards in December

NTIA BTOP/RUS BIP NOFA

“Definitions”

- **“Broadband service”**
 - Two-way data transmission with *advertised speeds* of at least 768 kbps downstream and 200 kbps upstream to end users
 - “providing sufficient capacity in a Middle Mile project to support the provision of broadband service to end users.”

NTIA BTOP/RUS BIP NOFA

“Definitions”

- **“Unserved area”**

- A proposed funded service area (one or more contiguous census blocks) where at least 90% of households lack access to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service, either fixed or mobile, at the minimum broadband transmission speed of 768 kbps downstream and 200 kbps upstream. A household has access to such broadband service if it can readily subscribe to that service upon request.

NTIA BTOP/RUS BIP NOFA

“Definitions”

- **“Underserved area” – Last Mile**
 - No more than 50% of households in proposed service area have access to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service at greater than the minimum broadband transmission speed, **OR**
 - No fixed or mobile broadband service provider advertises broadband transmission speeds of at least 3 mbps downstream, **OR**
 - The rate of broadband subscribership is 40% of households or less.

NTIA BTOP/RUS BIP NOFA

“Definitions”

- **“Underserved area” – Middle Mile**
 - A proposed funded service area may qualify as underserved for Middle Mile projects if one interconnection point terminates in a proposed funded service area that qualifies as unserved or underserved for Last Mile projects

NTIA BTOP/RUS BIP NOFA

“Definitions”

- **“Unserved” & “Underserved”**
 - Definitions apply only for BTOP Broadband Infrastructure proposals
 - For “Public Computer Center” and “Sustainable Broadband Adoption” proposals, NTIA will evaluate the characteristics of the population served, rather than the Internet services available.
 - Services to vulnerable populations will be a critical factor in evaluating such proposals.

NTIA BTOP/RUS BIP NOFA

“Definitions”

- **“Last Mile Project”**
 - Any infrastructure project the predominant purpose of which is to provide broadband service to end users or end-user devices (including households, businesses, community anchor institutions, public safety entities, and critical community facilities)

NTIA BTOP/RUS BIP NOFA

“Definitions”

- **“Middle Mile Project”**

- A broadband infrastructure project that does not predominantly provide broadband service to end users or to end-user devices, and may include interoffice transport, backhaul, Internet connectivity, or special access

NTIA BTOP/RUS BIP NOFA

“Definitions”

- **BTOP Cost Sharing/Matching**
 - Minimum 20% match required; no blanket waivers
 - Federal funds may not be used as matching funds, except as provided by federal statute
 - In-kind contributions, including third-party in-kind contributions, are non-cash donations that may count toward satisfying the non-federal matching requirement of a project’s total budget.

NTIA BTOP/RUS BIP NOFA

“Definitions”

- **“Interconnection & Non-Discrimination Requirements”**
 - (1) Adhere to the principles contained in FCC’s Broadband Policy Statement (FCC 05-151 adopted August 5, 2005)
 - (2) Not favor any lawful Internet applications or content over others
 - (3) Display network management policies in a prominent location on provider’s web page

NTIA BTOP/RUS BIP NOFA

“Definitions”

- **“Interconnection & Non-Discrimination Requirements”**
 - (4) Connect to the public Internet directly or indirectly, such that the project is not an entirely private closed network
 - (5) Offer interconnection, where technically-feasible, on reasonable rates and terms to be negotiated with requesting parties. This includes both the ability to connect to the public Internet and physical interconnection for the exchange of traffic

NTIA BTOP/RUS BIP NOFA

“Definitions”

- **BTOP Ineligible Award Expenses**
 - Operating expenses of the project
 - Costs incurred prior to the date application is submitted
 - Purchase or lease of vehicle
 - Broadband facilities leased under the terms of an operating lease
 - Merger or consolidation of entities
 - Cost of acquiring spectrum

NTIA BTOP/RUS BIP NOFA “Evaluation”

- **BTOP Evaluation**

- Project Purpose (30 points)
- Project Benefits (25 points)
- Project Viability (25 points)
- Project Budget & Sustainability (20 points)

- **Questions?**
- **Issues?**
- **Reactions?**

Catalyst@EDU

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- The Catalyst@EDU concept is designed to maximize the strengths of the education community and provide a winning differentiator to participating proposals.
 - We have a proven track record.
 - We are not done.
 - The national broadband plan needs the benefit of our expertise.
 - We know how to collaborate.
 - Catalyst@EDU drives our common vision.
 - Lead jointly by ACUTA, EDUCAUSE, Internet2, NLR and the Quilt

The Catalyst@EDU Goals

- a pilot project for national discovery

- The Catalyst@EDU goals are to:
 - Pilot strategies that will deliver affordable 100 Mbps (and up) broadband to educational institutions in the US and return the US to a more internationally competitive technology environment (price/performance),
 - Leverage education leadership in local communities to enable federal government policy goals and,
 - Maximize job creation and innovation through the combined economic development effect of broadband and its relationship with education.

Catalyst@EDU Participation

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- There are three ways your organization can participate in Catalyst@EDU activity:
 - 1) use concepts or language from Catalyst@EDU in your organization's proposal,
 - 2) join Catalyst@EDU working group(s) to work with higher education and networking organizations to help achieve our collective vision, and/or
 - 3) join in a national joint proposal.
- You may choose whatever methods of participation that best suit your local efforts.
 - Send your name and your affiliation to our coordinator, Susan Estrada, sestrada@aldea.com.
 - We will be setting up a mailing list and schedule of activities by early July

For resources, see

**[http://www.internet2.edu/
government/stimulus](http://www.internet2.edu/government/stimulus)**

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