# Drill Down on Stimulus Programs
## Broadband and Service Providers

Highlights of Technology-Friendly Programs Supporting Broadband Access and Broadband Service Providers in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

# Drill Downs

# Contents

# Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program

| Fed | • Department of Agriculture will distribute funds directly to competitively chosen awardees<br>• First round of applications are expected to be available between April and June 2009. |
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| Local | • First round of applicants are expected to submit applications between May and July 2009. |
|---|---|

**Purpose of the Grant:**

This funding will be distributed via **grants, loans and loan guarantees for broadband infrastructure**. At least 75% of areas to be served with these funds must be in a rural area without sufficient access to high speed broadband.

**Program Priorities:**

**Specific program priorities are currently being developed by RUS – this information will be updated as it becomes available.**

**In awarding funds, priority will be given to:**

1. Projects that can be started immediately once funds have been awarded
2. Projects that will be completed with awarded funds
3. Projects for broadband systems that will deliver end users a choice of more than one service provider
4. Projects that provide service to the highest proportion of rural residents that do not have access to broadband service;
5. Project applications from borrowers or former borrowers under title II of the Rural Electrification Act.

**Program funds must benefit rural areas with populations of 20,000 or less, however applicants may be located in non-rural areas.**

**Award Information:**

The total ARRA available funding is $2.5 billion. Of this amount, RUS will make grants, loans, and loan guarantees. It is not yet known what amount will be designated for each assistance type.

**Award Allocations:**

This grant program is expected to be competitive. Awards will be announced after applications are received and reviewed by the agency.

**Timelines:**

Eligible organizations must apply for funding by submitting applications directly to the Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service (RUS) using the program guidelines that are to be released by RUS. It is expected that there will be three application rounds. The first round is expected to open for application between April and June 2009. The timelines for the second and third application rounds are to be announced by RUS.

**Program Eligibility:**

Eligibility criteria are currently being developed by RUS. Eligible applicants are expected to include incorporated organizations or partnerships; Indian tribes or tribal organizations; state or local units of government;vf these groups; and other legal entities, including private corporations organized on a for profit or not-for profit basis.

**Priority Applicants:**

Priorities are currently under development. At least 75% of areas to be served with these funds must be in a rural area without sufficient access to high speed broadband. Preference will also be given to past borrowers of Rural Electrification Act Loans.

**Target Solutions:**

This program will be Cisco-friendly inasmuch as it provides for the extension of broadband infrastructure into communities that do not currently have sufficient service. This would include opportunities for:

- **Core Routing and Switching**
- **Wireless Infrastructure**
- **Network Security**
- **Storage Solutions**

 Also, keep in mind that this new level of connectivity will create a dynamic landscape of new demand for solutions that leverage higher bandwidth that will be available in these communities!

**Program Links:**

Agency Website: **www.usda.gov/rus**

Agency Recovery Website: **www.usda.gov/recovery**

Link to Past Awardees*: **www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/commconnect.htm**

Link to Application Guidance: TBA

* A note on the link to past awardees:

(Many programs will have different priorities and criteria for ARRA funds than for similar pre-existing programs. These past awardees are for reference only and are based on pre-existing programs with a similar purpose)

# Broadband Technology Opportunities Program — Infrastructure

| Fed | • The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) will distribute funds directly to competitively chosen local agencies.<br>• The first of three rounds of funding is expected to open for application between April and June 2009 |
| --- | --- |
| Local | • Local agencies must apply for funding once applications are made available from the NTIA. |

**Purpose of the Grant:**

This program provides grants to provide access to broadband service to consumers residing in unserved areas of the United States. **Details of this program are currently under development by the NTIA. Based on ARRA it is expected that some eligible activities will include:**

- **Providing access to broadband service to consumers residing in unserved areas of the United States;**
- **Providing improved access to broadband service to consumers residing in underserved areas of the United States; and**
- **Improving access to, and use of, broadband service by public safety agencies;**

**Based on ARRA it is expected that some eligible costs will include those associated with the:**

- **Construction and deployment of broadband service related infrastructure; and**
- **Construction and deployment of broadband facilities that improve public safety broadband communications services.**

**Award Information:**

Of the $4.7 billion authorized for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, $4.35 billion is designated for Infrastructure grants. It is expected that there will be a 20% non-federal match requirement.

**Award Allocations:**

This grant program is expected to be competitive. Awards will be announced after applications are received and reviewed by the agency.

**Timelines:**

Eligible organizations must apply for funding by submitting applications directly to the NTIA using the program guidelines that are to be released by NTIA. It is expected that there will be three application rounds. **The first round is expected to open for application between April and June 2009.** The second round is expected to open for application between October and December 2009. The third round is expected to open for application between April and June 2010. Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, NTIA has until September 30, 2010 to award all funding.

## Program Eligibility:

Eligibility criteria are currently being developed by NTIA. Eligible applicants are expected to include broadband service providers, nonprofit organizations (primarily cooperatives), and state and local government agencies.

## Priority Applicants:

**Funding priorities for this funding are currently under development by the NTIA; however, based on ARRA, some priorities for this funding will include the following:**

a. There will be at least one award in each state;

b. Will the project increase the affordability of, and subscribership to, service to the greatest population of users in the area;

c. Will the project provide the greatest broadband speed possible to the greatest population of users in the area;

d. Will the project enhance service for health care delivery, education, or children to the greatest population of users in the area; and

e. Will the project not result in unjust enrichment as a result of support for non-recurring costs through another Federal program for service in the area; and

f. Will the project benefit a socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern

## Target Solutions:

Expanding public computer centers will necessitate a range of infrastructure acquisitions, including:

- **Core Routing and Switching**
- **Wireless Infrastructure**
- **Network Security**
- **Storage Solutions**

Of course, you may find specific uses for the funding that are a better fit than these, based on your specific needs.

## Program Links:

Agency Website: www.ntia.doc.gov

Agency Recovery Website: www.commerce.gov/recovery

Link to Past Awardees*: www.ntia.doc.gov/top/grants/grants.htm

Link to Past Awardees*: www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/commconnect.htm

Link to Application Guidance: TBA

* A note on the link to past awardees:

(Many programs will have different priorities and criteria for ARRA funds than for similar pre-existing programs. These past awardees are for reference only and are based on pre-existing programs with a similar purpose)

# Broadband Technology Opportunities Program — Public Computer Centers

| Fed | • The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) will distribute funds directly to competitively chosen local agencies.<br>• The first of three rounds of funding is expected to open for application between April and June 2009 |
|---|---|

| Local | • Local agencies must apply for funding once applications are made available from the NTIA. |
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**Purpose of the Grant:**

This program provides competitive grants for expanding public computer center capacity, including at community colleges and public libraries. Details of this program are currently under development by the NTIA.

Based on ARRA, program objectives are to provide broadband education, awareness, training, access, equipment, and support to:

v **schools, libraries, medical and healthcare providers, community colleges and other institutions of higher education, and other community support organizations** and entities to facilitate greater use of broadband service by or through these organizations;

b. **organizations and agencies that provide outreach, access, equipment, and support services to facilitate greater use of broadband service** by low-income, unemployed, aged, and otherwise vulnerable populations; and

c. **job-creating strategic facilities located** within a State-designated economic zone, Economic Development District designated by the Department of Commerce, Renewal Community or Empowerment Zone designated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, or Enterprise Community designated by the Department of Agriculture;

**Based on ARRA, funds can be used to:**

· **Acquire equipment, instrumentation, networking capability, hardware and software, digital network technology, and infrastructure for broadband services; and**

· **Ensure access to broadband service by community anchor institutions.**

**Award Information:**

Of the $4.7 billion authorized for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, $200 million is designated for Public Computer Capacity grants. It is expected that there will be a 20% non-federal match requirement.

**Award Allocations:**

This grant program is expected to be competitive. Awards will be announced after applications are received and reviewed by the agency.

**Timelines:**

Eligible organizations must apply for funding by submitting applications directly to the NTIA using the program guidelines that are to be released by NTIA. It is expected that there will be three application rounds. The first round is expected to open for application between April and June 2009. The second round is expected to open for application between October and December 2009. The third round is expected to open for application between April and June 2010. Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, NTIA has until September 30, 2010 to award all funding.

**Program Eligibility:**

Eligibility criteria are currently being developed by NTIA. Eligible applicants are expected to include public schools, libraries, medical and healthcare providers, community support organizations, community colleges and other institutions of higher education.

**Priority Applicants:**

Priorities are currently under development.

**Target Solutions:**

Expanding public computer centers will necessitate a range of infrastructure acquisitions, including:

- **Core Routing and Switching**
- **Wireless Infrastructure**
- **Network Security**
- **Storage Solutions**

Of course, you may find specific uses for the funding that are a better fit than these, based on your specific needs.

**Program Links:**

Agency Website: www.ntia.doc.gov

Agency Recovery Website: www.commerce.gov/recovery

Link to Past Awardees*: www.ntia.doc.gov/top/grants/grants.htm

Link to Application Guidance: TBA

* A note on the link to past awardees:

(Many programs will have different priorities and criteria for ARRA funds than for similar pre-existing programs. These past awardees are for reference only and are based on pre-existing programs with a similar purpose)

# Broadband Technology Opportunities Program — Innovative Programs

| Fed | • The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) will distribute funds directly to competitively chosen local agencies.<br>• The first of three rounds of funding is expected to open for application between April and June 2009 |
| --- | --- |

| Local | • Local agencies must apply for funding once applications are made available from the NTIA. |
| --- | --- |

**Purpose of the Grant:**

This program provides competitive grants for innovative programs to encourage sustainable adoption of broadband service. **Details of this program are currently under development by the NTIA.**

**Based on ARRA, this program's objectives are to stimulate the demand for broadband, economic growth, and job creation and funds can be used to facilitate access to broadband service by low-income, unemployed, aged, and otherwise vulnerable populations in order to provide educational and employment opportunities to members of such populations.**

**Award Information:**

Of the $4.7 billion authorized for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, $250 million is designated for Innovative Program grants. It is expected that there will be a 20% non-federal match requirement.

**Award Allocations:**

This grant program is expected to be competitive. Awards will be announced after applications are received and reviewed by the agency.

**Timelines:**

Eligible organizations must apply for funding by submitting applications directly to the NTIA using the program guidelines that are to be released by NTIA. It is expected that there will be three application rounds. **The first round is expected to open for application between April and June 2009.** The second round is expected to open for application between October and December 2009. The third round is expected to open for application between April and June 2010. Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, NTIA has until September 30, 2010 to award all funding.

**Program Eligibility:**

Eligibility criteria are currently being developed by NTIA. Eligible applicants are expected to include nonprofit community support organizations and state and local government agencies.

**Priority Applicants:**

Priorities are currently under development.

**Target Solutions:**

Expanding public computer centers will necessitate a range of infrastructure acquisitions, including:

- · **Core Routing and Switching**
- · **Wireless Infrastructure**
- · **Network Security**
- · **Storage Solutions**

**Program Links:**

Agency Website: www.ntia.doc.gov

Agency Recovery Website: www.commerce.gov/recovery

Link to Past Awardees*: www.ntia.doc.gov/top/grants/grants.htm

Link to Application Guidance: TBA



* A note on the link to past awardees:

(Many programs will have different priorities and criteria for ARRA funds than for similar pre-existing programs. These past awardees are for reference only and are based on pre-existing programs with a similar purpose)

# State Fiscal Stabilization Funding for Education

| | |
|---|---|
| **Fed** | • Department of Education will distribute funds to State Educational Agencies (SEAs)<br>• First round begins in April; Second round begins in July |

| | |
|---|---|
| **State** | • SEAs will distribute funds to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs)  and institutions of higher<br>• Beginning in May 2009 |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Local** | • LEAs and public institutions of higher education will perform eligible activities by early 2011. |

**Purpose of the Grant:**

These funds will be distributed via formula grants to institutions of elementary, secondary, and higher education to restore local budget levels to improve educational services and modernize, renovate, and repair educational buildings.

**There are two components of the Stabilization program:**

**Education Stabilization Fund** – States must use the Education Stabilization Fund to restore State support for elementary and secondary education, public higher education, and, as applicable, early childhood education programs and services.

**Government Services Fund** – States must use the Government Services Fund for public safety and other government services, which may include assistance for elementary and secondary education and public institutions of higher education (IHEs), and for modernization, renovation, or repair of public school facilities and IHE facilities.

**Education Stabilization Fund for States**

Each state will make awards under the Education Stabilization Fund only to local educational agencies (LEAs) and public IHEs. The state may not retain any portion of the Education Stabilization Fund for State purposes, nor award any portion of this allocation to entities other than LEAs and public IHEs.

**Education Stabilization Fund for Local Educational Agencies (LEAs)**

LEAs have considerable flexibility in determining how best to use Education Stabilization funds. LEAs may use the funds to support both current expenditures and other expenses such as capital expenditures.

**LEAs may use Education Stabilization funds for modernization, renovation, or repair of public school facilities, including modernization, renovation, and repairs that are consistent with a recognized green-building rating system.** In conducting these activities, LEAs are encouraged to consider how schools might be adapted to better accommodate the needs of the community and serve as community centers.

In addition, **LEA Education Stabilization funds may be used for activities such as:**

1. Paying the salaries of administrators, teachers, and support staff;
2. **Purchasing textbooks, computers, and other equipment;**
3. Supporting programs designed to address the educational needs of children at risk of academic failure;
4. Meeting the general expenses of the LEA.

**An LEA may not use funds for:**

5. Payment of maintenance costs;
6. Stadiums or other facilities primarily used for athletic contests or exhibitions or other events for which admission is charged to the general public;
7. Purchase or upgrade of vehicles;
8. Improvement of stand-alone facilities whose purpose is not the education of children, including central office administration or operations or logistical support facilities; or
9. Any modernization, renovation, or repair that is inconsistent with State law.

**Education Stabilization Fund for Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs)**

One of the purposes of the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund program is to help mitigate the need for increases in tuition and fees that in-State students pay to attend public IHEs. Therefore, a state may restrict an IHE's use of Education Stabilization funds to expenditures that would help mitigate the need for increases in tuition and fees paid by in-State students. Furthermore, a state may refuse to award Education Stabilization funds to public IHEs that do not minimize tuition and fee increases for in-State students.

**IHE may only use Education Stabilization funds for:**

1. Education and general expenditures, in such a way as to mitigate the need to raise tuition and fees for in-State residents; or
2. Modernization, renovation, or repair of IHE facilities that are primarily used for instruction, research, or student housing, including modernization, renovation, and repairs that are consistent with a recognized green-building rating system.

**An IHE may not use funds for:**

1. Increasing its endowment.
   Maintenance of systems, equipment, or facilities;
2. Modernization, renovation, or repair of stadiums or other facilities primarily used for athletic contests or exhibitions or other events for which admission is charged to the general public;
3. Modernization, renovation, or repair of facilities used for sectarian instruction or religious worship; or
4. Modernization, renovation, or repair of facilities in which a substantial portion of the functions of the facilities are subsumed in a religious mission.

## Government Services Fund for States

States may use its Government Services Funds for **state level activities and/or for competitive grants for LEAs and IHEs (including private IHEs).**

Per the application that each state must submit to ED, states must indicate what, if any, percentage of their Government Service Funding will be used for each of the following categories:

· Public Safety

· Elementary & Secondary Education (excluding modernization, renovation, or repair of public school facilities)

· Public IHEs (excluding modernization, renovation, or repair of IHEs)

· Modernization, renovation, or repair of public school facilities

· Modernization, renovation, or repair of IHEs

· Medicaid

· Public assistance

· Transportation

· Other (states are asked to describe)

· Undetermined (states are not asked to describe)

As states submit their applications, the percentages each state allocates to these areas can be found in Part 5, Section B of their application which is made available at www. ed.gov/programs/statestabilization/resources.html.

**Modernization, renovation, or repair of facilities is an allowable cost for Education Stabilization funds as well as Government Services Funds. The term "modernization, renovation, or repair" includes altering, remodeling, repairing, or retrofitting an existing facility. Some allowable modernization activities include:**

1. Work related to electrical systems, plumbing systems, sewage systems, heating, ventilation or air conditioning and the installation of energy- efficient windows,

2. The repair or replacement of roofs,

3. Asbestos abatement or removal,

4. Bringing facilities into compliance with fire and safety codes,

5. Making facilities accessible

6. Upgrading or installing educational technology infrastructure to ensure that students have access to up-to-date educational technology;

7. Technology activities that are carried out in connection with school repair and renovation, including (A) wiring; (B) acquiring hardware and software; (C) acquiring connectivity linkages and resources; and (D) acquiring microwave, fiber optics, cable, and satellite transmission equipment;

## Award Information:

Of the total $53.6 billion in State Stabilization funding authorized by ARRA, $48.5 billion will be available through the Education Stabilization Fund and Government Services Fund.

**Approximately $40 billion in Education Stabilization Funding will be awarded entirely to LEAs and IHE via their State.**

**Approximately $8 billion in Government Services Funding will be awarded to states. Each state will have discretion as to the use their Government Services Funding. States may use these funds for state level activities and/or for competitive grants to LEAs, and IHEs (including private IHEs at the states discretion).**

## Award Allocations:

Formula allocations to states are available at: www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/index.html.

The Department of Education posts a list of the states that receive funds at: www.ed.gov/programs/statestabilization/resources.html.

In calculating the amounts of Stabilization funds that must be awarded to LEAs and to public IHEs, a State must determine the amounts of funds needed to fully restore the levels of state support for elementary and secondary education and for public IHEs for FY 2009 to the greater of the FY 2008 or FY 2009 levels.

The Department of Education will continually update a report detailing how much money has been obligated, or made available, in each state and how much money has been outlaid, or drawn down by program. This report is available at www.edgovblogs.org/duncan/2009/04/state-level-recovery-act-funding-reports-now-available/.

## Timelines:

**The application and guidelines for states to apply for 67 percent of the funds were made available on April 1. The Department of Education will accept state applications on a rolling basis. States will receive funds within two weeks after submitting an approvable application. The remainder of the funds will be made available beginning around July 1, 2009. Application procedures for the second round are to be released by the Department of Education.**

**States have flexibility in the timing of the release of the funds to LEAs. Each state that receives funding must return any funds which are not committed within 2 years of receiving the funds.**

The Department of Education does, however, strongly encourage States to make timely awards in order to minimize the impact of any reduction in State education spending and maximize the ability of these funds to save and create jobs.

LEAs will be required to submit an application to the State. This process and associated deadline will vary by state. It is universal that LEAs will have to provide standard assurances.

States have discretion to determine whether an IHE must submit an application before receiving Education Stabilization funds. This process and associated deadline will vary by state.

LEAs and IHEs have flexibility in determining when to use their Stabilization funds, as long as the funds are obligated by September 30, 2011.

**Program Eligibility:**

State Educational Agencies will receive Federal funding and pass-through funds to Local Educational Agencies (LEA) and public institutions of higher education.

State law determines whether a charter school is an LEA, or a school within an LEA and therefore a charter school eligibility will vary by state.

Public institutions of higher education are eligible for funding. For-profit institutions and postsecondary vocational institutions are not eligible.

States may not make awards under the Education Stabilization Fund to private IHEs. However, they may provide support to such institutions under the State's Government Services Fund allocation.

**Priority Applicants:**

These funds will be distributed on a formula basis. When using grant funds for infrastructure investment, recipients must give preference to activities that can be started and completed expeditiously, including a goal of using at least 50 percent of the funds for activities that can be initiated not later than 120 days after February 17, 2009. In addition, recipients must use grant funds in a manner that maximizes job creation and economic benefit.

**Target Solutions:**

Funds can be used for:

- School Safety and Security Solutions
- Communications Solutions
- Core Infrastructure
- Wireless Solutions
- Network Security

**Program Links:**

Agency Website: www.ed.gov

Agency Recovery Website: www.ed.gov/recovery

Link to Past Awardees*: N/A

Link to Application Guidance: www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/index.html

* This ARRA funding represents the first time awards will be made under this program

# State Grants to Promote Health Information Technology

| **Fed** | • The Department of Health and Human Services will distribute these funds to State Health Departments. |

| **State** | • State Health Departments will apply directly to HHS. |

**Purpose of the Grant:**

The purpose of this funding is to facilitate and expand the electronic movement and use of health information among organizations according to nationally recognized standards.

Funding may be awarded for Planning or Implementation. Planning grants must be used to develop a plan that describes the activities to be carried out by a State or by the qualified State-designated entity within such State to facilitate and expand the electronic movement and use of health information among organizations.

To qualify for an implementation grant, the applicant must have submitted, and been approved, a plan as described above (regardless of whether such plan was prepared using amounts awarded through the program).

**Allowable activities include:**

1. **Enhancing broad and varied participation in the authorized and secure nationwide electronic use and exchange of health information;**

2. Identifying State or local resources available towards a nationwide effort to promote health information technology;

3. Complementing other Federal grants, programs, and efforts towards the promotion of health information technology;

4. Providing technical assistance for the development and dissemination of solutions to barriers to the exchange of electronic health information;

5. **Promoting effective strategies to adopt and utilize health information technology in medically underserved communities;**

6. **Assisting patients in utilizing health information technology;**

7. **Encouraging clinicians to work with Health Information Technology Regional Extension Centers, to the extent they are available and valuable;**

8. **Supporting public health agencies' authorized use of and access to electronic health information;**

9. **Promoting the use of electronic health records for quality improvement including through quality measures reporting;**

10. Establishing and supporting health record banking models to further consumer-based consent models that promote lifetime access to qualified health records, if such activities are included in the plan, and may contain smart card functionality; and

**Such other activities as the Secretary may specify**

## Award Information:

ARRA appropriated $2 billion for multiple initiatives and funding opportunities focused on health information technology. There is not yet a specific allocation for this program.

**Beginning with fiscal year 2011, the Secretary will require non-Federal matching contributions (which may include in-kind) toward the costs of a grant as follows:**

    A. Fiscal year 2011: not less than $1 for each $10 of Federal funds;

    B. Fiscal year 2012: not less than $1 for each $7 of Federal funds; and

    C. Fiscal year 2013 and each subsequent fiscal year: not less than $1 for each $3 of Federal funds.

## Award Allocations:

Allocation methods for this program are being developed by HHS and will be included in the application guidance materials when they become available.

## Timelines:

The various ARRA health information programs are authorized until 2014. The timeline for this program is to be announced by HHS.

## Program Eligibility:

Funding will be awarded directly to State Departments of Health or other qualified State-designated entities as determined by the State. In determining the use of this funding, the State or qualified State-designated entity must consult with and consider the recommendations of:

1. Health care providers (including providers that provide services to low income and underserved populations);

2. Health plans;

3. Patient or consumer organizations that represent the population to be served;

4. Health information technology vendors;

5. Health care purchasers and employers;

6. Public health agencies;

7. Health professions schools, universities and colleges;

8. Clinical researchers;

9. Other users of health information technology such as the support and clerical staff of providers and others involved in the care and care coordination of patients; and

10. Such other entities, as may be determined appropriate by the Secretary.

## Priority Applicants:

Specific priorities for funding under this program will be included in the application guidance materials when they become available.

**Target Solutions:**

Funds are expected to support a range of solutions in support of healthcare IT, including:

|  |  |
|---|---|
| Collaboration Solutions | Telemedicine Solutions |
| Communication Solutions | Wireless Solutions |
| Core Infrastructure | Network Security |

HER Maintenance, Storage & Access

**Program Links:**

Agency Website: www.hhs.gov

Agency Recovery Website: www.hhs.gov/recovery

Link to Past Awardees*: http://healthit.ahrq.gov/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=654&parentname=CommunityPage&parentid=1&mode=2&in_hi_userid=3882&cached=true

Link to Application Guidance: TBA

* A note on the link to past awardees:

(Many programs will have different priorities and criteria for ARRA funds than for similar pre-existing programs. These past awardees are for reference only and are based on pre-existing programs with a similar purpose