

# nrtc **FUNDING ALERT!**

Professional Assistance for Today's Unprecedented Funding Opportunities

## Program Name

Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund

## Funding Amount

Approximately \$25 million

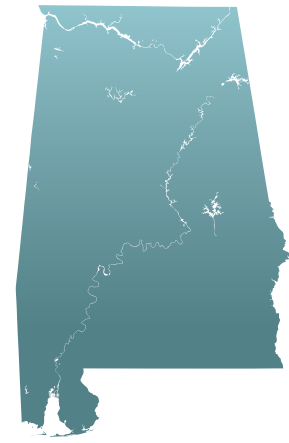
## Key Dates

**10/6/22** – Application Window Opens

**11/3/22** – by 12:00 PM CST - Letter of Intent to Submit Application Due

◦ Letter of Intent must include map of the proposed area (see Mapping)

**1/3/23 – by 12:00 PM CST - Application Window Closes**



**Alabama**

**\$25 million**

## Eligible Applicants

- Cooperatives, corporations, limited liability companies, partnerships, other private business entities, or units of government that provide broadband service
- Entity must have submitted, within the one-year period preceding the grant award, the entity's broadband service availability information to Alabama's broadband mapping program

## Eligible Areas

- **Minimum Service Threshold** - A connection to the Internet that provides capacity for transmission at an average speed per customer of at least 100/20 Mbps
- **Rural Area** - Any area in Alabama not included within the boundaries of any incorporated city or town having a population in excess of 25,000 inhabitants, according to the last federal census
- **Unserved Area** - Any Rural Area in which there is not at least one provider of Terrestrial Broadband Service provider that is either:
  1. Offering a connection to the Internet meeting the Minimum Service Threshold
  2. Required, under terms of another state or federal grant, to provide a connection to the Internet at speeds meeting the Minimum Service Threshold within the same or similar timeframe of projects, similar complexity, or scale awarded during each grant cycle
- Applicant must identify if the project area is located within an unincorporated area and provide information regarding how the area meets the definition of Rural Area
- Not less than 40% of funds appropriated for grants can be utilized in unincorporated areas of the state
- Bonus points for an area with existing connection speeds less than 25/3 Mbps, the applicant shall provide documentation confirming that the existing connection speeds of the proposed project area are below 25/3 Mbps
- Letter of Intent shall include the applicant's contact information and the proposed project area

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### Eligible Projects

- Individual grant awards will be for projects in Unserved Areas that will be capable of transmitting broadband signals at or above 100/100 Mbps and may not exceed the lesser of 80 percent of the project cost or \$5,000,000
- **End User** - A residential, business, institutional, or government entity that uses broadband services for its own purposes and does not resell such broadband services to other entities. (ISP and mobile wireless service providers are not End Users)
- **Middle Mile Project** - A broadband infrastructure project that does not provide broadband service to End Users or to End User devices
  - Middle Mile projects and projects to provide broadband service to a specific hospital, health care facility, public school, public safety, or economic development site shall not exceed 40% of the total funds appropriated for grants on an annual basis

### Buildout Requirements

- Projects must be completed within two years of awarding of the grant
  - Applicants who demonstrate project complexity may request more than two years to complete the project
  - Recipients demonstrating that project progression may request an extension for up to one year for project delays beyond the recipient's control
  - If a recipient fails to complete a project within the two- year deadline, or within the extended deadline, ADECA may revoke the grant in its entirety and rededicate the funds to a new recipient
- Progressive project completion is measured on not more than a quarterly basis
  - Grants for projects not showing progress may be rescinded
- Operational testing to confirm the level of service proposed in the grant application
  - Such regulations shall not exceed in degree or differ in kind from testing and reporting requirements imposed on the grant recipient by the Federal Communications Commission, as adjusted for the service specifications in the ADECA grant agreement
- Continued participation in Alabama's broadband mapping program throughout the entire project period

### Mapping

- Applicant is required to provide a map, including:
  - Map of the proposed project area shown as a polygon
    - Must encompass all proposed new customers
    - Other depictions such as lines or points will not be accepted
  - Maps shall be in .kmz, .kml, or shapefile format
- Letter of intent shall include the proposed project area in either a .kmz, .kml, or shapefile format
  - Must use a polygon format to represent the proposed project area
  - Other formats such as lines or points will not be accepted
  - Polygon format must cover the rooftop locations of all addresses in proposed project area
- Proposed project area, including boundaries, number of households, businesses, and any community anchors (libraries, schools, police and fire stations, hospitals, etc.)
- Applicants may reference the [Alabama Broadband Map](#), provide speed tests (run while connected via Ethernet to the modem), or engineering analysis of the network's performance characteristics

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## Application Contents

- Project Description
- Application Budget
- Other Program Priorities
- Certifications

## Scoring

- Project Description – **Up to 45 points**
- Application Budget – **Up to 25 points**
- Other Program Priorities – **Up to 100 points (up to 10 points each below):**
  - Leverage grant funds through private investment
  - Extension of existing infrastructure
  - Demonstrations of community support
  - Most cost-effective proposal to deploy to unserved locations
  - Offer at least 100 Mbps/100 Mbps service
  - Enhance broadband for hospitals, clinics & other medical facilities
  - Support local libraries' digital literacy efforts
  - Infrastructure will be owned & operated by an Alabama entity for at least 3 years
  - Applicant committed to improving adoption rates per ADECA guidelines re: special rates, devices, and digital skills training
  - Applicant certified by ADECA as a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise
- Bonus points for an area with existing connection speeds less than 25/3 Mbps, the applicant shall provide documentation confirming that the existing connection speeds of the proposed project area are below 25/3 Mbps

## Budget Categories

- Engineering/Design
- Permitting
- Make-Ready Costs
- Construction/Installation or Materials, Labor
- Contingency
- Other

## Allowable Costs

- Construction and construction-related costs of broadband infrastructure
- Operating expenses are not eligible expenses

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## Links & Emails

- [2022-Grant-Application-and-Guide.docx](#)
- [Alabama-Broadband-Accessibility-Fund-2022-Workshop-Presentation.pptx](#)
- [Grant Application and Implementation – ADECA \(alabama.gov\)](#)
- [Alabama Broadband Office](#)
- [Alabama Broadband Map](#)
- Please submit questions to [broadband.fund@adeca.alabama.gov](mailto:broadband.fund@adeca.alabama.gov)

**nrtc**  
[funding@nrtc.coop](mailto:funding@nrtc.coop)

**Contact us for Funding Assistance. NRTC's Funding Practice offers key benefits including:**

- Opportunity Evaluation
- Effective Grant Writing
- Track Record of Success

**Electric Cooperatives:** Contact Rodney Pugh at **706-878-9271** or [rpugh@nrtc.coop](mailto:rpugh@nrtc.coop)

**Telecom Companies:** Contact Chick Kennedy at **352-552-1317** or [ckennedy@nrtc.coop](mailto:ckennedy@nrtc.coop)