

# nrtc **FUNDING ALERT!**

Professional Assistance for Today's Unprecedented Funding Opportunities

## Program Name

Colorado Broadband Fund

## Funding Amount

- Up to \$6 million in funds available from the State High Cost Support Mechanism (HCSM)

## Key Dates

**5/16/22** – Application Opens

**7/15/22 – Application Due**

**7/15/22 - 8/29/22** – Public Comment

**TBD** – Public Board Meeting

**TBD** – Board Deliberation

**TBD** – Grants Awarded

**Colorado**

**\$6 million**

## Eligible Applicants

- For-profit entities
- Nonprofit telephone cooperatives that existed on May 10, 2014
- Nonprofit rural electric associations that existed on May 10, 2014
- Applicants and appellants are required to submit granular mapping data to the Colorado Broadband Office (CBO)

## Eligible Areas

- Must be one of the following:
  - Outside of municipal boundaries
  - A city with a population of fewer than 7,500 inhabitants
- Must consist of households that lack access to at least one provider of a broadband network that uses satellite technology and at least one provider of a broadband network that uses non-satellite technology

## Eligible Projects

- Must be a new project and not a project in progress (meaning construction of infrastructure has started)
  - Phased projects may be considered a new project if funding requested is for a phase that would not otherwise be completed without funding from the Broadband Fund
- Grant funds used for infrastructure deployment only (not operating costs)
- Provides access to a broadband network deploying last mile service to the end-user

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## **Eligible Projects (continued)**

- 25% match of the total cost of the proposed project
  - The Board may accept in-kind contributions as part or all of the required independent matching funds
  - In-kind matching contributions shall not include operational costs
- Does not overbuild areas receiving federal sources of high-cost support or federal broadband grants (to be completed within 24 months after filing the application)
- Applicant demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Board:
  - Proposed network meets generally accepted industry reliability standards
  - An ability to deliver on the proposed project within established timelines and within budget
  - Ability to operate the network as proposed for a minimum of five years following project completion
- Applicant shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Board an ability to provide broadband service
  - At a reasonable project cost per household
  - At reasonable total service and installation costs to end users in the area to be served
  - Not in an area with a population density large enough to require service under an existing franchise agreement
- Applicant applied using the most recent application form, answered all questions, and provided all attachments

## **Application Contents**

- General Information
- Project Requirements
- Demonstration of Need
- Project Information
- Attachments
  - List of Addresses
  - Project Budget
  - Network Map
  - Design Plan
  - Project Plan
  - Operational Plan (spreadsheet)
  - Maps
  - Letters of Support
  - CAI Commitments
  - Penetration Rate Chart
  - Additional Documentation
- The application, along with all attachments and exhibits, must also be provided to both:
  - Local governments with jurisdiction over area to be served
  - Any known incumbent providers in area to be served

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## **Evaluation Criteria**

- Project is consistent with a regional broadband plan and if applicable, a more detailed sub-regional (city, town or county) plan or the project is endorsed by local entities with jurisdiction over the project area
- Project enhances economic development, telehealth, education, libraries and/or public safety
- Speeds offered are in excess of the minimum of 25/3 Mbps
- Matching funds exceeds the minimum matching requirement of 25%
- Geographic distribution of grant awards with additional consideration to projects in areas that have not received an award from the Broadband Fund
- Project provides services via licensed or unlicensed means of transmission
- Project includes network redundancy and physical diversity
- Cost-effectiveness of the project's proposed method for expanding broadband service into unserved areas
- Established record of applicant's operation in the grant application area
- Project provides service to households that have service less than 10/1 Mbps
- Evidence of the number of Priority less than 10/1 Mbps and Unserved < 25/3 Mbps households listed in the proposed project area

## **Middle Mile**

- Project may include middle mile or other infrastructure necessary to provide last mile connections to a broadband network

## **Buildout Requirements**

- Project shall be completed within two years from the date in which the grant award contract is executed

## **Ineligible Costs**

- Grant writing fees are not eligible
- Operating costs

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## Links & Emails

- [BDB Grant Application](#)
- [Apply | Colorado Business Office](#)
- [Broadband Fund | Colorado Broadband Office](#)
- [BDB Grant Award Policy - Effective July 7, 2021.pdf - Google Drive](#)
- [Broadband Board GIS](#)
- Please submit questions to [oit\\_broadbanddeploymentboard@state.co.us](mailto:oit_broadbanddeploymentboard@state.co.us)

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

**Telecom Companies:** Contact Steve Hanson at 703-464-5307 or [shanson@nrtc.coop](mailto:shanson@nrtc.coop)