Funding Amount: **$247 Million**

Program Name

Florida Broadband Infrastructure Program Grant

Funding Amount

Up to $247 million from U.S. Treasury Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund

- No limit on grant request per application
- No limit on cumulative grant award per applicant across awards

Key Dates

- **February 23** – Program Guidelines, Application, & Scoring Criteria: FloridaJobs.org/Broadband
- **February 28** – Application Window Opens
- **March 2** – Statewide Technical Assistance Webinar
- **April 21 – Application Window Closes**
- **May 19** – Application Scoring Completed
- **May 26** – Awards Announced

Eligible Applicants

- Local Government Units (municipalities or counties)
- Indian Tribes
- Non-profit Organizations
- Private Entities (Corporations, LLCs, General Partnerships, or Limited Partnerships)
- Cooperatives
- Electric Cooperatives and Utilities
- Other entities that develop and/or operate broadband networks (includes networks that are owned, operated, or affiliated with local governments)

Eligible Areas

- Areas that lack access to at least 100/20 Mbps

Eligible Projects

- Construction/deployment of broadband infrastructure in rural areas
- Broadband infrastructure and connectivity projects that prioritize serving underserved areas
- Emergency services broadband infrastructure and connectivity projects that focus on emergency services and future resiliency efforts in local communities

Application Content

- Application Overview
- Project Dashboard
- Executive Summary

- Project Readiness and Deployment
- Digital Equity & Inclusion
- Economic and Community Impact
- Project Budget
- Non-Federal Funding Sources & Community Support
- Network Capability & Scalability
- Project Viability & Sustainability
- Affordability and Adoption Assistance
- Appendix for Key Attachments

Evaluation Criteria

- **Project Readiness and Deployment**
  - Detailed, Reasonable Project Schedule – 10 points
  - Detailed Engineering Design – 20 points
  - Network Map – 20 points
- **Digital Equity and Inclusion**
  - Monthly Cost of Service – 10 points
  - (NO) Data Caps – 10 points
  - Participation in ACP or Other Low-Cost Service Offering(s) – 10 points
  - Opportunity Zones – 10 points
  - Digital Literacy Training – 10 points
- **Economic and Community Impact**
  - Broadband Impact and Percentage of Premises Passed – 25 points
  - Economic and Workforce Impact – 25 points
  - Benefits to Targeted Customer Segments and the Community – 50 points
- **Project Budget**
  - Project Budget and Cost Metrics – 50 points
- **Non-Federal Funding Sources and Community Support**
  - Leverage of Non-Federal Funding – 50 points
  - Financial Commitment from Community Stakeholders – 10 points
  - Public Private Partnerships – 10 points
  - Evidence of Community Support – 10 points
  - Local Technology Planning Teams – 20 points
- **Network Capacity and Scalability**
  - Network Capacity and Scalability – 75 points
- **Project Viability and Sustainability**
  - Financial Capability and Sustainability – 30 points
  - Organization's Capability – 10 points
  - Track Record/Past Experience – 10 points

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Contact us for Funding Assistance. NRTC's Funding Practice offers key benefits including:
- Opportunity Evaluation
- Effective Grant Writing
- Track Record of Success

Telecom Companies: Contact Rodney Pugh at 703-464-5235 or rpugh@nrtc.coop

Electric Cooperatives: Contact Chick Kennedy at 352-552-1317 or ckennedy@nrtc.coop

- **Affordability and Adoption Assistance**
  - Low Price Service Tier – 10 points
  - Commitment to Improving the Adoption Rate – 15 points
- **Maximum Points Available – 500 points**
  - Eligibility for funding is based on scoring a minimum of 250 points
  - Highest scoring will be for areas below 10/1 Mbps and 25/3 Mbps are provided with 1G/1G without data caps and with a low income 100/100 Mbps $0 ACP program low-income service tier

Middle Mile

- Middle mile connections that facilitate last mile connections are eligible
  - Applicants should identify one or more last mile partners who will deploy service to unserved locations
  - Middle mile applications will be evaluated using the same scoring criteria used to score last mile applications

Buildout Requirements

- Required to expend funds by December 31, 2026
- Applicants must offer one low-cost option without data usage caps, at speeds sufficient for a multiple user household to simultaneously engage in telework and remote learning
- Infrastructure must deliver service that reliably meets or exceeds 100 Mbps symmetrical
- Priority given to fiber-optic networks

Eligible Costs

- Pre-project but post-award, development cost and uses, including data-gathering, feasibility studies, community engagement and public feedback processes, equity assessments and planning, and needs assessments
  - Includes: permitting, planning, architectural design, engineering design, and work related to environmental, historical, and cultural reviews
- Costs of repair, rehabilitation, construction, improvement, and acquisition of real property, equipment, and facilities (e.g., telecommunications equipment, including infrastructure for backhaul and last mile networks)
- Cost of long-term leases, including indefeasible right-of-use ("IRU") agreements and capital leases
- Personnel costs including salaries and fringe benefits for staff and consultants required for the project
- Costs to increase broadband adoption and improve digital literacy
- Compliance costs associated with monitoring of and reporting on projects, including award closeout costs

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- Costs associated with collecting & measuring performance data and activities to maintain performance management &evaluation regime

Ineligible Costs

- Costs associated with completing or filing a grant application
- Any expense incurred prior to the formal acceptance and execution of the grant agreement
- Acquisition of spectrum licenses
- Operating expenses
- Short-term operation leases
- Payment of interest or principal on outstanding debt instruments
- Fees or issuance costs associated with the issuance of new debt
- Satisfaction of any obligation arising under or pursuant to a settlement agreement, judgment, consent decree, or judicially confirmed debt restructuring plan in a judicial, administrative, or regulatory proceeding

Links & Emails

- Broadband Infrastructure Program
- Broadband Infrastructure Program Application
- Broadband Infrastructure Program Guidelines
- Scoring and Evaluation Criteria
- Please submit questions to broadband@deo.myflorida.com