



Funding Amount: **\$148 Million**

Program Name

Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Program

Funding Amount

Up to \$148 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (CPF)

Key Dates

- **June 28** – Pre-Application Conference 2:00 PM (CST) [Link](#)
- **July 14** - Application Window Open
- **August 25 – Application Window Closes (5:00 p.m. CST)**
- **September 22** – Awards Announced (Anticipated)
- **September 30, 2026** – Projects must be completed

Eligible Applicants

- Communications service provider including but not limited to private sector carriers, local governments, utilities, and other entities
- Must own the network constructed with grant funds and facilitate last-mile connections to eligible service locations
- Active federal System for Award Management ([SAM](#)) registration prior to close of application window

Eligible Areas

- Projects in the newly established [Broadband Intervention Zones](#)
- Areas without service at speeds greater than or equal to 100/20 Mbps

Eligible Projects

- Provide a minimum of 100/100 Mbps
- Provide 100/20 Mbps due to cost of the project, geography, or topography of the area, must be scalable to 100/100Mbps within three years of project completion

Eligible Costs

- The installation of Broadband Infrastructure that facilitates covered speeds to eligible locations
- Expenditures for the buildout or acquisition of middle-mile service that facilitates covered speeds to eligible locations
- Expenditures that comply with the U.S. Department of the Treasury found [here](#)
- Permitting, planning, architectural design, engineering design, and work related to environmental, historical, and cultural reviews
- Personnel costs relating to salaries and fringe benefits for staff and consultants



- Costs incurred prior to September 30, 2026

Ineligible Costs

- Land, buildings, structures, improvements, or equipment not directly used in the transmission of data via Broadband
- Removing existing Broadband Infrastructure, fixtures, or other real property
- Indirect labor costs or administrative overhead
- Passthrough expenditures with respect to subcontractors or other third parties that are not at arm's length transactions or reflective of fair market rates
- Identified as ineligible expenditures pursuant to any CPF requirements
- Inconsistent with or not permitted by the U.S. Department of the Treasury guidance found [here](#)
- Acquisition of spectrum licenses
- Operating expenses
- Short-term operating leases
- Payment of interest or principal on outstanding debt instruments or other debt service costs incurred prior to March 15, 2021
- Fees or issuance costs associated with the 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

Application Requirements

- See list of application requirements at [Iowa Grants System](#)

Scoring Criteria

100 Total Points Available

- Total Eligible Service Locations Facilitated – **up to 11.11%**
- Efficiency – **up to 2.78%**
- Rurality – **up to 5.56%**
- Completeness – **up to 19.44%**
- Relative Speed – **up to 16.67%**
- Prospective Product Attributes – **up to 8.33%**
- CPF Areas of Emphasis – **up to 11.11%**
- Federal Matching Funds Requested – **up to 2.78%**
- Broadband Intervention Zone Ranking – **up to 22.22%**

Links & Emails

- [Iowa Office Broadband Homepage](#)
- [Iowa NOFA](#)

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

nrtc **FUNDING ALERT!**



Professional Assistance for Today's Unprecedented Funding Opportunities

- [Iowa Press Release](#)
- [Iowa Broadband Map](#)
- [FCC Map](#)
- Please submit questions to: ociogrants@iowa.gov



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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 Byron Tuley at 319-298-4752 or btuley@nrtc.coop

Electric Cooperatives: Contact Steve Hanson at 913-302-6730 or shanson@nrtc.coop