

nrtc **FUNDING ALERT!**

Professional Assistance for Today's Unprecedented Funding Opportunities

Program Name

Kentucky Better Internet Program

Funding Amount

- Up to \$206 million from the American Rescue Plan Act Capital Projects Fund
 - No award ceiling
- Grant request cannot exceed 50% of the eligible total project costs unless the project:
 - Averages 0-5 locations per route mile, may be eligible for up to 70% of the project cost
 - Averages 5-10 locations per route mile, may be eligible for up to 60% of the project cost
 - Averages 11 locations or more per route mile, may be eligible for 50% of project cost

Kentucky

\$206 million

Key Dates

- **November 21** – Notice of Funding Opportunity Released
- **February 6, 2023** – Applications Due by 3:30 PM ET

Eligible Applicants

- Governmental Agency
- Private Sector Entity
 - Multiple applications are allowed, provided each is for a unique project area

Eligible Projects

- Deliver service that reliably meets or exceeds 100/100 Mbps
- Shall begin providing service no later than two years after the date of the grant assistance agreement
- Applications must include a shapefile of proposed project area and a list of addresses proposed to be served

Eligible Areas

- Top priority are locations that have no broadband service
- Second priority are unserved locations, areas where 25/3 Mbps is not available
- Within the objectives of reaching areas with no service and unserved locations, prioritization will be given for areas with a lower density of serviceable locations



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Ineligible Projects

- Households and businesses where fixed, terrestrial broadband service meets or exceeds 25/3 Mbps

Application Contents

- Part I
 - Executive Summary
 - Description of Project Area
 - Jurisdictions Served
 - Summary of the Project
- Part II
 - Anticipated Broadband Improvements
 - Locations Per Route Mile
 - No Service/Unserved Documentation
- Part III
 - Funding Breakdown
 - Sources of Matching Funds
- Part IV
 - Project Budget
 - Ineligible Expenses
 - Project Financials
 - Broadband Infrastructure
 - Type of Construction
 - Project Components
 - Project Schedule
 - Project Preconstruction Permits and Approvals
- Part V
 - Project Commitment
 - Community Support
 - Technical Expertise Statement
 - Organizational Structure
 - Audited Financial Statements
 - Application Resolution
 - Application Certification

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Match Requirement

- A minimum of 50% of the project cost
- Examples of acceptable matching funds documentation include:
 - Letter of credit
 - Letter confirming funds from a bank
 - Board or legislative body's resolution committing funding
 - Loan documentation
 - Grant documentation
- If additional financial partners will provide matching funds, the application must identify the partner(s) and document the amount and availability of each partner's match
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Local Recovery Funds and Appalachian Regional Commission grant funds may be used as matching funds
- In-kind contributions may not be used to meet the minimum match

Challenge Process

- Applications will be made available to the public within 5 business days of the submission deadline
 - Description of the geographic scope of the project area shall not be exempt under the Open Records Act
- Within 5 business days of the close of the grant application period, OBD shall publish on its website the proposed projects' unserved areas, including the lists of addresses to be served, and proposed speeds
- Challenges must be submitted no later than 3:30 p.m. ET on the 15th business day of the challenge period
- Within 5 business days of a submitted challenge, the applicant shall be provided copies of all challenge material
- Within 15 business days of receipt of the challenge, the applicant shall respond and then OBD has 15 business days to resolve the dispute
- Upon determination that an application meets the funding criteria, but the proposed project area is found to be partially served, the applicant may amend and resubmit the application within 15 business days and OBD may grant partial funding based on the partial service area

Eligible Costs

- Costs associated with the acquisition and installation of last mile infrastructure that can support speeds of at least 100/100 Mbps
- Middle-mile infrastructure costs may be eligible if necessary for last mile service
- Project engineering/design plans
- Permitting
- Pre-construction costs (e.g., make-ready)
- Outside plant materials (fiber, poles, hardware, conduit, splitters, etc.)
- Labor
- Construction management
- Equipment
- Installation and testing/validation of broadband service

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Ineligible Costs

- General broadband planning not associated with the project area, operational expenses
- Middle-mile infrastructure that is not directly servicing the project area
- Non-broadband services, such as the provision of video or voice services, marketing, or advertising
- Special construction charges, including fees or charges imposed upon the end user as a condition of receiving broadband service
- Any broadband deployment project involving upgrades to an existing facility delivering broadband services greater than 25/3 Mbps

Links & Emails

- [Kentucky's Better Internet Program Homepage](#)
- 2022 Better Internet Program Application can be found under Application Documents on the program homepage
- [Kentucky Infrastructure Authority Broadband Deployment Fund – Project Implementation Guide](#)
- Please submit questions to broadband@ky.gov

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