

nrtc **FUNDING ALERT!**

Professional Assistance for Today's Unprecedented Funding Opportunities



Program Name

Maryland Network Infrastructure Grant Program (MDNI Program)

Funding Amount

Up to \$95 million from ARPA Capital Projects Fund (CPF)

- Minimum Grant Request - \$800,000
- Maximum Grant Request - \$4.5 million

Maryland

\$95 million

Key Dates

- **November 18** – Deadline for application guidance and requests for technical assistance
- **December 5** – Applications must be submitted or postmarked by 11:59 pm ET

Eligible Applicants

- Maryland local jurisdiction
- Incorporated organization recognized as a partner by local jurisdiction
- Cooperatives, private corporations, limited liability companies that are recognized as a partner by local jurisdiction

Eligible Areas

- **Unserved Area** – no locations receiving broadband service of 100/20 Mbps
- Areas that received state grant funding in the past are ineligible for additional funding
 - Past awards can be seen here: [Cumulative Funding Map](#)

Eligible Projects

- Maximum of 30% match of the total construction cost required (42.86% of the requested grant amount)
 - Fewer than 8 premises per mile: 10% match
 - 8 or more but fewer than 15 premises per mile: 20% match
 - 15 or more premises per mile: 30% match
 - Exceptions can be found in the Matching Funds Requirements section of the [Application Package](#)
- The Proposed Funded Service Area (PFSA) must be entirely within an eligible area
- PFSA is not required to be contiguous

nrtc **FUNDING ALERT!**

Professional Assistance for Today's Unprecedented Funding Opportunities

Mapping Issues

To determine the density and required match, the number of households in the PFSA should be divided by the number of route miles or towers in the PFSA

- Middle mile transport, interconnection plant between PFSA's and service drops to individual homes are not included in this calculation

Application Content

- Applicants must be registered in SAM.gov, and provide Unique Entity ID
- Applicants must attach a current IRS Form W-9
- An application must include:
 - Broadband Grant Application Form and Other Documentation
 - Executive Summary of the Project
 - Scoring Criteria Documentation
 - System Design
 - Service Area Map and Demographics
 - Scope of Work
 - Financial Information and Sustainability
 - Statement of Experience
 - Additional Funding
 - Reporting and Compliance

Scoring Criteria

Maximum score is 240 points based on the criteria below:

- Project Strength **(up to 65 points)**
 - Project Description **(up to 30 points)**
 - Cost-Benefit Index – Wired Project **(up to 15 points)**
 - Cost-Benefit Index – Wireless Project **(up to 15 points)**
 - Contribution above eligible match % **(up to 20 points)**
- Applicant Experience **(up to 20 points)**
- Local Jurisdiction and Public Participation **(up to 30 points)**
 - Verified Non-Financial Local Community Involvement **(up to 10 points)**
 - Verified Financial Commitment from Local Community **(up to 20 points)**
- Network Delivery Speeds **(up to 35 points)**
- Maximum Latency **(up to 20 points)**
- Affordability and Service Limitations **(up to 35 points)**
- Readiness to build, operate, and maintain project **(up to 15 points)**
- Sustainability plan **(up to 15 points)**
 - Memberships in groups/organizations that assist with cyber security, continuing education, operational/technical expertise **(up to 5 points)**
 - Identified Execution Risks and Mitigation Plans **(up to 10 points)**
- Economic Development and Community Impact **(up to 5 points)**

Professional Assistance for Today's Unprecedented Funding Opportunities

Director's Consideration

- In making the final selection among and between applications with comparable rankings, the Director may take into consideration the characteristics and needs of the PFSA
- OSB strongly encourages the applicant to specifically address the following criteria to differentiate their application:
 - Median income of counties that will be served within the PFSA (comparison of county median income with State median income may be considered)
 - Out-migration communities (continuous movement of population out of the community) that will be served within the PFSA
 - Any other items that will further the efforts of the State in providing broadband to those most in need

Buildout Requirements

- 100 Mbps/100 Mbps
- Maximum latency of 50 milliseconds
- Applicants who cannot meet the minimum connectivity will be required to submit a Certificate as to the circumstances preventing them from doing so
 - Circumstances must be related to geography, topography, or excessive cost

Eligible Costs

- Construction of facilities used to deploy service at the Broadband Grant Speed to all end users located within the PFSA
- Middle mile infrastructure directly necessary to provide service to an end user and only eligible if another middle mile provider is not able to provide suitable service
- Electronics necessary to deliver service to an end user including, but not limited to, OLTs, ONTs, routers, switches, firewalls, wireless radio equipment, antennae, access points and any necessary equipment cabinets or shelters
- Customer installation and equipment beyond the ONT or fixed wireless antenna or within the subscriber's premise is not an eligible purpose
- All grant funded costs must be capital expenses, and the final asset owned by the applicant
- Tower construction and/or tower structural improvements are eligible costs, but may only be treated as match per Matching Funds Exceptions

Ineligible Costs

- Duplication of any existing Broadband Service provided by other entities
- Middle mile infrastructure not directly necessary to provide service
- Expenses related to the provision of telephone or video service that is not necessary for delivery of broadband services
- Purchase of towers, land, or buildings, or building renovations
- Operating expenses are ineligible
- Supplanting other federal funding

nrtc **FUNDING ALERT!**

Professional Assistance for Today's Unprecedented Funding Opportunities

Links & Emails

- [Application Package](#)
- [Application Form](#)
- [Application Checklist](#)
- [Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development](#)
- [Cumulative Funding Map](#)
- Please submit questions to OSB.MD@maryland.gov

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