



# FUNDING ALERT!

Professional Assistance for Today's Unprecedented Funding Opportunities

## Program Name

Missouri Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program

## Funding Amount

- Up to \$265 million from U.S. Treasury Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (\$197 million) and the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund (\$68 million)

## Key Dates

- **June 15** – Public Input Period Closed
- **August 15** – Application Opens
- **September 13** - DED Publishes Proposed Funding Service Areas (PFSA), challenges must be submitted within 30 days of PFSA map publishing
- **September 29 – Application Closes**
- **November 11** – Grant Award Notifications (at the latest)



**Missouri**

**\$265 Million**

## Eligible Applicants

- Corporations
- Partnerships
- Limited liability companies
- Nonprofit organizations
- Local governments
- Rural electric cooperatives (organized under Chapter 394)
- Telephone Cooperatives defined in §386.020(55)
- Public-private partnerships, with private or nonprofit partners

## Eligible Areas

- **Unserviced Area** - no access to wireline or fixed wireless broadband internet service with speeds of at least 25/3 Mbps
- **Underserved Area** - no access to wireline or fixed wireless broadband internet service with speeds of at least 100/20 Mbps

## Eligible Projects

- Must meet a critical need of the community related to access, affordability, reliability, and/or consistency (applicants must document justification for critical need)
- Must have local support, demonstrated through community letters of support, or by feedback from conducting public outreach
- Proposed service areas must be contiguous
- Proposed service area must not include areas with enforceable federal and or state funding commitment to deliver speeds of 100/20 Mbps

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## Eligible Projects (continued)

- The project may request the following funding (per project):
  - Minimum of \$100,000
  - Maximum of \$10M

## Mapping Issues

- Applications must include a map file (.shp, .kml, or .kmz) of the proposed funding service area (PFSA)
- If applicant believes available broadband service is overstated in Form 477 data, the applicant must provide sufficient data to demonstrate that the proposed service area is unserved or underserved

## Application Contents

- Applicant must be registered in SAM.gov, and provide Unique Entity ID generated by SAM.gov
- An application must include:
  - Proposed project budget
  - Documentation on project design, critical need
  - Proof of unserved and underserved areas
  - Map file of PFSA
  - Local support documents
  - Debt financing letters of commitment (if applicable)
  - Registration certificate from Missouri Secretary of state (if applicable)
  - Evidence applicant is not delinquent on Missouri state taxes
  - Documentation showing ownership interests
  - E Verify MOU
  - Workforce labor plan

## Evaluation Criteria

- Cost match is not required, but prioritization will be given to projects with a private funding match of at least 20%
  - Additional credit given to projects receiving local government funding on a graduated scale exceeding the 20% match
- DED will prioritize projects addressing critical need related to access and affordability
- Evaluation Criteria
  - Critical Need and Equity **(40 points)**
  - Project Viability **(40 points)**
  - Level of Impact **(30 points)**
  - Affordability **(25 points)**
  - Sustainability **(20 points)**
  - Applicant Type **(15 points)**
  - Budget **(15 points)**
  - Private Match **(15 points)**

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## **Middle Mile**

- Middle mile connections that facilitate last mile connections are eligible
  - Projects must demonstrate new and/or improved last mile commitments are in place

## **Buildout Requirements**

- Completion prior to September 30, 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
- DED will prioritize fiber-optic infrastructure, but other technology is eligible

## **Eligible Costs**

- Construction of broadband facilities
- Final engineering and construction plans
- Permitting
- Installation
- Pole replacement or placement, but only as one component of an eligible project
- Applicants seeking to fund pole replacement/attachment costs will need to demonstrate they have cooperation from pole owners within the project area
- Make-ready cost
- Validation of service
- Costs incurred after March 3, 2021 but prior to grant award are eligible for reimbursement

## **Ineligible Costs**

- Broadband planning not associated with the project
- Operational expenses
- Middle mile infrastructure not essential to servicing last mile projects
- Costs to procure or obtain certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment as set forth in 2 CFR § 200.216 and 2 CFR § 200.471
- Acquisition of spectrum licenses
- Short-term operating leases
- Payment of interest or principal on outstanding debt incurred prior to March 15, 2021
- Fees or issuance costs associated with 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
- Support or oppose collective bargaining

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## Links & Emails

- [One Stop ARPA Resources - Broadband | Department of Economic Development \(mo.gov\)](#)
- [Missouri ARPA Funded Broadband Infrastructure Grant Guidelines - Final | Department of Economic Development \(mo.gov\)](#)
- Please submit questions to [grants@ded.mo.gov](mailto:grants@ded.mo.gov)

**nrtc**  
[funding@nrtc.coop](mailto: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)