

# nrtc **FUNDING ALERT!**

Professional Assistance for Today's Unprecedented Funding Opportunities

## Program Name

North Carolina GREAT Broadband Grant Program

## Funding Amount

- \$350 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds
- Maximum individual grant amount is \$4 million
- The maximum matching requirement is 50%
- In one fiscal year, no combination of grant awards involving any single county may exceed \$8 million

## Key Dates

**1/31/22** – Application Window Opens

**2/10/22** – GREAT Information Session

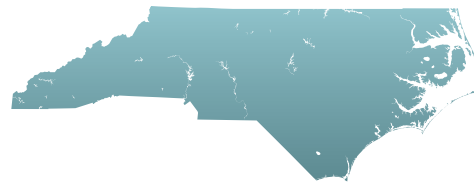
**4/4/22** – **Application Deadline**

## Eligible Applicants

- Private providers of broadband services including:
  - Cooperative entities
  - Partnerships formed between cooperative entities and private providers
- **Partnership** - agreement exists between the provider and one or more unaffiliated partners where the partner is one of the following:
  - A separate internet service provider
  - A nonprofit or not-for-profit, or a for-profit subsidiary of either, with access and use of the partner's infrastructure given to the internet service provider to facilitate broadband service in unserved areas
  - A county not engaged in providing broadband may qualify as a nonprofit

## Eligible Areas

- **Unserved Area** - designated area without access to broadband service delivered by a wireline or fixed wireless provider at speeds of 25/3 Mbps
- **Eligible Area** - economically distressed counties in areas unserved by broadband at speeds of 25/3 Mbps
- Areas where a private provider is designated to receive funds through other state or federal funds are considered served (and are thus ineligible) if such funding is intended to result in construction of broadband in the area within 18 months or for the duration of the federal funding program for that area



**North Carolina**

**\$350 million**

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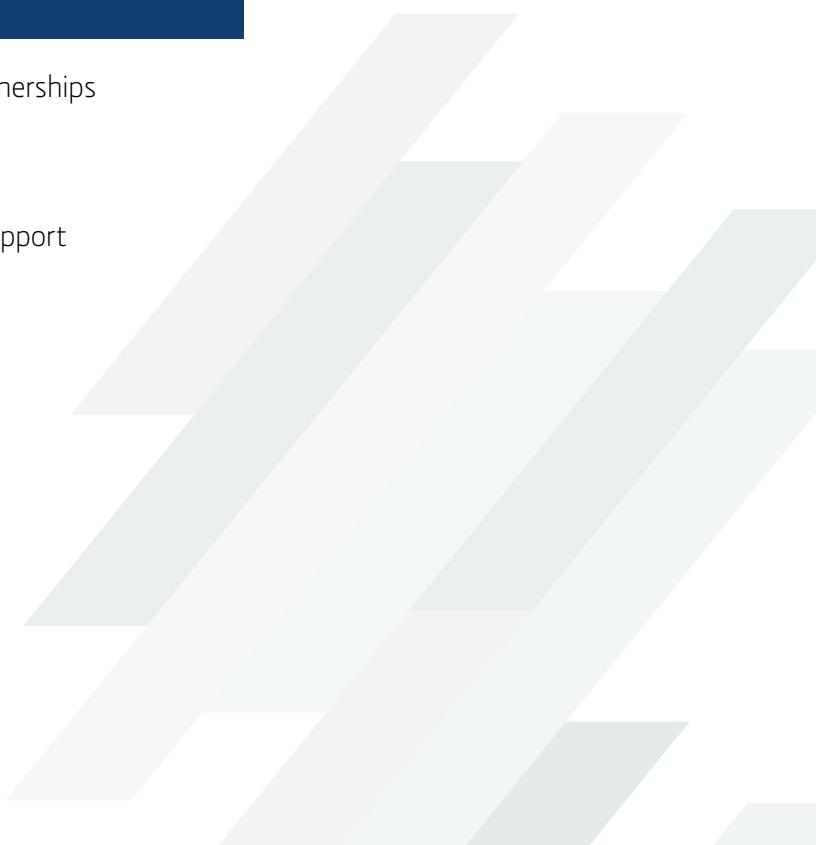
## Eligible Projects

- **Broadband Service** - terrestrially deployed internet access service that delivers transmission speeds of at least 25/3 Mbps
- **Eligible Project** - a discrete, specific project located in an unserved economically distressed area and provides broadband service to unserved homes, businesses, and community anchor points
- Project deployments must provide minimum speeds of 100 Mbps download/20 Mbps upload and be scalable to 100 Mbps symmetrical (on or before 12/31/26)
- Note: If a contiguous project area crosses from one eligible county into one or more eligible adjacent counties, the project shall be deemed to be located in the county where the greatest number of unserved households are proposed to be served

## Mapping Issues

- Applications must use the [GREAT Grant Online Mapping Tool](#)
  - Locations must be mapped with the [AddressNC](#) data
  - See [Appendix D of the guide](#) for mapping tool instructions
- [NC Broadband Map Data](#)
  - [GREAT Ineligible Tracts \(Served\) 2022](#)
  - [RDOF Auction Tracts \(Ineligible\)](#)
  - [NC Broadband Survey Data](#)
  - [NC Statewide Address Data \(AddressNC\)](#)

## Application Contents

- Applicant Information, Statement of Qualification, & Partnerships
  - Project Area & Locations to be Served
  - Technical Report
  - Project Costs, Budget & Match
  - Proposed Services, Marketing, Adoption & Community Support
- 

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## Scoring

### Project Application Scoring Criteria

- Partnership
- Unserved Households **(3 Points Possible)**
- Percentage of Unserved Households to be Served **(3 Points Possible)**
- Unserved Businesses **(3 Points Possible)**
- Cost Per Household or Business, varies regionally **(9 Points Possible)**

### Base Speed Multiplier (applied to above point total)

- 100/20 Mbps to 100/100 Mbps **(1.00 Multiplier)**
- 100 Mbps, symmetrical **(2.00 Multiplier)**
- Greater than 100/100 Mbps **(3.00 Multiplier)**

### Additional Points Post Base Speed Multiplier

- Community Broadband Planning **(1 Point Possible)**
- County Match **(7 Points Possible)**

## Middle Mile

No middle mile or similar projects not directed to end user broadband service

## Budget Categories

- Easements
- Materials
- Construction/Installation Testing
- Engineering Lease/Collocation Fees

## Allowable Costs

- Construction of broadband infrastructure including: Installation, acquiring or updating easements, backhaul infrastructure, testing costs, engineering, and costs associated with collocation leasing on public or private property/structures (not including the actual monthly lease)
- Funding limitations for certain eligible activities are as follows:
  1. Acquiring or updating easements are limited to 5% of the grant amount or \$25,000, whichever is less
  2. Testing costs are limited to one percent of the grant amount or \$5,000, whichever is less
- Construction/equipment of backhaul infrastructure is permitted but the build must facilitate last-mile service for specific end-users and excludes recurring operating costs
- Overhead or administrative costs are not allowable costs
- Eligible costs do not include recurring operating costs, maintenance, or sales and marketing of services

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## Links & Emails

- [GREAT Grant \(2021-2022\) | ncbroadband.gov](https://ncbroadband.gov)
- [GREAT Grant Program Guidance Document](#)
- [Application Instructions](#)
- Please submit questions about the GREAT Grant program to [greatgrant@nc.gov](mailto:greatgrant@nc.gov)

**nrtc**  
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 Todd Ishee at 256-520-7965 or [tishee@nrtc.coop](mailto:tishee@nrtc.coop)

**Telecom Companies:** Contact Byron Tuley at 319-298-4754 or [btuley@nrtc.coop](mailto:btuley@nrtc.coop)