



FUNDING ALERT!

Professional Assistance for Today's Unprecedented Funding Opportunities



Ohio

Program Name

Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program

Purpose

Program aims to cover the "broadband funding gap" to enable the deployment of broadband network in areas lacking speeds below 25/3 Mbps

Administrator

Broadband Ohio (division of the Ohio Department of Development)

\$250 million

Financials

Total Fund: **\$250 Million**

Maximum Project Size: Undefined

Match Requirement: Minimum not specified; percentage contributed impacts 22% of score

Key Dates

Application Submission Period Opens: September 6, 2021

Application Due Date: November 8, 2021

Deadline to Refile Incomplete App: November 22, 2021

Application Challenge Deadline: January 13, 2022

Deadline to Refile Suspended App: 14 days after suspension

Application Review Period: Up to 30 Days

Award Announcement: Up to 30 Days

Eligible Project Areas

Speed Threshold: Areas lacking access to 25/3 Mbps (download/upload) and no planned construction for completion within two years

Required Proof: Sources can include: FCC 477 data; Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Maps; speed test data, etc.

(Note: Review Team will notify if additional information is necessary)

State Definition of Unserved:

a) Unserved: Areas lacking 10/1 Mbps;

b) Tier One: Areas having between 10 Mbps and 25 Mbps download & 1 Mbps and 3 Mbps upload

** Note: Degree of unserved vs. Tier One impacts final score

Eligible Entities

No specific qualifications noted - project score impacted by operating tenure, capabilities, experience.

nrtc **FUNDING ALERT!**

Professional Assistance for Today's Unprecedented Funding Opportunities

Eligible Projects

Must commit to serve at least 25/3 Mbps to all addresses

Buildout Requirement

Two Years: The entire project must be completed within two years of the projected start date

Challenge Process

Incumbent Challenge: Incumbent ISP may challenge on specific grounds after application published on Development's website (not later than 65 days after submission period closes)

Applicant Invitation to Revise & Resubmit: A successful challenge leads to application suspension and notification; applicant can revise and resubmit within 14 days. Failure to resubmit application with the successfully challenged addresses removed may result in rejection of entire application.

Application Requirements

- Project description & location (all residential addresses for unserved and Tier One areas)
- Notarized letters for commitment to offer 25/3 Mbps to specified addresses and none other
- Broadband funding gap, grant request, and match amount and source
- Managerial and technical expertise and experience
- Technology selection; description of the scalability of the project; speeds
- Customer service capabilities and policies (policy for crediting customers for service outages or failure to keep scheduled appointments for service)
- Operating tenure
- Proof of financial stability to complete the project
- A projected construction and services start timetable
- Anticipated government authorizations, permits, and other approvals; estimated timetable
- Existing or potential arrangements (including subleases or joint ownership arrangements) with another broadband provider, electric cooperatives, or electric distribution utility

nrtc **FUNDING ALERT!**

Professional Assistance for Today's Unprecedented Funding Opportunities

Scoring Framework

Scoring Methodology

Total of 1,875 Points

- Degree of Unserved Residents vs. Tier One Residents (700 points)
- Level of Economic Distress in Service Area (630 points)
- Degree of Match Contribution (420 points)
- Leveraging Rights of Way, Conduit, or Public Facilities (50 points)
- Speeds and scalability: (40 points)
- Community and economic development and targeted of businesses and CAI's (5 points)
- Experience, technical ability and financial capability (5 points)
- Operating tenure (5 points)
- Demonstration of financial need to incentivize investment (5 points)
- Ability to leverage adjacent infrastructure – e.g., middle-mile (5 points)
- Utilization and upgrade of existing networks (5 points)
- Location in opportunity zones (5 points)

Other Compliance Policies

Payment Schedule: 30% disbursed before construction; up to 60% periodically disbursed through construction; remainder disbursed within 60 days after completion

Reporting: Annual Progress Report; recurring Operational Report through completion

Non-Compliance: A notarized statement that non-compliance may require full/partial refund

Key Reference Links

Guidebook:

<https://development.ohio.gov/files/broadband/ohio-residential-broadband-expansion-grant-program-application-guide.pdf>

Scoring Criteria:

<https://broadband.ohio.gov/static/Scoring-Criteria-8421.pdf>

Application:

<https://broadband.ohio.gov/static/Broadband-Grant-Application-08062021.pdf>

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