



Funding Amount: \$200 Million

Program Name

Pennsylvania Broadband Infrastructure Program

Funding Amount

Up to \$200 million from U.S. Treasury Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (CPF)

Key Dates

- **May 10** – Application Period Opens
- **July 10** – **Application Period Closes**
- **July 24** – Challenge Period Begins
- **July 24** – Proposed Project Areas Posted to Authority Website
- **September 5** – Challenge Period Closes
- **September 6** – Adjudication Process Begins
- **October 5** – Adjudication Process Closes

Eligible Applicants

- Corporations
- LLCs
- Partnerships or other business entities
- Cooperatives
- Non-profit organizations
- Municipalities
- Economic Development Organizations

Eligible Areas

- **Unserved Area** – no access to speeds of at least 25/3 Mbps
- **Underserved Area** – no access to speeds of at least 100/20 Mbps

Eligible Projects

- Minimum grant request is \$500,000 and a maximum of \$10 million
- Extensions of existing last-mile cable modem and fiber-to-the-premise networks
- Large-scale regional infrastructure projects
- Middle-mile projects must support new and/or improved last-mile service
- Applications proposing investments in fiber-optic infrastructure will be prioritized

Application Content

Applicant must submit online through the Department of Community and Economic Development Single Application for Assistance: <https://www.esa.dced.state.pa.us/Login.aspx>



Professional Assistance for Today's Unprecedented Funding Opportunities

- Project Description & Justification
- Project Readiness
- Program Priorities
- Additional Information & Appendices
- Worker Safety

Selection Criteria

- Size and scope of the unserved/underserved area to be deployed
- Experience, technical ability, and financial capability to deploy/provide high-speed broadband
- Extent to which funding support is necessary to develop/deploy high-speed broadband to the project area
- Capital pledged by applicant for the project
- Proposed service speeds
- Scalability
- Affidavit that proposed project will not result in overbuild
- Affidavit that applicant will ensure a contractor/subcontractor is in compliance with all Federal, Commonwealth or local regulations listed in the guidelines
- Project will invest in fiber-optic infrastructure
- Projects involves broadband networks owned, operated by, or affiliated with local governments, non-profits, and cooperatives, and commitments to serving entire communities
- Project achieves or is part of a plan to achieve universal broadband for the locality or region
- Project meets affordability standards and offers low-cost alternatives
- Outreach plan to ensure high adoption rates
- Project includes a viable sustainability strategy
- Workforce development programs and considerations

Match Requirements

- Projects require a 25% match
- A separate Federal, State, or local government grant, loan, or subsidy received by an applicant to finance a proposed project can be counted toward the capital investment requirement

Buildout Requirements

- Funded projects must deliver 100/100 Mbps
 - Unless significant topographic, geographic, or financial impracticability exists in project area
- All program funds must be expended by December 31, 2026

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



Eligible Costs

- Pre-project development costs and uses, including data-gathering; feasibility studies; community engagement and public feedback processes; equity assessments and planning, and needs assessments; permitting, planning, architectural design, engineering design; and work related to environmental, historical, and cultural reviews
- Costs of repair, rehabilitation, construction, improvement, and acquisition of real property, equipment (e.g., devices and office equipment), and facilities (e.g., telecommunications equipment, including infrastructure for backhaul, middle, and last mile networks)
- Cost of long-term leases (for terms greater than one year) of facilities required to provide qualifying broadband service, including infeasible right-of-use (IRU) agreements and capital leases
- Ancillary costs necessary to operationalize and put capital assets to full use, including costs to increase broadband adoption and improve digital literacy
- Grant administrative costs are limited to 2.5% of the grant award

Ineligible Costs

- Acquisition of spectrum licenses
- Operating expenses, other than grant administration costs
- Short-term operating leases
- Payment of interest of principal on outstanding debt instruments, or other debt service costs 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, judgement, consent decree, or judicially confirmed debt restructuring plan in a judicial, administrative, or regulatory proceeding
- Fees generated to support or oppose collective bargaining
- Securing other financing
- Covering interest on borrowed funds
- Refinancing of existing debt
- Lobbying
- Fines

Links & Emails

- [Pennsylvania Broadband Infrastructure Program Website](#)
- [Pennsylvania Broadband Infrastructure Program Guidelines](#)
- [Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development Single Application](#)
- Please submit questions to: PBDA_CapitalProjectsFund@pa.gov

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- Effective Grant Writing
- Track Record of Success