

nrtc **FUNDING ALERT!**



Professional assistance for today's unprecedented funding opportunities

Funding Amount: \$60 million

Program Details

Program Name: Tennessee Last Mile Grant Program

Administrator: Tennessee Dept of Economic & Community Development (TNECD)

Authorizing Legislation: ARPA Capital Projects Fund (CPF)

Funding Details

Award: Up to \$20 million per county

Match Required: 30% minimum, additional points given for extra match

Key Dates

September 4 – Application window opens

October 16 – **Application window closes**

January 2024 – Anticipated announcement of awards

June 30, 2026 – Project must be completed

Eligible Areas

- Only available for Polk, Hardin, and Wayne counties (other counties should refer to the Middle Mile Grant Program)

Eligible Applicants

- Political subdivision or entities of political subdivisions
- Corporations
- Limited liability companies (LLC)
- Partnerships or other business entities
- Cooperatives organized under Tenn. Code. Ann. § 65-25-101 et seq. and § 65-29-101 et seq.
- Any other entity authorized by state law to provide broadband services
- **Note:** Applicant must have FCC FRN Number and deliver last mile services

Eligible Projects

- Last mile broadband projects
 - May include a middle mile component not exceeding 30% of total project cost

Eligible Costs

- Network and access equipment costs
- Make-ready and one-time pole licensing costs, excluding recurring pole attachment payments
- Equipment shelter, land, site preparation, and site restoration costs
- Professional services such as engineering and project management costs related to design and construction
- Testing
- Other miscellaneous upfront costs such as site preparation, permits, etc
- Vehicles (on a case-by-case basis)
- Internal/In-house labor costs incurred as part of eligible project activities
- Capital purchases to include a single item (such as vehicles or individual equipment) purchased at \$5,000 or more
- Stored materials (make-ready expenses)
- Tax payments (see application guide for details)

Scoring Criteria

Technical Review (maximum of 118 points):

- Technical Need – **up to 50 points**
- Leveraged and Match Funds – **up to 10 points**
- Sustainability and Implementation Readiness – **up to 30 points**
- Speed, Scalability, and Affordability – **up to 28 points**

Impact Review (maximum of 70 points):

- Economic and Community Impact – **up to 30 points**
- Community Support and Adoption Strategy – **up to 40 points**

Application Process

Register at https://ecd.grants.tn.gov/s_Login.jsp to submit an application

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

Links & Contacts

- [TNECD Grant Homepage](#)
- [Middle Mile and Last Mile Grant Application Guide](#)
- [Grant Program Webinar](#)
 - [Webinar Presentation Slides](#)
- [Eligibility Map](#)
- For questions, email: ECD.Communications.Office@tn.gov

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