

nrtc **FUNDING ALERT!**



Professional assistance for today's unprecedented funding opportunities

Funding Amount: \$25 million

Program Details

Program Name: Tennessee Last Mile Grant Program Round 2

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

Authorizing Legislation: ARPA Capital Projects Fund (CPF)

Funding Details

Award: The maximum grant request for each county will be evenly distributed among the pre-designated areas. Only one applicant will receive an award in each area.

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

Key Dates

March 6, 2024 – Application window opens

March 13, 2024 – [Last Mile R2 Webinar](#) @ 2 pm CT

April 10, 2024 – **Application window closes**

Mid-April – Comment period opens for three weeks

May/June 2024 – Awards announced

June 30, 2024 – Last day to sign contracts, project must be completed within 2 years of signing

Eligible Areas

- Round 2 funding is only available for the following counties. Each county is divided into smaller application areas based on natural divisions:
 - Carroll – 2 areas
 - Henderson – 2 areas
 - Unicoi – 2 areas
 - Johnson – 3 areas
 - Meigs – 2 areas
 - Roane – 3 areas
 - Marshall – 2 areas
 - Moore – 2 areas

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, applicant must demonstrate it is necessary to reach last mile locations

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 120 points):

- Technical Need – **up to 45 points**
- Leveraged and Match Funds – **up to 15 points**
- Sustainability and Implementation Readiness – **up to 15 points**
- Speed, Scalability, and Affordability – **up to 45 points**

Impact Review (maximum of 70 points):

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

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

Application Process

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

Links & Contacts

- [TNECD Grant Homepage](#)
- [Grant Application Guide](#)
- [Grant Program Informational Webinar](#)
- [State Broadband Map](#)
- For questions, email: ECD.Communications.Office@tn.gov

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