



FUNDING ALERT!

Professional Assistance for Today's Unprecedented Funding Opportunities



Indiana

Program Name

NextLevel Connections Program

Source and Funding Pool

Lead Agency: Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA)

Funding Agency: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) \$250 million Allocated for Broadband

Maximum Project Size: \$5 million (may submit multiple projects).

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

\$250 million

Qualifying Service Area and Network Requirements

Unserved Communities: Areas that lack a wireline connection that reliably delivers minimum speeds of 25Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload.

Service Requirements: At least 50Mbps download /5 Mbps upload speeds to homes & businesses, with priority given to projects that deliver 100Mbps symmetrical. At least 1Gbps for schools and clinics.

Completion Requirement: Completed within 24 months from the date of the executed agreement.

Eligible Entities

Households, businesses and community anchor institutions (e.g. schools, health clinics).

Must have served at least 100 subscribers for at least 3 years in Indiana, or be a state licensed corporation, electric cooperative, or cooperative.

Premises covered by RDOF or CAF award (but not yet built) are ineligible.

Application Process

Letter of Intent: Applicants must submit a Letter of Intent (LoI) that discloses all targeted addresses deemed unserved. These addresses will be publicly posted by OCRA.

Challenge: A challenger may counter this filing by asserting it currently provides at least 25/3 Mbps or plans to offer 25/3 Mbps within 18 months. Detailed data is required for an effective challenge (e.g., buildout plans).

Application: The applicant submits its proposal; even if a challenge is deemed valid, the applicant can still submit the same addresses and request reconsideration.

Competitive Application: The challenger can also submit an application for addresses deemed unserved to deliver service to the same addresses for a lower capital spend.

Key Dates

Application Window Starts: August 2021

Letters of Intent Due: September 24th

Submission Deadline for Challenges: November 3rd

Expected Date for Challenge Decisions: November 20th

Full Applications Due: January 6th

Competitive Applications Due: January 31st

Expected Date for Award Decisions: March 2022

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Letter of Intent Data Required

The Letter of Intent (due September 24th) must include the following data points for each address:
Street Address, City, County, Zip, Downstream/Upstream available, Passing Type, Census Block, Unincorporated Area (Y/N), School or Rural Health Facility (name), Provider Name (your organization).

Other Information

Reference Links:

Program Information: <https://www.in.gov/ocra/nlc/home/>

Press Release: https://events.in.gov/event/gov_holcomb_announces_third_round_of_next_level_connections_broadband_grants

Scoring Framework

Eligible projects will be evaluated by the NLC review committee staffed by multiple State agencies.
Projects can earn up to 250 points.

Project Description and Readiness (65 points)

Project Impact (20 points)

Community Support & Engagement (15 points)

Technical Qualification & Resources (10 points)

Economically Disadvantaged Packages for Student Households (15 points)

Degree of Speed Upgrade and Passing's (60 points)

Match Contribution Rate (65 points)

Contact Information

First Last Name, Grant Manager

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Phone: 111-222-3333