

# Federal Funding for Broadband

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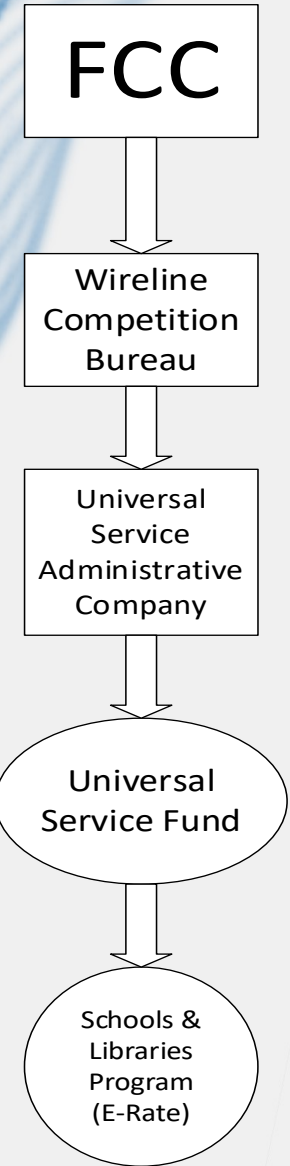
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## NON-GRANT/LOAN FUNDING:

- FCC/USAC – E-Rate/Schools & Libraries Fund
- FCC/USAC – Emergency Connectivity Fund (addt'l E-Rate funds): \$7.1 B
- FCC/USAC – Lifeline Program (subsidies for phone/internet)
- FCC/USAC – Emergency Broadband Benefit (subsidies for elig. customers): \$3.2B
- State/Local Fiscal Recovery Funds: ~\$350B
- Tribal Consistency Fund: ~\$500M over two years



## E-RATE/SCHOOLS & LIBRARIES PROGRAM

- Federal subsidy program of 50 to 90% for service to schools and libraries
- Localities and non-profits are eligible providers
- **Goal:** Foster a competitive market place that helps to drive down costs for schools & libraries.
- **Funding year:** July 1 to June 30 every year
- Transparent procurement process

## COMPETITIVE BIDDING

## APPLYING FOR DISCOUNTS

## SERVICES START

## INVOICING

APPLICANT

Request services by submitting FCC Form 470 for bids

Evaluate bids received

Seek discounts for services by submitting FCC Form 471 within the filing window

Program Integrity Assurance (PIA) review

Confirm to USAC that services have started and report CIPA status by submitting FCC Form 486\*

Submit FCC Form 498 to receive an applicant 498 ID for direct BEAR payments

METHOD #1:  
If requesting reimbursement from USAC for services paid in full, submit FCC Form 472 (BEAR)

Receive BEAR reimbursement from USAC

WAIT AT LEAST 28 DAYS

The competitive bidding process must be open for at least 28 days

SELECT A SERVICE PROVIDER

Sign a contract or arrange for tariffed or month-to-month services

DETERMINE INVOICE METHOD

During this time, work together to choose an invoicing method: BEAR or SPI

RECEIVE FUNDING COMMITMENT

Receive Funding Commitment Decision Letter (FCDL) from USAC

OR

COMPLETE INVOICE REVIEW

Correct errors and resubmit forms if necessary

SERVICE PROVIDER

Review posted FCC Forms 470 and respond to applicant with bids for services requested

Provide assistance to applicant as needed

Certify compliance with program rules by submitting FCC Form 473

METHOD #2:  
If requesting reimbursement from USAC for approved discounts provided on services, submit FCC Form 474 (SPI)

Receive SPI reimbursement from USAC

# FEDERAL GRANT/LOAN FUNDING:

- Corona Virus Capital Projects Fund (Treasury): \$10B
- NTIA Programs
  - Promote Broadband Expansion Program
  - Tribal Broadband Expansion Program
  - Connect Minority Communities Pilot Program
- ReConnect (USDA): \$600M
- Public Works/Economic Adjustment Assistance (EDA): \$3B

# NTIA STIMULUS FUNDING OVERVIEW

## Promote Broadband Expansion Grant Program

- \$300 million
- Focuses on public-private partnerships/rural project proposals

## Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

- \$1 billion
- Centers on tribal broadband infrastructure & expanding access to online services

## Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program

- \$285 million
- Funds for broadband services/equipment for minority-serving institutions & their surrounding communities



# TIMELINE (*ESTIMATED*) FOR NTIA PROGRAMS

- 90 Day application window (opens upon NOFO)
- 90 Day review/response (rolling)
- 180 days to commence once awarded
- 1 year to complete (additional time can be requested)

# \$\$OTHER BUCKETS OF BROADBAND BUCKS\$\$

## ReConnect

Round 3: Early 2022  
Funding: ~\$600M

### Timing:

- Expect NOFO in late Fall/early Winter
- 60-day application window

## EDA

ARPA \$\$:  
\$3B added to PWEAA

### Timing:

- Rolling deadline for applications
- Best time to submit is September/October

## Treasury Grants

ARPA \$\$:  
\$10B for States

### Timing:

- Rules still in process
- Anticipated NOFO imminent



# RECOMMENDATION: GET STARTED WITH THE BASICS

## Activities you can start now:

- Set up/confirm Sam.gov/Grants.gov accounts
- Gather & refine community data (census & demographics)
- Start thinking now about supporting materials
- Review available webinars

# QUESTIONS?

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