

# Broadband Stimulus

Vermont Office of Economic Stimulus and Recovery  
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# Federal Broadband Stimulus Programs

- U.S. Dept. of Commerce—National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)—Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
- U.S. Dept. of Agriculture—Rural Utilities Service (RUS)—Rural Development Broadband Program

# NTIA “BTOP” Program Purposes

- Provide access to broadband service to consumers residing in unserved areas;
- Provide improved access to broadband service to consumers residing in underserved areas;
- Provide a variety of types of broadband education, awareness, training, access, equipment, and support
- Improve access to, and use of, broadband service by public safety agencies; and
- Stimulate the demand for broadband, economic growth, and job creation.

# NTIA Funding

- Grant funding
- Total funding--\$4.7B
- Innovative programs to encourage sustainable adoption of broadband service--\$250M
- Expanding public computer center capacity, including at community colleges and public libraries--\$200M
- Broadband Data Collection--\$350M
  - Mapping
  - Surveying
  - Speed testing
  - Community technology teams

# NTIA Eligible Activities

- Broadband service infrastructure, equipment, etc.
- “Broadband service related infrastructure”
- Access to broadband service by community anchor institutions
- Facilitating access to broadband by low income, unemployed, and other vulnerable populations
- Facilities for public safety broadband
- Undertake other projects and activities consistent with the program purposes

# NTIA Priorities

To the extent practical, NTIA shall—

- Award not less than 1 grant in each State;
- Consider whether an application to deploy infrastructure—
  - will increase affordability and subscribership;
  - will provide the greatest broadband speed possible to the greatest population of users;
  - will enhance service for health care, education or children; and
  - will not result in unjust enrichment through another Federal program; and
- Consider whether the applicant is a socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern

# Some NTIA Requirements

- Without a waiver, Federal share of any project does not exceed 80%.
- Abide by non-discrimination and network interconnection obligations, including at least the FCC's "four principles" entitling consumers—
  - to access the lawful Internet content of their choice;
  - to run applications and use services of their choice, subject to the needs of law enforcement;
  - to connect their choice of legal devices that do not harm the network; and
  - to competition among network providers, application and service providers, and content providers

## Role of the State—NTIA BTOP program

- Helping to identify “unserved” and “underserved” areas within a state
- Advising on allocation of grant funds within the state for projects affecting the state

# USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS)

- \$2.5B for loans, grants, and loan guarantees for broadband infrastructure in any area of the U.S.
- 75 % of the area to be served by a project shall be in a rural area without sufficient access to high speed service to facilitate economic development, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.
- No area of a project funded may receive funding to provide broadband service under the BTOP program

# RUS Priorities

- Give end users a choice of more than one service provider
- Provide service to the highest proportion of rural residents with no broadband access
- Borrowers or former borrowers under title II of the REA
- Demonstrate that all project elements will be fully funded
- The required project application activities can be completed if the funds are provided
- Can commence promptly following approval