Funding Senior High-Speed Internet Access
Opportunities Guide

High-Speed Internet Funding Opportunities for Congregate Living Facilities

Foreword

In March 2020, communities across the United States implemented social distancing measures to protect people from transmission of COVID-19. Social distancing has indeed helped slow the virus's spread in households, communities, and facilities, especially before vaccines became available. But with social distancing has come a significant downside: the lack of social connection. For people who are already distanced from others by their living situations, age, poverty, zip code, or health status, social distancing has increased isolation. High-speed internet offers a scalable solution to mediate social isolation as well as provide access to telehealth, information, and other services. This *Opportunities Guide*, assembled by Freedman Consulting, LLC. provides a comprehensive list of funding sources that can support a wide range of congregate living facilities in providing internet to older adults.

At CITRIS Health, we study the effects of isolation on health outcomes as well as technology's untapped potential to improve health and well-being. These streams converge in Freedman Consulting's new *Opportunities Guide* to help providers, local governments, and advocates navigate the complex, rapidly changing funder landscape for high-speed internet access for older adults. No matter which perspective brings you to the intersection of health, aging and technology — telehealth access to services, digital literacy, breaking down isolation, or basic access to high-speed internet and the worlds it opens for rural or affordable housing residents, or some combination of these — the *Opportunities Guide* will spark ideas about how to pursue funding for whatever you envision.

Infrastructure projects like high-speed internet are often daunting, with funding processes that are both murky and complicated. The *Opportunities Guide* compiles information on a range of federal loan and grant programs, along with eligibility criteria, the scope and types of projects funded, who should apply, how competitive they are, and how to find out more.

Just as high-speed internet itself opens up options for those who are isolated, it is our hope that the *Opportunities Guide* opens up options for a wide variety of agencies to identify, pursue, and successfully implement projects that give older adults and those who serve them new ways to connect and break down the isolation and distance that undermines their health, with or without COVID-19.

David Lindeman
Director
CITRIS Health

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Introduction

Objective & Project Overview

Telehealth and the Critical Need for High-Speed Internet

The current COVID-19 crisis has uncovered substantial weaknesses in the health and social service fabric supporting older adults living in congregate living settings.

Telehealth provides a critical opportunity to reach these individuals who are at higher risk of isolation, depression, falls, poor medication adherence, and exacerbated chronic health conditions, in addition to greater risk of contracting COVID-19. This population is particularly at risk because of limited or no access to information regarding health care services, social services, or other critical information related to the coronavirus.

A fundamental barrier for residents of affordable housing programs is that they disproportionately lack access to internet service, all forms of technology-enabled interventions, and even training in digital literacy. Although the COVID-19 pandemic uncovered these weaknesses, these issues began far before the pandemic, and will continue to persist even after the world recovers from COVID-19.

Locating Funding to Meet the Need

This guide is intended to **be a tool that enables elder-care providers to identify accessible sources of government funding** to affordably implement the necessary infrastructure to provide the high-quality and high-speed internet necessary for telehealth.

As many federal agencies are involved in funding programs related to high-speed internet access, the team has extensively researched the relevant federal agencies, distilled findings, and highlighted select programs as potential funding opportunities.

Due to the issue range, certain programs may only cover select aspects of required infrastructure establish high-quality internet access. **The team has purposefully collected programs that cover the spectrum of necessary services.** The team has also included former programs that could be helpful for those who may be interested in future replication at the federal, state, and local levels. Although the team has worked hard to include relevant programs, the space is changing quickly. Programs may change eligibility or status from what is listed in this guide.

Intended Audience

While this guide has no singular intended audience, it is designed to be used by a variety of organizations across communities and congregate housing spaces.
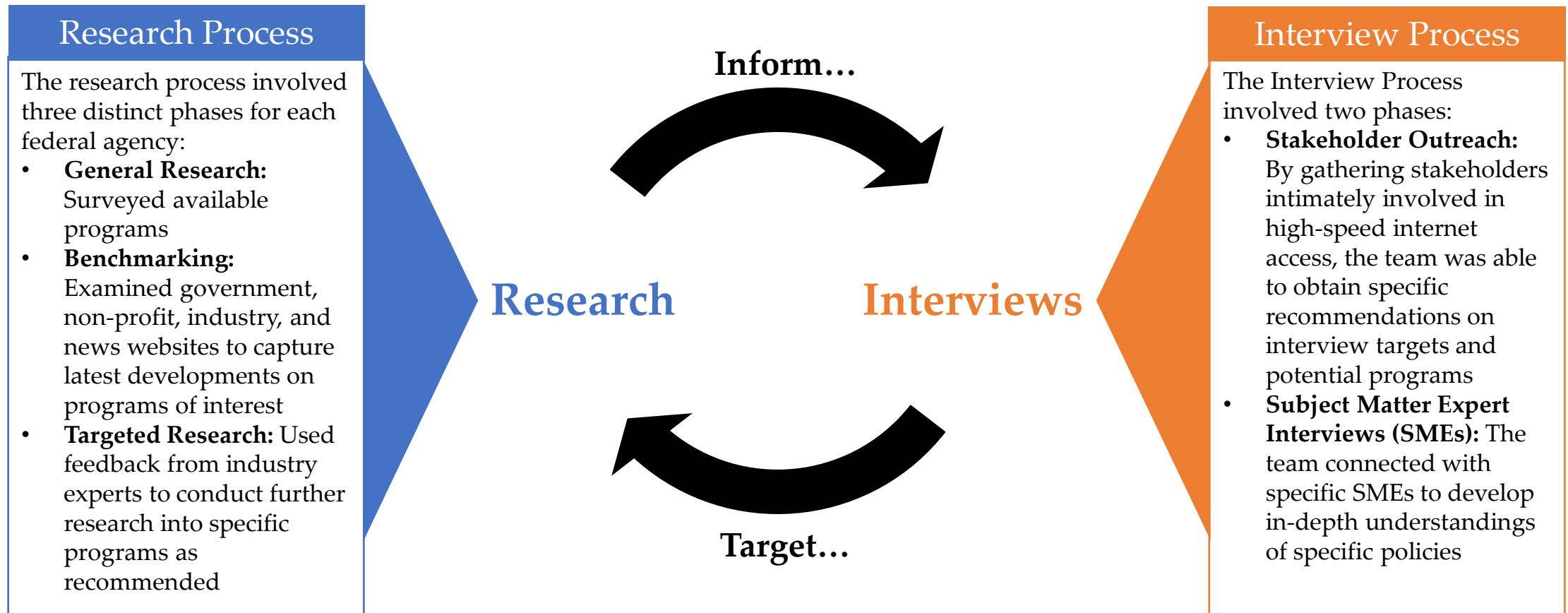
This may include:
- Senior housing providers
- Telehealth advocates
- Senior living organizations
- Municipal governments

This guide is focused on implementers and service providers trying to secure funding, though it may be useful to anyone who needs to get up to speed quickly on the funding opportunities for high-speed internet in congregate living situations.
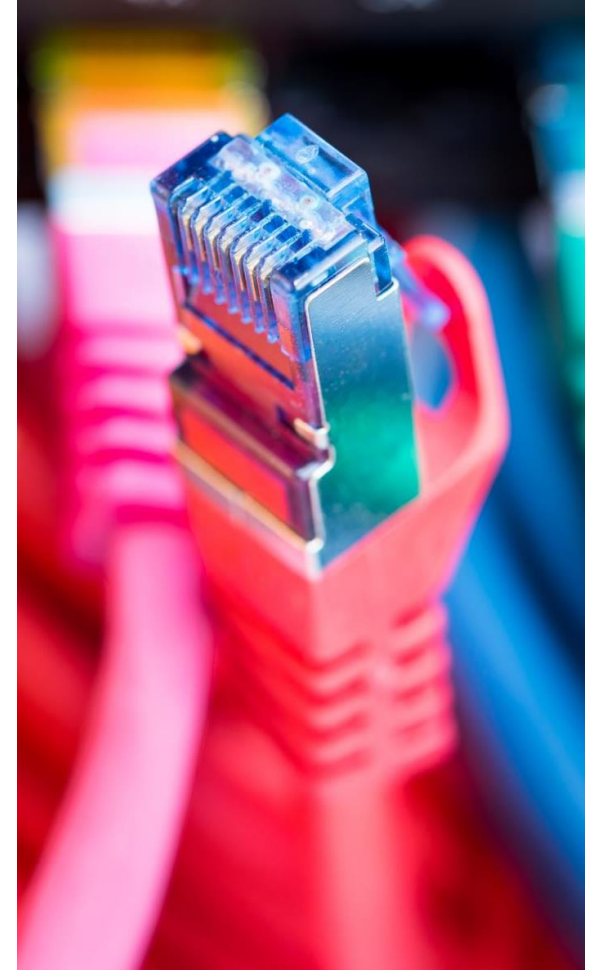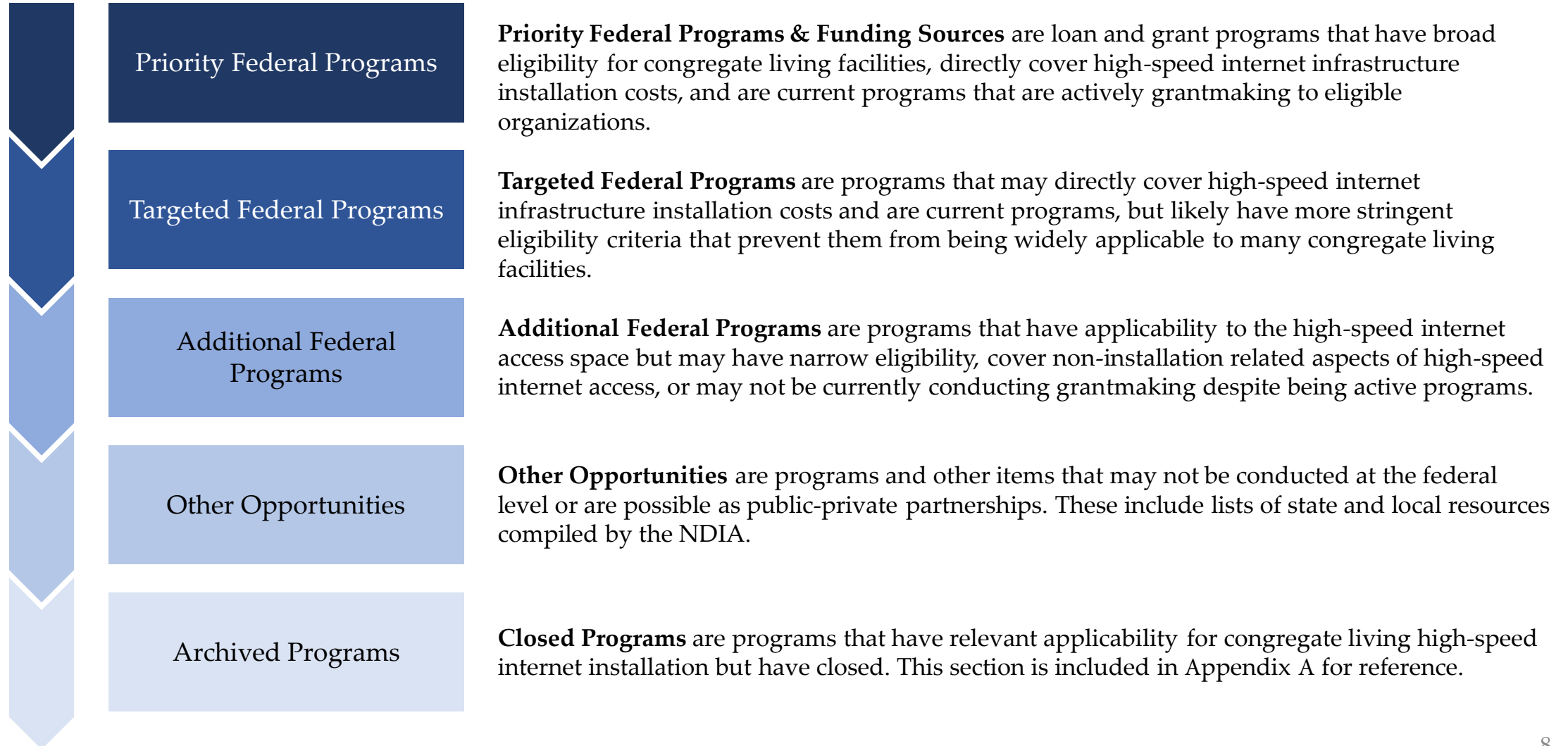
Research Methodology

In compiling this guide, the team relied on both research and interviews to provide a more complete context for the programs under consideration for inclusion in this guide.

Research Process

The research process involved three distinct phases for each federal agency:

- **General Research:** Surveyed available programs
- **Benchmarking:** Examined government, non-profit, industry, and news websites to capture latest developments on programs of interest
- **Targeted Research:** Used feedback from industry experts to conduct further research into specific programs as recommended

Inform…

Research   **Interviews**

Target…

Interview Process

The Interview Process involved two phases:

- **Stakeholder Outreach:** By gathering stakeholders intimately involved in high-speed internet access, the team was able to obtain specific recommendations on interview targets and potential programs
- **Subject Matter Expert Interviews (SMEs):** The team connected with specific SMEs to develop in-depth understandings of specific policies

Explanation of Program Prioritization

Priority Federal Programs

Priority Federal Programs & Funding Sources are loan and grant programs that have broad eligibility for congregate living facilities, directly cover high-speed internet infrastructure installation costs, and are current programs that are actively grantmaking to eligible organizations.

Targeted Federal Programs

Targeted Federal Programs are programs that may directly cover high-speed internet infrastructure installation costs and are current programs, but likely have more stringent eligibility criteria that prevent them from being widely applicable to many congregate living facilities.

Additional Federal Programs

Additional Federal Programs are programs that have applicability to the high-speed internet access space but may have narrow eligibility, cover non-installation related aspects of high-speed internet access, or may not be currently conducting grantmaking despite being active programs.

Other Opportunities

Other Opportunities are programs and other items that may not be conducted at the federal level or are possible as public-private partnerships. These include lists of state and local resources compiled by the NDIA.

Archived Programs

Closed Programs are programs that have relevant applicability for congregate living high-speed internet installation but have closed. This section is included in Appendix A for reference.

Explanation of Program Prioritization

	Program Type	Eligibility	Coverage	Status
Priority Federal Programs & Funding Sources	Federal loan and grant programs	Broad eligibility for congregate living facilities	Directly covers broadband infrastructure costs	Ongoing programs actively grantmaking
Targeted Federal Programs	Federal loan and grant programs	Likely has more stringent eligibility criteria for congregate living facilities	May directly cover broadband infrastructure costs	Ongoing programs actively grantmaking
Additional Federal Programs	Federal loan and grant programs	Narrow eligibility for congregate living facilities	Covers non-installation related aspects of broadband access	Ongoing programs that may not be actively grantmaking
Other Opportunities	State, local, and private-public partnership opportunities	Range of eligibility criteria	Range of cost coverage restrictions	Range of activity
Archived Programs	Federal loan and grant programs	Range of eligibility criteria	Range of cost coverage restrictions	Programs are currently closed or of an unknown status

Index of Included Content by Category

Priority Federal Programs in Detail

Priority Federal Programs & Funding Sources are loan and grant programs that have broad eligibility for congregate living facilities, directly cover high-speed internet infrastructure installation costs, and are current programs that are actively grantmaking to eligible organizations.

Priority Federal Programs

Selected Funding Opportunities

HUD: Community Development Block Grants (CDBGs)
Adaptable grants that can be used for funding telehealth-related infrastructure.

FCC: Rural Health Care Program
Subsidizes rural healthcare providers to defray higher cost of rural internet connections.

HUD: Public Housing Funds
Provision for Public Housing Agencies to use various funds resident internet access.

Treasury: American Rescue Plan Capital Projects & State and Local Recovery Funds
Two dedicated funding sources in the American Rescue Plan that include spending on high-speed internet.

Shared: Federal Reserve/OCC/FDIC– Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) Funding
Partner with community organizations.

HHS: Civil Money Penalty (CMP) Program
Fees collected by CMS for use in several specified manners to benefit senior-care facilities.

HUD: Community Development Block Grants

Program Description:

"HUD continues its efforts to narrow the digital divide in low-income communities served by HUD by providing, where feasible and with HUD funding, broadband infrastructure to communities in need of such infrastructure."[1]

What's Covered:
- CDBG funds may be used to install "wiring, fiber optic cables, and permanently affixed equipment such as receivers for areas to receive broadband/ internet access"[2]

Example Projects:
- Between 2007 and 2015, the Nelson County high-speed internet Project received two rounds of CDBG funding $200,000 along with local funding to install 31 miles of fiber backbone for local residents (Link)
- Between 2004 and 2017 the City of Cleveland allocated nearly $500,000 in CDBG grants for community computer training programs (Link)

Program at a Glance…

Program Status:
Ongoing (HUD base funding + additional CARES Act funding)

Funding:
Base funding + $5 billion from CARES Act (2020)

Who Should Apply:
Public housing agencies (PHAs)

Program Limits:
Highly competitive grants

Contact:
Local HUD field office (Link)

HUD: Community Development Block Grants (cont.)

Eligibility:
- Principal cities of Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)
- Other metropolitan cities with populations of at least 50,000
- Qualified urban counties with populations of at least 200,000
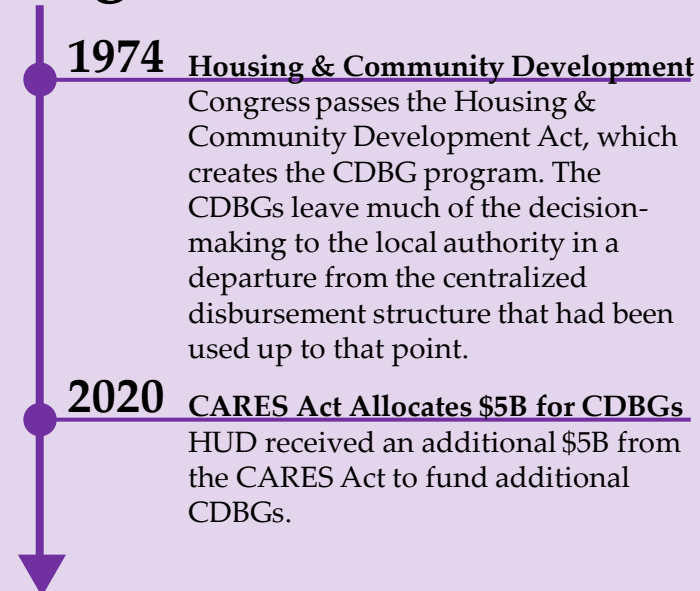
Eligible Activities Include:
- "The acquisition, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or installation of public facilities, distribution lines, and improvements"[1] (which include infrastructure improvements)
- Digital literacy classes as a public service under 24 CFR 570.201(e)

Further Reading:
- Using CDBGs for Internet Connectivity
- CDBG Funding Eligibility
- CDBG FAQs

1. As quoted from Chapter 6 of Basically CDBG

Program Timeline

1974 **Housing & Community Development**
Congress passes the Housing & Community Development Act, which creates the CDBG program. The CDBGs leave much of the decision-making to the local authority in a departure from the centralized disbursement structure that had been used up to that point.

2020 **CARES Act Allocates $5B for CDBGs**
HUD received an additional $5B from the CARES Act to fund additional CDBGs.

Application Process
- Community Development Block Grants are allocated to municipalities (cities and counties) that then fund specific projects within their communities
- Please visit your local municipality's website to locate the relevant CDBG office
- While HUD resources may help for FAQs and the general application requirements, funding must be applied for through your local municipality

FCC: Rural Health Care Program

Program Description:
"The Rural Health Care Program provides funding to eligible health care providers for tele-communications and high-speed internet services necessary for the provision of health care."[1] The program is comprised of two components:
- Healthcare Connect Fund Program (HCF): Provides discount on rural internet
- Telecommunications Program (Telecom): Subsidizes rural rates to urban levels

What's Covered:
- Examples of common eligible expenses include high-speed internet services, network equipment, HCP-constructed and owned network facilities, and telecommunication services
- These examples are not exhaustive, and eligibility of expenses and sites can only be determined during a formal review

Example Projects:
- St Clara's Manor Skilled Nursing Facility, Lincoln IL - $9,379 for high-speed internet expenses for a 10 Mbps up/down connection

Program at a Glance…

Program Status:
Ongoing (since 2012)

Funding:
$571 million annually

Who Should Apply:
Healthcare providers servicing rural areas (individual & consortium)

Program Limits:
Must service rural areas

Contact:
Rhc-assist@usac.org

1. As quoted from the Rural Health Care Program Website

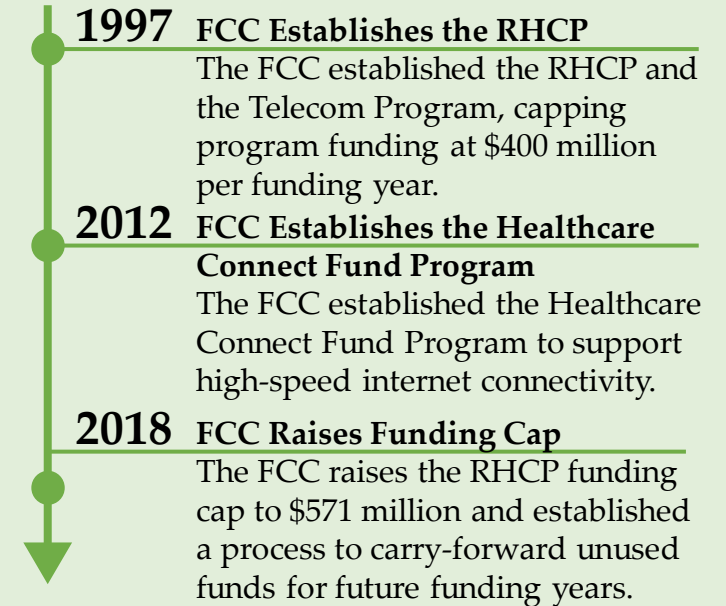# FCC: Rural Health Care Program (cont.)

Eligibility:
- Public or nonprofit entity
- In an FCC-defined rural location
- One of the following types of facilities: post-secondary educational institution offering healthcare instruction, community health center, health center providing healthcare to migrants, local health department or agency, community mental health center, not-for-profit hospital, rural health clinic, dedicated emergency room of a rural for-profit hospital, skilled nursing facility, consortium of health care providers that includes at least one of the facilities mentioned prior

Further Reading:
- FCC Rural Health Care Program Website
- Rural Health Care Program Application Process
- Healthcare Connect Fund Program Examples of Common Products and Services
- Telecommunications Program Examples of Common Services

Program Timeline

1997 **FCC Establishes the RHCP**
The FCC established the RHCP and the Telecom Program, capping program funding at $400 million per funding year.

2012 **FCC Establishes the Healthcare Connect Fund Program**
The FCC established the Healthcare Connect Fund Program to support high-speed internet connectivity.

2018 **FCC Raises Funding Cap**
The FCC raises the RHCP funding cap to $571 million and established a process to carry-forward unused funds for future funding years.

Application Process – APPLICATION PAGE

5 Step Process as Outlined on FCC Site:
- Determine eligibility – Understand how project qualifies
- Develop evaluation criteria and request services – Look at potential vendors and develop rubric
- Evaluate bids and select a service provider – Use rubric to select best fit for project
- Submit a funding request and certify connection – Work with vendors to collect invoices and verify connections
- Submit invoices to the FCC – Submit compiled invoices for reimbursement

HUD: Public Housing Funds

Program Description:
Several types of funds from HUD can be used to establish high-speed internet connectivity both in common areas and in individual residences. Due to the impact of the COVID pandemic, HUD released guidance confirming the usage of these funds for high-speed internet purposes.

What's Covered:

The following types of funding can be used for high-speed internet infrastructure:
- Operating Funds: Section 9e allows for the use of operating funds for high-speed internet-related purposes
- Capital Funds: PHAs may use Capital Fund grants for development, modernization, and management improvements
- CARES Act Funding: The CARES Act of 2020 provided additional funding and flexibilities as described in PIH Notice 2020-07

Example Uses:
PHAs purchased devices for students. Some PHAs opted to fund internet service for units with school-aged children. Others installed Wi-Fi or provided mobile hotspots for loan and some allowed residents to borrow devices for telehealth purposes.

Program at a Glance…

Program Status:
Ongoing (HUD base funding)

Funding:
Base funding + $685 million from CARES Act (2020)

Who Should Apply:
Public housing agencies (PHAs)

Program Limits:
No standalone grantmaking

Contact:
PIH.Financial.Management.Division@hud.gov

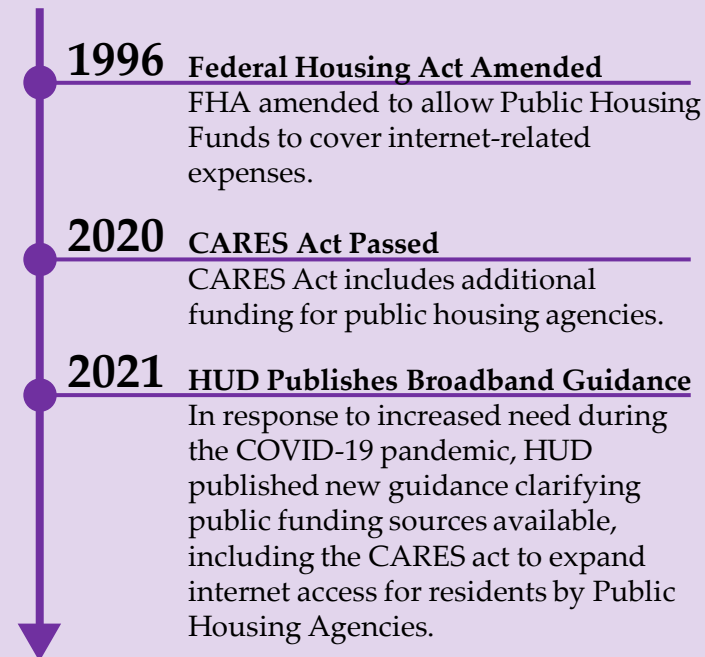# HUD: Public Housing Funds (cont.)

Eligibility:
As Public Housing Agencies are awarded Capital Funds by formula by HUD, no additional eligibility requirements are relevant. The CARES Act created additional disbursements for PHAs that are available via HUD's COVID-19 toolkit.

Further Reading:
- Use of Public Housing Funds for Broadband Explainer Document
- CARES Act Reporting Requirements
- CARES Act Supplemental Funding

Program Timeline

1996 **Federal Housing Act Amended**
FHA amended to allow Public Housing Funds to cover internet-related expenses.

2020 **CARES Act Passed**
CARES Act includes additional funding for public housing agencies.

2021 **HUD Publishes Broadband Guidance**
In response to increased need during the COVID-19 pandemic, HUD published new guidance clarifying public funding sources available, including the CARES act to expand internet access for residents by Public Housing Agencies.

Application Process
- As both Capital Funds and Operating Funds are given without application to affordable housing facilities by HUD, no application is required
- Please see the explainer document linked above for a synopsis on using these funds for high-speed internet purposes
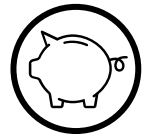
Treasury: American Rescue Plan Programs

Program Description:
The American Rescue Plan sets aside $350B in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funding for state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to spend on eligible activities. In addition to the $350B in recovery funding, the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (CCPF) will provide $10B to address critical infrastructure needs in low- and moderate-income communities.

What's Covered:
- Fiscal Recovery Funding can be used to meet local needs, including necessary investments to improve existing high-speed internet infrastructure: "Necessary investments include projects that are required to maintain a level of service that, at least, establishes or improves high-speed internet service to unserved or underserved populations to reach an adequate level to permit a household to work…and that are unlikely to be met with private sources of funds."[1]
- The CCPF allows funding for high-quality high-speed internet and provides flexibility for states to make investments in critical community hubs

Example Projects:
- N/A – in initial phase

Program at a Glance…

Program Status:
Ongoing (Treasury Interim Final Rule announced)

Funding:
$350B for State & Local Recovery
$10B for Capital Projects Fund

Who Should Apply:
State, local, and tribal governments

Program Limits:
Applied for by state and local governments

Contact:
SLFRP@treasury.gov

1. Treasury Interim Final Rule

Treasury: American Rescue Plan Programs (cont.)

Eligibility:
- States, territories, and the District of Columbia
- Tribal governments
- Counties and metropolitan cities
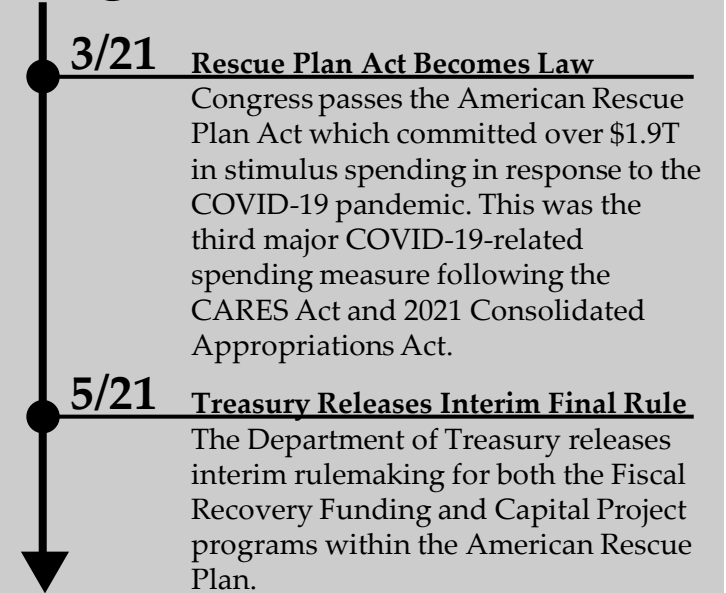- Non-entitlement units, or smaller local governments

Eligible Activities Include:
- Investments deemed "necessary" include high-speed internet, and high-quality high-speed internet infrastructure where private funding is unlikely or unavailable

Further Reading:
- Treasury Covid Relief Homepage
- Treasury SLFRP Quick Reference Guide
- Treasury Interim Final Rule

Program Timeline

3/21 **Rescue Plan Act Becomes Law**
Congress passes the American Rescue Plan Act which committed over $1.9T in stimulus spending in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This was the third major COVID-19-related spending measure following the CARES Act and 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

5/21 **Treasury Releases Interim Final Rule**
The Department of Treasury releases interim rulemaking for both the Fiscal Recovery Funding and Capital Project programs within the American Rescue Plan.

Application Process

- As all funding in the American Rescue Plan is designed to go directly to state, county, local and tribal governments, individuals and organizations are not eligible to apply directly to the Department of the Treasury
- Despite the limitations in funding, municipal and state governments may be more receptive to program proposals if they comply with Treasury guidelines specifically related to high-speed internet spending.

Shared: Community Reinvestment Act

Context:
The Community Reinvestment Act (CRA), administered by the Federal Reserve, FDIC, and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), promotes lending, investment, and other activity by banks that helps to maintain the vitality of low- and moderate-income communities across the nation.

Program Description:
CRA lending takes the form of bank loans rather than grant funding. CRA loans can be secured both through conventional banks' CRA loan-making, or through Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) that are dedicated to expanding access and improving equality in medium and low-income communities.

What's Covered:
- New or rehabilitated communications infrastructure, such as high-speed internet service, that serves the community, including low- and moderate-income residents

Example Projects:
- RS Fiber Cooperative, MN – Loan from First National Bank for Fiber to the Home in 10 communities and 17 townships (Link)
- Palmer Wireless, MN – Loan from Falcon Bank to build out fiber infrastructure along a 60 mile stretch of highway 10 (Link)

Program at a Glance…

Program Status:
Ongoing (since 1977)

Funding:
Depends on CDFI/private bank financing

Who Should Apply:
Organizations serving low- and moderate-income communities

Program Limits:
Loans, not grants

Contact:
Federal Reserve Comment Form

Shared: Community Reinvestment Act (cont.)

Eligibility:

Banks may make direct or indirect investments designed primarily to promote the public welfare, housing, services, or jobs. Investment must primarily benefit:

- Low- and moderate-income individuals,
- Low- and moderate-income areas, or
- Other areas targeted by a government entity for redevelopment

Further Reading:
- OCC Presentation on Expanding Broadband Using the CRA
- Kansas City Fed CRA One Tool
- Overview of CDFIs and Related Institutions
- Federal Reserve CRA Overview
- Dallas Fed White Paper on Using the CRA to Close Broadband Gaps

Program Timeline

1977 **Congress Passes the CRA**
The CRA becomes law, representing a landmark piece of legislation in the fight against urban inequality.

2018 **Updated Guidance on Broadband**
The Federal Reserve in 2018 issued specific guidance including high-speed internet-related projects explicitly in the types of projects considered eligible for CRA loans. This represents a major and important shift toward allowing the widespread use of CRA funds for high-speed internet projects.

Application Process

- As a policy for private banks, while the CRA will encourage banks to fund loans for high-speed internet projects, the CRA does not lay out a specific process for CRA-compliant loans.
- The exact process is dependent on the stakeholders involved, however working with CDFIs may be a preferred option consider that those organizations tend to specialize on CRA loans more specifically.

HHS: Civil Money Penalty Program

Program Description:
The Civil Money Penalty (CMP) fund is the disbursement of CMP fines, which are collected from nursing homes for substantial non-compliance with Medicare regulations. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) distributes the fines collected to states, that then disburse allocated funding amongst eligible applicants. Funds are limited to three years, after which funding must be reapplied for.

What's Covered:
- "Facility improvement initiatives such as joint training of facility staff and surveyors or technical assistance for facilities implementing quality assurance and performance improvement programs"[1]
- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CMS allocated up to $3k in CMP funds to nursing homes for communicative hardware (devices) for enabling televisits and telehealth

Example Projects:
- Legacy Corporation, MS – $106k for Interactive computer system (iN2L) in 6 NFs to improve rehabilitation and activity services (Link)
- State of Minnesota, MN – $6.5K RFP for Nursing Facility Online Dementia Care Training (Link)

Program at a Glance…

Program Status:
Ongoing (updated by ACA)

Funding:
~$1.6 billion in 2020 (depends on enforcement)

Who Should Apply:
Certified LTC communities, private contractors, etc.

Program Limits:
Administered by states

Contact:
CMP-info@cms.hhs.gov

1. As quoted from the CMPRP Page

HHS: Civil Money Penalty Program (cont.)

Eligibility:

Eligible organizations for CMP funding include but are not limited to:

- Consumer advocacy organizations
- Resident or family councils
- Professional or state nursing home associations
- Certified LTC facilities (SNF, NF, SNF/NF)
- Private contractors

Further Reading:

- CMP Funded Programs by state
- CMP Frequently Asked Questions
- CMP Reinvestment state Plan Resources
- Examples of CMP Funded Projects and Non-allowable Uses
- State CMP Reinvestment Projects Funded by Calendar Year

Program Timeline

1994 **Civil Money Penalties Updated**
Established in CFR 488 for Nursing and Skilled Nursing Facilities

2012 **Updated CMP Guidance to states**
Requires states to obtain approval from CMS to use Federal CMP funds

2020 **CMS Communicative Tech Order**
In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, CMS issues updated guidance allowing up to $3k in CMP funding for nursing homes to spend on communicative hardware (devices) to enable televisits due to social-distancing requirements

Application Process (State Links) – APPLICATION PAGE

- CMS states that "The application process for CMP funds is determined by the state in which the nursing home is located. The process for each state may differ, and some states have their own applications for CMP funds. Applicants should use their state-specific application and instructions, if applicable."[1]
- The CMS list of available state program contacts can be found via the link above.

Targeted Federal Programs

Targeted Federal Programs are programs that may directly cover high-speed internet infrastructure installation costs and are current programs, but likely have more stringent eligibility criteria that prevent them from being widely applicable to all congregate living facilities.

Targeted Federal Programs

Funding Opportunities

Commerce: NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Grant
Provides federal funding for the deployment of high-speed internet infrastructure via partnerships.

Commerce: NTIA Connecting Minority Communities Pilot
Provides federal funding for the deployment of high-speed internet infrastructure via partnerships.

Treasury: New Market Tax Credits (NMTC)
Credit for use by CDEs to attract private investment in low-income communities.

USDA: Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans and Guarantees
Ongoing loan program to promote private sector investment in high-speed internet facilities and equipment in rural areas.

USDA: Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program
Targeted program from the USDA that helps to fund both education and health programs.

USDA: Business & Industry Guaranteed Loan Program
Provides loan guarantees to lenders for loans for rural businesses.

Targeted Federal Programs (Continued)

Funding Opportunities

HUD: Public Housing Operating Fund
Funds public housing agencies to provide internet access to residents, both in units and in common areas.

HUD: HOME Investment Partnerships Program
Formula-based program for uses including rehabilitating low-income properties, including to install high-speed internet infrastructure.

Commerce Targeted Programs

NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Program

Program Topline:

Limitations: Eligible applicants must be partnerships between state and one or more high-speed internet providers

Program Status: Ongoing (closes Aug 17, 2021)

Funding: $288 million

Who Should Apply: Partnerships between states and providers deploying high-speed internet infrastructure

Contact: jduane@ntia.gov

Program Description:

This grant program, established by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, is administered by NTIA and will provide federal funding for the deployment of high-speed internet infrastructure. Partnerships between a state or political subdivisions of a state and providers of fixed high-speed internet service are eligible to apply.

The program will give priority to covered high-speed internet projects that:
- Provide service to the greatest number of households in an eligible service area
- Projects that are not located in a county, city, or town that has a population of more than 50K residents and an urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to a city or town of more than 50K residents
- Are most cost-effective, prioritizing such projects in areas that are most rural
- Are designed to provide service with download/upload speeds of not less than 100/20 Mbps

[NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Program](#)

NTIA Connecting Minority Communities Pilot

Program Topline:

Limitations: Eligible applicants must be target high-poverty areas within their anchor communities

Program Status: Upcoming (opening date unknown)

Funding: $285 million

Who Should Apply: HBCUs, TCUs, and minority- serving institutions

Contact: N/A

Program Description:

The Connecting Minority Communities Pilot program will provide funding to institutions of higher learning, and to minority-serving institutions (MSIs). Eligible equipment includes: Wi-Fi-hotspots, modems, routers, laptops, and other equipment necessary to provide high-speed internet.

The program will give priority to covered high-speed internet projects that:
- Engage especially high-poverty areas within larger communities, especially those that serve primarily minority audience
- While final guidance for the program is still pending, it is likely that projects within the MSI portion of this program would benefit from establishing connections to local institutions of higher learning as partners

[CTC Summary of Pending NTIA Pilot Developments](#)

Treasury Targeted Program

New Market Tax Credits (NMTC)

Program Topline:

⚠ **Limitations**: The NMTC enables CDEs to provide loans, not grants, to businesses in low-income communities

✓ **Program Status**: Ongoing

$ **Funding**: In 2017, CDEs directed nearly $2.5 billion in loans and investments through NMTCs

▤ **Who Should Apply**: NMTCs are leveraged by CDEs to attract private investment in low-income communities

☎ **Contact**: N/A

Program Description:
The New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) program, administered by community development entities (CDEs), can be leveraged in low-income communities to incentivize private investment. Businesses in low-income communities may receive loans and investments from CDEs for high-speed internet installation.

Example Projects:
- Continental Divide Electric Cooperative Broadband Project, Grants, NM – A rural electric co-op received a loan in 2017 to deploy high-speed internet to 24,000 homes and businesses
- GreatWave Communications, Cleveland, OH – GreatWave received $9.5 million in federal NMTC allocation to increase its high-speed internet deployment to an additional 50 businesses and 600 residents per year

New Markets Tax Credit Program

USDA Targeted Programs

Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans and Guarantees

Program Topline:

⚠ **Limitations**: Limited to rural areas (pop. < 5,000, areas without telecom facilities or applicant is the recognized telecom provider)

✓ **Program Status**: Ongoing

$ **Funding**: Unknown

▤ **Who Should Apply**: Public bodies, state/local/tribal governments, cooperatives, nonprofits, limited dividend or mutual associations

☎ **Contact**: (202) 720-0800

Program Description:
Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans and Guarantees provides cost-of-money and hardship loans from the USDA Rural Utilities Service and loan guarantees through the Federal Financing Bank. Loan funds finance telecommunication services in rural areas for construction, improvement, expansion, acquisitions, and refinancing.

Example Projects:
- No examples available

USDA Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans & Loan Guarantees Website

Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program

Program Topline:

⚠ **Limitations**: Must benefit rural areas (pop. 20,000 or less) Expiring Soon

✓ **Program Status**: Ongoing

$ **Funding**: $44.5 million (2021)

▤ **Who Should Apply:** Education and healthcare providers

☎ **Contact**: dltinfo@usda.gov

Program Description:
The USDA will accept applications for DLT grant-only funds April 5-June 4, 2021 from education or healthcare providers including state, local, and tribal governments, nonprofit or for-profit organizations, and consortia of eligible entities. Grants will range from $50,000-1,000,000.

Example Project:
- Mariposa County, CA - $799,083 for the Mariposa County Health and Human Services 2020 Telehealth Project to extend network connections and provide laptops to providers with software for remote clinical healthcare, including data sharing and video conferencing.

USDA Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grant Program Website

USDA Targeted Programs

Business & Industry Guaranteed Loan Program

Program Topline:

⚠ **Limitations:** Limited to rural areas

✓ **Program Status**: Ongoing

$ **Funding**: Loan guarantees ($1 billion through CARES Act)

Who Should Apply: For-profit or non-profit businesses, cooperatives, tribes, public bodies, and individuals engaging in business

☎ **Contact**: Local rural development office ([Link](#))

Program Description:
"This program offers loan guarantees to lenders for their loans to rural businesses. This program improves the economic health of rural communities by increasing access to business capital through loan guarantees. This enables commercial lenders to provide affordable financing for rural businesses."[1]

Example Projects:
- No examples available

1. As quoted from the B&A [Website](#)

[USDA Business & Industry Guaranteed Loan Program](#)

HUD Targeted Programs

PIH Public Housing Operating Fund

Program Topline:

⚠️ **Limitations**: Must be public housing agency

✓ **Program Status**: Ongoing

$ **Funding**: Subsidies provided to PHAs to operate and fund public housing based on Congressional appropriations and formula

📋 **Who Should Apply**: Public housing agencies (PHAs)

📞 **Contact**: N/A

Program Description:
The Operating Fund can be used by Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) to provide computer internet services to residents of public housing both in their units and in common areas, such as Neighborhood Networks centers. It can include staff salary for training programs as well as ongoing costs related to maintenance of the Internet infrastructure.

Example Projects:
• No examples available

PIH Guidance on Use of Public Housing Funding to Support Internet Connectivity for Residents

HOME Investment Partnerships Program

Program Topline:

⚠️ **Limitations**: States distribute funds to housing agencies

✓ **Program Status**: Ongoing

$ **Funding**: $1.5 billion

📋 **Who Should Apply**: States and local governments

📞 **Contact**: N/A

Program Description:
The HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) provides formula grants to states and localities that communities use - often in partnership with local nonprofit groups - to fund a wide range of activities including building, buying, and/or rehabilitating affordable housing for rent or homeownership or providing direct rental assistance to low-income people. Broadband is included as an eligible expense, including for multi-family housing.

Example Projects:
• No examples available

HOME Investment Partnerships Program Website

Additional Federal Programs

Additional Federal Programs are programs that have applicability to the high-speed internet access space but may have narrow eligibility, cover non-installation related aspects of high-speed internet access, or may not be currently conducting grantmaking despite being active programs.

FCC Additional Federal Programs

Funding Opportunities

Lifeline Program
Program to help defray internet costs for low-income households.

Connected Care Pilot Programs
Pilot program to directly assist healthcare providers with select high-speed internet-related expenses.

Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB)
COVID-19-driven direct end-user discount program to ensure high-quality high-speed internet connections.

E-Rate Program
Ongoing program to help libraries and schools pay for high-quality high-speed internet access.

FCC Additional Programs

Lifeline Program

Program Topline:

✓ **Program Status**: Ongoing

$ **Funding**: $2.385 billion (2020)

▤ **Who Should Apply**: Individual households making less than 135% of federal poverty line or enrolled in other federal benefit

⚠ **Program Limits**: Targets individuals instead of providers

☎ **Contact**: LifelineSupport@usac.org

Program Description:
"Lifeline provides up to a $9.25 monthly discount on service for eligible low-income subscribers and up to $34.25 per month for those on Tribal lands. Subscribers may receive a Lifeline discount on either a wireline or a wireless service, but they may not receive a discount on both services at the same time. Lifeline also supports high-speed internet service and high-speed internet-voice bundles. FCC rules prohibit more than one Lifeline service per household."[1] Aggregation of Lifeline funding is not possible under current rules.

Example Projects:
- No examples available

FCC Lifeline Program Website

Connected Care Pilot Programs

Program Topline:

✓ **Program Status**: Ongoing (pilot programs selected)

$ **Funding**: $100 million (over 3 years)

▤ **Who Should Apply**: Healthcare providers with telehealth services, particularly to low-income & veteran patients

⚠ **Program Limits**: Unclear if additional funding will be available

☎ **Contact**: ConnectedCare@fcc.gov

Program Description:
The CCP will spend up to $100M over three years to defray 85% of eligible expenses including: patient high-speed internet access, healthcare provider high-speed internet access, connected care information systems, and certain network equipment. 14 pilot projects were in initial selected group in 2020. The FCC is likely to solicit further proposals in the future.

Example Projects:
- OCHIN, Inc., OH, OR, WA - $5,834,620 for Health Center Network (2020)
- Phoebe Physicians Group Inc, GA - $112,200 for rural health clinic (2020)

FCC Connected Care Program Website

FCC Additional Programs

Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB)

Program Topline:

- **Program Status**: Ongoing (accepting applications)

- **Funding**: $3.2 billion (2021)

- **Who Should Apply**: Individual households at risk of losing high-speed internet access (except for public housing)

- **Program Limits**: Targets individuals instead of providers

- **Contact**: broadbandbenefit@fcc.gov

Program Description:
"The Emergency Broadband Benefit will provide a discount of up to $50 per month towards high-speed internet service for eligible households and up to $75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to $100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers."[1] The EBB does include an exception that allows for aggregation of the benefit (bulk purchases) if high-speed internet is included in rent in public housing.

Example Projects:
- No examples available

[FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit Program Website](#)

E-Rate Program

Program Topline:

- **Program Status**: Ongoing – Program modernized in 2014

- **Funding**: $4.15 Billion (Annually Capped)

- **Who Should Apply**: Libraries and schools

- **Program Limits**: Must partner with library or school

- **Contact**: rhc-assist@usac.org

Program Description:
The E-Rate Program helps schools and libraries defray costs related to telecommunications services & internal connectivity distribution systems within those facilities. Discounts range from 20-90% of eligible expenses depending on poverty, and the facilities location.

Example Projects:
- Anderson School District – Financial Assistance for Broadband Connection (2020)
- Fort Bend Independent School District – Financial Assistance for Broadband (2020)

[FCC E-Rate Program Website](#)

1. As quoted from the Lifeline [Website](#)

HUD Additional Programs

Funding Opportunities

ConnectHomeUSA
COVID-19-driven program to assist healthcare providers' provision of telehealth medicine.

Neighborhood Networks
Program aimed at promoting self-sufficiency and providing technology access to residents in public housing.

Choice Neighborhood Planning Grants
Program to support development of comprehensive neighborhood redevelopment plans

HUD Additional Programs

ConnectHomeUSA

Program Topline:

- **Program Status**: Ongoing (cohort-based)

- **Funding**: Not available (non-profit EveryoneOn runs program)

- **Who Should Apply**: Public housing agencies (PHAs)

- **Program Limits**: Must be public housing agency

- **Contact**: connecthomeusa@everyoneon.org

Program Description:
"ConnectHomeUSA is a public-private partnership bringing together industry leaders in connectivity, devices, and digital literacy/educational content, and working directly with housing agencies and city leadership to provide the tools needed" with over $70 million in in-kind contributions from stakeholders which include nonprofits, internet service providers, and corporations.[1]

Example Projects:
- Chicago Housing Authority (2019 Cohort)
- Columbus Housing Authority (2020 Cohort)
- Alexandria LA Housing Authority (2018 Cohort)

Neighborhood Networks

Program Topline:

- **Program Status**: Ongoing (program began in 1995)

- **Funding**: Not available (HUD provides non-financial resources)

- **Who Should Apply**: Public housing agencies (PHAs)

- **Program Limits**: Does not provide direct financing

- **Contact**: rhc-assist@usac.org

Program Description:
The mission of Neighborhood Networks is to deliver greater technology access to increase self-sufficiency among residents of Federal Housing Administration (FHA)-insured and assisted properties. To fulfill this mission, HUD encourages owners and managers of FHA-insured and FHA-assisted properties to establish onsite, multiservice centers that provide access to computers and offer a variety of workforce development, academic-enrichment, lifelong learning, and community-building programs.

Example Projects:
- Orford Village Commons Computer Center – Manchester CT (2020)
- Bryant Manor Computer Learning Center – Seattle WA (2020)

Connect Home USA Website

Neighborhood Networks HUD Website

1. As quoted from the ConnectHomeUSA Website

HUD Additional Programs

Choice Neighborhood Planning Grants

Program Topline:

Program Status: Ongoing (application closes 7/13/21)

Funding: $5 million

Who Should Apply: Public housing agencies (PHAs), local governments, tribal entities, counties, and nonprofits

Program Limits: Targets comprehensive neighborhood-level projects

Contact: ChoiceNeighborhoods@hud.gov

Program Description:
"Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants support the development of comprehensive neighborhood revitalization plans which focus on directing resources to address three core goals: Housing, People and Neighborhood. To achieve these core goals, communities must develop and implement a strategy for the revitalization of the public and/or assisted housing units while directing the transformation of the neighborhood and positive outcomes for families."[1]

Example Project:
- Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority, OH - $35 million for the transformation of the Buckeye-Woodhill neighborhood, including building affordable housing and creating neighborhood high-speed internet.

HUD Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant Website

VA Additional Programs

Funding Opportunities

Accessing Telehealth through Local Area Stations (ATLAS)
Public-private partnership offering telehealth connections in community sites

VA Video Connect
Free mobile connectivity for telehealth appointments for veteran subscribers

VA Additional Programs

Accessing Telehealth through Local Area Stations (ATLAS)

Program Topline:

- **Program Status**: Ongoing

- **Funding**: Unknown

- **Who Should Apply**: N/A (partnership with select Walmart, American Legion, and Veterans of Foreign Wars locations)

- **Program Limits**: Current sites located only at Walmart, American Legion, and Veterans of Foreign Wars locations

- **Contact**: N/A

Program Description:
Partnership with Walmart, Philips, The American Legion, and Veterans of Foreign Wars to offer veterans living in rural areas or with limited internet access private rooms with internet connectivity and telephone capabilities to meet with VA providers. Currently 11 such sites across the country.

Example Project:
- Springfield, VA – American Legion Post #176 in partnership with Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center

VA Connected Care ATLAS Website

VA Video Connect

Program Topline:

- **Program Status**: Ongoing

- **Funding**: Unknown

- **Who Should Apply**: Veteran mobile subscribers

- **Program Limits**: Patient must be subscriber of one of the select mobile carriers in the partnership

- **Contact**: Office of Connected Care Help Desk, (866) 651-3180

Program Description:
Partnership with TracFone, T-Mobile, and Verizon to enable veteran subscribers to use VA Video Connect, VA's proprietary telehealth platform, without data charges while on their networks.

VA Press Release on VA Video Connect

HHS Additional Programs

Funding Opportunities

HRSA: Service Area Competition
Helping at-risk communities continue to access health care services

HRSA: Optimizing Virtual Care
Supports health centers to develop, implement, and evaluate innovative virtual care

HHS Additional Programs

Service Area Competition

Program Topline:

✓ **Program Status**: Ongoing (rolling based on period of performance)

$ **Funding**: Not available (estimated at $555,000,201)

▤ **Who Should Apply**: Current Health Center Program award recipients whose periods of performance end in FY 2022

⚠ **Program Limits**: Limited to current Health Center Program award recipients

☎ **Contact**: SAC Response Team, (301) 594-4300

Program Description:
The Service Area Competition continues the improvement of the health of nation's underserved communities and vulnerable populations by providing grants to health centers that offer comprehensive primary healthcare services to an underserved area or population. This program targets the nation's neediest populations and geographic regions."[1] SAC is competitive funding for operational support for areas that are currently serviced by Health Care Program award recipients.

Example Projects:
- No examples available

[HHS Service Area Competition Website](), [HHS SAC Grant Notice]()

Optimizing Virtual Care

Program Topline:

✓ **Program Status**: One-time (application closes 7/16/2021)

$ **Funding**: $50,000,00

▤ **Who Should Apply**: Existing Health Center Program award recipients currently receiving operational funding

⚠ **Program Limits**: Limited to current Health Center Program award recipients, one-time funding

☎ **Contact**: [BPHC Contact Form]()

Program Description:
"The purpose of the OVC funding is to support health centers to develop, implement, and evaluate innovative, evidence-based strategies that optimize the use of virtual care to increase access and improve clinical quality for underserved communities and vulnerable populations and can be adapted and scaled across the Health Center Program. This funding opportunity will support health centers to systematically design, implement, and evaluate ways to optimize the use of virtual care into the future."[2]

Example Projects:
- No examples available

[HHS Optimizing Virtual Care Website](), [HH OVC Grant Notice]()

1. As quoted from the FY 2022 Service Area Competition [Website]()

2. As quoted from the FY 2022 Optimizing Virtual Care [Website]()

Commerce Additional Programs

Funding Opportunities

Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Program
Helping distressed communities advance economic development strategies.

Commerce Additional Programs

🏛 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Program

Program Topline:

✓ **Program Status**: Ongoing (2021 allocation upcoming)

$ **Funding**: Unknown ($200 million in FY 2019)

▤ **Who Should Apply**: Distressed communities

⚠ **Program Limits**: Communities must qualify as "distressed" and must have a Community Economic Development Strategy in place

☏ **Contact**: EDA contact page ([Link](#))

Program Description:
This program, a rebrand of the Economic Development Administration Program, seeks to address needs in economically distressed areas by building, designing, or engineering infrastructure and facilities to advance economic development strategies. Eligible entities include city, township, county, or special district governments; state governments; federally recognized Tribal governments; nonprofits (excluding institutions of higher education); private institutions of higher education; and public and state-controlled institutions of higher education.

Example Projects:
• No examples available

[Economic Adjustment Assistance Program Fact Sheet](#), [FY 2020 Grant](#)

Other Opportunities

Other Opportunities are programs and other items that may not be conducted at the federal level or are possible as public-private partnerships. These include lists of state and local resources compiled by the NDIA.

State Opportunities

In response to the lack of universal high-speed internet access, many states have committed to helping communities maintain access to the internet. Many programs are possible as a result of federal COVID-19 stimulus funding:

Washington

- Washington's Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction received $8.8 million in CARES Act funds to assist low-income families with buying internet plans and other technology needs

South Carolina

- South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff approved over $26 million in high-speed internet infrastructure projects to facilitate high-speed internet in homes, businesses, schools, health care services in under-served areas across South Carolina

Pew Charitable Trusts and National Digital Inclusion Alliance also have additional information on state-level high-speed internet opportunities.

State Opportunity Focus: California

California has dedicated significant funding in addition to what is federally available to expand high-speed internet access in the state. Many programs are possible as a result of federal COVID-19 stimulus funding:

The California Emerging Technology Fund

- The California Emerging Technology Fund has provided an information hotline for details on affordable internet

- The CETF includes four ongoing funding opportunities:
  - Access Broadband Connect (ABC) Grants: CETF partners with Charter/Spectrum and Frontier Communications to award grants to CBOs based on subscriptions in low-income neighborhoods
  - CASF Adoption Account Matching Funds: CETF matches funds for CBOs to apply to the CPUC CASF Adoption Account
  - Frontier Grant Opportunity: CBOs participate in the partnership between CETF and Frontier Communications for high-speed internet adoption
  - San José Digital Inclusion Partnership Grants: $24 million will be distributed in grant awards over ten years to San José organizations to promote digital inclusion
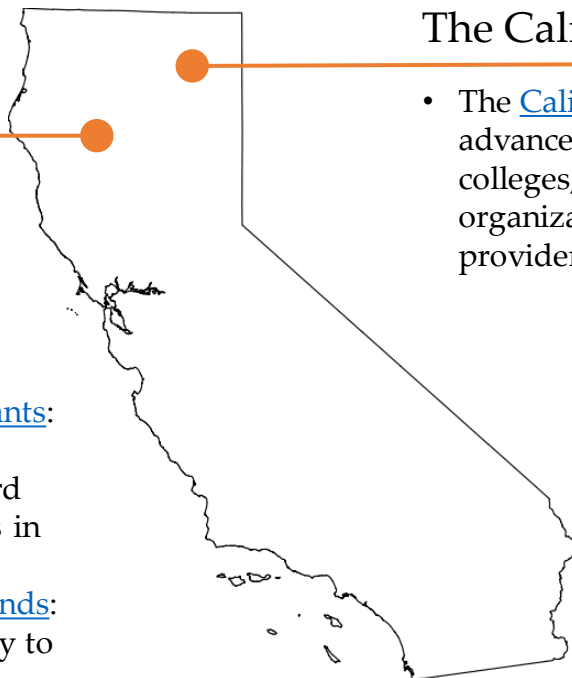
The California Teleconnect Fund

- The California Teleconnect Fund is offering a 50% discount on eligible advanced telecommunications services to schools, libraries, community colleges, government-owned hospitals and health clinics, community-based organizations, healthcare community-based organizations, and 2-1-1- providers

The California Teleconnect Fund:

Program Status: Ongoing

Funding: 50% discount on eligible advanced telecommunication services

Program Target: Schools, libraries, government-owned hospitals and health clinics, community-based organizations, healthcare community-based organizations, 2-1-1- providers

Program Limits: Limited to participating carriers

Contact: CTFHelp @cpuc.ca.gov

# State Opportunity Focus: Colorado

Colorado is another state that has created dedicated resources to those within the state looking to expand high-speed internet access. Many programs are possible as a result of federal COVID-19 stimulus funding:

Colorado Broadband Office

- The Colorado Broadband Office launched its COVID-19 high-speed internet Resources and Updates page, which includes information on various federal and state funding opportunities

Colorado Broadband Fund

- The Colorado Broadband Deployment Board provides grants through the Broadband Fund to establish high-speed internet service in unserved areas
- Grants provide up to 75% of new infrastructure project costs to for-profit entities in rural areas
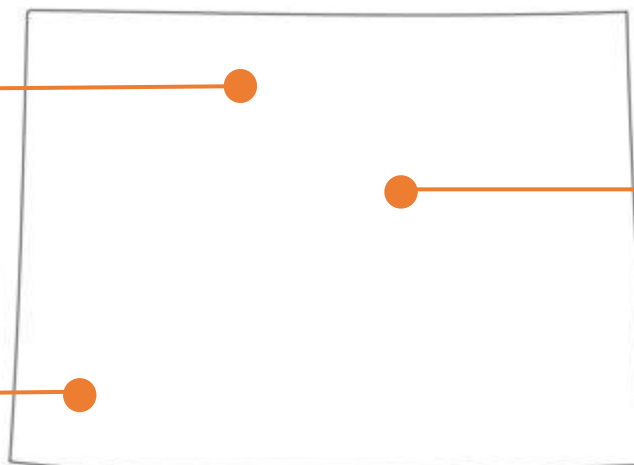
Office of eHealth Innovation

- The Office of eHealth Innovation was awarded $2 million for grants to existing and new telemedicine projects through the Colorado Office of E-Health Innovation Telemedicine Funding Program
- OeHI's telemedicine program has funded 34 projects focused on narrowing the digital divide between rural and urban health providers, advancing health equity for vulnerable populations
- Example Project: $15,376 to Visiting Ancillary Services to provide dental, hearing, and vision services for older adult living facilities in Colorado through telemedicine

Local Opportunities

In response to the lack of universal high-speed internet access, many local governments have committed to helping communities maintain and expand access to the internet. Many programs are possible as a result of federal COVID-19 stimulus funding:

Portland, OR

- The City of Portland has allocated $3.5 million in CARES Act funding to support expanding the services provided under the Technology Kit Pilot to reach at least 3500 low-income residents
- Portland has created a resource sheet as a platform for sharing information relating to connectivity, devices, online training programs, public policy initiatives and non-profit support and funding amongst its Digital Inclusion Network members

Cleveland, OH

- The Cleveland Foundation, Cuyahoga County and T-Mobile today announced the creation of the Greater Cleveland Digital Equity Fund, which will aim to address immediate and long-term needs surrounding high-speed internet access, computing devices, digital literacy, and technology support

For additional local resources, please see NDIA's list of local high-speed internet opportunities

Other Resources

NDIA: State Government COVID Digital Inclusion Response

The NDIA has created a list of resources available at the state level that cover internet access, device access, tech support & digital literacy, and planning & coordination capacity ([Link](#))

NDIA: Local Government COVID Digital Inclusion Response

The NIDA has created a list of resources available at the local level that cover four key areas and list local municipalities that have dedicated resources during COVID ([Link](#))

BroadbandUSA: Federal Funding Guide

Broadband USA has compiled this thorough funding guide for high-speed internet funding opportunities during COVID ([Link](#))

Senator Gillibrand: A Guide to Broadband Funding

The Office of Senator Gillibrand (D-NY) created this guide that includes many programs that specifically target rural constituents ([Link](#))

Internet Society: Guide U.S. to Federal Funding Opportunities

A thorough guide of potential funding resources at the Federal level ([Link](#))

Recent Legislative Developments

Recently enacted and developing legislative items and policies that would significantly change the level of available funding for high-speed internet expansion.

Other Relevant American Rescue Act Plan Provisions

14 Provisions
To fund telehealth and high-speed internet

The American Rescue Act, as passed, contains numerous funding streams for high-speed internet and telehealth related services.

Specific Disbursements:
- $500M for Rural Health Care Grants: USDA grants include telehealth capabilities as an eligible area of focus (§1002)
- $7.6B for Community Healthcare: HHS grants include healthcare infrastructure expansion (§2601)
- $50M for Behavior Health: HHS grants include telehealth-based services (§2707)
- $1.4B for Older Americans Act Funding: Includes technological equipment investments (§2921)
- $10M for National Technical Assistance Center on Grand-families & Kindship Families: To provide training, technical assistance, and resources for government programs (§2922)

Direct Agency/ State Disbursements:
- $219.8B for State Fiscal Recovery: Includes investments in high-speed internet infrastructure (§9817)
- $140M to the Indian Health Service: For information technology, telehealth infrastructure, and the Indian Health Service electronic health records system (§11001)

President Biden's 2021 State of the Union Address
As part of the President's remarks on the American Jobs Act, Biden said that "[Broadband] creates jobs connecting every American with high-speed internet, including 35 percent of the rural America that still doesn't have it. This is going to help our kids and our businesses succeed in the 21st century economy. And I'm asking the Vice President to lead this effort, if she would, because I know it will get done."

Developing Legislative Opportunities

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Developing)

$65 billion for broadband infrastructure

The Senate has passed and the House is currently considering a [$1 trillion dollar infrastructure bill](#) that includes a $65 billion for high-speed internet deployment in hard-to-reach rural communities.[1] Among other provisions, the bill currently includes:

- $42 billion for funding deployment service improvements
  - Minimum funding of $100 million for 50 states and $100 million split between American territories; additional funding by formula
  - Administered by NTIA
- $14.2 billion to support the Affordable Connectivity Fund, which extends Emergency Broadband Benefit program established during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- $1 billion for middle mile infrastructure deployment[2]
- $250 million for a Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program

1. Source: [NYTimes, August 2, 2021](#)
2. Additional details on the broadband provisions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act can be found [here](#).

Index of Included Programs by Agency

Funding Opportunities for Senior High-Speed Internet Access Database

In addition to the main report, a companion document has been included with additional details available about these programs and is included in Appendix B. The Funding Opportunities for Senior High-Speed Internet Access Airtable is a tool that has been developed that enables elder-care providers to identify accessible sources of government funding to affordably implement the necessary infrastructure to provide the high-quality and high-speed internet necessary for telehealth.

Appendices

Appendix A: Archived Programs

Appendix B: Funding Senior High-Speed Internet Access Opportunities Guide

Appendix A:
Archived Programs

Archived Programs are programs that have relevant applicability for congregate living high-speed internet installation but have closed.

Department of Commerce Archived Programs

Funding Opportunities

NTIA: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
A grant program administered by NTIA to fund high-speed internet infrastructure deployment, public computer center access, and sustainable high-speed internet adoption.

Department of Commerce Archived Programs

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)

Program Topline:

Program Status: Applications closed (program ongoing)

Funding: $4.7 billion (2009), of which $1.2 billion reserved for high-speed internet infrastructure deployment

Program Target: For high-speed internet infrastructure, unserved and underserved areas (last-mile and middle-mile facilities)

Program Limits: Program is closed

Contact: Office of Telecommunications and Information Applications, (202) 482-2048

Program Description:
The Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) is a grant program created in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) to promote the development and adoption of high-speed internet in underserved areas in the US. BTOP was used to fund projects "deploying high-speed internet infrastructure, enhancing and expanding public computer centers, and encouraging the sustainable adoption of high-speed internet service."[1]

Example Projects:
- California: Expanding Broadband Access Across California - $3.3 million
- Florida: Ubiquitous Middle Mile - $30.1 million

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Fact Sheet

HHS Archived Programs

Funding Opportunities

HRSA: Telehealth Network Grant Program
Grant program to demonstrate the use of telehealth networks to improve healthcare services.

HRSA: Evidence-Based Tele-Behavioral Health Network Program
Program to use telehealth networks to increase access to behavior health services.

HRSA: Telehealth Resource Center Program
Program to support the delivery of telehealth technical assistance.

HRSA: Telehealth Centers of Excellence
Program that helps assess specific telehealth uses and services in rural areas.

HRSA: Flex Rural Veterans Health Access Program
Cooperative agreement to provide funding to states to coordinate care for veterans.

Health Care Innovation Awards (Rd. 1 & 2)
Program that funded $1B in awards to implement improvements to certain health services.

HHS Archived Programs

Telehealth Network Grant Program

Program Topline:

- **Program Status**: Applications closed (program ongoing)
- **Funding**: $8.7 million
- **Program Target**: Providers of direct clinical services
- **Program Limits**: Program currently closed
- **Contact**: cmena@hrsa.gov

Program Description:
"The overarching goals for the Telehealth Network Grant Program are to:
- Expand access to, coordinate, and improve the quality of health care services
- Improve and expand the training of health care providers
- Expand and improve the quality of health information available to health care providers, and patients and their families, for decision-making"[1]

Example Projects:
- No examples available

[Telehealth Network Grant Program](#)

Evidence-Based Tele-Behavioral Health Network Program

Program Topline:

- **Program Status**: Applications closed (program ongoing)
- **Funding**: $4.15 million
- **Program Target**: Non-profit entities and organizations
- **Program Limits**: Program currently closed
- **Contact**: mmcneely@hrsa.gov

Program Description:
The purpose of this program is to "use telehealth networks to increase access to behavioral health care services in rural and frontier communities and to conduct evaluations of those efforts to establish an evidence-base for assessing the effectiveness of tele-behavioral health care for patients and providers."[2]

Example Projects:
- No examples available

[HHS Telehealth Tele-Behavioral Health Network Program Website](#)

1. As quoted from the Telehealth Network Grant Program [website](#)   2. As quoted from the Tele-Behavioral Health Network Program [website](#)

HHS Archived Programs

Telehealth Resource Center Program

Program Topline:

- **Program Status**: Applications closed (program ongoing)
- **Funding**: $650,000
- **Program Target**: Non-profit entities
- **Program Limits**: Program currently closed
- **Contact**: MCarnes@hrsa.gov

Program Description:
The purpose of NTRCs is to support the delivery of telehealth technical assistance through Regional Telehealth Resource Centers (RTRCs). Two NTRCs may be funded:
- Policy NTRC: will focus on policy issues of telehealth
- Technology NTRC: will focus on telehealth technology issues

Example Projects:
- No examples available

[HHS Telehealth Resource Center Program](#)

Telehealth Centers of Excellence

Program Topline:

- **Program Status**: Applications closed (program ongoing)
- **Funding**: $6.5 million
- **Program Target**: Medical Centers in states with high instances of certain chronic conditions
- **Program Limits**: Program currently closed
- **Contact**: cmorris2@hrsa.gov

Program Description:
"The primary purpose of this program is to assess specific telehealth uses and services to improve health care in rural areas."[1] The Telehealth COEs are located in public academic medical centers that have had a successful telehealth program with a high annual volume of telehealth visits.

Example Projects:
- No examples available

[HHS Telehealth Centers of Excellence Website](#)

1. As quoted from the Telehealth Centers of Excellence [website](#)

HHS Archived Programs

Flex Rural Veterans Health Access Program

Program Topline:

    Program Status: Closed

    Funding: $900,000

    Program Target: Only states are eligible to apply for this program

    Program Limits: Program currently closed

    Contact: OBouloute@hrsa.gov

Program Description:
The purpose is to provide funding to states to "work with providers and other partners to improve access to needed health care services and to improve the coordination of care for veterans living in rural areas."[1] Recipients can implement strategies to improve the capacity of critical access hospitals (CAHs) and other care organizations to provide services.

Example Projects:
- No examples available

[HHS Rural Veterans Health Access Program](#)

1. As quoted from the HRSA [website](#) on the Rural Veterans Health Access Program

Health Care Innovation Awards (Rd. 1 & 2)

Program Topline:

    Program Status: Closed

    Funding: Up to $1 billion per round

    Program Target: Individuals and organizations seeking to improve care and lower costs for Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP users

    Program Limits: Program currently closed

    Contact: InnovationAwards@cms.hhs.gov

Program Description:
"The CMS Innovation center awarded organizations to implement projects in communities across the nation that aimed to deliver better health, improved care and lower costs to people enrolled in Medicare, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), particularly those with the highest health care needs. Funding for these projects was for three years."[2]

Example Project:
- Vinfen Corp. MA - $2,942,962: Telehealth technology to monitor patients

[CMS Health Care Innovation Awards Webpage](#)

2. As quoted from the CMS Innovation Center [Page](#) on Health Care Innovation Awards

FCC Archived Programs

Funding Opportunities

COVID-19 Telehealth Program
COVID-19-driven program to assist healthcare providers' provision of telehealth medicine.

FCC Archived Programs

COVID-19 Telehealth Program

Program Topline:

Program Status: Applications closed (status unknown)

Funding: $249 million (round II)

Program Target: Healthcare providers (consortium or individual)

Program Limits: Unclear if more funding will be available

Contact: Round2TelehealthApplicationSupport@usac.org

Program Description:
The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 allocated $249M to the Telehealth Program to help health care providers provide telehealth and connected care services to patients at their homes or mobile locations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Example Projects:
- Care Alliance Health Center, OH - $86,626 for telehealth equipment for patients at sites including senior centers
- Covenant Health Alliance of Pennsylvania, PA - $362,550 to provide a continuum of care at assisted living, & skilled nursing senior facilities

[FCC Telehealth Program Website](#)

USDA Archived Programs

Funding Opportunities

Rural Development Broadband ReConnect Program
Ongoing program to generate private sector investment to facilitate high-speed internet deployment in rural areas.

Community Connect Grants
Grantmaking program to finance the construction, acquisition, expansion, improvement or leasing of high-speed internet facilities in underserved areas.

Rural Broadband Program
Direct loans and loan guarantee program to fund construction, improvement, or acquisition of high-speed internet facilities and equipment in rural areas.

Rural Community Development Initiative Grant Program
Grantmaking program to support housing, community facilities and community and economic development projects in rural areas.

USDA Archived Programs

Rural Development Broadband ReConnect Program

Program Topline:

- **Program Status**: Application closed (status unknown)
- **Funding**: $673 million (round II)
- **Program Target**: Private sector investment in high-speed internet deployment.
- **Program Limits**: Limited to rural areas, unclear if ongoing
- **Contact**: USDA ReConnect contact page ([Link])

Program Description:
The ReConnect Programs offers loans, grants, and loan/grant combinations to generate private sector investment to facilitate high-speed internet deployment in rural areas, including homes, community facilities for healthcare and public safety, schools, libraries, farms, ranches, factories, and other production sites.

Example Projects:
- Atlantic Telephone Membership Corporation, NC - $21,681,087 to deploy fiber-to-the-premises to 6,853 households, 15 essential community facilities, 19 educational facilities, and 9 healthcare facilities in rural North Carolina (2020)

[USDA ReConnect Loan and Grant Program Website]

Community Connect Grants

Program Topline:

- **Program Status**: Application closed (status unknown)
- **Funding**: $30 million (FY 2020)
- **Program Target**: Network service and construction providers.
- **Program Limits**: Limited to rural areas
- **Contact**: community.connect@usda.gov

Program Description:
Community Connect Grants range between $100,000 and 3,000,000 to finance the construction, acquisition, expansion, improvement or leasing of high-speed internet facilities in areas where high-speed internet service under 10 Mbps/1Mbps does not exist.

Example Projects:
- Preston County Economic Development Authority, WV - $3,000,000 to construct a fiber-to-the-premises network delivering tele-education and telehealth opportunities to households and establishing a community center with free internet

[USDA Community Connect Grants]

USDA Archived Programs

Rural Broadband Program

Program Topline:

- **Program Status**: Application closed (status unknown)

- **Funding**: Awards from $100,000-25,000,000, total unknown

- **Program Target**: Private sector investment in high-speed internet deployment.

- **Program Limits**: Limited to rural areas

- **Contact**: Loan Origination & Approval Division, (202) 720-0800

Program Description:
The Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program offers direct loans and loan guarantees to fund construction, improvement, or acquisition of high-speed internet facilities and equipment in rural areas.

Example Projects:
- No examples available

USDA Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Website

Rural Community Development Initiative Grant Program

Program Topline:

- **Program Status**: Applications closed (program ongoing)

- **Funding**: $6 million (2021)

- **Program Targets:** Public entities, nonprofits, and tribal governments

- **Program Limits**: Limited to rural areas, applications currently closed

- **Contact**: Local Rural Development office (Link)

Program Description:
"RCDI grants are awarded to help non-profit housing and community development organizations, low-income rural communities and federally recognized tribes support housing, community facilities and community and economic development projects in rural areas."[1]

Example Projects:
- No examples available

1. As quoted from the RCDI Website

USDA Rural Community Development Initiative Grant Program

HUD Archived Programs

Funding Opportunities

Capital Fund Program
Grantmaking program to provide financial assistance to public housing agencies.

HUD Archived Programs

Capital Fund Program

Program Topline:

Program Status: Applications closed (program ongoing)

Funding: Unknown

Who Should Apply: Public housing agencies (PHAs)

Program Limits: Applications currently closed

Contact: (202) 402-2071

Program Description:
"The Capital Fund Program (CFP) provides financial assistance in the form of grants to public housing agencies (PHAs) to carry out capital and management activities."[1]

Example Project:
• No examples available

HUD Capital Fund Program   1. As quoted from the Capital Fund Program Website

Appendix B:
Funding Senior High-Speed Internet Access Opportunities Guide

Companion Document: User's Manual for Funding Program Database.

Funding Opportunities for Senior High-Speed Internet Access Airtable: User Manual

The Funding Opportunities for Senior High-Speed Internet Access Airtable is intended to be a tool that enables elder-care providers to identify accessible sources of government funding to affordably implement the necessary infrastructure to provide the high-quality and high-speed internet necessary for telehealth. **You can access the Airtable database [here](#).** It is a companion to a broader report with additional details available about these programs.

As many federal agencies are involved in funding programs related to high-speed internet access, the team has extensively researched the relevant federal agencies, distilled findings, and highlighted select programs as potential funding opportunities.

Due to the issue range, certain programs may only cover select aspects of required infrastructure to establish high-quality internet access. The team has purposefully collected programs that cover the spectrum of necessary services. The team has also included former programs that could be helpful for those who may be interested in future replication at the federal, state, and local levels. Although the team has worked hard to include relevant programs, the space is changing quickly. Programs may change eligibility or status from what is listed in this spreadsheet. This database was last updated in June 2020.

The following document is intended to guide individuals through the categories included in the Funding Opportunities for Senior High-Speed Internet Access Airtable. Any additional questions can be directed to Alex Hart at alex@tfreedmanconsulting.com.

Each item is tagged by program status, who should apply, program limits, department, and program prioritization (see below for more detail on each category). Users can filter the proposals by choosing "add filter" at the top of the screen and selecting an option within each category. For example, if users want to filter for funding opportunities relevant to public housing agencies, they can click on the filter button, under program name choose "Who Should Apply (filter)," and under "Select an Option" choose "Public Housing Agencies."

In addition, users can also group proposals by a specific characteristic to see a discrete set of entries. To do this, users can select "Group" at the top of the screen and then choose the field to group the entries by. It is possible to combine the "filter" and "group" functionalities as desired.

Additional information about each column in the database is offered below.

- **Program Description**: Describes the purpose of the funding opportunity.

- **Government Agency**: Lists the government agency that controls the funding opportunity. Options include:
    - Department of Agriculture
    - Department of Commerce
    - Department of Commerce - NTIA
    - Department of Health and Human Services
    - Department of Health and Human Services - HRSA
    - Department of Housing and Urban Development
    - Department of Treasury
    - Department of Veterans Affairs
    - Federal Communications Commission
    - Interagency
- **Program Status**: Describes the latest updated status of the program. Options include:
    - Ongoing
    - Upcoming
    - One-time
    - Applications Closed (Program Ongoing)
    - Applications Closed (Status Unknown)
    - Closed
- **Who Should Apply (filter):** Tags the entities eligible for application to the funding opportunity. Other eligibility requirements may apply -- see "Eligibility" for more information. Options include:
    - Individuals
    - Households
    - Local Governments
    - Tribal Governments
    - States
    - State/Network Provider Partnerships
    - Libraries
    - Education Providers
    - Rural Healthcare Providers
    - Healthcare Providers
    - Network Providers
    - Housing Providers
    - Public Housing Agencies
    - Public Entities
    - Cooperatives
    - Nonprofits & Community Organizations

- ○ For-Profit Businesses
- ○ Private Investments
- ○ HBCUs, TCUs, & Minority-Serving Institutions
- ○ Distressed Communities
- **Program Limits (filter)**: Tags key potential limitations to the general applicability or eligibility of funding opportunities. See "Program Limits (detail)" for more information. Options include:
  - ○ Applications Closed
  - ○ Alternative Funding (Not Grant)
  - ○ Highly Competitive Grants
  - ○ Limited to Rural Areas
  - ○ Program Status Unclear
  - ○ Restrictive Eligibility Criteria
  - ○ State Program
  - ○ Targets Individuals/Households
- **Eligibility**: Provides greater detail on eligible entities and eligibility requirements for each funding opportunity.
- **Eligible Activities**: Describes eligible costs covered by the funding opportunity.
- **Funding ($):** Describes the total amount of money available in the funding cycle.
- **Program Prioritization**: Categorizes each funding opportunity into four levels based on program type, eligibility, coverage, and status. Options include:
  - ○ Priority Federal Program: loan and grant programs that have broad eligibility for congregate living facilities, directly cover high-speed internet infrastructure installation costs, and are actively grantmaking to eligible organizations.
  - ○ Targeted Federal Program: programs that may directly cover high-speed internet infrastructure installation costs and are current programs, but likely have more stringent eligibility criteria that prevent them from being widely applicable to many congregate living facilities.
  - ○ Additional Federal Program: programs that have applicability to the high-speed internet access space but may have narrow eligibility, cover non-installation related aspects of high-speed internet access, or may not be currently conducting grantmaking despite being active programs.
  - ○ Archived Program: programs that have relevant applicability for congregate living high-speed internet installation but have closed.
- **Program Limits (detail)**: Provides greater detail on key potential limitations to the general applicability or eligibility of funding opportunities.
- **Funding (detail):** Provides greater detail on the total funding available and its sources/status.

- **Grant Amounts**: Describes the range of funding available to an individual entity.
- **Application Process:** Describes the steps needed for eligible entities to apply for the funding opportunity.
- **Example Projects:** Lists examples of past potentially relevant projects funded by this opportunity.
- **Program Website:** Provides a link to the program website.
- **Contact:** Provides contact information for more information on the funding opportunity.