ReConnect Program
Introduction and Overview

USDA RUS ReConnect Program
Understanding ReConnect

An introduction to eligibility, the application process and other critical information in the FOA
ReConnect Program
Pilot program that provides loans and grants to extend broadband service to rural areas.

Assist rural areas that do not have sufficient access (10/1) to broadband.

Minimum requirements:
25Mbps down/3Mbps up

2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act

$600 million in funding

2019 Consolidated Appropriations Act

$550 million in funding
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Buildout Speed</th>
<th>Terms</th>
<th>Application Review</th>
<th>Round 1 Federal Funds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LOAN</strong></td>
<td>25/3 Mbps minimum</td>
<td>Max award: $50 million 2% Interest Rate</td>
<td>$200 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COMBO</strong></td>
<td>25/3 Mbps minimum, incentive for higher speeds</td>
<td>Max award: $50 million 50/50 Loan/Grant UST Rate</td>
<td>$100 million grant + $100 million loan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRANT</strong></td>
<td>25/3 Mbps minimum, incentive for higher speeds</td>
<td>Max award: $25 million 25% match</td>
<td>$200 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Evaluation and Processing Procedures

Loans
• Loans are accepted, evaluated and processed on a rolling basis

Combo Loan/Grant
• Combination Loan/Grant will be evaluated and scored in a competitive process

Grant
• Grants are evaluated and scored in a competitive process
Who Can Apply?

- States, local governments, or any agency, subdivision, instrumentality, or political subdivision thereof
- A territory or possession of the United States
- An Indian tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act)
- Non-profit entities
- For-profit corporations
- Limited liability companies
- Cooperative or mutual organizations
Application Eligibility Factors

• 2 years of historical unqualified, audited Financial Statements
• Fully complete application
• Timely buildout completion
• Financial feasibility and sustainability
• Technical feasibility
• Service areas
• Fully funded
Eligible Costs

• The construction or improvement of facilities, including buildings and land, required to provide broadband service

• Pre-application expenses (not to exceed 5% of the total award). Costs must be incurred after the publication date of the FOA and be documented

• Costs must be reasonable, allocable, and necessary

• Applications that propose to use any portion of the award or matching funds for any ineligible cost may be rejected

For 100% loans only
The acquisition of an existing system that does not currently provide sufficient access to broadband (limited to 40% of the total loan amount).
Competitive Scoring

- Rurality of proposed funded service area
- Farms served
- Performance of the offered service
- Business
- Healthcare centers
- Educational facilities
- Critical community facilities
- Tribal lands
- State broadband activity
Points Breakdown

• Rurality (population density of 6 people or less) – 25 points
• Farms – 1 point each, up to 20 points
• Performance of service (100/100 Mbps) – 20 points
• Businesses – 1 point each, up to 15 points
• Healthcare Centers – 1 point each, up to 15 points
• Educational Facilities – 1 point each, up to 15 points
• Critical Community Facilities – 1 point each, up to 15 points
• Tribal Lands – 5 points
• State Broadband Activity – up to 20 points

Found in the FOA, Section VII. Application Evaluation Criteria
Application Deadlines

• 100% Grant: May 31, 2019
• 50/50 Loan-Grant: June 21, 2019
• 100% Loan: July 12, 2019
Program Status and Outreach
ReConnect Outreach

Six Technical Assistance Pre-Award Workshops

The workshops gave 447 prospective applicants the opportunity to learn more about the ReConnect Program.

13 Technical Assistance Webinars

Organized regularly, the webinars engaged 2,480 external participants interested in the ReConnect Program.

Ongoing Help Desk Support

The technical assistance team answered 1,167 questions received via the Contact Us form on the ReConnect website and through the ReConnect application system.
Workshops Participation

- **Pennsylvania**
  - Registrants: 149
  - Attendees: 115

- **Kansas**
  - Registrants: 131
  - Attendees: 113

- **Alabama**
  - Registrants: 198
  - Attendees: 147

- **Arizona**
  - Registrants: 104
  - Attendees: 62

- **Oregon**
  - Registrants: 131
  - Attendees: 93

- **Minnesota**
  - Registrants: 112
  - Attendees: 74
Round 1 Funding

$600 Million in Appropriations

100% Grants
-$200 million allocated
-$522 million requested from 78 applicants in 34 states

50% Loan/ 50% Grant
-$200 million allocated
-$636 million requested from 53 applicants in 32 states

100% Loans
-$200 million allocated
-$258 million requests from 15 applicants in 21 states

https://reconnect.usda.gov
Late 2019 and the Future

• Congress appropriated $550 Million in additional funding for FY 2019

• USDA expects another Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) to be released in late 2019
  • Requirements and other program details may change in future FOAs
Application Considerations

Key considerations when preparing for the application process
Starting your Application

Online Applications
All applications must be submitted through the online system at https://reconnect.usda.gov

System Registration Requirements
• Taxpayer ID Number
• DUNS number
• SAM.gov registration
• USDA Level II eAuthentication
Available Resources

What resources are available and how you can get help during the application process
Available Resources

Resources
• ReConnect website https://reconnect.usda.gov
• Fact Sheets and FAQs

OneRD Coordination
• Resources across RD
• Help Desk
• Technical Assistance and Support to Applicants
E-Connectivity Toolkit

On February 6th the USDA Launched its new e-Connectivity Resource Guide

• Features 27 USDA programs that support broadband deployment
• Provides information in an easy-to-use resource guide
• Highlights how e-Connectivity resources are being used today to increase access to broadband service in rural communities
For help or questions contact us at

ReConnect Support Desk

https://reconnect.usda.gov