



Grant Guide

Grants to Support Broadband Projects

This guide identifies potential funding opportunities to support broadband projects. The grants chosen for inclusion in this guide are opportunities that are typically reoccurring. Past relevant funding opportunities that are unlikely to be funded in the future were not included.

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Introduction

The following guide provides an overview of federal grant sources for broadband funding. The guide is offered as a starting point for TFG clients interested in broadband opportunities.

The table below provides an overview of the identified grant programs. The table includes a brief synopsis of each program and identifies the activities which the grant could possibly cover. While not all programs focus specifically on broadband, all have at least a broadband component that is eligible for funding.

Program	Synopsis	Grant Supports		
		Planning	Deployment	Adoption
Community Development Block Grant	Provides communities with resources to address a wide range of development need	✓	✓	✓
Choice Neighborhood Program	Supports neighborhood revitalization plans focused on housing, people, and neighborhoods	✓	✓	✓
Community Connectivity Grant Program	Funds broadband deployment in rural communities		✓	
Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Grant Program	Aims to enable and improve distance learning and telemedicine services in rural areas		✓	
Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program: Opioid	Supports treatment for, and prevention of, opioid use disorder in rural areas		✓	
Laura Bush 21 st Century Librarian Program (LB21)	Supports developing a diverse workforce of librarians	✓		✓
National Leadership Grants (Part A): Librarians	Enhances the quality of library and archive services	✓		✓
Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce Revitalization (POWER)	Assists communities and regions that have been affected by job losses in the coal industry	✓	✓	✓
Planning and Local Technical Assistance Program	Assists in the creation of economic development plans and studies of an area or region	✓		
Project Grants	Advances development in the Appalachians			
ReConnect Program	Offers loans, grants, and loan/grant combinations to facilitate broadband deployment in rural areas		✓	
Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) Program	Supports projects that promote rural economic development and job creation		✓	
Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantees	Provides loan and loan guarantees to entities providing broadband deployment		✓	
Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans and Loan Guarantees	Provides financing for the construction, maintenance, improvement and expansion of rural telephone service broadband		✓	



Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agency: Rural Utilities Service (RUS)

FY 2018 Community Connectivity Grant Program

Grant Overview

This program helps fund broadband deployment into rural communities where it is not yet economically viable for private sector providers to deliver service.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2018	\$9,305,565	5

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: \$34 million

Award Range: \$10,000 - \$3 million

Match: Not 15%

Solicitation date: March 15, 2018

Proposal due: May 14, 2018

- Services must be provided for at least two years
- To qualify as a broadband service, the minimum rate of data transmission must be 10 MB per second downstream plus 1 MB per second upstream for both fixed and mobile service
- The minimum broadband grant speed that award recipients must deliver is 25 MB per second downstream and 3 MB upstream for both fixed and mobile service

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-connect-grants>



Awardee Profile

Inland Cellular, LLC
College Park, GA

POPULATION: 14,026

AMOUNT: 483

YEAR: 2018

This rural development investment will be used to implement a fixed wireless LTE network in the 3.65 GHz spectrum to provide service in Pierce, in Clearwater County. The system will cover 266 households and 34 businesses, providing service offerings of up to 15 megabits per second download and 3 Mbps upload.

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agency: Rural Utilities Service (RUS)

FY18 Community Connectivity Grant Program

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support the provision of broadband internet connections to premises in currently unserved, lower income, and extremely rural areas. The program will give priority to areas that demonstrate the greatest need for broadband services.

The program will stipulate practical, everyday uses and applications of broadband by cultivating the deployment of new broadband services that improve economic development and provide enhanced educational and healthcare opportunities in rural areas. The approach will allow rural communities to benefit from the advanced technologies.

Proposed projects must:

- Serve a contiguous geographic area within a rural area(s) where broadband transmission service does not currently exist
- Offer service at the broadband grant speed to all residential and business customers
- Offer free broadband service for at least two years to all critical community facilities
- Provide a community center with at least two computer access points and wireless access at the applicable speed, free of charge, to all users for at least two years

Funds may be used for:

- Construction, acquisition, or leasing of facilities, including spectrum, land, or buildings to deploy broadband services to all residential and business customers and all participating critical community facilities
- Improvement, expansion, construction, or acquisition of a community center and provision of computer access points
- Costs of providing the necessary bandwidth for service free of charge to the critical community facilities for two years

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are: incorporated organizations; Indian tribes or tribal organizations; state or local units of government; and cooperatives, private cooperations, and limited liability companies organized on a for-profit or nonprofit basis.

Applicants must have the legal capacity and authority to own and operate the proposed broadband facilities, to enter into contracts, and to otherwise comply with applicable federal statutes and regulations. Existing award recipients through this program may apply for new projects.

Funding

An unspecified amount of funding is available to support awards ranging from \$100,000 to \$3 million through this program. Services must be provided for at least two years. Funds for the improvement, expansion, construction, or acquisition of a community center should not exceed the lesser of 10 percent of the amount requested or \$150,000.

Applicants must provide at least 15 percent of the requested award amount via nonfederal cash source.

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<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-connect-grants>



Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agency: Rural Utilities Service (RUS)

FY 2019 Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program

Grant Overview

This program aims to enable and improve distance learning and telemedicine services in rural areas. Funding is intended to support the use of telecommunications-enabled information, audio and video equipment, and related advanced technologies by students, teachers, medical professionals, and rural residents.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2018	\$39,555,788	128

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: Unspecified

Award Range: \$50,000 - \$500,000

Match: 15 percent

Solicitation date: February 14, 2019

Proposal due: May 15, 2019

- This program aims to benefit rural areas with populations of 20,000 or less, and while some projects may include end-users in more urbanized areas, the funding agency will evaluate projects based on their benefit to rural areas.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/distance-learning-telemedicine-grants>



Awardee Profile

City of Sanford, ME

AMOUNT: \$495,541

YEAR: 2018

Rural Development funds will help the Sanford School Department purchase video conferencing equipment to provide interactive distance learning services.

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agency: Rural Utilities Service (RUS)

FY19 Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to enable and improve distance learning and telemedicine services in rural areas. Funding is intended to support the use of telecommunications-enabled information, audio and video equipment, and related advanced technologies by students, teachers, medical professionals, and rural residents. Projects will increase rural access to education, training, and health care resources that are otherwise unavailable or limited in scope.

Eligible uses of funds include:

- Acquiring, by lease or purchase, eligible equipment, including:
 - Computer hardware and software
 - Site licenses and maintenance contracts
 - Extended warranties of up to three years
 - Audio and video equipment
 - Computer network components
 - Telecommunications terminal equipment
 - Data terminal equipment
 - Interactive audio/video equipment
 - Inside wiring
 - Broadband facilities, if owned by the applicant
- Acquiring instructional programming that is a capital asset, including the purchase or lease of instructional programming already on the market
- Providing technical assistance and instruction for using eligible equipment, including any related software; developing instructional programming that is a capital asset; and providing engineering or environmental studies relating to the establishment or expansion of the phase of the project to be funded through this program.

Special consideration points will be given to the following types of projects: telemedicine projects that propose to provide treatment and counseling services for opioid use disorder and; distance learning projects that propose to provide access to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) courses.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are: incorporated organizations or partnerships; Indian tribes or tribal organizations; state or local units of government; consortia and; other legal entities, including private nonprofit or for-profit organizations.

The program aims to benefit rural areas with populations of 20,000 or less, and while some projects may include end-users in more urbanized areas, the funding agency will evaluate projects based on their benefit to rural areas.

Eligible applicants must either operate a rural community facility, or deliver distance learning or telemedicine services to entities that operate a rural community facility or to residents of rural areas, at rates calculated to ensure that the benefit of the financial assistance is passed through to such entities or to residents of rural areas.

Funding

An unspecified amount of funding is available to support awards ranging from \$50,000 to \$500,000 through this program.

The costs for providing technical assistance and instruction for use of eligible equipment, including any related software; developing instructional programming that is a capital asset; and providing engineering or environmental studies relating to the establishment or expansion of the phase of the project to be funded through this program, are limited to 10 percent of the award amount.

In general, applicants must provide at least 15 percent of the total funding amount requested via nonfederal cash and/or in-kind contributions.

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<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/distance-learning-telemedicine-grants>



Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agency: Rural Utilities Service (RUS)

FY 2019 Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program: Opioid

Grant Overview

The purpose of this program is to support treatment for, and prevention of, opioid use disorder in rural areas.

Program History

	Total Funding
2019	\$10,154,573

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: \$10,154,573

Award Range: \$50,000 - \$500,000

Match: 15 percent

Solicitation date: February 14, 2019

Proposal due: April 15, 2019

https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/2019_DLT_FOA_Opioid_Final.pdf



Tips

The program prioritizes assistance for rural areas in the 220 counties and jurisdictions that are vulnerable with infection or disease outbreak due to injection drug use.

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agency: Rural Utilities Service (RUS)

FY19 Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program: Opioid

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support treatment for, and prevention for, opioid use disorder in rural areas. Supported projects must address how they will strengthen local capacity to address one or more of the following focus areas:

- **Prevention:** for example, educating community members and care providers or implementing harm-reduction strategies to reduce the number of fatal opioid-related overdoses and the occurrence of opioid use disorder among new and at-risk users
- **Treatment:** for example, implementing or expanding access to evidence-based practices for opioid use disorder treatment, including medication-assisted treatment
- **Recovery:** for example, expanding peer recovery and treatment options that help people with opioid use disorder start recovery and avoid relapse

Assistance will be prioritized in rural areas in the 220 counties and jurisdictions that are vulnerable to infection or disease outbreak due to injection drug use. Applicants proposing projects with end-user sites that are in one or more of the at-risk counties will receive additional points in the evaluation.

Supported projects should enable and improve distance learning and telemedicine services in rural areas. Funding is intended to support the use of telecommunications-enabled information, audio and video equipment, and related advanced technologies by students, teachers, medical professionals, and rural residents. Projects will increase rural access to education, training, and health care resources that are otherwise unavailable or limited in scope.

Eligible uses of funds include:

- Acquiring, by lease or purchase, eligible equipment, including:
 - Computer hardware and software
 - Site licenses and maintenance contracts
 - Extended warranties of up to three years
 - Audio and video equipment
 - Computer network components
 - Telecommunications terminal equipment
 - Data terminal equipment
 - Interactive audio/video equipment
 - Inside wiring
 - Broadband facilities, if owned by the applicant
- Acquiring instructional programming that is a capital asset, including the purchase or lease of instructional programming already on the market

- Providing technical assistance and instruction for using eligible equipment, including any related software; developing instructional programming that is a capital asset; and providing engineering or environmental studies relating to the establishment or expansion of the phase of the project to be funded through this program.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are: incorporated organizations; Indian tribes or tribal organizations; state or local units of government; consortia and; other legal entities, including private nonprofit or for-profit organizations.

The program aims to benefit rural areas with population of 20,000 or less, and while some projects may include end-users in more urbanized areas, the funding agency will evaluate projects based on their benefit to rural areas.

In addition, this program prioritizes assistance for rural areas in the 220 counties and jurisdictions that are vulnerable to infection or disease outbreak due to injection drug use. Applicants proposing projects with end-user sites that are in one or more of the at-risk counties will receive additional points in the evaluation.

Eligible applicants must either operate a rural community facility, or deliver distance learning or telemedicine services to entities that operate a rural community facility or to residents of rural areas, at rates calculated to ensure that the benefit of the financial assistance is passed through to such entities or to residents of rural areas.

Funding

A total of \$10,154,573 is available to support awards ranging from \$50,000 to \$500,000 through this program. The costs of providing technical assistance and instruction for use to eligible equipment, including any related software; developing instructional programming that is a capital asset; and providing engineering or environmental studies relating to the establishment or expansion of the phase of the project to be funded through this program, are limited to 10 percent of the award amount.

In general, applicants must provide at least 15 percent of the total funding amount requested via nonfederal cash and/or in-kind contributions.

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https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/2019_DLT_FOA_Opioid_Final.pdf



Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agency: Rural Utility Service

FY2018 Rural eConnectivity Pilot Program (ReConnect Program)

Grant Overview

The ReConnect Program is an innovative new pilot program that offers unique federal financing and funding options in the form of loans, grants, and loan/grant combinations to facilitate broadband deployment in areas of rural America that don't currently have sufficient access to broadband. This pilot program will generate private sector investment to deploy broadband infrastructure to provide high-speed internet e-Connectivity to as many rural premises as possible, including homes, community facilities for healthcare and public safety, schools, libraries, farms, ranches, factories, and other production sites.

Program History

This is a new pilot program that was created by the United States Congress in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018, as an ambitious initiative to rebuild America's infrastructure.

Key Information

Total Funding: \$600 million

Match: varies by request

Solicitation date: November 24, 2018

Proposal due: varies by request

<https://reconnect.usda.gov/s/>



Tips

- Service areas shall not be located in a city, town or incorporate area that has a population greater than 20,000 or an urbanized area adjacent to a city or town with a population greater than 50,000 people
- At least 90% of households in the proposed project are must not have sufficient access to broadband service
- Sufficient broadband access is defined as 10 megabits per second (Mbps) downstream and 1 Mbps upstream

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agency: Rural Utility Service

FY18 ReConnect Program

Detailed Summary

The ReConnect program is a new opportunity for rural communities with fewer than 20,000 residents that are lacking in high-speed Internet connectivity. Ultimately, the goal is to connect rural communities to support agriculture production and marketing, e-Commerce, health care, and education.

Award Funds may be used to pay for the following costs:

- To fund the construction or improvement of buildings, land, and other facilities that are required to provide broadband service. If other services will be provided over these facilities, then award funds may also be used to acquire the additional equipment. For example, award funds may be used to purchase equipment that is required to comply with the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act, 47 U.S.C. § 1001 et seq (CALEA).
- To fund reasonable pre-application expenses. Funding for pre-application expenses may not exceed five percent of the award amount. If the funding category applied for has a grant component, then grant funds will be used for this purpose; otherwise, loan funds may be applied. All pre-application expenses must be included in the first request for award funds. These expenses may be reimbursed only if they are incurred after the publication date of the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) and are properly documented.
- To fund the acquisition and improvement of an existing system that is currently providing insufficient broadband service (eligible for 100 percent loan requests only). Funding for the acquisition of an existing system may not exceed 40 percent of the award amount.
- To fund terrestrial based facilities that support the provision of satellite broadband service.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants include: non-profit entities; for-profit corporations; limited liability companies; cooperative or mutual organizations; states, local governments, or any agency, subdivision, instrumentality, or political subdivision thereof; a territory or possession of the United States; and an Indian tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. § 450b)).

Applicants must be able to supply retail broadband to customers.

Eligible Service Area

To be eligible to receive ReConnect Program funds, the proposed service area must meet various criteria. First, a proposed service area must contain at least 90% of the households currently lack sufficient broadband access. Sufficient access to broadband means any rural area that has fixed, terrestrial broadband service delivering at least 10 megabits per second (Mbps) downstream and 1 Mbps upstream. For eligibility purposes, if an applicant is applying for multiple proposed funded service areas, each service area will be evaluated on a stand-alone basis.

A proposed funded service must also be located in a rural area. A rural area is any area that is not located in a city, town, or incorporated area that has a population of greater than 20,000 inhabitants or an urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to a city or town that has a population of greater than 50,000 inhabitants.

Additional service area eligibility requirements include the following:

- Overlapping Service Areas: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) will not fund more than one project that serves any one given geographic area. If RUS receives applications that contain overlapping service areas, these procedures will be followed to review such applications:
 - Determine the overlap to be so insignificant that no agency action is necessary;
 - Request one or more applications to be revised to eliminate the overlapping territory;
 - Choose one application over another given the amount of assistance requested, the number of awards already chosen in the area or State, or the need for the project in the specific area due to other factors; or
 - Simply choose the project that scores higher or in the judgement of the agency is more financially feasible.
- Prior Funded Service Areas: The RUS will not fund a project proposing to serve an area that has already received financial assistance for broadband service:
 - RUS Broadband Loans: Service areas of borrowers that have RUS broadband loans are ineligible applicants. A RUS broadband borrower means any entity that has received a Telecommunications Infrastructure loan, Farm Bill Broadband loan or Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP) loan any time after the beginning of Fiscal Year 2000. Only RUS broadband borrowers that received funding to provide service in an area where the borrower is not currently delivering at least 10 Mbps downstream and 1 Mbps upstream would be eligible to apply for funding for these service areas if they have not defaulted on, and have materially complied with, in the sole discretion of RUS, their prior broadband loan requirements.
 - RUS Community Connect Grants: Service areas that received grants under the RUS Community Connect Grant Program are eligible if they do not have sufficient broadband access, except for those grants still under construction.
 - RUS BIP Grants: Service areas that received a 100% grant under the RUS BIP are eligible if the BIP grantee is not already delivering at least 10 Mbps downstream and 1 Mbps upstream broadband service. However, if the applicant is the same BIP grantee, then the applicant may only request a 100% loan.
 - State-funded Areas: Areas that have received State funding to deploy broadband at a speed of at least 10 Mbps downstream and 1 Mbps upstream are not eligible areas. Applicants must provide a map of the proposed funded service area to the appropriate State government office and the State government office must certify whether funds have or have not been allotted for the area.
 - CAF II - Auction 903 Winners: Funding for service areas of CAF II recipients can only be requested by the entity that is receiving the CAF II support, and project sponsors that received CAF II award may only apply for funds that serve those areas from the 100% Loan funding category under the ReConnect Program.

Funding and Deadlines

The FY18 the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (the Act), established a new broadband loan and grant pilot program, now called the Rural ReConnect Program. The Act appropriated a budget authority of \$600,000,000 to be used on an expedited basis. Applicants will be limited to one of the following applications:

- 100% Grant: Up to \$200,000,000 is available for grants. The maximum amount that can be requested in an application is \$25,000,000. Applications are due to USDA by April 29, 2019.

The proposed funded service area for this category must be in an area where 100% of the households do not have sufficient broadband access. Applicants must propose to build a network that can provide service to every premise in the proposed funded service area at a speed of 25 megabits per second (Mbps) downstream and 3 Mbps upstream. Applicants must provide a matching contribution equal to 25 percent (%) of the cost of the overall project. The matching contribution can only be used for eligible purposes. If an applicant chooses to submit an application for the 100% grant funding opportunity and receives an award, the matching contribution must be expended first, followed by grant funds, except for approved pre-application expenses.

- 50% Loan / 50% Grant: Up to \$200,000,000 is available for loan/grant combinations. The maximum amount that can be requested in an application is \$25,000,000 for the loan and \$25,000,000 for the grant. Loan and grant amounts will always be equal. Applications are due to USDA by May 29, 2019.

The interest rate for the 50% loan component will be set at the Treasury rate for the remaining amortization period at the time of each advance of funds. The proposed funded service area for this category must be in an area where 90% of the households do not have sufficient broadband access. Applicants must propose to build a network that can provide service to every premises in the proposed funded service area at a speed of 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream. Applicants may propose substituting cash for the loan component at the time of application. If an applicant chooses the 50% loan / 50% grant funding opportunity and receives an award, all cash provided in lieu of loan funds must be expended first, followed by loan funds, and then by grant funds, except for approved pre-application expenses. Grant funds must be requested as part of the first advance request for the reimbursement of eligible pre-application expenses.

- 100% Loan: Up to \$200,000,000 is available for loans. The maximum amount that can be requested in an application is \$50,000,000. Applications are due to USDA by June 28, 2019.

The interest rate for a 100% loan will be set at a fixed 2%. The proposed funded service area for this category must be in an area where 90% of the households do not have sufficient broadband access. Applicants must propose to build a network that can provide service to every premise in the proposed funded service area at a speed of 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream. Tangible equity to total assets must be at least 20% at the end of the calendar year starting in the third year of the forecast period through the remainder of the forecast period.

Contact Information

Contact your General Field Representative for assistance, found [here](#).

<https://reconnect.usda.gov/s/>



Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agency: Rural Utilities Service

FY 2019 Rural Broadband Access Loans and Loan Guarantees Program

Grant Overview

The Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program furnishes loans and loan guarantees to provide funds for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide service at the broadband lending speed in eligible rural areas.

Program History

	Total Funding
2018	\$29 million
2017	\$27 million

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: Unspecified

Award Range: \$100,000 - \$25 million

Match: Not Required

Solicitation date: November 15, 2018

Proposal due: Rolling; solicitation closes September 30, 2019

- No funding for Guaranteed Loans is available in FY 2019, and the agency will not be considering applications for this type of funding
- RUS offers pre-application assistance for applicants

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-broadband-access-loan-and-loan-guarantee>



Tips:

- Applications will be processed on a first come first serve basis
- USDA encourages applications that will support recommendations made in the Rural Prosperity Task Force report to help improve life in rural America

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agency: Rural Utility Service

FY19 Rural Broadband Access Loans and Loan Guarantees Program

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to increase economic opportunities and improve the quality of life for families and businesses in rural America by providing investment capital in the form of loans and loan guarantees for the deployment and improvement of telecommunications/broadband infrastructure in rural areas.

During FY 2019, loans will be made available for the construction, improvement, and acquisition of facilities and equipment that will provide service at the Broadband Lending Speed in eligible rural areas. No funding for Guaranteed Loans is available in FY 2019, and the agency will not be considering applications for this type of funding.

The agency encourages applications that will support recommendations made in the [Rural Prosperity Task Force report](#) to help improve life in rural America. Applicants are encouraged to consider projects that provide measurable results in helping rural communities build robust and sustainable economies through strategic investments in infrastructure, partnerships, and innovation. Key strategies include:

- Achieving e-Connectivity for Rural America
- Developing the Rural Economy
- Harnessing technological Innovation
- Supporting a Rural Workforce
- Improving Quality of Life

Applicant Eligibility

To be eligible for a broadband loan, an applicant may be either a non-profit or for-profit organization, and must take one of the following forms:

- Corporation
- Limited liability company (LLC)
- Cooperative or mutual organization
- State or local unit of government
- Indian tribe or tribal organization

In order for a geographic area to be eligible the area must:

- Have a proposed funding area completely contained within a rural area or composed of multiple rural areas
- Have at least 15 percent of the households in the proposed funding service unserved
- Not have three or more incumbent service providers in the proposed funded service area
- Not overlap with the service area of a current RUS borrower or the service areas of grantees that were funded by RUS

Communities where USDA RUS has previously provided funding for construction of broadband infrastructure may not be eligible.

Funding

An unspecified amount of funding is available to support an unspecified amount of awards in FY 2019. Loans under this authority will not be made for less than \$100,000. The maximum loan amount that will be considered for FY 2019 is \$25 million.

No match requirement is given for FY 2019.

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<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-broadband-access-loan-and-loan-guarantee>



Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agency: Rural Business-Cooperative Service

FY 2019 Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) Program

Grant Overview

The REDLG program supports projects that promote rural economic development and job creation.

Program History

	Loan Funding	Grant Funding
2016	\$24,727,960	\$7,666,833
2015	\$8,723,647	\$2,950,000

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: Unspecified

Award Range: \$2 million maximum (loans); \$300,000 maximum (grants)

Match: 20%

Solicitation date: November 15, 2018

Proposal due: Rolling; solicitation close once a quarter

- Applicants may request technical assistance and other application guidance from the funding agency
- There is no limit on the number of application an applicant may submit

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-economic-development-loan-grant-program>



Awardee Profile

Piedmont Electric
Membership (City of
Roxboro)

POPULATION: 8,290

AMOUNT: \$300,000

YEAR: 2016

Piedmont Electric Membership was awarded a \$300,000 RED Grant which is provided to the City of Roxboro as a no interest loan in order to assist the City in the purchase of a new pumper tanker fire truck.

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agency: Rural Business-Cooperative Service

FY19 Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) Program

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support projects that promote rural economic development and job creation. The funding agency encourages award recipients to conduct projects that support recommendations made in the Rural Prosperity Task Force report to help improve life in rural America. Applicants are also encouraged to consider projects that provide measurable results in helping rural communities build robust and sustainable communities through strategic investments in infrastructure, partnerships, and innovation.

Key strategies include:

- Achieving e-connectivity for rural America
- Supporting a rural workforce
- Developing the rural economy
- Improving quality of life
- Harnessing technological innovation

Awards will be provided in the forms of loans or grants, and eligible costs include:

- Business start-up costs
- Business expansion
- Business incubators
- Technical assistance feasibility studies
- Advanced telecommunications services and computer networks for medical, educational, and job-training services
- Communities facilities projects for economic development

Priority and additional discretionary points during the evaluation process will be provided to projects that:

- Are located in Rural Empowerment Zones, Rural Economic Area Partnership Zones, Rural Enterprise Communities, or Champion Communities
- Are located in counties that have experienced the loss, removal, or closing of a major source or sources of employment in the last three years, which has caused an increase of two percentage points or more in the counties' most recent unemployment rates
- Are located in counties that have experienced chronic or long-term economic deterioration
- Are located in counties that were designated disaster areas within the past three years
- Are consistent with the funding agency's approved strategic plan and mission area objectives, and are identified as priority areas for assistance in states' plans

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are: corporations; states and territories; subdivisions and agencies of states and territories; municipalities; people's utility districts; and, cooperative, nonprofit, or limited-dividend associations.

Funding

An unspecified amount of funding is available to support loans of up to an anticipated \$2 million and grants of up to an anticipated \$300,000 through this program. Loans will be made at a zero percent interest rate.

Applicants seeking grants must establish a revolving loan fund, and provide an amount equal to at least 20 percent of the grant amount. Applicants seeking loans, or the ultimate recipient of the loan must provide at least 20 percent of the loan amount. The provision of matching contributions beyond 50 percent of awards will be taken into consideration during the evaluation process.

Awards will be made on the following dates:

- February 28, 2019, for applications submitted by December 31, 2018
- May 31, 2019, for applications submitted by March 31, 2019
- August 31, 2019, for applications submitted by June 30, 2019

Contact Information

Cindy Mason
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cindy.mason@wdc.usda.gov

Sami Zarour
(202) 720-9549
sami.zarour@wdc.usda.gov

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-economic-development-loan-grant-program>



Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Agency: Rural Utility Service (RUS)

FY 2018 Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans and Loan Guarantees

Grant Overview

This program provides financing for the construction, maintenance, improvement and expansion of telephone service broadband in rural areas.

Program History

	Funding	Number of Awards
2018	\$87,969,000	7

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: Unspecified

Award Range: \$50 million maximum

Match: 20%

Solicitation date: Rolling

Proposal due: Rolling

- Funding is available in the form of cost-of-money loans, guaranteed loans, and hardship loans
- The current assets of the applicant will be pledged as security for the debt.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/telecommunications-infrastructure-loans-loan-guarantees>



Awardee Profile

Arkwest Communications, Inc, AK

AMOUNT: \$24,015,000

YEAR: 2018

Arkwest Communications Inc. was awarded funds to establish a fiber-to-the-home network that will provide nearly 4,000 customers with voice, broadband, and internet television services, and make other system improvements.

Department: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agency: Rural Utility Service (RUS)

FY18 Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans and Loan Guarantees

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support the construction, maintenance, improvement, and expansion of telephone service and broadband in rural areas. Telecommunications improvements are expected to accommodate distance learning, telework, and telemedicine, thereby advancing educational opportunities, health care, safety and security, and ultimately lead to higher employment.

Funding is intended to ensure that rural areas can access affordable, reliable, and advanced telecommunications services to provide a healthy, safe, and prosperous place to work. Partnerships with other federal, state, local, private, or nonprofit entities are encouraged.

Funding is available in the form of cost-of-money loans, guaranteed loans, and hardships loans. Guaranteed and hardship loans may be used for”

- Financing telecommunications facilities
- Financing headquarters buildings
- Financing vehicles not used in construction
- Refinancing non-Rural Utilities Service (RUS) debt

Loan funds may be approved for facilities to serve non-rural subscribers only if the principal use of the loan is to furnish and improve rural service, and the use of loan funds to serve non-rural subscribers is necessary and incidental to the principal purpose of the loan.

Applicants must have the legal authority to provide, construct, operate, and maintain the proposed facilities or services. All supported facilities must be used for a public purpose.

Eligible project costs include:

- New construction
- Improvements
- Expansions
- Acquisitions
- Refinancing, if deemed necessary

Funds may be used for acquisitions only when the acquisition cost is necessary and incidental to furnishing or improving rural telephone service, and the service area to be acquired is eligible for financing.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants include: state and local government entities; federally recognized tribes; nonprofit organizations, including cooperatives and limited dividend or mutual associations; and for-profit businesses that function as a corporation or limited liability company (LLC).

Projects must serve rural areas or towns with a population of 5,000 or fewer. Additionally, the project area must be without telecommunications facilities, or the applicant must be recognized as the telecommunications provider for the area. To confirm whether the project area is eligible, applicants may contact the appropriate general field representative (GFR) listed online at www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us.

Projects may serve non-rural subscribers only if the principal use of the loan is to furnish and improve rural service, and the use of loan funds to serve non-rural subscribers is necessary and incidental to the principal purpose of the loan.

Preference is given to applicants already providing telephone service in rural areas. Applicants may request multiple loans and may request any combination of the available loans.

Funding

An unspecified amount of funding is available to support loans of at least \$50,000 through this program. The following types of loans are available through this program:

- Cost-of-money loans: Loans will be issued at current U.S. Treasury rates and capped at 7 percent per year. Generally, no more than 10 percent of the funding agency's appropriations in any fiscal year may be loaned to a single borrower.
- Guaranteed loans: Loans are primarily issued by the Federal Financing Bank (FFB) at varying interest rates depending on call options and the interim maturity rate.
- Hardship loans: Loans have a fixed rate of 5 percent. Generally, no more than 10 percent of hardship funds appropriated in any fiscal year may be loaned to a single borrower.

For guaranteed and hardship loans, refinancing costs are limited to 40 percent of the entire loan. Generally, the funding agency will not make a loan for the acquisition of an existing borrower.

There are no stated matching requirements for this program.

Contact Information

Program Staff
(202) 720-9556
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<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/telecommunications-infrastructure-loans-loan-guarantees>



Agency: Appalachian Regional Commission

FY 2019 Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER)

Grant Overview

POWER is a congressionally funded initiative that targets federal resources to help communities and regions that have been affected by job losses in coal mining, coal power plant operations, and coal-related supply chain industries due to the changing economics of America's energy production.

Program History

Total Funding	# of Awards
\$120 million	149

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: \$45 million

Award Range: varies by component

Match: Varies by "distressed county" status

Solicitation date: January 7, 2019

Proposal due: April 10, 2019

- Funding will be provided through three components: Implementation Grants, Technical Assistance Grants, and Broadband Grants
- Eligibility is limited to projects serving and benefiting a portion of the Appalachian region
- Project periods may be up to three years

<https://www.arc.gov/funding/power.asp>



Awardee Profile

West Alabama Works (WAW)
Tuscaloosa, AL

POPULATION: 100,287

AMOUNT: \$1,500,810

YEAR: 2018

The project will deliver job training services to fill critical regional workforce needs in the rapidly growing automotive and advanced manufacturing industries in western Alabama. WAW has partnered with Mercedes Benz to develop a specific recruitment and training plan for positions in mechatronics and industrial maintenance at their facilities in the area.

Agency: Appalachian Regional Commission

FY19 Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER)

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to help communities and regions that have been affected by job losses in coal mining, coal power plants operations, and coal-related supply chain industries due to the changing economics of America's energy production. Funding will support efforts to create a more vibrant economic future for coal-impacted communities by cultivating economic diversity, enhancing job training and reemployment opportunities creating jobs in existing or new industries, and attracting new sources of investment. Funding will be providing for the following program components:

(Part A): Implementation Grants: The purpose of the Implementation Grants component is to invest in economic and workforce development projects and activities that will produce one, or any combination, of the following outcomes:

- Economic diversification: diversify the commercial and industrial bases of local and regional economies
- Job creation: create high-quality, well-paying jobs in new and/or existing industries
- Capital investment: attract new sources of both public and private job-creating investment
- Workforce development and reemployment opportunities: provide a range of workforce services and skills training, including paid work-based learning opportunities, resulting in industry-recognized credentials for high-quality, in-demand jobs

All applications must address one or more of the following goals:

- Economic opportunities: invest in entrepreneurial and business development strategies that strengthen Appalachia's economy
- Ready workforce: improve the education, knowledge, skills, and health of residents to work and succeed in Appalachia
- Critical infrastructure: invest in critical infrastructure, especially broadband; transportation, including the Appalachian Development Highway System; and water/wastewater systems
- Natural and cultural assets: strengthen Appalachia's community and economic development potential by leveraging the region's natural and cultural heritage assets
- Leadership and community capacity: build the capacity and skills of current and next-generation leaders and organizations to innovate, collaborate, and advance community and economic development

Project ideas that do not fit the following investment priorities will be considered for funding; however, all applications will be scored on their ability to address one of these priority areas:

- Building a competitive workforce
- Fostering entrepreneurial activities

- Developing industry clusters in communities
- Strengthening substance abuse response

In order to maximize the impact of the Appalachian Regional Commission's (ARC's) investments on the economic transition in coal-impacted communities, ARC will give preference to applications that successfully address the following factors:

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| • Large-scale projects | • Collaborative |
| • Include assessment and planning | • Evidence of leverage |
| • Targeted to economic and community restructuring | • Outcome-driven |
| | • Sustainability |

(Part B): Technical Assistance Grants: The purpose of the Technical Assistance Grants component is to assist communities and regions in developing plans and strategies for transforming the structure of their local economies. Awards issued through this component will also prove helpful when planning projects that cross standard jurisdictional boundaries, such as state lines.

(Part C): Broadband: The purpose of the Broadband component is to support the following types of broadband projects:

Broadband deployment: projects that enhance access to and use of broadband services; examples include:

- Fiber deployment projects, with priority given to:
 - Projects with a completed feasibility study
 - Deployment in a central business district designated area and industrial parks
 - Networks and projects that will be operational upon the completion of construction
- Wireless deployment projects, with priority given to:
 - Projected with a completed feasibility study
 - Networks and projects that will be operational upon the completion of construction

Existing broadband service: projects that seek to utilize existing broadband service or increase its adoption through community outreach efforts or innovative economic development initiatives; examples include:

- Business development activities on how broadband can be used to increase local/regional/national/international business activity
- Community outreach efforts to increase broadband use and adoption
- Unique distance-learning and other telecom-oriented health practice enhancements

Broadband feasibility studies: projects that seek to understand the feasibility of broadband deployment, examples include:

- Provide an inventory of broadband assets already in place
- Used to assess community broadband requirements for bandwidth needs
- Determine best technologies to meet the coal-impacted community needs
- Provide cost estimates for different deployment strategies
- Provide an analysis of alternative deployment routes

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are: local government districts; Indian tribes or a consortium of Indian tribes; states, counties, cities, or other political subdivisions of a state, including special purpose units of a state or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions; institutions of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education; and public or private nonprofit organizations or associations.

Projects must serve and benefit a portion of the Appalachian region which includes certain counties in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and all of West Virginia. If projects extend beyond the Appalachian region, only that portion that is within the region is eligible for funding.

Funding

Approximately \$45 million is available for this program overall.

(Part A): Implementation Grants: An unspecified amount available to support awards ranging from about \$400,000 to no more than \$1.5 million through this component.

(Part B): Technical Assistance Grants: An unspecified amount available to support awards of up to \$50,000 through this component.

(Part C): Broadband: A minimum of \$15 million has been set aside to fund broadband deployment projects. Maximum award amounts will vary according to project type, as follows:

- Broadband deployment projects: \$2.5 million
- Existing broadband service projects: \$1.5 million
- Broadband feasibility studies: \$50,000

The project period for all three components may be up to three years, if warranted by the size and scope of the project.

Match

Applicants must demonstrate a matching share from non-Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) sources that is identified and forthcoming to the project. Matching sources may be nonfederal, other federal, or a combination of sources. The maximum share of ARC assistance is determined by the ARC classification of the county or counties served by the proposed activity. Applicants may request up to 80 percent of the total project cost when the county served by a project has been designated by the ARC as economically distressed. A table summarizing ARC's economic designations and the maximum ARC share for each Appalachian county can be found [here](#).

For an ARC multicounty project, the following special matching rules apply:

- If there is a distressed county in the project and at least half of the counties are distressed, the project may be funded at up to 80 percent of project costs.
- If there is a distressed county in the project and at least half of the counties are some combination of distressed and at-risk, ARC assistance can be the higher of 70 percent of project costs or the average percentage applicable to the various counties in the project.

- If there is a distressed county in the project and fewer than half the counties are distressed, ARC assistance can be the higher of 50 percent of project costs or the average percentage applicable to the various counties in the project.

If there is no competitive county or attainment county in a project, and at least half the counties are at-risk, the project may be funded at up to 70 percent of project costs.

Contact Information

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<https://www.arc.gov/funding/power.asp>



Agency: Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)

FY 2019 Appalachian Regional Commission: Project Grants

Grant Overview

This program advances community and economic development in the Appalachian region. Projects must support economic opportunities, ready workforce, critical infrastructure, natural and cultural assets, or leadership and community capacity.

Program History

	# of Awards
2016	400
2015	400

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: Unspecified

Award Range: Unspecified

Match: 50%

Proposal due: Rolling

- Eligibility is limited to entities operating in the Appalachian region
- To initiate the application process, applicants must contact the appropriate state manager in their state, using the information provided online at www.arc.gov to request a pre-application package

<https://www.arc.gov/funding/GrantsandFunding.asp>



Awardee Profile

Big Sandy Community and Technical College (BSCTC)
Prestonsburg, KY

POPULATION: 3,438

AMOUNT: \$500,000

YEAR: 2016

This awards gives funding for BSCTC to construct a Broadband Technology Center on its Pikeville Campus. The Center will serve as a catalyst to community and economic development in eastern Kentucky, and will serve as the standard for broadband and fiber optic training in the southeast U.S.

Agency: Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)

FY19 Appalachian Regional Commission: Project Grants

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to advance community and economic development in the Appalachian region. Supported projects must demonstrate contributions to the achievement of one or more of the following program goals:

- Economic opportunities: investing in entrepreneurial and business development strategies that strengthen Appalachia's economy
- Ready workforce: increasing the education, knowledge, skills, and health of residents to work and succeed
- Critical infrastructure: investing in critical infrastructure, especially broadband; transportation, including the Appalachian Development Highway System; and water/wastewater systems
- Natural and cultural assets: strengthening community and economic development potential by leveraging the region's natural and cultural heritage assets
- Leadership and community capacity: building the capacity and skills of current and next-generation leaders and organizations to innovate, collaborate, and advance community and economic development

In addition, a limited number of projects that take advantage of special development opportunities or respond to emergency economic distress may also be supported.

Eligible project activities include the following:

- Business development and entrepreneurship activities, including awards for industrial site development, business incubators, special technical assistance and training, and expansion of domestic and foreign markets
- Education and training activities, including projects that develop, support, or expand education and training programs
- Health care, including funding for equipment and demonstration projects, and, in special cases, for renovation and construction of facilities
- Physical infrastructure, including support of basic infrastructure, including water and sewer facilities, as well as housing and telecommunications projects
- Leadership development and civic capacity, including support for the development and implementation of community-based strategic plans, training for citizen leaders, local officials, and management staff from nonprofit community organizations, organizational support for community organizations, and other activities

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants include community-based organizations, public and private nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, local development districts (LDDs), and local and state governments. Typically, the

funding agency makes awards to state and local agencies, governmental entities, such as economic development authorities, local governing boards, such as county councils, and nonprofit organizations, such as schools and organizations that build low-cost housing.

Eligibility is limited to entities operating in the Appalachian region, which include all of West Virginia, and portions of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

Funding

An unspecified amount of funding is available to support awards through this program.

Applicants must generally provide at least 50 percent of the eligible project costs; however the following exceptions apply based on economic status:

- Projects in ARC-designated distressed counties: 20 percent match requirement
- Projects in ARC-designated at-risk counties: 30 percent match requirement
- Projects in ARC-designated competitive counties: 70 percent match requirement

Work on the Appalachian Development Highway System is subject to a 20 percent match requirement, wherever the project is located. Access road projects in distressed, at-risk, and transitional counties are also subject to a 20 percent match requirement.

Contact Information

Program Staff
(202) 884-7700
info@arc.gov



Department: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Agency: Public and Indian Housing

FY 2018 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants Program

Grant Overview

Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants support the development of comprehensive neighborhood revitalization plans which focus on directing resources to address three core foals: Housing, People, and Neighborhoods.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2018	\$4.85 million	6
2017	\$4.95 million	6
2016/2015	\$8 million	10

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: \$5 million

Award Range: Varies by category

Match: 5%

Solicitation date: April 10, 2018

Proposal due: June 12, 2018

- Funding will be issued via planning awards or planning and actin awards
- Applicants may not apply for this program and the Choice Neighborhood’s Implementation Grant program

Website information is available [here](#).



Awardee Profile

Housing Authority of the City of Baltimore
Baltimore, MD

POPULATION: 611,648

AMOUNT: \$1.3 million

YEAR: 2018

Choice Neighborhood Planning Grants funding will allow the Housing Authority of the City of Baltimore to lead a community-driven process to establish a roadmap to meet the needs and realize the hopes of local residents. A variety of community engagement events, such as open houses, charrettes, and focus groups in conjunction of local resident organizations will be held throughout the planning process.

Department: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Agency: Public and Indian Housing

FY18 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants Program

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to help communities transform neighborhoods by redeveloping severely distressed public and/or U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-assisted housing and catalyzing critical improvements in the neighborhood. Funding will support locally driven strategies that aim to achieve the following three core goals:

- **Housing:** replacing distressed public and assisted housing with high-quality, mixed-income housing that is well-managed and responsive to the needs of the surrounding neighborhood
- **People:** improving outcomes of households living in the target housing related to employment and income, health, and children's education
- **Neighborhood:** creating the conditions for public and private reinvestment in distressed neighborhoods to offer the kinds of amenities and assets, including safety, good schools, and commercial activity, that are important to families' choices about their community

To achieve these core goals, successful applicants must develop and implement a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategy, or "transformation plan." To support the sustainability of the transformation plan, successful applicants will need to work with public and private agencies, organizations, and individuals to gather and leverage the financial and human capital resources needed.

Each application must focus on the revitalization of at least one severely distressed public and/or assisted housing project. Projects must take place in neighborhoods in which at least 20 percent of the residents are estimated to be in poverty or have extremely low incomes, and in which residents are experiencing distress related to high crime and high vacancy. The funding agency encourages activities in "Promise Zones" communities.

Required project activities include:

- Conducting household-level needs assessments of the public and/or assisted housing residents in the target development(s) to better design solutions for the children and families of HUD housing
- Devising relocation strategies for residents that need to be relocated during the rehabilitation or reconstruction of the public and/or assisted housing
- Conducting market assessments, if not already completed
- Selecting master developers/housing developers, if not already identified
- Completing Phase I environmental assessments
- Determining the potential for negative effects of demolition on historic properties, if appropriate
- Implementing approved action activities, as defined on pages 8-9 of the NOFA file, if awarded funds for action activities

Eligible project activities include:

- Conducting comprehensive needs assessments to inform the development of the transformation plan
- Undertaking a comprehensive and integrated planning process that addresses the challenges and gaps in services and assets identified through the needs assessments and leads to a plan for implementation that has broad community support
- Conducting technical planning studies concerning local development issues, priorities, or suggested appropriate approaches in the context of the local housing market relative to other alternatives
- Working with public and private agencies, organizations, and individuals to develop the transformation plan; gather and leverage resources needed to support the financial sustainability of the transformation plan; identify strategies for building upon and leveraging existing neighborhood efforts and anticipated federal, state, regional, and local investments; and strengthen management and decision-making capacities of participating organizations
- Ensuring meaningful resident, community, and stakeholder participation throughout the development of the transformation plan
- Planning for the collection and strategic use of relevant data to track future community impacts once the transformation plan is implemented
- Identifying and securing the involvement of effective practices and actors based on the best available evidence
- Implementing early action activities, as defined on page 10 of the NOFA file

Funding will be issued via planning awards or planning and action awards. Planning awards will support all required and eligible activities, except action activities. Planning and action awards will support all required and eligible activities, including action activities.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are: public housing authorities (PHAs); local governments, including those located in Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa; tribal entities, including Indian tribes and tribally designated housing entities; and nonprofit organizations.

The lead applicant may choose to apply for funding with a co-applicant; however, the co-applicant must also be an eligible applicant. The lead applicant will serve as the primary entity responsible for implementing the activities identified in the application.

Each application must focus on the revitalization of at least one severely distressed public and/or assisted housing project. Projects must take place in neighborhoods in which at least 20 percent of the residents are estimated to be in poverty or have extremely low incomes, and in which residents are experiencing distress related to high crime and high vacancy. The funding agency encourages activities in “Promise Zones” communities.

A PHA applicant that has been designated as troubled by the funding agency may still be eligible to apply.

Funding

An estimated \$5 million is available to support approximately six awards through this program. Award availability, maximum award amounts, and project periods will vary according to award type, as follows:

- Planning and action awards: approximately three awards of up to \$1.3 million each for project periods of three and one-half years

- Planning awards: approximately three awards of up to \$350,000 each for project periods of two years

Award announcements are expected to be issued approximately four months after the application due date.

Project periods are expected to begin on December 3, 2018.

Applicants must provide a match of at least 5 percent of the award amount via cash or in-kind contributions.

Contact Information

Program Staff

ChoiceNeighborhoods@hud.gov



Department: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Agency: Office of Community Planning and Development

FY 2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

Grant Overview

The Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) is a flexible program that provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs.

Program History

	Total Funding
2018	\$3.3 billion
2017	\$3.1 billion
2016	\$3.2 billion
2015	\$3.1 billion

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: \$3.365 billion

Award Range: Unspecified

Match: Not Required

Proposal due: August 15, 2019

- Award recipients must develop and follow a detailed plan that provides for and encourages citizen participation, particularly among persons of low- or moderate-income residing in lower income, slum, or blighted areas, or areas in which program funds will be utilized

Website information can be found [here](#).



Awardee Profile

Renaissance Community Co-op
Greensboro, NC

POPULATION: 290,222

AMOUNT: \$250,000

YEAR: 2016

In 2016, the Renaissance Community Co-op opened a 10,000 square foot grocery store in one of Greensboro's food deserts. The new store is community-owned and democratically controlled by its members, the majority of whom live in the surrounding community. The store stocks healthy foods at affordable prices with a commitment to locally sourced products.

Department: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Agency: Office of Community Planning and Development

FY19 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support the development of viable urban communities by funding entitled cities and counties to provide decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities which give maximum priority to low- and moderate-income individuals. Award recipients may use funds to conduct a variety of community-based activities direct toward neighborhood revitalization, economic development, and community services, facilities, and improvements. In addition, activities must be based on the priorities of the entitlement community.

The principal beneficiaries of CDBG funds are low- and moderate-income persons, generally defined as a member of a family having an income equal to or less than the Section 8 low-income limit established by HUD.

CDBG funds must be used for activities that meet at least one of the following national objectives:

- Benefit low- and moderate-income individuals
- Aid in the prevention and elimination of slums and blight
- Meet other community development needs having particular urgency that the applicant cannot finance without assistance

Eligible activities include:

- Acquisition of real property
- Relocation
- Clearance and demolition
- Rehabilitation of residential and non-residential structures
- Construction of public facilities and improvements, such as water and sewer facilities, streets. And neighborhood centers
- Provision of public services, within program limitations
- Activities related to energy conservation and renewable energy sources
- Assistance to microenterprises or other for-profit entities when the recipient determines that such assistance is appropriate to carry out an economic development project

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are entitlement communities that are:

- Principal cities of Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)
- Other metropolitan cities with a population of at least 50,000
- Qualified urban counties with a population of at least 200,000 (excluding the population of entitlement communities)

Eligibility for participation as an entitlement community is based on population data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Funding

An estimated \$3,365,000 is available to support formula allocations through this program in FY 2019. Funds generally support annual activities; however, activities may generally be continued beyond one year until they are deemed completed. Funds may serve eligible beneficiaries for a one-, two-, or three-year period, as decided by the award recipient, and at least 70 percent of funding must serve beneficiaries who are low- and moderate-income persons.

Obligations for public service activities are limited to 15 percent of the award amount plus 15 percent of the program income received during the award recipient's immediately preceding program year.

Matching funds are not required for this program.

Contact Information

Contacts for this program are regional. The contact directory is available [here](#).

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/communitydevelopment/programs



Department: U.S. Department of Commerce

Agency: Economic Development Administration (EDA)

FY 2016-2019 Planning and Local Technical Assistance Programs

Grant Overview

This program assists eligible recipients in developing economic development plans and studies designed to build capacity and guide the economic prosperity and resiliency of an area or regions. The Planning Program helps support organizations with Short Term and State Planning investments, and the Local Technical Assistance program strengthens the capacity of recipients to undertake and promote effective economic development programs.

Program History

Historically, between 320 and 470 planning awards have been disbursed each year, in amounts ranging from \$40,000 to \$200,000, with an average size of approximately \$70,000. Between 30 and 50 local technical assistance awards have historically been disbursed each year, in amounts generally ranging from \$50,000 to \$300,000 with an average size of approximately \$64,000.

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: Unspecified

Award Range: Unspecified

Match: 50%

Solicitation date: March 30, 2018

Proposal due: Rolling

- This solicitation will remain in effect until superseded by a future announcement

<https://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities/>



Tips

- Projects must align with the funding agency's investment priorities
- Applicants may apply for new awards or for renewal or supplementation of additional projects
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to consult with the program representative for their applicable state

Department: U.S. Department of Commerce

Agency: Economic Development Administration (EDA)

FY16-19 Planning and Local Technical Assistance Programs

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to provide economically distressed communities and regions with comprehensive and flexible resources to address a wide variety of economic needs, and are designed to lead to the creation and retention of jobs and increased private investment. Through this program, support is provided for locally driven strategies that build on regional assets to spur economic prosperity and resiliency. Initiatives that present new ideas and creative approaches to advance economic prosperity in distressed communities are encouraged.

Planning assistance is provided to support the creation of regional economic development plans designed to build capacity and guide the economic prosperity and resiliency of an area or region. As part of this program, support is provided for partnership planning investments to facilitate the development, implementation, revision, or replacement of comprehensive economic development strategies (CEDs) that articulate and prioritize the strategic economic goals of award recipients' respective regions.

In addition to planning assistance, this program also provides technical assistance to strengthen the capacity of local or state organizations and institutions to undertake and promote effective economic development programs through projects such as feasibility analyses and impact studies.

Projects must align with at least one of the funding agency's investment priorities, which are:

- Collaborative regional innovation: projects that support the development and growth of innovation clusters based on existing regional competitive strengths
- Public/private partnerships: projects that use both public and private-sector resources and complementary investments by other government/public entities and/or nonprofit organizations
- National strategic priorities: projects that encourage job growth and business expansion in manufacturing, assist communities severely impacted by the declining use of coal, increase economic resiliency, assist with natural disaster mitigation and recovery, restore or improve urban waters and surrounding communities, and assist and/or support:
 - Information technology infrastructure
 - Communities severely impacted by automotive industry restructuring
 - Job-driven skills development
 - Access to capital for small and medium-sized and ethnically diverse enterprises
 - Innovations in science and health care
 - Advancement of science and research parks
- Global competitiveness: projects that support high-growth businesses and innovation-based entrepreneurs to expand and compete in global markets

- Environmentally sustainable development: projects that promote job creation and economic prosperity through enhancing environmental quality and developing and implementing green products, processes, places, and buildings
- Underserved communities: projects that strengthen diverse communities that have suffered disproportionate economic distress and job losses and/or are rebuilding to become more competitive in the global economy

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants include: district organizations; Indian tribes or a consortium of Indian tribes; states, counties, cities, or other political subdivisions of a state or unit of local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of institutions of higher education; and public or private nonprofit organizations or associations acting in cooperation with officials or a political subdivision of a state.

Funding

An unspecified amount of funding is available to support grants and cooperative agreements through this program. The project period will typically be on year; however, the project period may last up to three years.

Applicants must generally provide at least 50 percent of the total project cost via nonfederal cash and/or in-kind contributions; however the funding agency may provide up to an additional 30 percent of the total project cost, based on the relative needs of the region in which the project will be located, as determined by EDA. The following types of entities may be eligible to receive up to 100 percent of the total project cost:

- State or political subdivisions of a state and that have exhausted their effective taxing and borrowing capacity
- Nonprofit organizations that have exhausted their borrowing capacity
- Indian tribes

Contact Information

Contact information is available by region. Applicable state point-of-contact information can be found [here](#).

<https://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities/>



Agency: Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

FY 2019 Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program (LB21)

Grant Overview

This program supports developing a diverse workforce of librarians to better meet the changing learning and information needs of the American public.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2018	\$7,868,639	30

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: \$9 million

Award Range: Varies by category

Match: Varies by category

Solicitation date: June 18, 2018

Proposal due: October 9, 2018

- Applicants must submit a pre-application

<https://www.ims.gov/grants/available/laura-bush-21st-century-librarian-program>



Awardee Profile

Colorado Library Consortium,
Englewood, CO

AMOUNT: \$49,100

YEAR: 2018

This project planned a statewide outcome-assessment of prison libraries. The planning project determined how best to assess prison library contributions to offenders' development of pro-social behaviors that help them stay occupied productively and out of trouble while incarcerated, and maximize their chances of successful reentry into the community.

Agency: Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

FY19 Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program (LB21)

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support the development of a diverse workforce of librarians to better meet the changing learning and information needs of the American public. To achieve this objective, the program will enhance the training and professional development of librarians, develop faculty and library leaders, and recruit and educate the next generation of librarians. Projects are expected to have a broad impact, contribute to the advancement of library theory or practice, feature strategic collaborations, demonstrate expertise, and thoughtfully address issues of diversity and inclusion.

Projects supported through this program must align with one of the following three goals of the funding agency's strategic plan:

- Lifelong, learning: projects with a significant impact on the capacity of library and archives professionals to foster attitudes of discovery and cultivate critical thinking, creativity, community, and collaboration
- Community catalysts: projects that build the capacity of library and archives professionals to contribute to the well-being of communities promoting museums and libraries as strong community anchors that enhance civic engagement, cultural opportunities, and economic vitality
- National digital infrastructure and initiatives: projects with a broad impact on library and archives professionals' capacity to provide access to digital content, collections, and services to a wide range of users. Proposals in this category may focus on enhancing information literacy and digital inclusion through expanded broadband connectivity, data privacy and security, or civic data use.

Project must address one of the following funding categories:

- Planning awards: support for teams that perform exploratory activities such as analyzing needs and feasibility, solidifying partnerships, developing project work plans or prototypes/proofs of concept, and pilot studies
- National forum awards: projects that convene qualified groups of experts and key stakeholders, including those from adjacent fields as appropriate, with the purpose of fostering discussion and consideration of nationally important professional development and education-related issues among libraries and archives across the nation
- Project awards: projects that develop faculty and library leaders, recruit and educate the next generation of librarians and archivists, and assist in the professional development of librarians and archives staff
- Research in service to practice awards: projects that investigate key questions related to the library or archival professional practice

Additionally, projects must designate of the following project types:

- Pre-professional: recruit future professionals to develop a diverse workforce in the library and information science by encouraging middle school, high school, community college, and undergraduate students to explore careers in library and information sciences
- Master's- and doctoral-level:
 - Masters programs: educate the next generation of librarians and archivists in nationally accredited graduate library programs to meet the evolving needs of the profession and society
 - Doctoral programs: develop faculty to educate the next generation of library and archives professionals
- Early career development: support the early career development of untenured, tenure-track library and information science faculty
- Continuing education: improve the knowledge, skills, and abilities of library and archives staff through formal and informal programs such as post-master's programs, residencies, internships, enhanced work experiences, blended training opportunities through mentorships, online learning modules, and other training programs for professional staff

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are units of state or local government, and private nonprofit organizations.

Funding

A total of \$9 million is expected to be available through this program to support an anticipated 32 awards in the following funding categories:

- Planning awards: up to \$100,000
- National forum awards: up to \$150,000
- Project awards: up to \$1 million
- Research awards: up to \$500,000

In general, project periods may vary as follows:

- Planning awards: one-year project period
- National forum awards: one- to two-year project period
- Project awards: one- to four-year project period
- Research awards: one- to three-year project period

Project periods will take place from July 1, 2019, to August 31, 2023.

For applicants requesting project awards of \$250,000 or more, a one-to-one cost share, excluding student support costs, must be provided via nonfederal cash or in-kind contributions. Matching funds are not required for planning, national forum, or research awards.

Contact Information

Program contacts:

Tim Carrigan, tcarrigan@imls.gov

Sarah Fuller, sfuller@imls.gov

James Neal, jneal@imls.gov

Kelcy Shepherd, kshepherd@imls.gov

Ashley Sands, PhD, asands@imls.gov

Sandy Toro, PhD, storo@imls.gov

<https://www.imls.gov/grants/available/laura-bush-21st-century-librarian-program>



Agency: Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

FY 2019 National Leadership Grants (Part A): Libraries

Grant Overview

This program supports projects that enhance the quality of library and archive services nationwide by advancing theory and practice.

Program History

	Total Funding	# of Awards
2018	\$10,717,976	57

Key Information and Tips

Total Funding: \$10 million

Award Range: Varies by category

Match: Varies by category

Solicitation date: June 18, 2018

Proposal due: October 9, 2018

- Successful proposals will generate results such as new tools, research findings, models, services, practices, or alliances that will be widely adapted, scaled, or replicated to extend the benefits of federal investment
- This program has a pre-proposal requirement

<https://www.ims.gov/grants/available/national-leadership-grants-libraries>



Awardee Profile

Arizona State University

AMOUNT: \$249,983

YEAR: 2018

This project developed a field-tested, replicable, low-cost toolkit of citizen science resources for public libraries. The project team developed and evaluated citizen and science toolkits, created associated resources, and worked with stakeholders to create a plan to scale the model to interested libraries, statewide, and nationally.

Agency: Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

FY19 National Leadership Grants (Part A): Libraries

Detailed Summary

The purpose of this program is to support projects that address current and future needs of the museum and library fields and that have the potential to advance practices so that museums and libraries can improve services for the American public.

Funding will be provided for the following program components:

- (Part A): Libraries
- (Part B): Museums

The purpose of the Libraries component is to support projects that enhance the quality of library and archive services nationwide by advancing theory and practice. Successful proposals will generate results such as new tools, research findings, models, services, practices, or alliances that will be widely used, adapted, scaled, or replicated to extend the benefits of federal investment. Proposals should focus on education and training of librarians to the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program.

Projects supported through this program must align with one of three following project components:

- Lifelong, learning: projects with a significant impact on the capacity of library and archives professionals to foster attitudes of discovery and cultivate critical thinking, creativity, community, and collaboration
- Community catalysts: projects that build the capacity of library and archives professionals to contribute to the well-being of communities promoting museums and libraries as strong community anchors that enhance civic engagement, cultural opportunities, and economic vitality
- National digital infrastructure and initiatives: projects with a broad impact on library and archives professionals' capacity to provide access to digital content, collections, and services to a wide range of users. Proposals in this category may focus on enhancing information literacy and digital inclusion through expanded broadband connectivity, data privacy and security, or civic data use.

Applicants must choose one of the following funding categories through which they will receive funding:

- Planning awards: support for teams that perform exploratory activities such as analyzing needs and feasibility, solidifying partnerships, developing project work plans or prototypes/proofs of concept, and pilot studies
- National forum awards: projects that convene qualified groups of experts and key stakeholders, including those from adjacent fields as appropriate, with the purpose of fostering discussion and consideration of nationally important professional development and education-related issues among libraries and archives across the nation

- Project awards: projects that develop faculty and library leaders, recruit and educate the next generation of librarians and archivists, and assist in the professional development of librarians and archives staff
- Research in service to practice awards: projects that investigate key questions related to the library or archival professional practice

In general, eligible project costs may include:

- Project personnel
- Project consultants
- Project-related travel of key project staff and consultants
- Purchase of equipment, materials, supplied, or services
- Project development and implementation
- Integration of technology into operations or programs
- Publications based on project activities
- Software development
- Evaluation to show the extent to which the project has met its goals
- Indirect or overhead costs

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants are libraries that are either units of state or local government or private nonprofit institutions that have nonprofit status

Applicants must qualify as one of the following six types of organizations:

- A library or a parent organization, such as a school district, a municipality, a state agency, or an academic institution, that is responsible for the administration of a library; eligible libraries include:
 - Public libraries
 - Public elementary and secondary school libraries
 - Colleges, including community colleges, and university libraries
 - Research libraries and archives that are not an integral part of an institution of higher education and that make publicly available library services and materials that are suitable for scholarly research and not otherwise available
 - Private libraries or other special libraries that have been deemed eligible to participate in this program by the states in which the libraries are located
- An academic or administrative unit, such as a graduate school of library and information science that is part of an institution of higher education through which it would make an application
- A digital library, if it makes library materials publicly available and provides library services, including selection, organization, description, reference, and preservation, under the supervision of at least one permanent professional staff librarian
- A library agency that is an official agency of a state or other unit of government and is charged by the law governing it with the extension and development of public library services within its jurisdiction
- A library consortium that is a local, statewide, regional, interstate, or international cooperative association of library entities that provides for the systematic and effective coordination of the resources of eligible libraries, as defined above, and information centers that work to improve the services delivered to the clientele of these libraries

- A library association that exists on a permanent basis; serves libraries or library professionals on a national, regional, state, or local level; and engages in activities designed to advance the well-being of libraries and the library profession

Funding

An unspecified amount of funding is available for this program overall, with a total of \$10 million expected to be available to support an anticipated 50 awards through this component. Award amounts and project periods will vary according to funding category, as follows:

- Planning awards: up to \$100,000
- National forum awards: up to \$150,000
- Project awards: up to \$1 million
- Research awards: up to \$500,000

Project periods will take place from July 1, 2019, to August 31, 2023.

Applicants requesting \$250,000 or more via a project award must provide a one-to-one cost share of the project costs. No cost sharing is required for applicants requesting funding via planning, national forum, or research in service to practice awards.

Contact Information

Program contacts:

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Sarah Fuller, sfuller@imls.gov

James Neal, jneal@imls.gov

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