



NEWS & INFORMATION

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March 2, 2010
For Immediate Release
5-10

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Iowa pushes for another successful round of Broadband funding applications

Applications for the second and final round of federal funding for high-speed Internet (Broadband) projects are due March 15, 2010. **NOTE: A limited extension of time to March 26 and March 29, 2010, has now been granted for some projects.** Because the formation of broad partnerships is important for successful applications, Iowa has a Website, <http://collaboration.iowa.gov/>, to help Iowa Broadband service providers join with institutions, organizations, and individuals across Iowa when applying for these funds.

“As the application deadline for this additional round of funding approaches, I encourage companies to develop more partnerships here in Iowa to enhance the probability of more successful applications which will expand our valuable infrastructure for high-speed Internet services and move Iowa forward,” said Governor Chet Culver.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service (RUS) and the U.S. Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) are the two federal agencies awarding the funds made available by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The NTIA administers the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), which provides grants for Broadband infrastructure, public computer centers, and sustainable broadband adoption projects. The RUS administers the Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP), which provides grants and loans for Broadband infrastructure projects in rural areas (**now accepted until March 29, 2010**). In the first round of funding, the RUS awarded four Iowa projects a total of more than \$7 million.

In this second round of funding, the NTIA will focus on funding Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) projects (**now accepted until March 26, 2010**). The CCI category includes middle mile Broadband infrastructure projects which improve Broadband service to community anchor institutions, such as schools, libraries, healthcare providers, public safety entities, colleges, and other community support organizations; involve public-private partnerships between governments, non-profit and for profit entities, and other key community stakeholders; intend to promote growth in economically distressed areas; and which commit to serve community colleges and public safety entities, among other components. Second-round BTOP funds will also be available for public computer centers and sustainable Broadband adoption projects.

The RUS will target second-round awards to projects that improve last mile broadband connections to homes and businesses in rural areas.

Applicants that receive federal awards for Broadband infrastructure projects may be eligible to apply for grants for supplemental funds from the Iowa Broadband Deployment Governance Board. Additional information about the many funding opportunities for Broadband projects can also be found at the Iowa Broadband Development Governance Board Website, <http://broadband.iowa.gov/>, and the Federal Government ARRA Website, <http://www.broadbandusa.gov/>.

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