BroadbandUSA Overview

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National Telecommunications & Information Administration Overview

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) advises on telecom policy issues.

- Expanding broadband access and adoption
- Expanding the use of federal spectrum
- Ensuring the Internet remains an engine for continued innovation and economic growth
NTIA’s Commitment to Connecting America

The Department of Commerce supports the Biden Administration’s agenda and our partner agencies to ensure that every American has access to affordable and reliable broadband and has the skills and opportunities to participate fully.

Deploy broadband infrastructure to communities with the greatest need.

Support job creation and workforce development by ensuring that all Americans have broadband, devices, and digital skills.

Collaborate with states, Tribes, industry, and federal agencies to effectively expand broadband access and digital inclusion.

Use data to inform policies and investments in broadband at all levels of government.
Digital Inclusion Overview
What is Digital Inclusion?

**Digital Inclusion** ensures that individuals and communities have **access** to robust and **affordable** broadband connections; Internet-enabled **devices** that meet their needs; and the **skills** to explore, create and collaborate in the digital world.
Internet Use at Home | 73.6% of People Use the Internet at Home

### Income
- < $25K: 57.0%
- $25K - $49K: 67.9%
- $50K - $74K: 76.2%
- $75K - $99K: 79.3%
- > $100K: 82.2%

### Education
- No diploma: 62.3%
- High school grad: 68.4%
- Some college: 80.7%
- College grad: 85.6%

### Place
- Rural: 68.5%
- Urban: 74.4%
- Unknown: 71.5%
- Total US: 73.6%

### Race and Ethnicity
- American...: 63.9%
- Hispanic: 67.2%
- African...: 67.2%
- Asian...: 74.2%
- White, no...: 76.9%
- Other no...: 75.3%

### Disability Status
- Not Disabled: 78.5%
- Disabled: 59.6%

### Age Group
- > 65: 64.1%
- 45 - 65: 77.3%
- 25 - 44: 81.9%
- 15 - 24: 78.9%
- 3 - 14: 58.8%
Digital Divides

Homework Gap
• 16% of households with children under 18 have no desktop or laptop computer
• 8% of households with children under 18 have no broadband Internet (including cellular data plans)

Workforce Gap
• 9% of adults have a computer and/or device but no broadband Internet
• 11% of unemployed adults have no broadband Internet

Healthcare and Family Connections Gap
• 18% of seniors have no broadband Internet
• 14% of households with a disabled member have no broadband Internet

Source: American Community Survey 2018 Computer and Internet Subscription
Digital Empowerment is....

Health

Workforce

Innovation

Education

Economic Opportunity

Civic Participation
Aspects of Digital Inclusion

Broadband Access & Affordability

Computers and Devices

Technical Help & Support

Digital Skills Training
Broadband Access & Affordability

• Discount and Subsidized Broadband Subscriptions
• Mobile Hotspots
• Public WiFi in Underserved Communities
• Internet Deployment in Public / Affordable Housing
• WiFi Buses / Cellular on Wheels (COWs)
• Public Computer Centers
Computers & Devices

• School to Home Laptop Programs
• Refurbished Computers
• Discount and Subsidized Computers
• Laptop Lending Programs
• Public Computer Centers
• Mobile Computer Labs
Technical Help & Support

• Tech Support Hotlines
• Digital Connectors / Navigators
• Technology Organizers
• Volunteers
• Community Tech Events
Digital Skills Training

• Digital Literacy
• Online Safety and Security
• Health
• Civic Engagement
• Workforce Training and Apprenticeships
• STEM/STEAM
Make a Plan

- Assess Community Needs
- Assess Existing Resources
- Convene and Engage Stakeholders
- Build Partnerships
- Develop Digital Inclusion Plan
NTIA Grant Programs
### Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 Grant Programs Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Program</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Grants:</strong></td>
<td>$288 million</td>
<td>Grants for covered broadband projects, defined as competitively and technologically neutral projects for the deployment of fixed broadband service in a census block with at least one household or business that does not have access to 25/3: $288 million.</td>
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<td><strong>Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grants:</strong></td>
<td>$980 million</td>
<td>Grants to expand access to and adoption of: (A) broadband service on Tribal land; or (B) remote learning, telework, or telehealth resources during the COVID-19 pandemic: $980 million.</td>
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<td><strong>Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program:</strong></td>
<td>$268 million</td>
<td>Grants to eligible recipients in anchor communities for the purchase of broadband internet access service or any eligible equipment, or to hire and train information technology personnel, $268 million.</td>
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*Infrastructure NOFO Link

*Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021

*Tribal NOFO Link

*CMC NOFO Link
Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program

- Through the Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program, NTIA will directly address the lack of broadband access, connectivity, adoption and equity at our nation’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs), and in their surrounding anchor communities.

- Accordingly, Congress has directed NTIA to provide grants to HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs to facilitate educational instruction and learning, including through remote instruction; and to consortia including Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs) or tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organizations to operate that MBE or tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization.

- Eligible recipients may use grant funds to:
  1. purchase broadband internet access service, including the installation or upgrade of broadband facilities on a one-time, capital improvement, basis to increase or expand broadband capacity and/or connectivity at the eligible institution;
  2. purchase or lease eligible equipment and devices for student or patron use, subject to any restrictions and prohibited uses; and
  3. hire and train information technology personnel who are a part of the eligible anchor institution, MBE, or tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization.
CMC Funding - Project Purposes

Applicants may request funding for projects that have at least one of the following purposes:

1. Builds the broadband and IT capacity of eligible institutions
2. Builds digital skills and IT workforce capacity in HBCU, TCU, and MSI institutions, anchor communities, and MBE and tax-exempt consortia members
3. Provides broadband education, awareness, training, access, equipment, and support
4. Provides subsidized broadband access and equipment
5. Assesses the needs of HBCU, TCU, and MSI anchor institutions and surrounding anchor communities, including planning activities
6. Improves use of broadband services by eligible MBEs and community-based organizations (tax-exempt 501(c)(3))
7. Stimulates the adoption and community use of broadband services
Program Goals

**What?** The Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program focused on building the broadband digital capacities of HBCUs, TCUs and MSI educational institutions and their surrounding communities to:

- Expand educational instruction and remote learning opportunities
- Hire Information Technology Personnel
- Spur economic development, employment and entrepreneurship

**Purpose?** To build the broadband and digital technology capacities of eligible institutions and support broadband access, adoption, and digital skills within those institutions and in their surrounding anchor communities.
Who Can Apply? – Eligible Recipients

• Historically Black Colleges or Universities (HBCUs)
• Tribal Colleges or Universities (TCUs)
• Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs)
  ✓ Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)
  ✓ Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institutions (NASNTI)
  ✓ Alaska Native or Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions (ANNH)
  ✓ Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISI)
  ✓ Predominantly Black Institutions (PBI)
• Consortiums led by HBCUs, TCUs, or MSIs that include a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) or Tax-Exempt 501(c)(3) Organization
CMC Funding Requirements

• Statutory Mandated Set Asides:
  1. At least 40% of grants funds awarded must be made to HBCUs
  2. At least 20% of all grants funds awarded must be used to provide broadband access and/or devices and equipment to students.
  3. These statutory set asides are not mutually exclusive (i.e., funds awarded to an HBCU to provide broadband Internet access service and/or eligible equipment to its students would count toward both set aside requirements).

• Program Focus on Students In Need:
  1. The provision of broadband Internet access service or eligible equipment to students must prioritize students who are in need (per the needs criteria factors)
  2. The provision or lending of equipment must prioritize students and/or patrons who do not have access to such equipment
CMC Eligible Uses of Funding

An eligible recipient may generally use grant funds to:

- Fund personnel costs, including salaries and fringe benefits for staff and consultants
- Fund increases in broadband networking capability, hardware, software, and other digital technology
- Fund equipment and devices (excluding mobile phones) to support connectivity for remote education
- Fund, provide, and implement affordable broadband programs
- Fund, provide and implement digital training, education, technology support, outreach and awareness programs
- Fund access to broadband services, including improvement of broadband services and equipment
CMC Eligible Uses of Funding – Cont’d

An eligible recipient may generally use grant funds to:

✓ Conduct needs assessments and develop plans for increasing broadband adoption and access to remote education
✓ Fund Program Evaluation and Data Collection activities to collect data and document best practices for replicable and sustainable programs
✓ Fund sub-awards and contractual costs associated with carrying out programmatic activities of a Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program grant, including for program implementation and consulting services
✓ Fund reasonable pre-application expenses in an amount not to exceed $50,000
✓ Fund other allowable costs necessary to carry out programmatic activities
✓ Gather data and conduct evaluation of the digital inclusion, broadband access and adoption, and professional development programs
CMC’s Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is available on www.grants.gov.

Complete applications must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on December 1, 2021.
CMC Anchor Community Eligibility Dashboard

https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/cmcdashboard
Join us again for the CMC grants webinar series!

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| Upcoming Events:                |                                     |                                               |
|                                 |                                     | October 20 & 21                               |

**Webinars start at 2:30 pm ET**

Registration is required for each webinar and is limited to 1,000

[BroadbandUSA Latest Events](#)
Indicators of Broadband Need Map

- Publicly available digital map that displays key indicators of broadband needs across the country.
- First interactive, public map that allows users to explore different datasets about where people do not have quality Internet access.
- It contains data aggregated at the county, census tract, and census block level from the U.S. Census Bureau, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), M-Lab, Ookla and Microsoft.
State Broadband Leaders Network

One-stop shop for resources on state broadband efforts

Active network of state leaders leading state-level broadband efforts

Channel for communication and review of polices between federal agencies and states
BroadbandUSA Funding Search

- **BroadbandUSA Funding Search**
- One-Stop for information on broadband funding across all federal agencies through searchable database
- Search by eligible recipient, program area, or sponsoring Agency or Department