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## Recovery Act Update

July 20, 2009

### Broadband Opportunities

#### Broadband Forum

You are invited to join U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Under Secretary for Rural Development Dallas Tonsager, and Connect Ohio representatives on Monday, July 27, 2009 to discuss new broadband funding opportunities available through the Recovery Act.

**Who:** U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown, USDA Under Secretary for Rural Development Dallas Tonsager, and Connect Ohio representatives

**What:** Forum on broadband opportunities available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

**Where:** Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center  
2201 Fred Taylor Dr. Columbus, OH 43210

**When:** Monday, July 27, 2009 at 10:30 A.M. (Registration begins at 10:00 A.M.)

**Please RSVP to one of Senator Brown's Ohio offices at 216-522-7272, 614-469-2083, or 513-684-1021.**

#### Funding Opportunity Details

On July 1, 2009, the Administration announced \$4 billion in loans and grants in the first round of Recovery Act funding to help bring broadband service to un-served and underserved communities across America. This is the first of three rounds of broadband funding provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The Recovery Act provided \$4.7 billion to the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and \$2.5 billion to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) to expand broadband deployment and access, for a total investment of \$7.2 billion.

Funded by this announcement, RUS has developed the Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP) and the NTIA has developed the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). BIP will make loans and grants for broadband infrastructure projects in rural areas. BTOP will provide grants to fund broadband infrastructure, public computer centers and sustainable broadband adoption projects. Remaining funds will be made available under subsequent notices.

NTIA and RUS are now accepting applications for loans, grants and loan/grant combinations to be awarded by each agency under a single application form. Applications will be accepted beginning July 14, 2009 through 5:00 P.M. EDT on August 14, 2009.

Complete details of this Notice of Funding Availability are available at [www.broadbandusa.gov](http://www.broadbandusa.gov).

The application for BIP and BTOP is available at:

<http://broadbandusa.sc.egov.usda.gov/files/BB%20NOFA%20FINAL%2007092009.pdf>

States and local governments or agencies, non-profit foundations, non-profit corporations, non-profit institutions, non-profit associations, other non-profit entities, and cooperative or mutual organizations are eligible to apply.

A project is eligible only if the application demonstrates that the project can be substantially completed within two years of the date of issuance of the grant, loan, or loan/grant award and finished within three years of the date of the award.

Awardees under BTOP will be required to provide matching funds of at least 20 percent toward the total eligible project cost. NTIA will provide up to 80 percent of total eligible project costs, unless the applicant petitions the Assistant Secretary for a waiver of the matching requirement and that waiver is granted by the Assistant Secretary based on the applicant's demonstration of financial need.

For general inquiries regarding BIP, contact David J. Villano, Assistant Administrator Telecommunications Program, Rural Utilities Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), e-mail: [bip@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:bip@wdc.usda.gov) telephone: (202) 690-0525. For general inquiries regarding BTOP, contact Anthony Wilhelm, Deputy Associate Administrator, Infrastructure Division, Office of Telecommunications and Information Applications, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC), email: [bttop@ntia.doc.gov](mailto:bttop@ntia.doc.gov) , telephone: (202) 482-2048.

### **State-Level Broadband Mapping**

A separate funding opportunity exists for projects that collect comprehensive and accurate state-level broadband mapping data, develop state-level broadband maps, aid in the development and maintenance of a national broadband map, and fund statewide initiatives directed at broadband

planning.

Applications will be accepted from July 14, 2009 at 8:00 A.M. Eastern Time (ET) until August 14, 2009 at 11:59 P.M. ET.

Complete details of this Notice of Funding Availability are available at <http://www.broadbandusa.gov>

The application for State-Level Broadband Mapping is available at: [http://broadbandusa.sc.egov.usda.gov/files/BroadbandMappingNOFA\(FederalRegisterVersion\).pdf](http://broadbandusa.sc.egov.usda.gov/files/BroadbandMappingNOFA(FederalRegisterVersion).pdf)

*Senator Brown will send out additional Recovery information when available. Visit Senator Brown's Recovery website for up-to-date Recovery information:*  
[http://brown.senate.gov/issues\\_and\\_agenda/issues/recovery/](http://brown.senate.gov/issues_and_agenda/issues/recovery/)

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