

Broadband Deployment Fund Update

August 4, 2021

How Much Money Do We Have?

- \$300M appropriated in the 2021 Regular Session of the General Assembly
 - Funded by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund as appropriated by the General Assembly
 - \$250M for unserved / underserved broadband areas (HB 320)
 - HB 320 limits awards to \$50M before April 1, 2022
 - The first \$50 million will be targeted to unserved areas
 - \$50M for securing economic development opportunities for commercial and industrial customers (added in HB 382)

What is the Program?

- Broadband Deployment Fund
 - Assist governmental agencies and private sector entities to construct infrastructure for the deployment of broadband service to underserved or unserved areas of the Commonwealth.
 - Provide broadband service to residential, commercial, and industrial customers to secure a sound economy & promote the general welfare of the Commonwealth

What is the Program?

- KRS 224A.011, 112 and 1121 – 2020 Session, modified in 2021
 - Established the Broadband Deployment Fund
 - Set definitions of unserved and underserved areas
 - Defined broadband as any wireline, fixed wireless or fixed terrestrial technology with a capacity to transmit data at a minimum speed of 25 Mbps downstream/3 upstream
 - Set out a grant application process with specific requirements
 - Requires at least a 50% applicant match for projects
 - Allows other federal funds to be used to match projects funded from the appropriation

What is the Program?

- Federal Guidance on Broadband Projects – issued May 10, 2021 with several updates since
 - Mostly consistent with Kentucky statutes and recent legislation
 - Focuses on unserved and underserved areas
 - Same definition for underserved 25 Mbps downstream/3 Mbps upstream
 - Kentucky's unserved definition is no more than 10 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream
 - Sets a minimum download and upload speed requirement of 100 Mbps
 - Different than Kentucky statutory definition of 25 Mbps downstream/3 Mbps upstream
 - Some exceptions allowed due to geography, topography, or excessive costs
 - Those exceptions must meet minimum of 100 Mbps downstream/20 Mbps upstream and scalable to 100 Mbps upstream

What is the Process Sequence?

- Request for Information
 - Released an Request for Information (RFI) – June 24, 2021
 - Received 26 responses – July 12, 2021
 - Using responses to finalize the Request for Proposal/Application

What is the Process Sequence?

- Request for Proposals/Applications
 - Release RFP in early August that includes the Application for Broadband Deployment Projects
 - There is no great Kentucky broadband map
 - The “Map” of unserved areas released with the RFP will be indicative of the information we have available. It will not be determinative of eligible areas.
 - Receipt of Applications
 - Receipt of Application Challenge Requests
 - Determination of Challenges and Communication of Determinations

What is the Process Sequence?

- Request for Proposals/Applications
 - Evaluation and Scoring of Responsive Applications
 - Award Offers-KIA Conditional Commitment Letter
 - Final Award – Grant Assistance Agreement

What is the Timeline?

- RFP/Application release – by mid-August
- RFP/Application due - 2.5 months
- Challenge Process – 1 month
- Evaluation Process – to be determined
- Award Process – to be determined

Questions

- Director John Hicks, Office of the State Budget Director
- Dep. Exec. Director Sandy Williams, KY Infrastructure Authority
- <https://governor.ky.gov/BetterKy>
- <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds>