

OIT UPDATE: 2nd Round of Broadband Funds Available to Tribal Communities American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

[NTIA and USDA's RUS Announce Availability of \\$4.8 Billion in Recovery Act Funding to Bring Broadband to More Americans](#) (01/15/2010)

The Commerce Department has announced that the second and final round of funding is available to expand broadband access throughout the USA. [The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 \(ARRA\)](#) will provide \$4.8 billion to fund the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) and the Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP) through the [National Telecommunications and Information Administration \(NTIA\)](#) and the [Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service \(RUS\)](#). This funding is targeted for middle mile and last mile broadband projects.

The installation of broadband at Tribal sites has the potential to increase economic opportunities, such as providing jobs, bringing powerful educational resources to schools, improving civic participation, upgrading public safety, and enhancing medical care delivery through innovations such as tele-health.

NTIA and RUS have released separate Notices of Funding Availability (NOFA). There are modifications to both programs, and it is essential that application requirements be reviewed.

- [RUS - BIP Round Two NOFA](#) - Grants and Loans
 - Will fund last mile and middle mile projects
 - Added satellite service projects
 - Modified Service Areas including census tract reporting
 - Change in allocation of funds
 - No requirement for NTIA/RUS combo applications
 - Elimination of Two-Step Application Process, and more...
- [NTIA - BTOP - Round Two NOFA](#) - Grants for three categories:
 - Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI)
 - Middle mile infrastructure projects
 - Connections to community anchor institutions
 - Public Computer Centers (PCC)
 - Expand public access to broadband
 - Computing centers, libraries, and community colleges
 - Sustainable Broadband Adoption (SBA)
 - Fund innovative projects that promote broadband
 - Fund underutilized and vulnerable populations
 - Can apply for one or more categories, improved application process, more...

Other Resources

[Workshops](#): Held in cities across the USA in January and February. Register early.

[Broadband Match](#): An online tool that helps tribes find applicants in their community who can partner with them to bring broadband to the Tribal community by combining skills, goals, and resources.

Indian Health Service - Office of Information Technology
<http://www.ihs.gov/Recovery>