

# **Summary of Broadband Stimulus Program NOFA Released July 1, 2009**

**July 6, 2009**



# Summary

- > RUS & NTIA announce general policy and application procedures for broadband initiatives established pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act).
- > RUS is establishing the Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP)
  - May extend loans, grants, and loan/grant combinations to facilitate broadband deployment in rural areas
- > NTIA is establishing the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
  - Makes available grants for deploying broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas in the United States, enhancing broadband capacity at public computer centers, and promoting sustainable broadband adoption projects.
- > Both programs will advance the objectives of the Recovery Act to spur job creation and stimulate long-term economic growth and opportunity

# Timeline

- > **The key dates for potential applicants for this first period of funding:**
  - **July 7, 2009 Application form becomes available**
    - ([http://broadbandusa.sc.egov.usda.gov/download\\_app.htm](http://broadbandusa.sc.egov.usda.gov/download_app.htm))
  - **July 7 – 24, 2009 Various NTIA/RUS workshops for potential applicants (contact KS for more info)**
  - **July 14, 2009 Window opens for filing of applications**
  - **August 14, 2009 Deadline for submission of applications**
  - **November 7, 2009 Approximate date for commencement of awards**

# Funding Amounts

- > Approximately \$4B of program level funding has been allocated to this NOFA by RUS and NTIA. The remaining funds will be made available under subsequent NOFAs
- > Available funds for BIP:
  - \$2.4B in these categories
    - Up to \$1.2B for Last Mile projects, with up to \$400M of this sum for grants covering Remote Area projects, and up to \$800M of this sum for loans or loan/grant combos for Non-Remote projects
    - Up to \$800M available for loans or loan/grant combos for Middle Mile projects
    - National Reserve (no more than \$325M)

# Funding Amounts

- > Available funds for BTOP:
  - \$1.6B in these categories
    - Up to \$1.2B for Broadband Infrastructure projects
    - Up to \$50M for Public Computer Center projects
    - Up to \$150M for Sustainable Broadband Adoption projects
    - National Reserve (no more than \$200M)

# Eligibility

- > Pursuant to Section 6001 (e)(1)(c) of the ARRA, the NTIA Administrator has found that it is in the public interest to open BTOP funding opportunities to commercial entities. Thus, eligibility for both BTOP and BIP is open to the following (pp. 26-27):
  - State and local governmental entities,
  - District of Columbia,
  - Territories and possessions of the US,
  - Indian tribes,
  - Native Hawaiian organizations,
  - Non-profit organizations,
  - For-profit organizations,
  - Limited liability companies and cooperative or mutual organizations

# Buy American

- > The Department of Commerce (NTIA) and the Department of Agriculture (RUS) issued identical public interest waivers for the Buy American provision of the ARRA that applies to the organizations' respective broadband programs. The Public Interest waiver for the Buy American provision applies to the following types of broadband equipment:
  - *Broadband Switching Equipment* – Equipment necessary to establish a broadband communications path between 2 points
  - *Broadband Transport Equipment* – Equipment for providing interconnection within the broadband provider's network
  - *Broadband Access Equipment* – Equipment facilitating the last mile connection to a broadband subscriber
  - *Broadband Customer Premises Equipment and End-User Devices* – End-user equipment that connects to a broadband network
  - *Billing/Operations Systems* – Equipment that is used to manage and operate a broadband network or offer a broadband service

# Buy American *continued*

- > Both the NTIA and RUS waivers point out that this list does not include fiber optic cables, coaxial cables, cell towers, and other facilities that are produced in the United States in sufficient quantities to be reasonably available as end products. [While the RUS waiver notice does not include coaxial cables, it has subsequently indicated that it had been its intent to do so and that coaxial cable will be subject to the Buy American requirement]. The notices further state that to the extent that an applicant wishes to use equipment that is not covered by this waiver, it may seek a waiver on a case-by-case basis as part of its application for broadband funds, stating the statutory exemption upon which it is relying and its rationale for receiving a waiver.

# Use of Funds

- > In addition to the requirements and restrictions set forth above, the NOFA establishes a variety of additional limits on what projects will be funded by BTOP and BIP and how awards can be used. Eligible costs must be “reasonable, allocable, necessary to the project, and comply with the funding statute requirements.” (pg. 35) “Any application that is processed to use any portion of the award funds for any ineligible cost will be rejected.” (pg. 35)
- > For all broadband infrastructure projects (pg. 35):
  - Funds may be used to fund the construction or improvement of all facilities required to provide broadband service
  - Detailed specifications regarding eligible and ineligible costs for Public Computer Centers and Sustainable Broadband Adoption is set forth at pages 37-39 of the NOFA

# Use of Funds *continued*

- > For BIP only (pp.36):
  - Expenses for facilities required to provide other services over the same facilities as are used for broadband
  - Expenses can include the cost for five years of leasing facilities required to provide broadband service if such lease qualifies as a capital lease under GAAP
  - Reasonable pre-application expenses in an amount not to exceed five percent of the award so long as they are incurred after the publication of the NOFA

# Use of Funds *continued*

- > For BTOP only (pp.36):
  - Awards can be used to fund such other projects and activities as the NTIA Administrator finds to consistent with BTOP

# Use of Funds *continued*

- > Prohibitions on how award funds may be used (p. 36):
  - Funding operating expenses,
  - Funding costs incurred prior to the date on which the application is submitted, except for the permissible pre-application expenses noted above;
  - Funding broadband facilities leased under the terms of an operating lease;
  - Funding a merger or consolidation of entities; or
  - Funding costs incurred in acquiring spectrum as part of an FCC auction or in a secondary market acquisition

# How to Apply

- > The application will not be available until July 7, 2009 but will then be found at:
  - [http://broadbandusa.sc.egov.usda.gov/download\\_app.htm](http://broadbandusa.sc.egov.usda.gov/download_app.htm)
  
- > Completed applications for funds under this NOFA can be filed from July 14<sup>th</sup> until August 14<sup>th</sup>

# Evaluation of Applications

- > BTOP (pp. 14 – 16)
  - > **Initial Screen:** NTIA will first conduct an initial screen of applications to determine whether an application meets the various mandatory threshold requirements set forth in the NOFA
  - > **Step One:** Applications passing the Initial Screen will be reviewed by at least 3 independent peer/expert reviewers against the Step One eligibility requirements and the coring criteria provided in the NOFA. Each reviewer will independently score the application, and reviewer scores will be averaged
  - > **Step Two:** The most highly qualified applications from Step One will advance to Step Two. During step two, the applicants will be asked to submit additional information, as appropriate, such as more detailed plans or supporting documents. The supplemental information will be reviewed and analyzed by NTIA staff and external engineering, business, and subject-matter experts. Applicants whose supporting documents do not adequately substantiate the representations in their application may be rejected.

# Evaluation of Applications *continued*

## > BTOP *continued*

- > **Rating Assigned:** Upon completion of its due diligence, NTIA program staff will assign a rating based on its consistency with the representations made in the application and conformity with the information already provided, especially on technical and budget considerations.
- > **State Review:** Each state will have an opportunity to make recommendations concerning the allocation of BTOP funds for qualifying projects in or affecting the state during Step Two of the BTOP application process. The Governor's office of each state will receive a list of the applications under consideration. States will have 20 days to provide a list and prioritization of recommended projects, along with an explanation of why the selected proposals meet the greatest needs of the state.

# Evaluation of Applications *continued*

- > BIP (pp. 14 – 16)
  - > **Step One:** An application will be evaluated by RUS for completeness and eligibility. Eligible applications will be evaluated and ranked based on the applicable scoring criteria
  - > **Step Two:** The highest scoring applicants will be asked to submit additional documentation to further support the applicants' representations made in Step One of the application process.

# Interconnection and Non-Discrimination

- > BTOP and BIP awardees are required to adhere to the following 5 specific non-discrimination and interconnection requirements (pp. 29-31):
  1. Adhere to the principles contained in the FCC's *Internet Policy Statement*, adopted August 5, 2005 (FCC 05-151) – this is a statutory obligation and applies at a minimum.
  2. May not favor any lawful Internet applications or content over others – this requirement only applies to Internet applications and content traversing the public Internet, not to managed services using private connections or virtual private networks such as those for telemedicine, public safety, distance learning, etc.
  3. Must display any network management policies that depart from “standard best efforts Internet delivery.”
  4. Must connect funded networks to the public Internet directly or indirectly. A provider may, *in addition to* such interconnected service, operate a managed service (e.g., one directed at telemedicine, public safety, or distance learning) using a private network.
  5. Must offer interconnection, where technically feasible, at reasonable rates and terms to be negotiated with requesting parties – an awardee need not offer interconnection at a location where such interconnection would exceed current or anticipated capacity limitations. This interconnection requirement may be satisfied via good-faith negotiation with parties seeking interconnection. If the parties fail to reach agreement, they may seek interpretation by the FCC of relevant FCC rules.

# Interconnection and Non-Discrimination

- > It is important to note that:
  - These requirements are subject to the needs of law enforcement and to reasonable network management practices
  - Network Management – Awardees are permitted to employ “generally-accepted technical measures to provide acceptable service levels to all customer,” including caching, application-neutral bandwidth allocation, and measures to address spam and other harmful or unlawful content.
  - Violation – Parties that believe an awardee has failed to adhere to this non-discrimination requirement should first seek action at the FCC if any FCC rule is implicated. If the FCC does not act, parties seeking recourse are directed to notify RUS or NTIA in writing.
  - In each case, the obligations cited apply only to funded deployments, not to a provider’s other operations.

# Interconnection and Non-Discrimination

- > It is important to note that *continued*:
  - “Applications will be scored on the extent to which the applicant commits to exceeding the minimum requirements for interconnection and nondiscrimination...”
  - Finally, the conditions apply for the life of the funded facilities and to any contractors and subcontractors, and awardees failing to adhere to them may be considered to be in default or breach of their loan or grant agreements.

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

# Application Submission

- > Application packages for electronic and paper submissions will be available at <http://www.broadbandusa.gov>.
- > Electronic submissions
  - Will allow for the expeditious review of an applicant's proposal consistent with the goals of the Recovery Act
  - Applicants requesting > \$1M in assistance MUST file electronically (can be in the form of grants, loans or combo)
  - Applicants whose authorized representatives are individuals with disabilities, however, may submit a paper application irrespective of the funding size of their request
  - Applicants requesting < \$1M in assistance may forego the electronic filing requirements if filing electronically would impose a hardship on the applicant
  - The government electronic application system will provide a date and time stamped confirmation number that will serve as proof of submission
  - **Due no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on August 14, 2009**

# Application Submission *continued*

## > Paper submissions

- Applicants requesting < \$1M in assistance may file their applications in a paper format if filing electronically would impose a hardship on the applicants.
- Applicants whose authorized representatives are individuals with disabilities may file their applications in a paper format irrespective of the funding size of their request.
- To the extent that applicants use electronic word processing software to create paper submissions, they should include in their filing, to the extent possible, an electronic copy of the paper application on an appropriate media such as a CD
- **Paper submissions must be postmarked no later than August 14, 2009, or hand-delivered no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on August 14, 2009,** to the addresses listed in the Supplementary Information in this NOFA (see main document)

# Contact Information – General Inquiries

## > BIP

- David J. Villano, Assistant Administrator Telecommunications Program, RUS, USDA
- Email: [bip@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:bip@wdc.usda.gov)
- Telephone: (202) 690-0525

## > BTOP

- Anthony Wilhelm, Deputy Associate Administrator, Infrastructure Division, Office of Telecommunications and Information Applications, NTIA, DOC
- Email: [bttop@ntia.doc.gov](mailto:bttop@ntia.doc.gov)
- Telephone: (202) 482-2048

# Contact Information – Compliance Requirements

- > BIP
  - [bipcompliance@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:bipcompliance@wdc.usda.gov)
- > BTOP
  - [btopcompliance@ntia.doc.gov](mailto:btopcompliance@ntia.doc.gov)
- > Additional information regarding applications for BIP
  - <http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom>
- > Additional information regarding applications for BTOP
  - <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants>

# Overview

- > February 17, 2009 the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) signed into law by President Obama
  
- > The Recovery Act identifies five overall purposes
  1. To preserve and create jobs and promote economic recovery
  2. To assist those most impacted by the recession
  3. To provide investments needed to increase economic efficiency by spurring technological advances in science and health
  4. To invest in transportation, environmental protection, and other infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits
  5. To stabilize state and local government budgets

# Broadband Services

- > The Recovery Act provides RUS and NTIA with \$7.2B to expand access to broadband services in the United States
  - RUS
    - \$2.5B appropriated to RUS to extend loans, loan grant combos and grants to projects where at least 75% of an RUS-funded area is in a rural area lacking sufficient access to high speed broadband service to facilitate rural economic development.
    - The RUS program is titled BIP (Broadband Initiatives Program)

# Broadband Services *continued*

## – NTIA

- \$4.7B appropriated to NTIA to provide grants for broadband initiatives throughout the US, including unserved and underserved areas.
- NTIA is asked to spur job creation, stimulate long-term economic growth and opportunity, and narrow gaps in broadband deployment and adoption.
- The NTIA program is titled BTOP (Broadband Technology Opportunities Program)
- BTOP divided into 3 categories: Broadband Infrastructure, Public Computer Centers, and Sustainable Broadband Adoption

# Purpose of NOFA

- > The purpose of this NOFA is to describe the availability of the BIP and BTOP funds and set forth the application requirements for those entities wishing to participate in one or more of the Recovery Act's broadband programs
- > Applicants may submit projects that fit within one or more categories
- > Each application will be compared against objective criteria to determine whether and award is warranted

# Application Process and Level of Funding

- > RUS and NTIA have developed a 2-step application process
  1. Create a pool of viable and potentially fundable applications
  2. Fully validate the submissions and identify the most highly qualified applications for funding
  
- > Approximately \$4B of program level funding has been allocated to this NOFA by RUS and NTIA
  - Remaining funding will be made available under subsequent NOFAs
  - The requirements for subsequent NOFAs may differ from this NOFA to better achieve the agencies' priorities

# BIP Objectives

- > Under BIP, RUS will award grants, loans, and loan/grant combos for broadband infrastructure
- > Grants are to be used to fund applications proposing to exclusively serve remote, unserved, rural areas.
- > To be used to provide funding to application proposing to serve non-remote and underserved rural areas
- > RUS will favor applications proposing a higher percentage of loan funds
- > RUS will favor funding projects that can commence construction promptly and demonstrate technical and financial feasibility, organizational capacity, and compliance with other Administration priorities.

# BIP Priorities

- > 75% of a BIP-funded area be in a rural area that “lacks sufficient access to high speed broadband service to facilitate rural economic development.”
  
- > Priority will be given to projects that:
  - Give end users a choice of providers
  - Serve the highest proportion of rural residents that lack access to broadband service
  - Are projects of current or former RUS borrowers (Title II borrowers)
  - Are fully funded and ready to start once Recovery Act funding is received
  
- > BIP application scoring criteria awards projects that implement these priorities

# BIP Application & Selection Process

- > Two-phase application process:
  - Step One: Submission of the information described in section VI.D.1.a (page 43 of main document)
    - Information will be evaluated by RUS for completeness and eligibility
    - Ineligible and incomplete applications will be rejected
    - Eligible applications will be evaluated and ranked based on the applicable scoring criteria described in section VII (page 59 of main document)
  - Step Two: Highest scoring applications will be invited to participate in this second phase of the application process by submitting the additional documentation described in section VI.D.1.b (page 48 of main document) to further support the applicant's representations made in step one
    - If additional documentation does not adequately verify the first submission, then the application will be rejected

# BTOP Objectives

- > Section 6001 of the Recovery Act establishes a national broadband service development and expansion program to promote five core purposes:
  1. To provide access to broadband service to consumers residing in unserved areas of the country
  2. To provide improved access to broadband service to consumers residing in underserved areas of the country
  3. To provide broadband access, education, awareness, training, equipment, and support to community anchor institutions (e.g., schools, libraries, medical facilities), or organizations and agencies serving vulnerable populations (e.g., low-income, unemployed, aged), or job-creating strategic facilities located in state- or federally-designated economic development areas
  4. To improve access to, and use of, broadband service by public safety agencies
  5. To stimulate the demand for broadband, economic growth and job creation

# BTOP Priorities

- > All projects funded under BTOP must advance one or more of the five statutory purposes outlined above
- > Program is designed to extend broadband access to unserved areas, improve access to underserved areas, and expand broadband access to a wide range of institutions and individuals, including vulnerable populations
- > Seek to serve the highest priority needs for federal investment – particularly projects that offer the potential for economic growth and job creation, and provide benefits to education, health care, and public safety.
- > Program will support viable, sustainable, and scalable projects.

# BTOP Priorities *continued*

- > NTIA will favor proposals that satisfy the public-interest objectives specified in the statute and detailed in this NOFA.
- > Grants will be distributed across geographic areas addressing these various public purposes.
- > Awards will be issued on a technologically neutral basis, and are expected to support projects employing a range of technologies (e.g., fixed and mobile wireless, fiber, satellite).
- > In making awards, NTIA will take into consideration whether an applicant is a socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern as defined under section 8(a) of the Small Business Act (SBA) (15 U.S.C. § 637 (a)(4)).

# BTOP Application & Selection Process

- > Two-step application review process following an initial screening of applicant eligibility (e.g., application completeness) set forth in section V.C. (page 27 of main document)
  - Step One: Applicants will receive at least three independent reviews (by a 3-member review panel) against the eligibility factors as well as against the evaluation criteria provided in this NOFA.
    - Review panel will be comprised of at least 3 peer/expert reviewers who have demonstrated subject-matter expertise.
    - No consensus advice will be given by the reviewers.
    - Each reviewer will independently score the application, and reviewer scores will be averaged
    - Based on these scores, applications that are considered the most highly qualified will advance to the step two, “due diligence” review for further consideration

# BTOP Application & Selection Process

## *continued*

- Step Two: Remaining applicants will be asked to submit additional information, as appropriate, such as more detailed plans or supporting documents to further substantiate the representations made in their application.
  - Supplemental information will be reviewed and analyzed by NTIA staff with support of external engineering, business, and subject-matter experts to evaluate consistency of applications with supporting documents and ensure applications merit awards
  - Inadequate applications will be rejected, and adequate applications will be assigned a rating based on consistency with the representations made in the application.
  - Rating will be based on a 5-point scale (1-5), with a 5 representing the highest consistency and conformity with the information already provided, especially on technical and budget considerations

# BTOP Application & Selection Process

## *continued*

- All states will be given an opportunity to make recommendations concerning the allocation of funds for qualifying projects in or affecting the individual states during step two of the BTOP application process, regardless of their participation in the State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program.
- The Governor's office of each state will receive a list of the applications under consideration
- States may provide a list and prioritization of recommended projects, along with an explanation of why the selected proposals meet the greatest needs of the state
- States are strongly encouraged to provide mapping and planning data to support their recommendations
- All states will have 20 calendar days from the date of notification to submit to NTIA their recommendations

# BTOP Application & Selection Process

## *continued*

- Upon completion of the step 2 review, NTIA reserves the right to discuss with the applicant specific modifications to the application to resolve any differences that may exist between applicant's original request and what NTIA is willing to fund (Not all applicants contacted will necessarily receive a BTOP award)
- The Director of BTOP will then prepare and present a package of recommended grant awards to the Associate Administrator for the Office of Telecommunications and Information Applications (OTIA Associate Administrator) for review and approval
- The BTOP Director's recommendations and the OTIA Associate Administrator's review and approval will take into account the following selection factors:
  - The Evaluation criteria review score of the peer/expert reviewers
  - The Due Diligence Review rating of the federal reviewers and the analysis of NTIA program staff

# BTOP Application & Selection Process

## *continued*

- Satisfaction of the program's purpose and priorities as described in the section entitled "Program Description" (*page 16*)
- Geographic distribution of the proposed grant awards and diversity of populations served
- The range of technologies and uses of the technologies employed by the proposed grant awards
- Avoidance of redundancy, conflicts with the initiatives of other federal agencies, including Department of Agriculture loan and grant programs for broadband services, and, to the extent practical, avoidance of unjust enrichment
- The availability of funds
- If applicable, the recommendations of states, including, but not limited to such recommendations as described in their application for the State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program or as subsequently provided to NTIA either on its own or along with the submission of stat-level broadband maps

# BTOP Application & Selection Process

## *continued*

- Upon approval by the OTIA Associate Administrator, the BTOP Director's recommendation will then be presented to the Selecting Official, the Assistant Secretary of NTIA. The Assistant Secretary selects the applications for grant awards, taking into consideration the BTOP Director's recommendations and the degree to which the application package, taken as a whole, satisfies the selection factors described above and the program's stated purposes and priorities as set for in section II.B of this NOFA (page 11 of main document)

# DEFINITIONS

# Broadband

- Means providing two-way data transmission with advertised speeds of at least 768 kilobits per second (kbps) downstream and at least 200 kbps upstream to end users, or providing sufficient capacity in a middle mile project to support the provision of broadband service to end users

# Remote Area

- Means an unserved, rural area 50 miles from the limits of a non-rural area

# Rural Area

- Means any area, as confirmed by the latest decennial census of the bureau of the Census, which is not located within:
  - A city, town, or incorporated area that has a population of > 20,000 inhabitants
  - An urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to a city or town that has a population > 50,000 inhabitants. For the purposes of the definition of rural area, an urbanized area means a densely populated territory as defined in the latest decennial census of the U.S. Census Bureau.

# Service Area

- Means the entire area within which a service provider either offers or intends to offer broadband service and may include the proposed funded service area

# State

- Means, for purposes of BTOP, a state or political subdivision thereof, the District of Columbia, or a territory or possession of the United States

# Underserved Area

- Means a proposed funded service area, composed of one or more contiguous census blocks meeting certain criteria that measure the availability of broadband service and the level of advertised broadband speeds. These criteria conform to the two distinct components of the Broadband Infrastructure category of eligible projects – Last Mile and Middle Mile. Specifically, a proposed funded service area may qualify as underserved for last mile projects if at least one of the following factors is met, though the presumption is that more than one factor is present:
  1. No more than 50% of the households in the proposed funded service area have access to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service at greater than the minimum broadband transmission speed (768 kbps)
  2. No fixed or mobile broadband service provider advertises broadband transmission speeds of at least 3 mbps downstream in the proposed funded service area
  3. The rate of broadband subscribership for the proposed funded service area is 40% of households or less.
- A proposed funded service area may qualify as underserved for Middle Mile projects if one interconnection point terminates in a proposed funded service area that qualifies as unserved or underserved for Last Mile projects.

# Unserved Area

- Means a proposed funded service area, composed of one or more contiguous census blocks, where at least 90% of households in the proposed funded service area lack access to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service, either fixed or mobile, at the minimum broadband transmission speed (768 kbps). A household has access to broadband service if the household can readily subscribe to that service upon request.

# Award Information

# Available funds for BIP

## > General

- Approximately \$2.4B in program level funding has been set aside for funding opportunities under this NOFA

## > Funding Limits

- > Award amounts under this NOFA will be limited as follows:

### 1. Last Mile Projects

- Up to \$1.2B is available for Last Mile projects. These projects may consist of Remote Area projects or Non-Remote projects
- Up to \$400M is available for grants for Remote Area projects
- Up to \$800M is available for loans or loan/grant combos for Non-Remote projects.

# Available funds for BIP

## 2. Middle Mile Projects

Up to \$800M is available for loans or loan/grant combos for Middle Mile Projects

## 3. Repooling

For categories that do not receive applications that request the full amount of allocated funds, excess funds may be directed to another category at RUS's discretion. Additionally, if RUS does not make awards in the full amount allocated to a category, RUS may, at its discretion, direct such excess funds to another category

## 4. National Reserve

Up to \$325M is available for a national reserve. These funds may be used to augment the BIP funding categories established earlier, or remain unused for subsequent NOFAs. In any event, all funds will be awarded no later than September 30, 2010.

# Available funds for BIP

## 5. Unused Funds

Funds made available but not used for this NOFA may be directed to subsequent NOFAs

## 6. Award Period

All awards under BIP must be made no later than September 30, 2010. While the completion time will vary depending on the complexity of the project, award recipients must substantially complete projects supported by this program no later than two years, and projects must be fully completed no later than three years, following the date of issuance of the award

## 7. Type of funding Instrument

The funding instruments for BIP will be a grant, loan, and loan/grant combo

# Available funds for BTOP

## > General

- Up to \$1.6B in budget authority has been set aside for funding opportunities under this NOFA. Publication of this NOFA does not obligate NTIA to award any specific project or obligate all or any parts of any available funds, although the Recovery Act indicates that the Assistant Secretary shall award at least one grant in each state<sup>4</sup> to the extent practical by September 30, 2010.

## > Funding Limits

- Up to \$1.4B is available to be awarded under this NOFA and will be allocated in the following categories:
  - Broadband Infrastructure projects will be awarded no greater than \$1.2B
  - Public Computer Center projects will be awarded no greater than \$50M
  - Sustainable Broadband Adoption projects will be awarded no more than \$150M

# Available funds for BTOP

## 1. Repooling

Subject to the statutory thresholds set forth in the Recovery Act, NTIA retains the discretion to divert funds from one category of projects to another

## 2. National Reserve

Up to \$200M is available for a national reserve. These funds may be used to augment the BTOP funding categories established above, or remain unused for subsequent NOFAs. In any event, all funds will be awarded no later than September 30, 2010.

## 3. Unused Funds

Funds not awarded under this NOFA may be used to fund subsequent NOFAs

# Available funds for BTOP

## 4. Award Period

All awards under BTOP must be made no later than September 30, 2010.

While the completion time will vary depending on the complexity of the project, grant recipients must substantially complete projects supported by this program no later than two years, and projects must be fully completed no later than three years, following the date of issuance of the grant award.

## 5. Type of Funding Instrument

The funding instrument for BTOP will be a grant