



The following is a CJIS GROUP summary of the titled Grant Program.

For complete information, refer to the official grant program announcement.

Community Connect Grant Program

Fiscal Year	Funding Source	Application Deadline	Budget/Appropriation
2015	USDA	02/17/2015	\$13,000,000.00

Program Overview

The Community Oriented Connectivity Broadband Grant Program (Community Connect Grant Program) is designed to provide financial assistance to provide service at the Broadband Grant Speed in rural, economically challenged communities where broadband service does not currently exist.

Grant funds may be used to:

1. deploy service at the Broadband Grant Speed to critical community facilities, rural residents, and rural businesses,
2. construct, acquire, or expand a community center, and
3. equip a community center that provides free access to service at the Broadband Grant Speed to community residents for at least two years.

Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis for entities to serve all premises in eligible rural areas at the Broadband Grant Speed to ensure rural consumers enjoy the same quality and range of broadband services as are available in urban and suburban communities.

Eligibility

Eligible Applicants:

- Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)
- Private institutions of higher education
- For profit organizations other than small businesses
- Independent school districts
- Public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities
- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- State governments
- Small businesses
- County governments
- Public and State controlled institutions of higher education
- City or township governments
- Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)
- Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- Special district governments

Match Requirement

The match the applicant is required to contribute towards the project remains at 15 percent of the requested grant amount; however the new rule requires the match must be in cash and can be used to fund operations or facilities of the project. The match must be in the form of cash that is available at closing In-kind contributions will no longer be eligible to be used to satisfy the required match.

Applications

The complete application package is available on grants.gov under Funding Opportunity Number RDRUS-CC-2015.

Applications are due by February 17, 2015.

Links

USDA Community Connect Grants
grants.gov

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