



# The Stimulus Package: Broadband and Technology Opportunities

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# NTIA Program Overview

- \$4.7 billion to NTIA
  - \$350 million for broadband mapping, not available for grants
  - At least \$200 million for community computing
  - At least \$250 million for innovative programs
  - Up to \$3.9 billion for general broadband support
  - All funds to be granted by September 30, 2010
- Statute sets certain requirements
  - Specific criteria for evaluating applications
    - ◆ Focus on impact of grant
  - Applications
    - ◆ Detailed explanations and evidence that project requires grant money

# Working with NTIA

- NTIA experience is limited
  - Other grant programs have been much smaller
  - Professional staff likely to be augmented by contractors
- Factors affecting grant consideration
  - Work with NTIA staff if at all possible
    - ◆ May need to be able to adjust proposal
  - NTIA will decide, but other players will have influence
    - ◆ White House, OMB, NEC
    - ◆ Congress
  - Focus on impact of proposal on economic issues
  - Community support may be critical

# RUS Program Overview

- \$2.5 billion divided among loans and grants
  - RUS discretion to allocate
- Priorities set by statute:
  - Projects that create a choice of provider
  - Service to unserved areas
  - Prior RUS recipients
- Area covered must be 75% rural
- Cannot be combined with NTIA funding in same area

# Restrictions on Funding

- Funding restricted by definition of “broadband”
  - NTIA and RUS working with FCC
- NTIA grantees must have at least 20% non-federal funding
  - Appears that RUS funding would not count towards the 20%
- NTIA funding subject to non-discrimination
  - Minimum standard: FCC Internet policy statement
  - Not applicable to RUS funding
- NTIA-funded projects to be completed by 2 years from date of grant
- RUS loans subject to collateral requirements

## Other Open Issues

- Specific timing of applications and rules
  - NTIA and RUS are hurrying
- Commercial entity eligibility for NTIA funds
- Role of the states
- Non-discrimination rules
- Grant/loan mix for RUS funds
- Substantive application requirements
  - May not be criteria other than those in the law
- Evaluation process for successful grants

# Application Process

- NTIA and RUS cooperating on applications
  - May consider joint applications
- Applications likely to be accepted in three groups
  - First applications expected to be accepted by the end of June
  - Last filing deadline expected to be mid-2010
- Applicants permitted to apply under multiple programs
  - Structuring likely to be significant
- No apparent restriction on partnering applications

# Designing an Application

- Identify unmet needs
- Focus on key issues
  - Job creation
  - How quickly project can be implemented
- Leverage the funding
  - The lower the percentage of federal funding, the better
  - Multiple-benefit proposals more likely to get funded
    - ◆ Facilities that can be shared
    - ◆ Proposals that meet multiple objectives
- Obtain community buy-in
  - Partner with other entities
    - ◆ Commercial entities for non-government funding elements
  - Seek support from other non-commercial entities
  - Involve elected officials
- Position proposals as innovative

# Steps for Potential Applicants

- Identify potential opportunities
  - As an applicant
    - ◆ Specific projects
    - ◆ Potential partners
  - As a partner with an applicant
- Target open issues of concern
  - Comments to NTIA/RUS and to FCC by April 13
  - Monitor status of NTIA, RUS and FCC deliberations
- Enlist support from beneficiaries of proposal
- Begin preparation of proposal
  - Initial deadlines will be short
  - Substantive proposals can be begun now
  - Plan strategy for supporting proposal before you apply

# Other Programs

- Employment and Training Administration
  - \$250 million for worker training grants for jobs other than “green” jobs
- Health and Human Services
  - \$2 billion for health information technology architecture and infrastructure
- School Improvement Programs
  - \$720 million for school upgrades
- State Fiscal Stabilization Fund
  - \$53.6 billion, can be used for education technology

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