

# Colorado Telecommunications Association Winter Meeting

**Armando Valdez**  
State Director, Colorado

February 15, 2023





**Water Programs**



**Business Programs**



**Energy Programs**



**Housing Programs**



**Community Facilities Programs**



**Telecommunication Programs**

# USDA Rural Development

[www.rd.usda.gov/co](http://www.rd.usda.gov/co)

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# Colorado Telecommunications Association Winter Meeting

**Rural Utilities Service  
Telecommunications Programs**

February 15, 2023

Presented by: Brad Clausen



# Funding for Rural Broadband

- Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan Program
- Rural Broadband Program
- Community Connect Grant Program
- ReConnect Program



# Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan Program

Available Funding	Program Updates
<p><b><u>FY2020</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>\$690 million</b> available in FY2019</li> </ul> <p><b><u>FY2021</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>\$690 million</b> available in FY2020</li> </ul> <p><b><u>FY2022</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>\$690 million</b> available in FY2022</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loans finance new &amp; improved telecommunications infrastructure, primarily for the benefit of rural populations in communities of 5,000 or less</li> <li>• Loans may serve non-rural subscribers in some cases</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>FY2021</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>4 loans approved: \$71.1 million</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>States (x3):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CA x 2, NM, IN</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b><u>FY2022</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>5 loans approved: \$106.3 million</b></li> <li>• <b>State(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OK, VA, AK, GA, AZ</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b><u>FY2023</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0 loans approved</li> <li>• 2 loans in process for \$17.1 million.</li> <li>• Applications are accepted year round</li> <li>• <u>RD Apply</u> online application system</li> </ul>

# Community Connect Grant Program

Funding Type	Rural Focus	Funding Thresholds	Matching Requirement	Broadband Service Speeds	How to Apply	When Applications are Accepted
Grants	Areas with populations ≤ 20K	\$100,000 - \$3,000,000	15% of requested grant amount	Broadband Service: <10/1 Mbps Broadband Grant Speed: ≥25/3 Mbps	Submit through the <b>Community Connect Portal</b>	Applications are not accepted at this time

## Available Funding

### FY2019

**\$33 million** available

### FY2020

**\$29 million** available in FY2020 after awarding 8 grants from FY2019 application cycle

### FY2021

**\$35 million** available

### FY2022

**\$35 million** received in appropriations

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-connect-grants>

## Program Updates

### FY2019

**12 grants** approved: **\$24.3 million**/9 states impacted

### FY2020

**8 grants** approved: **\$15.7 million**/7 states impacted (from the FY2019 Application window)

### FY2021

**73 Applications** received: **\$146.4 million**

**23 grants** approved: **\$47 million**/15 states impacted

### FY2022

**4 grants** approved: **\$10 million**/3 states impacted (from the FY2021 Application window)

**FY2023:** Anticipate FOA in early 2023

# Community Connect Grant Program

Applications were submitted electronically through the new online application system.

Resources are available on the website at:  
<http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-connect-grants>

## Contact Information

Loan Origination and Approval Division  
Email: [community.connect@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:community.connect@wdc.usda.gov)  
Call: 202-720-0806

## Home

Welcome, Toby

## Community Connect

Thank you for your interest in the Community Connect Grant Program. The purpose of the Community Connect Grant Program is to provide financial assistance in the form of grants to eligible applicants that will provide, on a "community-oriented connectivity" basis, broadband service that fosters economic growth and delivers enhanced educational, health care, and public safety benefits.

You can create your Proposed Funded Service Area and upload your Community Connect Grant application by clicking the button below.

*Funding Window Open: July 01, 2020 - August 15, 2020*

Get Started

Central Internet Company

Switch Entity View



# ReConnect Program

Funding Type	Rural Focus	Funding Thresholds	Matching Requirement	Broadband Service Speeds	How to Apply	When Applications are Accepted
Loan/Grants/ Loan-Grant Combinations	Areas with populations ≤ 20K	≤\$50 million for loans & loan-grant combinations ≤\$25 for grants	For grant-only: 25% of requested grant amount*	Broadband Service: <100/20 Mbps Broadband Buildout Speed: ≥100/100 Mbps	Submit through the <b>RUS</b> online application system	Applications are not accepted at this time

## Available Funding

### FY2019

**\$550 million** available

### FY2020

**\$655 million** available in FY2020 (includes CARES funding)

### FY2021

**\$635 million** available

### FY2022

**\$2.3 billion** received in appropriations

- **\$1.9 billion** received in the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA)
- **\$436.6 million** received in annual appropriations

<https://www.usda.gov/reconnect>

## Program Updates

### FY2019 – “Round One”

**146** Applications processed: **\$1.4 billion**

- **76** active awards: **\$656 million**/33 States impacted

### FY2020/FY2021 – “Round Two”

**172** Applications submitted: **\$1.57 billion** requested

- **181** active awards: **\$1.5 billion**/38 States impacted

### FY2022 – “Round 3”

**305** Applications submitted: **\$4.81 billion** requested

- **103 projects** funded totaling **\$1.68 billion**

### FY2023-2023 – “Round 4”

- FOA released on 8.4.22, application window closed 11.2.22
- **\$1.15 billion** available
- **258** Applications submitted: **\$4.4 billion** requested



# ReConnect Round 4 Updates

Total Amounts	100% Loan	50% Loan/50% Grant	100% Grant	100% Grant-90%	100% Grant for Special Considerations	All Categories
Number of Applications	18	52	61	57	70	258
Total Amount Requested	\$443,185,850	\$955,240,361	\$677,745,172	\$939,497,358	\$1,373,749,766	\$4,389,418,507

# ReConnect Program

**“Rural eConnectivity Program” regulation has been published. Highlights of the new regulation include:**

- Broadband speeds, funding limits, scoring criteria, and protected areas will be announced in Federal Register notices or Funding Opportunity Announcements when new application windows are opened
- If awarded, grant funds may be used for eligible preapplication expenses in the first advance request

See [7 CFR 1740](#) published in the [Federal Register](#) on February 26, 2021 for the regulation text.

# Keys to Consider

- Sign up for GovDelivery: [USDA Rural Development \(govdelivery.com\)](https://govdelivery.com)
- Maximize your points in ReConnect FOA Funding Category, competitive scoring
- Research Proposed Funding Service Area (PFSA) for level of existing service
- [ReConnect Loan and Grant Program | USDA](#) (Website is a great resource)
  - Awardees, Mapping Tools, Funding Categories, FAQs, Webinars, Workshop Materials
- Don't wait until the last day to submit application
- Be realistic on project costs, overages will fall back on the awardee
  - Consider inflation
  - Increasing supply and labor costs
  - Project start date
- Be aware of Environmental Costs and include on application (Environmental consultants, Class 1 reports, etc.)
- Accurate timelines and managing expectations
  - Application deadline to award notification, ER Clearance, Legal Documents, Release of Funds, Engineering Contracts, Construction Contracts



# Questions?

# Rural Utilities Service Telecommunications Key Contacts

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Rural Development

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE