

## Amount of Federal money available and how available is this to rural Oregon?

Many of the federal money available pits government entities against private companies for bringing broadband to rural Oregon.

- FCC
  - o [Universal Service Funding](#); The USF's four programs:
    - The High-Cost program
    - The Lifeline (low income) program, including initiatives for Native Americans
    - The Schools and Libraries program, commonly referred to as E-rate
    - The Rural Health Care program
- USDA
  - o [Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants](#)
    - **Purpose:** This program provides grants for distance learning and telemedicine in rural areas through the use of telecommunications, computer networks, and related advanced technologies to be used by students, teachers, medical professionals and other rural residents. Grants are awarded based on rurality and economic need through a competitive process and maybe used to fund telecommunications-enabled information, audio and video equipment.
    - **Who can apply?** Non-profits, For-profit corporations business, states & local governments, an Indian tribe with a geographic area that must be rural (Service areas shall not be located in a city, town or incorporate area that has a population greater than 20,000)
    - **How much is available?** \$50,000 - \$500,000 with a minimum 15 percent match is required and cannot be from another federal source.
  - o [Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee](#)
    - **Purpose:** This program provides loans, for all types of technologies, for the costs of construction, improvement, expansion and acquisition facilities and equipment to provide broadband service to eligible rural communities.
    - **Who can apply?** Corporation, Limited Liability Company (LLC) ,Cooperative or mutual organization, A state or local unit of government, OR Federally recognized Tribes. Eligible areas must be completely contained within a rural area or composed of multiple rural areas: At least 15 percent of the households in the proposed area must not have access to broadband service as defined in the most recent funding announcement; No part of the proposed area may have three or more incumbent service providers; No part of the proposed area may overlap with the service area of current RUS borrowers or grantees
  - o [Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans and Guarantees](#)

- **Purpose:** This program provides loans, for all types of technologies, for the costs of construction, improvement, expansion and acquisition facilities and equipment to provide broadband service to eligible rural communities.
  - **Who can apply?** Public bodies, cooperatives, nonprofits, limited dividend or mutual associations, state or local governments, and federally recognized Tribes
  - **When to apply?** Year round
  - [Rural eConnectivity Pilot Program \(ReConnect Program\)](#) - 100% loan, 50% loan / 50% grant, or 100% grant options
    - **Who can apply?** Cooperatives, non-profits, or mutual associations, for-profit corporations or limited liability companies , states, local governments, or any agency, subdivision, instrumentality, or political subdivision thereof, a territory or possession of the U.S. or an Indian tribe for a geographic area to be eligible to receive Federal funds from this pilot program, it must meet two criteria: (1) it must be rural (Service areas shall not be located in a city, town or incorporate area that has a population greater than 20,000 or an urbanized area adjacent to a city or town with a population greater than 50,000 people) and (2) most households must currently have insufficient internet service (for this program, sufficient access is defined as fixed terrestrial broadband service at 10 Mbps (megabits per second) downstream and 1 Mbps upstream)
    - **How much is available?** \$200 million in federal funds available/\$25 million maximum award per project. Maximum award increases to \$50 million for 50% and 100% loan options.
  - [Community Connects Grants](#) – Requires a 15% match from non-federal source
    - **When to apply:** February 12th, 2019 - April 15, 2019
    - **Who can apply?** Most State and local governments, federally-recognized tribes, non-profits and for-profit corporations
    - **Purpose:** The Community Connect Grant Program provides financial assistance to eligible applicants that will provide service at or above the Broadband Grant Speed to all premises in rural, economically-challenged communities where broadband service does not exist. The Broadband Grant Speed for FY 2019 is defined in Section C. The deployment of broadband services on a “community-oriented connectivity” basis stimulates economic development and provides enhanced educational and health care opportunities in rural areas. RUS will give priority to rural areas that demonstrate the greatest need for broadband services
- NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program → No longer doing awards
- NTIA State Broadband Initiative ([see awards by state here](#))

- Oregon PUC has received \$5,658,302 ([see the information on their grant awards here](#))
- Grants to assist states in gathering data twice a year on the availability, speed, and location of broadband services, as well as the broadband services that community