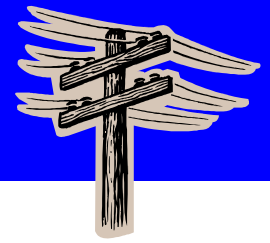


# THE FEDERAL WIRE



## Comparing Second Round NOFAs: BTOP vs. BIP

NOFA Rules	NTIA - BTOP	RUS - BIP
Application Deadline	4:00 PM (CST); March 15, 2010	4:00 PM (CST); March 15, 2010
Priority	Middle Mile *less than 20% of total costs can be last mile	Last Mile
Eligibility	Eligible entities, fully completed application, and matching	Rural area that does not have broadband service at the rate of 5 Mbps (combined up/downstream) in at least 50% of its area
Available Funding	\$2.6 billion total \$2.35 billion for CCI projects	\$2.2 billion total \$1.7 billion for Last Mile projects
Project Categories	Comprehensive Community Infrastructure –CCI Public Computer Centers -PCC Sustainable Broadband Adoption -SBA	Last Mile *Remote and Non-Remote definitions removed for this NOFA
Proposed Funded Service Area	Not required to meet unserved/underserved requirements, but extra points given if met	Must be at least 75% rural as defined by the Recovery Act
Government Assistance Proof Needed	Must demonstrate that a project would not have been implemented during the grant funding period without federal assistance	Must demonstrate that a project would not have been implemented during the grant funding period without federal assistance
Funding Allocation	20% applicant grant match, extra points for 30%	75/25 grant/loan combination
Review Process	2 reviewers: NTIA staff or volunteers Two-Step Review	RUS team of reviewers One-Step Review
State Review	Governor invited to provide feedback on applications, which will be made public	N/A
Mapping	Eliminated mapping tool and modified the service area delineations from Census blocks to Census tracts and block groups	Census block reporting eliminated; broadband mapping tool must be used
Challenges	15 day window for incumbents to challenge	30 day window for incumbents to challenge
Cost Effectiveness	NTIA will limit federal assistance to no more than \$10,000 per premises passed	RUS will limit federal assistance to no more than \$10,000 per premises passed
Timely Completion	Project must be substantially completed within 2 years of the start date and fully completed no later than 3 years following date of issuance	Project must be substantially completed within 2 years of the start date and fully completed no later than 3 years following date of issuance
Application Adjustment	Applications may be adjusted after submission to make whole or part of it acceptable	Applications may be adjusted after submission to make whole or part of it acceptable
Award Announcements	On a rolling bases beginning in June 2010 All awards announced by September 30, 2010	Goal is to have all awards made public by September 10, 2010
NOTES	Projects my not geographically overlap with previous RUS/NTIA grant/loan or First Round NOFA award winners by greater than 25%	Projects my not geographically overlap with previous RUS/NTIA grant/loan or First Round NOFA award winners by greater than 25%
NOTES	NTIA highly recommends current RUS loan and grant recipients should apply to RUS	Current RUS loan and grant recipients should apply to RUS