

Key Terms & Definitions

Federal Terms

ARRA (American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009) – The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) is a \$787 billion economic stimulus package signed into law by President Barack Obama on Feb. 17, 2009. A percentage of the package targets spending (contracts, grants, and loans) and the rest includes tax cuts and entitlements such as Medicaid and Social Security Administration payments.

BIP (Broadband Initiatives Program - RUS's program) – The Recovery Act appropriates \$2.5 billion in budget authority to RUS to establish BIP, through which RUS will provide grants, loans, and loan/grant combinations for broadband initiatives, distance learning and Telemedicine throughout the United States, including projects in unserved and underserved rural areas¹.

Broadband – Designating or of cable, communications devices, etc. that carry a wide range of frequencies or many channels of data allowing large amounts of information to be transmitted at advertised speeds² of at least 768 kbps (kilo bits per second) downstream and 200 kbps upstream to end users or providing sufficient capacity in a “middle mile” (see below) project to support the provision of broadband service to end users. Many have said this definition of broadband is much too slow and should be more like 5 or 10 Mbps.

Broadband Infrastructure – One of the three categories available for funding via the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). This category will fund (up to \$1.2 billion) projects that deliver broadband service through Last Mile or Middle Mile facilities to unserved and underserved areas.

Unserved Area: A proposed funded service area, composed of one or more contiguous census blocks³, where at least 90 percent of households in the proposed funded service area lack access to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service, either fixed or mobile, at the minimum broadband transmission speed (set forth in the definition of broadband above). A household has access to broadband service if the household can readily subscribe to that service upon request.

Underserved Area: A proposed funded service area, composed of one or more contiguous census blocks meeting certain criteria that measure the availability of

¹ <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/VAPG%20NOSA%2009.pdf>

² Webster's New World College Dictionary

³ *Census blocks are the smallest geographic areas for which the U.S. Bureau of the Census collects and tabulates its census data. Census blocks are formed by streets, roads, railroads, streams and other bodies of water, other visible physical and cultural features, and the legal boundaries shown on Census Bureau maps. Census data at this level serve as a valuable source for small-area geographic studies. See the Census Bureau's website at www.census.gov for more detailed information on its data gathering methodology.*

broadband service and the level of advertised broadband speeds. These criteria conform to the two distinct components of the Broadband Infrastructure category of eligible projects.

Specifically, a proposed funded service area may qualify as underserved for last mile projects if at least one of the following factors is met:

- No more than 50% of the households in the proposed funded service area have access to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband at greater than the minimum broadband transmission speed.
- No fixed or mobile broadband service provider advertises broadband transmission speeds of at least three megabits per second (Mbps) downstream in the proposed funded service area, or;
- The rate of broadband subscribership for the proposed funded service area is 40% of households or less.

A proposed funded service area may qualify for middle mile projects if one interconnection point terminates in a proposed funded service area that qualifies and unserved or underserved for last mile projects

Last Mile Projects⁴: Refers to any infrastructure project the predominant purpose of which is to provide broadband service to end users or end-user devices (including households, businesses, community anchor institutions, public safety entities, and critical community facilities).

Last Mile *Remote* Area Project: Any broadband infrastructure project that provides broadband service to the end user or to end-user devices only in a remote area(s) eligible for BIP funding.

Last Mile *Non-Remote* Project: Any broadband infrastructure project (or group of projects) that is not exclusively a last mile remote area project and that provides broadband service to the end user or end-user devices in a service area eligible for BIP funding

Middle Mile Projects⁵: Refers to a broadband infrastructure project that does not predominately provide broadband service to end users or end-user devices, and may include interoffice transport, backhaul, internet connectivity, or special access.

All Broadband Infrastructure recipients that offer Internet access services for a fee must agree to participate in the State Broadband Data and Development Program.

⁴ <http://broadbandusa.sc.egov.usda.gov/files/BB%20NOFA%20FINAL%2007092009.pdf>

⁵ <http://broadbandusa.sc.egov.usda.gov/files/BB%20NOFA%20FINAL%2007092009.pdf>

BTOP (Broadband Technology Opportunities Program) – NTIA’s Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), funded at \$4.7 billion, provides grants to support the deployment of broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas, to enhance broadband capacity at public computer centers, and to encourage sustainable adoption of broadband service. Through this support, BTOP will also advance the Recovery Act’s objectives to spur job creation and stimulate long-term economic growth and opportunity⁶.

Budget evaluation criteria – Costs must be reasonable, necessary, allocable, and appropriate.

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) – The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is an independent United States government agency. The FCC was established by the Communications Act of 1934 and is charged with regulating interstate and international communications by radio, television, wire, satellite and cable. The FCC's jurisdiction covers the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. possessions.

NOFA (Notice of Funding Availability) – NTIA and the USDA’s Rural Utilities Service (RUS) jointly issued a Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) and solicitation of applications on July 1, 2009, describing the availability of funds and application requirements for the broadband initiatives contained in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009—NTIA’s Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), and the RUS Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP).

NTIA (National Telecommunications & Information Administration) – The National Telecommunications and Information Administration is an agency in the U.S. Department of Commerce that serves as the executive branch agency principally responsible for advising the President on telecommunications and information policies. In this role, NTIA frequently works with other Executive Branch agencies to develop and present the Administration’s position on these issues. Since its creation in 1978, NTIA has been at the cutting edge of critical issues. In addition to representing the Executive Branch in both domestic and international telecommunications and information policy activities, NTIA also manages the Federal use of spectrum; performs cutting-edge telecommunications research and engineering, including resolving technical telecommunications issues for the Federal government and private sector; and administers infrastructure and public telecommunications facilities grants.

Public Computer Center – One of the three categories available for funding via the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). Up to \$50 million will fund projects that expand computer center capacity entities that permit the public to use these computer centers, such as community colleges and public libraries.

Remote Area – An unserved, rural area 50 miles from the limits of a non-rural area.

Rural Area – Any area, as confirmed by the latest decennial census of the Bureau of the Census, which is not located within: 1. A city, town, or incorporated area that has a population of greater than 20,000 inhabitants; or 2. an urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to a city or town that

⁶ <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/index.html>

has a population of greater than 50,000 inhabitants. For purposes of the definition of rural area, an urbanized area means a densely populated territory as defined in the latest decennial census of the U.S. Census Bureau.

Rural Utility Service (RUS) – A division of USDA Rural Development that is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in all of rural America by providing financial programs to support essential public facilities and services as water and sewer systems, housing, health clinics, emergency service facilities and electric and telephone service. Rural Development promotes economic development by providing loans to businesses through banks and community-managed lending pools, while also assisting communities to participate in community empowerment programs.⁷

State Broadband Data & Development Program (Mapping & Planning) – The State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program is a competitive, merit-based matching grant program that implements the joint purposes of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the Broadband Data Improvement Act. The Program will provide up to approximately \$240 million in grants to assist states or their designees to develop state-specific data on the deployment levels and adoption rates of broadband services. These data, including publicly available state-wide broadband maps, will also be used to develop the comprehensive, interactive national broadband map that NTIA is required by the Recovery Act to create and make publicly available by February 17, 2011.⁸

From NTIA's Press Release dated November 30, 2009:

Missouri: NTIA has awarded the Missouri Office of Administration (MOA) approximately \$1.5 million for broadband data collection and mapping activities over a two-year period and approximately \$470,000 for broadband planning activities over a two-year period in Missouri, bringing the total grant award to almost \$2 million. MOA is the designated entity for the state of Missouri⁹.

Sustainable Broadband Adoption – One of the three categories available for funding via the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). The *Sustainable Broadband Adoption* category (up to \$150 million) will fund innovative projects that promote broadband demand, such as projects focused on broadband education, awareness, training, access, equipment or support, particularly among vulnerable populations.

State Terms

ITSD - Information Technology Services Division, OA, State of Missouri

OA - Office of Administration, State of Missouri

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http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/.s.7.0.A/7.0.10B?navid=USDA_MISSION_AREAS&parentnav=AGENCIES_OFFICES&navtype=RT

⁸ <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/broadbandmapping.html>

⁹ http://www.ntia.doc.gov/press/2009/BBMappinggrants_AKCODEKSLAMO_091130.html