

July 1, 2009

First round of Broadband Stimulus funds announced

NTIA (Commerce) and USDA have announced the first round of stimulus grants, loans and loan guarantees for broadband projects in unserved, underserved and rural areas.

NTIA released on July 1 its [Notice of Funds Availability](#). VACo members are encouraged to carefully read the NOFA. Federal workshops will be held to assist grant applicants – details will be forthcoming. VACo soon will release a summary of the notice.

Applications will be available from the new [broadband stimulus web portal](#), beginning on July 7, and the deadline for the first round of applications is **Aug. 14**. Both agencies previously announced that there will likely be three application rounds. The stimulus bill (ARRA) requires all the funds to be made available by Oct. 1, 2010. All funds must be spent or committed within two years of receipt by the grantee.

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