

April 30, 2009

Community Connect Grants update

On April 20, the USDA issued a [Notice of Funds Availability](#) for \$13.4 million in grants for calendar year 2009 under its [Community Connect Grants Program](#).

The application deadline is June 19.

Note: This is not part of the stimulus bill funding of which USDA has been appropriated \$2.5 billion in grants, loans, and loan guarantees. Neither the USDA nor the NTIA have issued guidelines on the broadband stimulus funds, but we expect that to happen sometime in June.

The Community Connect program is dedicated to reaching only unserved areas. The project must serve one and only one rural (not more than 20,000 population) community. The applicant, whether governmental or private sector, must own and operate the broadband facilities. It requires a 15 percent match and requires the free access to broadband in local community centers.

VACo contact:

Jeffrey S. Gore

Hefty & Wiley, P.C.

1001 E. Broad St., Suite 230

Richmond, VA 23219

804.780.3143 (office)

804.212.9473 (mobile)

jeff@heftywiley.com