

HOW TO APPLY FOR BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW FUNDING

Through the Department of Commerce



U.S. Senator Gary Peters

U.S. Senator Gary Peters (MI) helped pass the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) into law which will help grow our economy, strengthen our economic competitiveness and make our economy more sustainable, resilient, and equitable.

In particular, funding made available through the IIJA for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will enable the agency to support critical projects to safeguard the Great Lakes, which are vital to our nation – from providing drinking water to tens of millions of people to being an economic engine for communities across Michigan

See below to learn about programs through the Department of Commerce and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that are supported through the bipartisan infrastructure law – and how you may be eligible to apply for assistance.

Resources

- Department of Commerce IIJA Fact Sheet [HERE](#)
- National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Grants Overview Page [HERE](#)
- Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth (OICG) Homepage [HERE](#)
- OICG Grants Page [HERE](#)
- NTIA will be updating the OICG grant programs webpage as additional information becomes available on program guidance and webinars.

Competitive Grant Funding:

- **Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program (\$1.25B)** – This competitive grant program will accelerate the adoption of broadband through digital literacy training, workforce development, devices access programs, and other digital inclusion measures. The law authorizes \$250 million to be appropriated for each of the first five fiscal years in which funds are made available (the program may extended). From these amounts, the NTIA may not use more than 5% to administer the program; at least 5% is to be set aside for grants to Indian tribes, Alaska Native entities, and Native Hawaiian organizations; and



at least 1% is to be set aside for grants to territories. The law appropriates the authorized \$250 million for FY2022.

- Eligible applicants: Political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of a state, including an agency of a state that is responsible for administering or supervising adult education and literacy activities, or for providing public housing; an Indian Tribe, an Alaska Native entity, or a Native Hawaiian organization; a foundation, corporation, institution, or association that is a not-for-profit entity and not a school; a community anchor institution; a local educational agency; an entity that carries out a workforce development program; and partnership between any of the above entities. Additionally, other entities (other than schools) may be permitted to join a partnership of eligible entities if the Assistant Secretary determines such action to be in the public interest.
- **Middle Mile Grant Program (\$1B)** – NTIA will make grants through this five-year funding (FY2022 – 2026) on a technology-neutral, competitive basis to eligible entities for the construction, improvement, or acquisition of middle mile infrastructure.
- Eligible applicants: A State, political subdivision of a State, Tribal government, technology company, electric utility, utility cooperative, public utility district, telecommunications company, telecommunications cooperative, nonprofit foundation, nonprofit corporation, nonprofit institution, nonprofit association, regional planning council, Native entity, or economic development authority; or a partnership of any two or more of these.
- Priority:
 - NTIA will give priority to applications that satisfy two or more of the following conditions:
 - Adoption of fiscally sustainable middle mile strategies
 - Commitment to offering nondiscriminatory connection to terrestrial and wireless last mile broadband providers
 - Identification of business partners of terrestrial and wireless last mile providers
 - Identification of supplemental investments or in-kind support
 - Demonstration of benefits to national security interests
 - Requirements:
 - Having financial, technical, and operational capabilities to carry out the project, operate the resulting middle mile broadband network, and support retail broadband service



- Prioritizing connection of its middle mile infrastructure to last mile broadband networks in unserved areas or noncontiguous trust lands
 - Prioritizing the offering of wholesale broadband service on a carrier-neutral basis
 - Completing the grant project within five years
 - Sharing the locations of its middle mile infrastructure with the NTIA, the FCC, and local governments
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- **NOAA Habitat Restoration and Community Resilience Grants (\$491M)** – This funding will support competitive grants for coastal restoration projects across multiple NOAA programs. Funds will be used to enable communities, Tribes and states to respond and adapt to climate change impacts.
 - Eligible applicants: Institutions of higher education, non-profits, commercial (for profit) organizations, U.S. territories, and state, local, and Native American tribal governments.
 - Click [HERE](#) to see how to apply.
 - **NOAA National Ocean and Coastal Security Fund Grants (\$492M)** – The NOAA National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF) is a competitive grant program administered through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation that prioritizes awards based on matching fund. This program funds natural infrastructure needed to protect coastal communities while also enhancing habitat for fish and wildlife.
 - Eligible applicants: non-profit 501(c) organizations, state and territorial government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, Tribal governments and organizations, educational institutions, or commercial (for-profit) organizations. Tribal governments include all Native American tribal governments (both federally recognized tribes and those tribes that are not federally recognized).
 - **NOAA Community-Based Restoration Program: Fish Passage Barrier Removal Grants (\$400M)** – Competitive grants administered through this program will support projects that restore fish passage through the removal of in-stream barriers such as culverts, small dams, dikes and other infrastructure. Funding also supports communities by providing technical assistance for project planning and permitting needs. This funding includes a 15% set-aside for Tribal projects (\$60M).



- Eligible applicants: Institutions of higher education, non-profits, commercial (for profit) organizations, U.S. territories, and state, local, and tribal governments.
 - Click [HERE](#) to see NOAA Fisheries funding opportunities.
- **NOAA Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) (\$172M)** – PCSRF competitive grants fund habitat restoration projects for Endangered Species Act listed salmon stocks in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, California, and Alaska, as well as federally recognized Tribes of the Columbia River and the Pacific Coast (including Alaska).
 - Eligible applicants: non-profit 501(c) organizations, state and territorial government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, Tribal governments and organizations, educational institutions, or commercial (for-profit) organizations. Tribal governments include all Native American tribal governments (both federally recognized tribes and those tribes that are not federally recognized).
 - Click [HERE](#) to see how to apply.
 - **NOAA Marine Debris Assessment, Mitigation, and Removal (\$200M)** – The competitive grants distributed by the NOAA Marine Debris Program fund projects that remove trash and other ocean, habitat restoration as well as emergency response and research.
 - Eligible applicants: State, local, tribal, and territory governments whose activities affect research or regulation of marine debris. Equally eligible are any institution of higher education, nonprofit organization, or commercial (for-profit) organization with expertise in a field related to marine debris.
 - Click [HERE](#) to learn how to apply.
 - **NOAA National Estuarine Research Reserves Program (NERRs) (\$77M)** – The competitive grant funds are available to entities working on 29 coastal sites designated to protect and study estuarine systems. NOAA provides funding and national guidance, and each site is managed daily by a lead state agency or university with input from local partners.
 - Eligible applicants: NERRs lead state agencies or universities designed to receive NERRs operations funding through a Memorandum of Understanding with NOAA in the coastal states and territories including the Pacific, Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean, Atlantic Coast and Great Lakes.



- **NOAA Regional Ocean Partnerships (ROPs) (\$56M)** – The ROPs coordinate the interstate and intertribal management of ocean, Great Lakes, and coastal resources. This funding would allow the ROPs to implement their priority actions via financial assistance.
 - Eligible applicants: All state, local, territory and tribal governments, institutions of higher learning, non-profit and for-profit organizations that may receive and expend Federal funds as legal entities are eligible to apply.
- **NOAA Coastal, Ocean, and Great Lakes Observing Systems (\$150M)** – This funding would provide critical upgrades to the nation's buoy and ocean observation network. These upgrades include support a number of priorities including funds for installation and implementation of high-frequency radar systems to close key gaps in the surface current mapping system (oil spill response, harmful algal blooms, and climate research), underwater gliders to ensure safe navigation, and innovation in ocean technology and modeling.
 - Eligible applicants: TBD
- **NOAA Coastal Zone Enhancement – Technical Assistance and Grants (\$207M)** – This funding will allow NOAA to increase technical assistance and grants to advance projects that address wetlands, coastal hazards, public access, marine debris, cumulative and secondary impacts, special area management plans, ocean and Great Lakes resources, energy and government facility siting, and aquaculture.
 - Eligible applicants: TBD

Formula-Based Funding:

- **Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (\$42.45B)** – This will fund the infrastructure buildouts needed to connect every American to reliable, high-speed, affordable broadband.
 - Allotments: NTIA will first allocate to each state a “minimum initial amount” of \$100 million for broadband expansion and/or affordability. NTIA will also allocate 10% of the total appropriated amount (\$4.245B) to each state, based on that state's share of number of locations in high-cost areas of the country that are unserved by high-speed broadband. NTIA will allocate the remaining funds (\$32.905B) to states based on their share of unserved locations in the country.



- Funding breakdown: Each participating state must apply to NTIA for the funds allocated to it. After receiving the funds from NTIA, the state may competitively award sub-grants to carry out the broadband deployment activities. States will be required to work with broadband providers to ensure that each broadband provider that receives funding offers at least one affordable service plan. NTIA will work closely with the FCC to determine exactly where the unserved locations are, and with states to fund projects that will help us reach universal broadband access.
- **Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (\$2B)** – The Commerce Department's current Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (\$980M) has received over \$5 billion dollars in funding requests for broadband deployment and affordability projects, demonstrating the significant need for funding to expand access to and adoption of broadband service on Tribal lands. Although other broadband funds provided by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act can be used on tribal lands, by providing tribal governments with access to an additional \$2 billion in dedicated broadband funds, IIJA gives tribes the opportunity to determine how best to meet the broadband needs of their own communities.
- **State Digital Equity Capacity Formula Grant Program (\$1.5B)** – This two-phase formula-based grant program will accelerate the adoption of broadband through digital literacy training, workforce development, device access programs, and other digital inclusion measures.
- Allotments:
 - Phase I: For Phase I, the law appropriates \$60 million for planning grant awards. The funds are to be used by states to develop their State Digital Equity Plans.
 - Phase II: For Phase II, the law authorizes Congress to appropriate \$240 million for FY2022 and \$300 million per year for FY2023 through FY2026. At least 5% of funds are to be made available for grants to Indian tribes, Alaska Native entities, and Native Hawaiian organizations; and at least 1% is to be made available for grants to territories. The law appropriates the authorized \$240 million for FY2022.
- Administering entity: An entity selected by the governor (or equivalent official) to apply for funding under this program that would be responsible for receiving and administering capacity grants; overseeing the State Digital Equity Plan; and making subgrants to eligible entities. Schools may not be an administering entity.



- Eligible applicants: A state, Indian tribe, Alaska Native entity, or a Native Hawaiian organization; a not-for-profit entity providing services in the state; a community anchor institution; a local educational agency; an entity that conducts a workforce development program; a state agency responsible for administering or supervising adult education and literacy activities; a public or multi-family housing authority; or a partnership between any of these entities. Additionally, other entities (other than schools) may be permitted to join a partnership of eligible entities if the Assistant Secretary determines such action to be in the public interest.