

**COMPARISON CHART OF BROADBAND INITIATIVE PROGRAM (BIP) CHANGES
BETWEEN ROUND ONE AND ROUND TWO**

Round Two changes are highlighted in red

BIP Program Requirement	Round One	Round Two
Relationship with NTIA's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)	Joint Application Joint NoFA Interagency Collaboration Ability to apply to both BIP/BTOP in a single application Rural applicants must first apply to BIP before BTOP consideration	Separate Application Separate NoFA Interagency Collaboration Must choose between BTOP or BIP per project Rural applicants can apply directly to BTOP
Project Type		
Project Type	Three Main Project Categories Last Mile Remote Last Mile Non-Remote Middle Mile	Removed the Remote project category and added three new ones Last Mile Middle Mile (preference for existing RUS loan and grant recipients; all other encouraged to file in BTOP) Satellite (unserved)⁺ Rural Libraries⁺⁺ Technical Assistance⁺⁺⁺
Application Review Process		
Application Process	Two-step process: initial determination followed by a second review process where	One-step process: Applicant must provide all required data in initial application

⁺ Satellite Projects are for areas that are not served by other broadband technologies. RUS will establish a separate application window for these projects after the Last Mile and Middle Mile application window. Satellite project awards will be grant only.

⁺⁺ Rural library broadband awards provide grants to reimburse costs of connecting any rural library.

⁺⁺⁺ Technical assistance awards provide grants for the development of USDA-recognized regional strategy for providing broadband service in critically unserved rural areas.

BIP Program Requirement	Round One	Round Two
	additional information was requested	
Objective Criteria Scoring by Category for Infrastructure Projects	<p>4 Categories each with subfactors totaling 100 points.</p> <p>Project Purpose (25 Points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Proportion of Rural Residents Served in Unserved Areas (5 pts) ii. Rural Area Targeting (5 pts) iii. Remote Area Targeting (5 pts) iv. Title II Borrowers (5 pts) v. Recovery Act and other governmental collaboration (5 pts) <p>Project Benefits (25 Points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Performance of the offered service (10 pts) ii. Affordability of services offered (5 pts) iii. Choice of provider (5 pts) iv. Critical community facilities (5 pts) <p>Project Viability (25 Points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Applicant's organizational capability (12 pts) ii. Community support (2 pts) iii. Ability to promptly start project (10 points) iv. Disadvantaged small businesses (1 point) <p>Project Budget and Sustainability (25 Points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Reasonableness of the budget (5 points) ii. Leverage of outside resources (10 points) iii. Extent of grant funding (10 points) 	<p>Removed categories but kept factors. Provided 10 bonus points to be given at the RUS Administrator's discretion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proportion of Rural Residents Served in Unserved Areas (10 points) 2. Rural Area Targeting (10 points) 3. Distance from Non-Rural Areas (5 points) 4. Title II Borrowers (8 points) 5. Other Recovery Act Awards (5 points) 6. Performance of the offered service (10 points) 7. Service to Critical Community Facilities and SDBs (6 points) 8. Applicant's organizational capability (10 points) 9. Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Small Business Concern (3 points) 10. Leverage of outside resources (10 points) 11. Extent of grant funding (15 points) 12. Cost Effectiveness (8 points) Administrator's Bonus Points (10 points) <p>Factor Changes - Added: Service to Critical Community Facilities and SDBs and Cost Effectiveness</p> <p>Removed: Budget Reasonableness; Ability to start promptly; Affordability; Choice of provider; Community support</p>

BIP Program Requirement	Round One	Round Two
Project Requirements		
Grant/Loan Mix	Rural Remote – 100 % grant Rural Non-Remote – 50-50 grant/loan Waiver for a higher grant ratio	Eliminated Remote Project Type <i>75/25 ratio – grant/loan [projects with a higher loan ratio will receive additional points]</i> Waiver for a higher grant ratio
Project Service Area	Serve at least 75 percent unserved or underserved rural areas	Rural area that does not have broadband service in at least 50% of its area <i>Requirements removed for unserved and underserved</i>
Mapping Info	Report service area by census block Use of online tool required	Eliminated census block reporting Use of online tool required
Eligible Costs	Fund construction or improvement of broadband facilities Fund cost of capital leases for facilities required for broadband delivery for 5 years Reasonable pre-application expenses up to 5 percent	Fund construction or improvement of broadband facilities Fund cost of capital leases for facilities required for broadband delivery for 3 years Reasonable pre-application expenses up to 5 percent
Cost per Household Passed	No set maximum	No more than \$10,000 per premises past
Definitional Changes		
Broadband	At least 768 kbps downstream At least 200 kbps upstream	5 Mbps (downlink and uplink combined)
Funding Round Information		
NoFA publication to Application Submission Deadline	43 days [49 days w/ extension]	59 days
Available Funding	\$ 2.4 bil Last Mile: \$1.2 bil (\$400 mil for	\$2.2 bil Last Mile: \$1.7 bil

BIP Program Requirement	Round One	Round Two
	Remote Grants and \$800 mil for loans or loan/grants) Middle Mile: \$800 mil for loans or loan/grants National Reserve: \$325 mil	Middle Mile: \$300 mil Satellite: \$100 mil Rural Library: \$5 mil Technical Assistance: \$5 mil National Reserve: \$95 mil