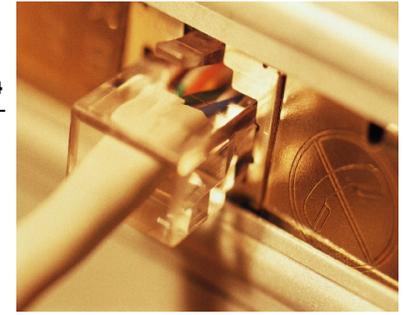


NYS Broadband Flash Bulletin

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USDA's Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) Program Offers Funding for Utility Organizations

The REDLG program provides funding to rural projects through local utility organizations. Under the REDLoan program, USDA provides zero interest loans to local utilities which they, in turn, pass through to local businesses (ultimate recipients) for projects that will create and retain employment in rural areas. The ultimate recipients repay the lending utility directly. The utility is responsible for repayment to the Agency. Under the REDGrant program, USDA provides grant funds to local utility organizations which use the funding to establish revolving loan funds. Loans are made from the revolving loan fund to projects that will create or retain rural jobs. When the revolving loan fund is terminated, the grant is repaid to the Agency.



Who is eligible?

To receive funding under the REDLG program (which will be forwarded to selected eligible projects) an entity must:

- Have borrowed and repaid or pre-paid an insured, direct, or guaranteed loan received under the Rural Electrification Act or,
- Be a not-for-profit utility that is eligible to receive assistance from the Rural Development Electric or Telecommunication Program
- Be a current Rural Development Electric or Telecommunication Programs Borrower

What types of projects are eligible?

REDLG grantees and borrowers pass the funding on to eligible projects. Examples of eligible projects include:

- Capitalization of revolving loan funds
- Technical assistance in conjunction with projects funded under a zero interest REDLoan
- Business Incubators
- Community Development Assistance to non-profits and public bodies (particularly job creation or enhancement)
- Facilities and equipment for education and training for rural residents to facilitate economic development
- Facilities and equipment for medical care to rural residents
- Telecommunications/computer networks for distance learning or long distance medical care

How to Apply:

To apply for funding for the REDLG program, please contact your Rural Development State Office

(http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/recd_map.html).

Fast Fact:

Half of internet users (48%) who go online for health information say their last search was on behalf of another person.

— from "Health Topics"
by Susannah Fox
*Pew Internet and
American Life Project*
Feb 1, 2011

RESOURCES:

U.S. Economic Recovery
www.recovery.gov

www.BroadbandUSA.gov

NYSBroadband.ny.gov

NYS Broadband Development
and Deployment Council

[www.cio.ny.gov/OFT/
UniversalBroadband/
overview.htm](http://www.cio.ny.gov/OFT/UniversalBroadband/overview.htm)

Federal Communications
Commission (FCC)

www.fcc.gov
Broadband.gov

National Telecommunications
Information Administration
(NTIA)

www.ntia.doc.gov

U.S. Department of Agriculture
(USDA)

www.usda.gov



FCC Proposes Modernizing and Streamlining Universal Service and Intercarrier Compensation

On February 8, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) proposed to modernize and streamline its universal service and intercarrier compensation policies to bring affordable wired and wireless broadband – and the jobs and investment they spur – to all Americans while combating waste and inefficiency.

A Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking adopted by the FCC outlines a path to transforming programs that are currently focused on 20th Century voice service into a streamlined, efficient Connect America Fund that would help make 21st Century broadband available and affordable to rural communities.

The NPRM proposes immediate steps to cut waste, reward efficiency, and close loopholes. Long-term proposals call for simplifying and unifying USF into a single, streamlined Connect America Fund, and gradually eliminating per-minute intercarrier charges.

To view the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM):

http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2011/db0209/FCC-11-13A1.pdf

To view more information regarding this issue, please visit:

http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2011/db0208/DOC-304522A1.pdf

King, Thompson Introduce Bipartisan Legislation to Reallocate D Block Communications Spectrum to Public Safety

On February 11, Representative Peter T. King (R-NY), Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, joined by Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) and 5 others, introduced H.R. 607, the Broadband for First Responders Act of 2011. This legislation will strengthen the communications capabilities of America's first responders by reallocating the D Block communications spectrum to public safety. President Obama personally called for the reallocation of the D Block to public safety.

Congressman Thompson released the following statement with the legislation:

"Today marks an important moment in our decade-long effort at providing first responders—in every corner of the nation—with interoperable communications. A unified vision for how to achieve this elusive capability has finally emerged. As a former volunteer firefighter, I take great pride in the role that this Committee has played in amplifying the voices of the first responder community. Our efforts have secured, for the first time, Administration support for investing significant resources towards ensuring that a nationwide network is built out. The legislation that I am introducing today with Chairman King will help ensure that those resources are there."

Congressman King added the following statement:

"This legislation is exactly what America's first responders



have long advocated, so I welcome President Obama's support. Allocation of the D Block to public safety will ensure that our Nation's first responders have sufficient spectrum to develop a wireless broadband network. Public safety officials must have access to new technologies to perform increasingly complex duties. These technologies must have adequate and dedicated spectrum that is managed and controlled by public safety to ensure that the technologies will be more secure and reliable than those in commercial systems."

The Broadband for First Responders Act is comprehensive, addressing not only spectrum allocation, but also funding for the construction of a public safety network, and governance. Funding for the construction of the network will come from auction of globally homogenized Advanced Wireless Services (AWS) spectrum. Under this legislation, there

will be a single licensee for the full 20 MHz of public safety broadband spectrum.

The legislation is supported by the National Governors Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the Council of State Governments, the National Association of Counties, the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the International City/County Management Association, the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, International Association of Fire Fighters, the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association, the National Emergency Management Association, the National Sheriffs' Association, the Major County Sheriffs' Association, the National Troopers Coalition, and the National Criminal Justice Association.