

***A Message from the HUD's***

***Southwest Office of Native American Programs (SWONAP) June 16, 2021***

**FEDERAL BROADBAND FUNDING PROGRAMS AND OTHER RELATED INFORMATION**

1. **AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN:**
	* **The Emergency Connectivity Fund ($7.171 billion)** – Reimburses schools and libraries for providing free broadband service (and connected devices) to students and patrons at their homes. The Emergency Connectivity Fund is a huge infusion into the [Federal Communications Commission's E-Rate Program](https://www.fcc.gov/general/e-rate-schools-libraries-usf-program) which, since 1996, has helped make telecommunications services more affordable for schools and libraries. The E-Rate program has traditionally funded broadband service to and within schools and libraries; the new law allows these community anchor institutions to extend service farther into the community, reaching people where they live.  Final rule:  <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-05-28/pdf/2021-10804.pdf>
	* **The Homeowners Assistance Fund ($9.961 billion)** – Treasury will make grants to states to administer programs assisting homeowners with mortgage payments and related costs including utilities and internet service.  States had to request funds by 4/25/2.  <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/homeowner-assistance-fund>
	* **State and Local Recovery Funds ($350 billion)** – Treasury will distribute funds to municipalities and counties, tribes, territories and states to keep first responders, frontline health workers, teachers, and other providers of vital services safely on the job as states, local governments, Tribes, and territories roll out vaccines and fight to rebuild Main Street economies. Digital inclusion is assumed to be an eligible use of funds.**States/Localities may request funds now**:  <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds> Funds available until 12/21/24.
	* **The Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund ($10 billion)** – Treasury will distribute funds to States, territories, and Tribal governments to carry out critical capital projects directly enabling work, education, and health monitoring, including remote options, in response to the pandemic. The funding could be limited to broadband and broadband adoption.    Sign-up to receive updates:  <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/capital-projects-fund>
	* **Institute for Museum and Library Services** ($200 million) –The $200 million investment will enable IMLS to efficiently provide critical funding to State Library Administrative Agencies (SLAAs), located in every state and territory and with reach into local communities across the U.S. IMLS will also offer grants to museums, libraries, and Native American and Native Hawaiian communities, so that they may to continue to respond to the COVID-19 health emergency. <https://www.imls.gov/news/federal-government-invests-200m-libraries-and-museums-stimulate-american-communities>
		+ <https://www.imls.gov/grants/available/imls-american-rescue-plan>
		+ Applications due 6/28:  <https://www.imls.gov/sites/default/files/2021-05/fy21-arp-nofo.pdf>
	* **Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund** ($122.7 billion) - a portion of funds are eligible to be spent on devices, software, and connectivity subscriptions for low-income students.  For more info: <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/education-stabilization-fund/elementary-secondary-school-emergency-relief-fund/>

 **For summary info go to:**  <https://www.benton.org/blog/american-rescue-plan-broadband-and-social-safety-net> and <https://www.brookings.edu/research/the-american-rescue-plan-is-the-broadband-down-payment-the-country-needs/>

1. **FY21 CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT:**
	* **Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program** ($285 Million) - a $285 million grant program for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) or consortium applicants. (Applications not announced yet)
	* [The Tribal Connectivity Program](https://www.commerce.senate.gov/2020/12/covid-relief-bill-includes-1-billion-for-tribal-broadband-and-250-million-for-fcc-telehealth-program-in-provisions-sought-by-cantwell/ab843eb5-c457-4780-9448-56c0179e6a6d?utm_source=sendgrid&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newsletters) ($1 billion) – Grants to eligible entities to expand access to and adoption of broadband service on Tribal land; or remote learning, telework, or telehealth resources during the COVID–19 pandemic.   Applications due 9/1/21.  <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/2021-06/NTIA.Tribal%20Broadband%20Connectivity%20Program.Final_.OMB%20Cleared_0.pdf>
	* **Broadband Infrastructure Program** – ($300 million to NTIA) – Grants for competitively and technologically neutral projects for the deployment of fixed broadband service that provides at least 25/3 in an eligible area (census block with at least one household or business that does not have access to 25/3).   **APPLICATIONS OPEN AND DUE 8/17/21**. Application can be found here: <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/2021-05/NTIA%20Broadband%20Infrastructure%20Grant%20Program%20NOFO.Final_.pdf>
	* For information on these 3 grant programs go to:  <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/resources/grant-programs>

1. **On the Horizon:  approx. $2 Trillion Infrastructure plan** (administration proposal) includes $100 billion to expand broadband networks.

House Majority Whip James Clyburn (D-SC) and Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) introduced the Accessible, Affordable Internet for All Act. The $94 billion    proposal would bring broadband service to areas where it doesn’t exist, improve speeds in places where connectivity is sluggish, and help families who are struggling to pay their monthly bills.  For more info go to: <https://www.klobuchar.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2021/3/klobuchar-clyburn-introduce-comprehensive-broadband-infrastructure-legislation-to-expand-access-to-affordable-high-speed-internet>

**Vacancy Announcements:**

**Senior Loan Guarantee Specialist** - GS1101/14 (Permanent position)     Location: Washington DC

Closes: 7/1/21

 Announcement number:

21-HUD-1330 MP(*Internal*)     <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/604868500>

 21-HUD-1331-P; DEU(*Public*)    <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/604870600>

**Database Management Specialist** -  GS1101/13  (Permanent position)    Location: Washington DC

Closes:  6/28/21

 Announcement number:

21-HUD-1419 MP(*Internal*)     <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/604601800>

 21-HUD-1490-P; DEU(*Public*)    <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/604602000>

**6 Vacancies - Grants Management Specialist, GS-13, HQs (Permanent positions)**

Closes:  6/29/21

 Announcement number:

 21-HUD-1177 MP(Internal)     <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/604595500>

 21-HUD-1178-P; DEU(Public)    <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/604595900>

**Loan Guarantee Specialist (Realty); GS-9/11/12, Washington, DC**

Closes: 6/25/21

 Announcement number:

 21-HUD-1353 MP(Internal)    <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/604202700>

 21-HUD-1354-P; DEU(Public)    <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/604203100>