

STAKEHOLDER ANNOUNCEMENT

USDA Seeks Applications to Fund Rural Broadband

(April 8, 2016) – USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Administrator Brandon McBride today announced that the Department is accepting applications for loans to bring broadband to underserved rural areas.

The funding is from the [Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program](#). The minimum loan amount is \$100,000. The maximum is \$10 million. The deadline to apply is July 7, 2016. For additional information, see Page 20614 of the April 8 [Federal Register](#). In addition to the availability of funding, McBride also announced that USDA is implementing several improvements to the Broadband program.

One of these improvements is faster Internet speeds. Loan applicants must design broadband systems with speeds of 10 megabits downstream and 1 megabit upstream. For additional details, see Page 45397 of the July 30, 2015 [Federal Register](#).

Loan applications must be submitted through [RDApply](#). Application materials are available at <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/farm-bill-broadband-loans-loan-guarantees>.

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