

# Rural Broadband Loans, Loan/Grant Combinations and Loan Guarantees

## What does this program do?

**This program offers financial assistance to eligible applicants that will construct, improve, or acquire facilities and equipment needed to provide high-speed internet in rural areas. The projects funded by these grants help rural residents tap into the enormous potential of the internet for jobs, education, healthcare, public safety and community development.**

## Who may apply for this program?

### Eligible applicants include:

- Corporation
- Limited Liability Company (LLC)
- Cooperative or mutual organization
- State or local governments
- Federally recognized Tribes



**Rural Broadband Loans,  
Loan Guarantees, and  
Loan/Grant Combinations Website**

## What is an eligible area?

Eligible areas must be completely contained within a rural area or composed of multiple rural areas.

- At least 15 percent of the households in the proposed area must not have access to high-speed internet as defined in the most recent funding announcement.
- No part of the proposed area may have three or more incumbent service providers.
- No part of the proposed area may overlap with the service area of current RUS borrowers or grantees.

## How may funds be used?

This program provides funding for:

- The construction, improvement, and acquisition of facilities required to provide service at the broadband lending speed as defined in the latest funding announcement
- Refinancing of existing RUS debt with certain restrictions
- An acquisition, under certain circumstances and with restrictions
- For additional details, see 7 CFR 1738 available at this link: [tinyurl.com/CFR7Part1738](https://www.tinyurl.com/CFR7Part1738)

## What kind of funding is available?

- Direct loans: Cost-of-money loans
- Loan/grant combinations
- Loan guarantees

## What are the loan terms?

- In general, loan terms are limited to the expected composite economic life of the assets to be financed plus 3 years.
- Interest rates are set at the time funds are advanced.

## How do we get started?

- Application periods for this program are announced through the national office on a periodic basis.
- Program resources like forms, guides and certifications are available online at [rd.usda.gov](https://rd.usda.gov).

## Who can answer questions about this program?

- Contact our Loan Origination and Approval Division at 202-720-0800.
- Contact your General Field Representative. A list is available at this link: [tinyurl.com/RUSGFR-T](https://www.tinyurl.com/RUSGFR-T).

**NOTE: Because information changes, always consult official program instructions or contact your local USDA Rural Development office for help. A list is available at this link: [tinyurl.com/RDStateOffices](https://www.tinyurl.com/RDStateOffices). You will find additional RD program resources at [rd.usda.gov](https://rd.usda.gov). Information about other USDA programs and services is available at this link: [ask.usda.gov/s/](https://ask.usda.gov/s/). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.**

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