ReConnect Program Workshops

Agenda

*Note: Topics are subject to change. All times are in Eastern Standard Time

Day 1	February 8, 2022
10:00-10:15 am	Opening Remarks

Main Sessions	
Time	**Topic**
10:15-11:15 am	Application System Introduction
11:20 am-12:20 pm	ReConnect Eligibility
12:20-12:50 pm	Break
12:50-1:00 pm	Welcome Back
1:00-2:00 pm	Early Coordination with Tribes
2:05-3:35 pm	Network Overview
3:35-3:50 pm	Day 1 Closing Remarks

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Day 2	February 9, 2022
10:00-10:15 am	**Opening Remarks**

Main Sessions	
Time	**Topic**
10:15-11:15 am	**Application Mapping Overview**
11:20 am-12:20 pm	**Financial Overview**
12:20-12:50 pm	Break
12:50-1:00 pm	**Welcome Back: Transition to your first Breakout Session**

Breakout Sessions		
Time	**Breakout 1**	**Breakout 2**
1:05-2:05 pm	**Financial Deep Dive**	**Construction Map**
2:05-2:20 pm	Break: Transition to next Breakout Session	
2:20-3:20 pm	**Financial Deep Dive**	**Construction Map**
3:20-3:35 pm	Break: Transition to Main Session	

Main Session	
Time	**Topic**
3:35-4:35 pm	**ReConnect Evaluation Criteria**
4:35-4:50 pm	Closing Remarks

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Day 3 | February 10, 2022

| 10:00-10:15 am | Opening Remarks |

Main Sessions

Time	Topic
10:15-11:45 am	Interagency Panel
11:45 am - 12:15 pm	Break
12:15-12:30 pm	Welcome Back: Transition to your first Breakout Session

Breakout Sessions

Time	Breakout 1	Breakout 2
12:35-1:35 pm	Financial Award Compliance	PNF/PNR Process
1:35-1:50 pm	Break: Transition to next Breakout Session	
1:50-2:50 pm	Financial Award Compliance	PNF/PNR Process
2:50-3:05 pm	Break: Transition to Main Session	

Main Session

Time	Topic
3:05-4:35 pm	Environmental Overview
4:35-4:50 pm	Closing Remarks

The USDA Rural Development Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is providing a three-day workshop on applying for ReConnect Funds. The workshop will provide in-depth sessions on all aspects of the Application Intake System, deep dives into each section of the ReConnect application and live demonstrations of Application System functionality. Below you can find a list of content covered in the workshop, and a short description of each topic. Please note: these topics are subject to change.

Main Sessions

Application System Introduction

While many sections of the ReConnect application are covered in deep dives or overview presentations, there are some sections not covered in-depth during the workshop. These sections will be covered during the Application System Introduction. This session provides tips for using the application system, a live demo of the application, how to get started, and additional information needed to submit an application.

ReConnect Evaluation Criteria

This session will cover the scoring criteria for the FY2022 ReConnect Funding Opportunity Announcement. Attendees will receive a deeper understanding of how to receive points for each criterion and the documentation needed in order to receive points.

Application Mapping Overview

The majority of this session will focus on the service area map found within the ReConnect application portal. Attendees will also receive a refresher on how to use the publicly available ReConnect Mapping Tool to assess Proposed Funded Service Areas (PFSAs).

ReConnect Eligibility

This session contains important information regarding eligibility for the ReConnect program. Attendees will learn about eligible entities, projects, service areas, and cost purposes. Additionally, the session will cover how to review service area eligibility using the ReConnect Mapping Tool.

Financial Overview

This overview session will provide a live demo of the Financial section in the ReConnect application system. This presentation is meant to give attendees an idea of what is needed to complete the Financial section and how to navigate to each subsection. A deep dive on this topic will be completed in a separate session.

Environmental Overview

This session will cover an introduction to the Environmental section of the ReConnect application, key changes from FY2020, how to complete the Environmental section, post-award requirements, and information on completing site and route descriptions.

Network Overview

The Network Overview includes key components of the Network section within the application, key changes from FY2020, requirements for FY2022, important information for designing your network, post-award requirements, and more.

Interagency Panel

The interagency session will feature presentations from federal partners supporting rural broadband deployment through their respective programs and initiatives. Workshop attendees will learn more about additional federal resources that can be utilized to advance their local broadband efforts.

Breakout Sessions

Early Coordination with Tribes

It is important for ReConnect applicants to understand the requirements regarding National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance and coordination with Tribes. This includes compliance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the requirement for Rural Development to consult with Tribes. This session will cover the ReConnect program Tribal considerations, regulatory requirements, the 7 Guiding Principles for Federal Infrastructure Funding on Tribal Lands and in Indigenous Communities, and more.

Financial Award Compliance

The Financial Award Compliance session will cover award terms, submission and evaluation of applications, closing, servicing, and reporting, and other federal requirements.

Construction Map

This session will cover the Construction Map within the ReConnect application. Attendees will learn about linkages between the Construction Map and other sections of the application, how to use the construction map, and how to create and upload sites and routes.

Financial Deep Dive

The Financial Deep Dive will take a closer look at the Financial section of the ReConnect application. Attendees will learn about the requirements for completing the Financial section, eligible and ineligible costs, the structure of loan products, matching fund requirements for grant applicants, and post-award requirements.

Public Notice Filing and Public Notice Response

In this session, attendees will learn about the Public Notice Filing (PNF) and Public Notice Response (PNR) process. The session will cover how to search for PNFs, how to submit a PNR, and the Service Area Validation (SAV) process.