

Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans and Loan Guarantees

What does this program do?

The loan and loan guarantee program offers financial assistance to eligible service providers that will construct, improve, or expand telecommunication and broadband networks in rural areas.

Who may apply for this program?

Eligible applicants include:

- Public bodies
- Cooperatives, nonprofits, limited dividend or mutual associations
- State or Local governments
- Federally-recognized Tribes

How may funds be used?

Loan funds may be used to finance telecommunications services in rural areas for:

- New construction
- Improvements
- Expansions
- Acquisitions (the cost of acquisition must be incidental to the cost of improvements)
- Refinancing (the amount requested for refinancing cannot exceed 40 percent of loan amount). Refinancing is available both for outstanding Rural Utilities Service debt and other applicant debt
- For additional details, see 7 CFR 1735

What types of loans are available?

- Cost-of-Money Loans are direct loans from USDA Rural Utilities Service
- Loan Guarantees through the Federal Financing Bank (FFB)
- Hardship Loans are direct loans from USDA Rural Utilities Service

How do we get started?

- Applications for this program are accepted year round through the national office.

- Program Resources are available online at rd.usda.gov (includes forms, guidance, certifications, etc.)

Who can answer questions about this program?

- Contact our Loan Origination and Approval Division at (202) 720-0800
- Contact the General Field Representative who serves your area

What governs this program?

- This program is authorized by the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended in 7 U.S.C. 901 et seq.
- Code of Federal Regulation: 7 CFR 1735 and 7 CFR 1737

NOTE: Because citations and other information may be subject to change, please always consult the program instructions listed in the section above titled “What Governs This Program?” You may also contact your local office for assistance. You will find additional forms, resources, and program information at rd.usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.