

 A Grants Office Publication

# FUNDED

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FEBRUARY 2022 | VOLUME 12 | ISSUE 1

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## WHAT THE IIJA MEANS FOR YOU

*Tech-Friendly Funding in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act*

*Grant Seeking for  
Minority-Serving Institutions*

*Navigating  
Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools*

*Understanding the  
School Violence Prevention Program*

*The Future of  
Telehealth Funding*

*Funding  
Broadband*

*The 5 W's of  
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*Application Not Selected?  
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**PLUS!** SUMMARY INFO OF EXCITING  
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### ON THE COVER

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, provides billions for transportation, broadband, and utilities. With all this new funding available, *which program will fit your project best?*

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# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

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## DEAR READERS,

With the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill) still fresh on everyone's minds, we decided to dedicate a fair portion of this issue to the bill, and to highlight a few of the large and relevant funding programs it is driving. But if you are not into infrastructure, do not worry! There are also non-infrastructure updates and insights for grantseekers across the public sector and education.

We start off with a high-level breakdown of the bill provided by our resident **infrastructure** expert, [Richard Campo](#). He provides tantalizing hints at what is to come over the next several months for broadband, smart cities, and more traditional infrastructure. Program snapshots and highlights of funded projects also help add meat to the bone here. Further on, [Chris Barnes](#) provides a much deeper dive into the **broadband** funding that will be available from the bill – a major complement to the existing FCC and USDA-driven broadband programs we have talked about in past issues of *FUNDED*.

For our **K-12** readers, [Shannon Day](#) provides background into the School Violence Prevention Program, how it addresses the specter of school violence, and how **public-school** districts can make the most of this important funding program. And for **non-public schools**, [Patrick Riedy](#) provides a great overview of the Emergency Assistance to Nonpublic Schools program.

In the area of **higher education**, [Liz Shay](#) provides a landscape view of the grant programs that are available for **minority-serving institutions**. Her article dovetails well with two recent Grantscasts she presented on the topic, and together, they can really help you up your game if you are an MSI grants professional.

In **healthcare**, [Lynette Cale](#) has contributed tips on planning for (and funding) **telehealth** initiatives beyond the pandemic.

We have also included two helpful articles with tips for grantseekers across the board. [Sydney Stapleton](#) covers what to do if your proposal is rejected (hint: do not panic, it is part of the process), and [Christina Fernandez](#) takes us through strategies for building successful partnerships and how good partnerships can help make your pre-and post-award efforts more effective.

Be sure to check out the other timely and informative *Grantscasts* our team will be presenting on or review the replays of past events on topics you find interesting. As always, if you have comments, feedback, corrections, or topics for future issues, feel free to drop me a line at: [mpaddock@grantsoffice.com](mailto:mpaddock@grantsoffice.com).

I hope you enjoy this issue of *FUNDED* as much as we have enjoyed bringing it to you!

Sincerely,  
Michael Paddock  
Editor and Publisher,  
*FUNDED*



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# TECHNOLOGY-FRIENDLY FUNDING IN THE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT

By Richard Campo, Grants Development Consultant  
(State and Local Government)

The **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)**, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, provides \$550 billion in new spending in areas such as transportation, broadband, and utilities. With all the new funding available, it may be hard to tell which funding opportunities fit your projects best. Below, you'll find several of the most technology-friendly new funding opportunities to help connect the dots between the technology you want to purchase and a funder's desired goals for a grant program.

## TRANSPORTATION

The **US Department of Transportation (USDOT)** will award \$2.5 billion over five years through **Charging and Fueling Infrastructure discretionary grants** to state and local governments. These grants are designed to improve public access to electric vehicle charging and hydrogen, propane, and natural gas fueling stations. Exact application guidance for this program is not yet available but at minimum, expect it to be technology neutral. This means that USDOT, will fund technology that advances the program's goals: deploying charging and fueling infrastructure across the country. Technology products may include sensors, cameras, and data analysis software, in addition to the necessary charging and fueling infrastructure to incorporate other smart cities technologies into the project. Your job as an applicant will be to explain why the technology you are requesting in your budget is a necessary component of your charging and fueling infrastructure project.

Another transportation grant program, **Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)**, will award \$7.5 billion over five years to state and local governments for projects that emphasize improvements for rural transportation, promote regional connectivity, and facilitate economic growth. RAISE is also technology-neutral, thus applicants may use the funds for smart cities technologies such as smart streetlights and smart intersections that contribute to improving transportation and the local economy. RAISE is one of USDOT's most flexible grant programs so it may be a good option if your technology project does not fit other transportation grant programs.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act includes \$284 billion for transportation projects including for roads, buses, rail, airports, and seaports.

## BROADBAND

In addition to transportation funding, the IIJA also has substantial funding for broadband projects. The largest new program is the **Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD)**. The program will award \$42.5 billion to states and territories with the goal of expanding broadband access for unserved (those lacking access to 100/20 Mbps) and underserved (those lacking access to 25/3 Mbps) residents. Unlike the transportation programs above, this program is explicitly for technology such as broadband and networking infrastructure and equipment. This tech-friendliness makes connecting the dots easy, so the most challenging part of planning an application will be ensuring that your technology project serves those unserved and underserved residents. Community anchor institutions such as schools, libraries, and hospitals that lack access to 1 Gbps service may also apply to improve broadband access for the communities they serve.

Another broadband program, the **Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grant Program**, received \$2 billion from the IIJA. This grant will award funding to tribal organizations who plan to expand broadband access in Native American communities. Projects can include broadband infrastructure deployment or broadband adoption such as distance learning, telehealth, and digital inclusion. Like BEAD, this program is technology-friendly for broadband projects, so the key factor to remember for this program is that the population served must be residents of Native American communities.



The IIJA also includes \$65 billion for broadband projects, primarily for unserved and underserved residents in rural areas.

## UTILITIES

One exciting program that received funding from the IIJA is the **Smart Grid Investment Grant Program (SGIG)**, which will award \$3 billion over five years to modernize the country's electric transmission and distribution systems.

This program will fund smart grid technologies such as smart meters, two-way communications networks, and data management systems. Other technology may be eligible as part of a larger project promoting smart grid technology investments, but this program targets adding smart grid functionalities. Various electricity providers and government agencies are eligible to apply for this grant, but keep in mind that this program does require a 50% match from the applicant.

A couple more utilities programs received additional funding from the IIJA: the **Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)** and the **Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)**. The EPA administers these sister programs, designated for wastewater and drinking water treatment, respectively. The IIJA appropriated almost \$15 billion to each program, with additional funding for lead pipe replacement and addressing emerging water contaminants. The CWSRF and DWSRF provide funding to states to offer grants and loans to local water utilities, so your application should



An additional \$55 billion is available for water infrastructure projects, with a focus on ensuring that the water supply is clean, modern, and protected from pollutants.

explain how the technology you are seeking to purchase is necessary to improve local water systems.

## NEXT STEPS

This is just a sample of the programs available in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Federal agencies are expected to post application guidance over the next few months, so sign up for email alerts on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) to receive updates on new grant programs. Most of these new grant programs fit technology into a broader project but be sure to check how technology-friendly a program is and what kinds of technology are eligible by reading the application guidance as you narrow the field.



# REBUILDING AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY (RAISE) GRANTS

## PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

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### SUMMARY

The Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity, or RAISE Discretionary Grant program, provides a unique opportunity for the DOT to invest in road, rail, transit and port projects that promise to achieve national objectives. Previously known as the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) and Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants, Congress has dedicated nearly \$8.9 billion for twelve rounds of National Infrastructure Investments to fund projects that have a significant local or regional impact.

RAISE can fund port and freight rail projects, for example, which play a critical role in our ability to move freight, but have limited sources of Federal funds. RAISE can provide capital funding directly to any public entity, including municipalities, counties, port authorities, tribal governments, MPOs, or others in contrast to traditional Federal programs which provide funding to very specific groups of applicants (mostly State DOTs and transit agencies).

### ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants are State, local, and tribal governments, including U.S. territories, transit agencies, port authorities, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), and other political subdivisions of State or local governments.

### DEADLINE

Applications are to be submitted by April 14, 2022. A similar deadline is anticipated annually.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/about>



# REBUILDING AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY (RAISE) GRANTS

## FUNDED PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

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### FUNDED ORGANIZATION

City of Tuscaloosa

### PROJECT TITLE

Tuscaloosa Landing Area Project

### AMOUNT FUNDED

\$15,000,000

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project will construct three components to improve access to the Riverwalk area in West Tuscaloosa: Black Warrior River barge mooring improvements; a bicycle and pedestrian path; and a pedestrian bridge. The mooring improvements will allow the abandoned lock structure to be used for the construction of the shared use path. The pedestrian bridge will cross the new Jack Warner Parkway. The bicycle and pedestrian path will run from the new pedestrian bridge to the existing riverfront park to the east, with lighting and security elements.

### FOR MORE AWARD INFORMATION

<https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2021-02/BUILD%202020%20Fact%20Sheets%20FINAL.pdf>

### ORGANIZATION WEBSITE

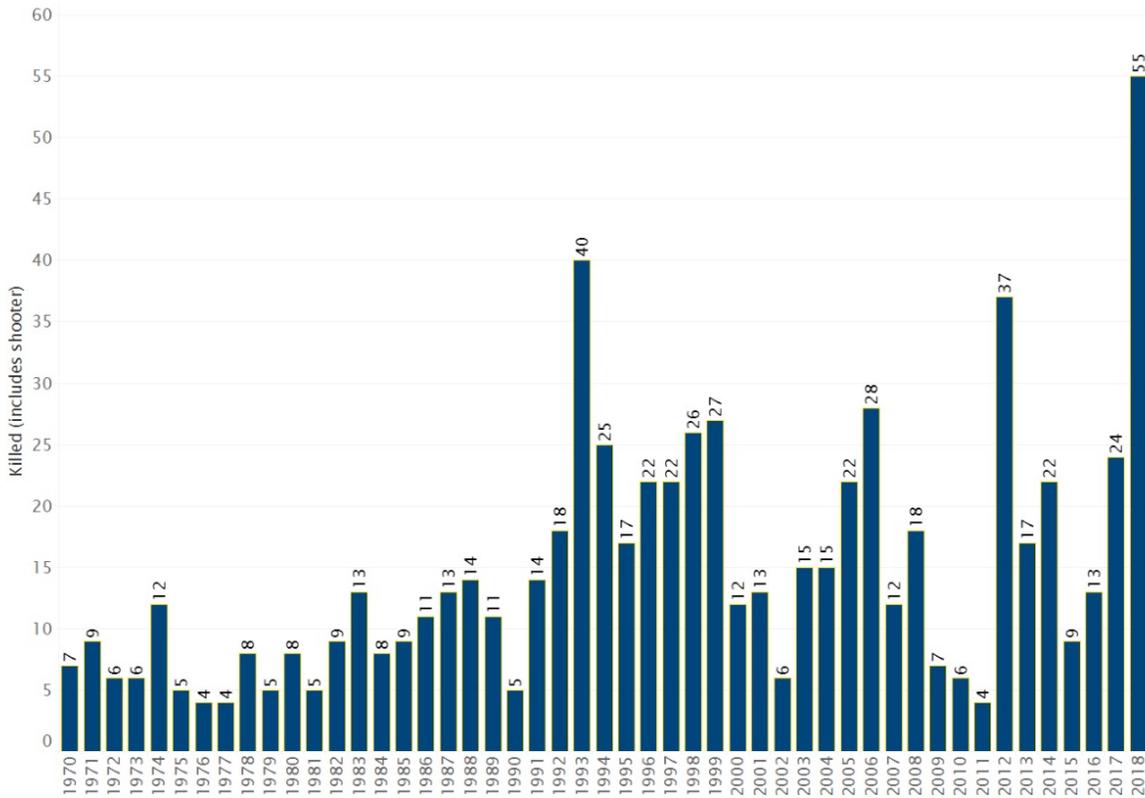
<https://www.tuscaloosa.com/>

# SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC K-12 DISTRICTS

By Shannon Day, Grants Development Consultant (Public Safety)

In 2018, the **Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence Act** was passed. This act served as a federal response to several school shootings, most notably the shooting at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Following Parkland, 200,000 students and teachers marched on Washington to protest gun violence in schools. The grant programs resulting from these events help organizations prepare for and respond to school violence incidents.

Number of Killed (includes shooter) by Year



## 2018 was by far the worst year on record for gun violence in schools

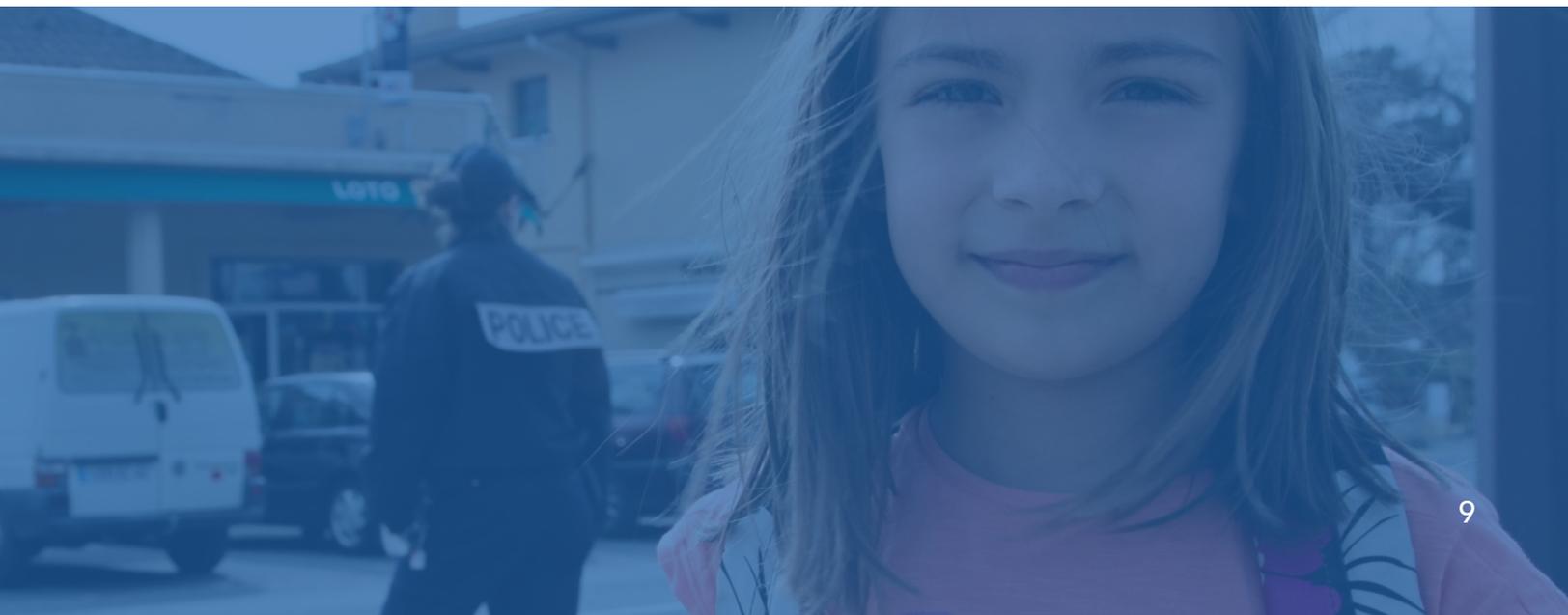
One of these grant programs is the **School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP)**, through the **Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)**. At its core, SVPP was created to improve a schools' coordination with law enforcement and helps fund proactive deterrent measures implemented across public school districts. Examples of these measures include video surveillance technology, communication technology (e.g., emergency call boxes, intercoms, panic alarms, notification systems, radios), entry control equipment, metal detectors and X-ray machines, emergency alerts, ID scanning devices, GIS software to map schools or bus routes, and social media monitoring.

SVPP is funded through 2028 and typically opens for applications in the spring, so now is a great time to start preparing to apply. Reviewers like to see holistic, comprehensive, collaborative projects – in fact, a new component added last year is a requirement of a partnership between a local law enforcement agency and a public school district. If you haven't already established a working relationship, now is the time to reach out! This grant is also not limiting in size. If you are a smaller or rural district, this program is for you too. While the maximum award size is \$500,000, amounts for as little as \$10,000 were awarded in 2021. It's simply a matter of how powerful your proposal is.

One thing to keep in mind when creating your grant application timeline is that this is a federal grant program, so it requires registration in several grant portals:

1. Obtain a DUNS Number by visiting: <https://www.dnb.com/duns-number.html>
  - A DUNS Number is a unique nine-digit identification number for each organization's physical location. The US Federal government will require a DUNS Number for contracts or grants until April 3, 2022, when a changeover will occur.
  - **NOTE: This step typically takes 1-2 business days for processing.**
2. Register with SAM by visiting: <https://www.sam.gov>
  - SAM is a site that collects and disseminates business information about the federal government's trading partners related to contracts, grants, and electronic payment processes.
  - **NOTE: This step typically takes 7-10 business days for processing.**
3. Register with Grants.gov by visiting: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html>
  - Complete the AOR profiles on Grants.gov and create a username and password. An applicant's "unique entity identifier" (DUNS Number) must be used to complete this step.
  - Complete the Standard Form (SF) 424 and the SF-LLL Lobbying Certification Form.
  - **NOTE: This step typically takes up to two weeks for processing.**
4. Register with the Justice Grants System (JustGrants) by visiting: <https://justicegrants.usdoj.gov/getting-started>
  - Two Authorized Representatives are required to complete the application:
    - The Law Enforcement Executive is the highest-ranking official in the jurisdiction (chief of police, sheriff, etc.) and must be assigned as "Authorized Representative 1" in JustGrants.
    - The Government Executive is the highest-ranking government official in the jurisdiction (superintendent, mayor, board president, etc.) and must be assigned as "Authorized Representative 2" in JustGrants.

After these registrations are squared away, it is time to create your project proposal. This should include a project abstract, the project narrative, and your project's budget. Details can be found in the SVPP application guidance and little changes from year to year, so you can start planning based on 2021 guidance.





After these registrations are squared away, it is time to create your project proposal. This should include a project abstract, the project narrative, and your project's budget. Details can be found in the SVPP [application guidance](#) and little changes from year to year, so you can start planning based on 2021 guidance.

Some final tips for submitting the best proposal possible:

1. Remember, grants fund projects, not products. The technology or equipment you request is a means to an end, not the end in and of itself. Let your project's needs and objectives determine the technology you acquire.
2. Involve vendors to gather accurate quotes and ensure you include all necessary gear in your budget. How exactly will each item you request benefit the project as a whole?
3. Learn as much as possible about the grant program before you apply. Read the application guidance to know exactly what is expected of you both during the application process and after your project is awarded.
4. Don't include materials beyond those specifically requested by the funder and follow directions. If the maximum page allowance is eight pages, keep it to eight pages. Reviewers will stop reading at that page limit.
5. Finally, get an outside set of eyes to edit your proposal. Bringing in an objective party who hasn't been living and breathing your project will give a fresh perspective. The win rate for SVPP in 2021 was 35.5%. Of 430 total applicants, 153 were awarded funding. Comparatively, the win rate for applicants assisted by Grants Office in 2021 was 73.6%, so getting outside help can indeed improve your chances.



# SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM (SVPP)

## PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

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### SUMMARY

The Students, Teachers, and Officers Preventing School Violence Act of 2018 (STOP School Violence Act of 2018) gave the COPS Office authority to provide awards to improve security at schools and on school grounds in the jurisdiction of the grantee through evidence-based school safety programs. In FY2021, funding was available for the following school safety measures:

- Acquisition and installation of technology for expedited notification to law enforcement during an emergency
- Coordination with local law enforcement
- Placement and use of metal detectors, locks, lighting, and other deterrent measures
- Training for local law enforcement officers to prevent school violence
- Any other measure that the COPS Office Director determines may provide a significant improvement in security

### ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants are states, units of local government, Indian tribes, and public agencies (e.g. police departments, sheriff's departments, school districts).

### DEADLINE

Applications were to be submitted by June 22, 2021. A similar deadline is anticipated, annually.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://cops.usdoj.gov/svpp>



## YOUR GRANT APPLICATION WASN'T SELECTED. WHAT NOW?

By: Sydney Stapleton Grants Development Consultant (Higher Education)

### PICTURE THIS...

You've just submitted a grant application and you feel you made a compelling argument for your project and have a good chance for being funded. You wait patiently to hear back and when you open your email one morning you see a message from the funder. You open it with a smile on your face but as you begin to read it your smile slowly turns to a frown. "Thank you for your application, however we are sorry to inform you that your project was not selected for funding this round." As you skim through the rest of the email you think "What happened? Our application was great!" and then your mind moves to "Well what do we do now...."

While you may feel down in the moment, it should help to know that getting a grant award isn't easy! Different grant programs have different acceptance rates, and most are very competitive. For example, in 2019 the National Institute of Health received 54,903 research project grants and funded 11,035. That is an acceptance rate of only 20%! According to the Society of Nonprofits, on any given day, roughly 2,700 grant proposals are submitted with fewer than 200 receiving funding.

There are many possible reasons why a project isn't selected by a funder. It could be that their capacity to give just wasn't high enough for your project's budget or maybe the number of applications this round with the same priority as your project made it a tough field or perhaps the funder has totally changed funding priorities. The reason may also be the quality of the proposal. Did you answer every question, and stay within the budget and page limits? Did you have your application proofread by a third party before sending it along? With so many competitive applicants, it is an uphill battle to get funding so if you don't get a project funded in this round, don't fret! Below are some steps to take in order to improve your chances for funding next time around.

### FIRST

**Take a deep breath.** It can be very frustrating to put in hours of work for an application to not receive funding. Take some time to reflect on all you did to get to this point and know that it will only make your job the next round that much easier.



Remember grant funding is extremely competitive so don't feel down if your application isn't funded the first around

## THEN

**Ask for reviewer comments from the funder.** Large national funders like the National Science Foundation have the capacity to provide feedback and smaller family foundations may be run by volunteers who do not have the ability to share reviews with every applicant. If the funder is able, ask for a full debrief, in which you are able to chat with them about your application and why it was not chosen OR ask for general notes in an email, the rubric that the funder used and how well you scored on it or copies of reviewers' comments. It may be intimidating to ask for this feedback but remember, grant funders want to award money, so they are typically eager to help you improve and hopefully share in their mission later. You will want to verify your eligibility to reapply, if that is your plan. Some funders don't allow organizations to apply back-to-back or within a certain time frame so be sure to verify that in the grant application guidelines.

Not matter the form reviews come in, the insights they provide are going to be a huge asset when submitting applications in the next round of funding, either as a repeat applicant or to a different grant. Read through their reviews and see where you can make improvements. Maybe your idea was strong, but they wanted more details about how your project would be evaluated. Perhaps you went over the page limit by only a paragraph and were disqualified. Whatever it may be, those notes will be helpful in addressing the issues the funder had and should be taken into consideration for your next application.

During the review process, you can also take that opportunity to develop a relationship with the funder. Many funders want to know what they can do to improve

upon the application process so provide feedback on the grant cycle. If you receive a survey about the process, be sure to fill it out. If your funder is local, invite staff or representatives to events they may be interested in. By building a relationship with a funder, your organization will be able to showcase why they should want to partner with you and fund your project.

**Look to see who was chosen for funding this round.** Knowing who won an award can provide good insight into what the funder is looking for and if your project seems like it is a good fit. You can often find a whole history of past award winners. This information can often be found on funder websites or through press releases from the funder or the award winners.

**Look for a new set of eyes.** This is true for any grant application but is especially true for one that you are resubmitting. They can help ensure all your overall ideas make sense and check over the little details. After editing and reading an application several times, you are bound to miss something. A fresh set of eyes may notice that you forgot to update the dates in your timeline or forgot to change a name of a person who is no longer working on the project. Those little finds can be the difference between an award and a rejection.

Not receiving a grant award can feel like a defeat, but the road does not stop there. Get your application review material if available, check your eligibility for back-to-back applications, get to know the funder better, and get another set of eyes on your new application. Practice makes perfect and that is very much the case with grant writing. Think of it as a learning opportunity and win the next round.

# WHAT THE IJJA MEANS FOR BROADBAND FUNDING

By Chris Barnes, Senior Grants Development Consultant (State and Local Government)

On November 15, 2021, President Joe Biden signed into the long-awaited Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) into law. This \$1.2 trillion bipartisan bill is an expansive investment in transportation infrastructure, green energy, and notably, broadband. The IIJA invests \$65 billion for broadband expansion and access, constituting the country's largest investment in broadband deployment to date. This new funding comes as governments across the country desperately work to bridge the digital divide in their communities. The IIJA's broadband programs (detailed below) reflect a shift in how the country is tackling broadband inequity with much of the IIJA's broadband funding designed to expand connectivity and access to unserved and underserved communities across the country and more funding being given to states so they can work with local governments and other stakeholders to determine how best to expand access within their borders.

While it'll likely be mid-2022 before the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) releases any guidance for these new programs, it's not too early to begin planning.

## BROADBAND EQUITY, ACCESS, & DEPLOYMENT

The centerpiece of the new broadband funding is the **Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)** program. BEAD is a \$42.45 billion program that will provide funding to states, territories, and Washington D.C. for broadband deployment to areas that are unserved, underserved, and/or high poverty. Each state will receive at least \$100 million, and all remaining funds will be allocated to states through a formula that accounts for need.

For states to receive their allocation, they must develop and submit an initial proposal outlining "long-term objectives for deploying broadband, closing the digital divide, and enhancing economic growth and job creation." States will also be required to coordinate with their local governments and must allow political subdivisions (such as cities and counties) to submit broadband plans for consideration.

States may use their funds for a variety of purposes, including:

- Expanding broadband service to unserved and underserved locations
- Connecting eligible community anchor institutions that lack access to gigabit service
- Collecting relevant data, broadband mapping, and planning activities
- Installing internet and Wi-Fi infrastructure or provided affordable broadband within multi-family residential buildings (particularly if a "substantial share" of households in the building are unserved or it's in a high-poverty area)
- Broadband adoption activities (including programs to provide affordable devices)

While there's considerable flexibility with the kinds of activities these funds will support, BEAD will prioritize bringing service to unserved/underserved areas and to community anchor institutions.

The IIJA defines...

Unserved communities as those that have no access to broadband service or lacks access to service of at least 25 Mbps download/3 Mbps upload speeds. Underserved communities as those that lack access to service of at least 100 Mbps download/20 Mbps upload.

## MIDDLE MILE INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

The IIJA also establishes a new \$1 billion **Middle Mile Infrastructure program**. Unlike BEAD, this is a competitive grant opportunity, supporting the construction, improvement, or acquisition of middle-mile infrastructure. Given the high cost of extending broadband to end-users in rural communities, the Middle Mile Infrastructure program will provide recipients with funding to build middle mile networks that can then be leveraged to deliver broadband service to rural communities.

The eligible applicant list for this program is quite broad: states, political subdivision of a state, tribal governments, technology companies, electric utilities, utility cooperatives, public utility districts, telecommunications companies, telecommunications cooperatives, nonprofit foundations, nonprofit corporations, nonprofit institutions, nonprofit associations, regional planning counsels, and native entities or economic development authorities.

Priority will be given to applicants who can meet at least two of the conditions established by the NTIA:

- Adopts fiscally sustainable middle mile strategies
- Commits to offering nondiscriminatory interconnect to terrestrial and wireless last mile broadband providers and any other party making a bona fide request
- Identifies specific terrestrial and wireless last mile providers that have (1) expressed written interest in interconnecting with middle mile infrastructure planned to be deployed by the entity and (2) demonstrated sustainable business plans or adequate funding sources with respect to the interconnect
- Identifies supplemental investments or in-kind support that will accelerate the completion of the planned project
- Demonstrates that the middle mile infrastructure will benefit the national security interest of the U.S. and Department of Defense

The Middle Mile Infrastructure program will support up to 70% of a project's costs, while applicants will be required to provide a 30% match.

## DIGITAL EQUITY

Along with the grants to support broadband infrastructure deployment, there are also two new grant programs that address digital equity, digital literacy, and digital inclusion. These two programs, the **State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program** and the **Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program**, provide funds to assist vulnerable communities (what the IIJA calls "covered populations") in improving their digital proficiency. The covered populations are the elderly, individuals incarcerated in non-federal facilities, individuals with a language barrier, veterans, individuals with disabilities, members of a racial or ethnic minority, and rural residents.

The State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program is a \$1.5 billion dollar formula-based program. This program requires states design a digital equity plan that the NTIA must approve. These plans must, in part, identify the barriers to digital equity in the state, develop measurable objectives for documenting and promoting these activities, and explain how the state will work with key stakeholders, such as community anchor institutions. States are eligible to receive a planning grant to design this digital equity plan, and then a capacity grant to implement it.

The Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program will be open for an array of applicants, including local governments, housing authorities, Tribal governments, community anchor institutions, and workforce development providers. These grants will support digital inclusion activities, such as the adoption of broadband through digital literacy training, workforce development, device access programs, and other digital inclusion measures.

## GETTING READY

It will likely be mid-2022 before guidance for any of these new broadband programs are solidified. For programs like BEAD, the NTIA has 180 days from the IIJA's passage (November 15, 2021) to release guidance, and it may be 2023 before money starts to move.

However, it's never too early to begin preparing your broadband project for these grants. Whether you may be pursuing one of the competitive grants or working as a stakeholder with your state to potentially leverage some of the formula-based funding it's receiving, there are steps your organization can take to hit the ground running:

### Determine your needs

What are the challenges facing your community? Is it a lack of affordable, fast connectivity? Or are you looking to address disparities around digital access and digital literacy skills? Regardless of whether you're looking to find funding for infrastructure investments or for digital literacy training, you can begin collecting the necessary data to demonstrate need in your community. This may include census data that shows relevant demographic information around race and income levels.

If you're looking to develop a proposal to bring broadband infrastructure to your community, you will need to collect data that illustrates the lack of connectivity at these households. The NTIA has its own [Indicators of Broadband Need Map](#) that provides census block data that applicants can use in their proposals, such as the percentage of households without internet access, the percentage of households without a computer, smartphone, or tablet, and the median download and upload speed in that block.

Moreover, the NTIA has previously shown openness to reviewing additional data that applicants may have that

demonstrates a level of need or lack of service in their area. If the Broadband Need Map does not show your community as unserved, but you can demonstrate otherwise through additional data you've collected (such as additional speed tests), then the NTIA may be willing to take that into account as they review proposals. Ultimately, the final program guidance will provide more information about what kind of data the NTIA will allow from applicants to demonstrate their broadband needs.

### Engage potential partners

Consider the organizations in your community or region that you might partner with for a broadband project. Depending on the type of grant, the project, and scope, this may vary. For instance, if you're a local government looking to develop a digital literacy project, you may want to reach out to anchor institutions in your local community, as they would likely be best suited to engage communities in need of this digital literacy training.

It's also a good idea to begin building a relationship with your state's broadband office or agency. Most states have a dedicated broadband office in charge of expanding internet access in their state and the new BEAD program requires states establish a broadband office to receive their allocation of funding. Programs such as BEAD and the new State Digital Equity Capacity Grant require that states work closely with local governments to develop plans for how they will spend their funds.

### Take a breath

While there are things you and your organization can begin to do to prepare for the work ahead, it's also worth taking some time to celebrate this historic investment! There's much work to be done in the coming months and years, so be sure to enjoy the moment before it passes.

# BROADBAND EQUITY, ACCESS, AND DEPLOYMENT PROGRAM

## PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

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### SUMMARY

The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program is a \$42.5 billion grant program designed to bridge the digital divide in rural areas and in states that consistently rank below others in broadband access. Funds may be used States may use funds for:

- Unserved service projects (80% of locations in the proposal area lack access to reliable 25Mbps/3Mbps)
- Underserved service projects (80% of locations in the proposal area lack access to reliable 100Mbps/20Mbps service)
- Community anchor institutions (“CAIs”), such as schools, libraries, and hospitals, lacking access to 1Gbps service
- data collection and broadband mapping
- installing internet and Wi-Fi infrastructure or providing reduced-cost broadband within a multifamily residential building and
- affordability, including for internet-capable devices

Subgrantees will be required to provide service of at least 100/20 Mbps with a latency that is sufficiently low to allow reasonably foreseeable, real-time interactive applications and that has no more than 48 hours of network outages per any 365-day period, on average.

### ELIGIBILITY

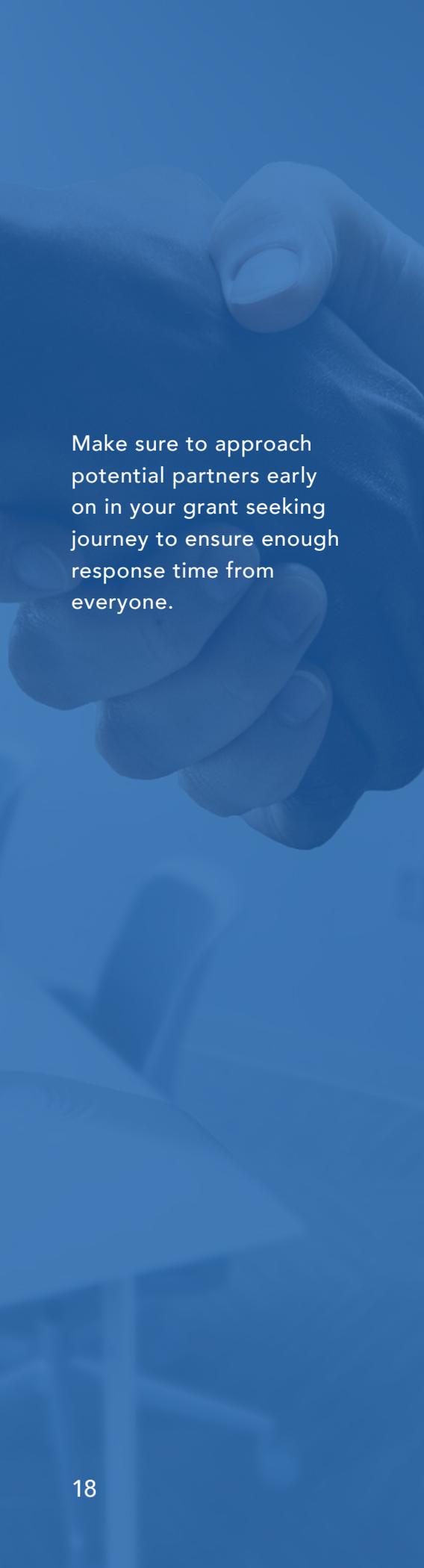
Eligible applicants will be states, territories, and Washington D.C.

### DEADLINE

Within 180 days of the bill’s passage (November 15, 2021), the NTIA will issue guidance for the program and establish process to provide funding to states for planning and pre-deployment activities. States will be required to submit a letter of intent to participate.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.ntia.doc.gov/category/grants>



# THE 5 W'S OF PARTNERSHIPS AND HOW THEY APPLY TO GRANT FUNDING

By Christina Fernandez, Grants Development Associate  
(Higher Education)

Make sure to approach potential partners early on in your grant seeking journey to ensure enough response time from everyone.

Partnerships play a huge role in the success of a grant application. They can provide new perspectives, resources, and a competitive edge. Below, you'll find answers to a series of questions about partnerships and how to navigate them.

## WHY ARE PARTNERSHIPS SO IMPORTANT TO GRANT FUNDERS?

A majority of grants require some sort of partnership to be considered for an award. Funders view partnerships as a way to engage broader audiences, increase institutional capacity, fill knowledge gaps, and maximize the effectiveness of a project. By engaging in relevant partnerships, funders see that you are taking a holistic approach to achieve the goals of the grant. Partnerships also show that your organization is sustainable and cooperative.

## WHEN SHOULD I START THINKING ABOUT PARTNERSHIPS?

It is important to start thinking about partnerships even if you do not have a specific project idea in mind. Engaging with local community partners will give you insight into the true needs of the community. Approaching community members or potential partners early on gives them enough time to properly respond and gives you the flexibility to continue your search in case some or all of them say no. Engaging with community partners beforehand will also provide time to brainstorm new ideas or to hone in on a specific idea. Doing this heavy lifting early on will ultimately save you time during the grant application process. Competitive grants can sometimes take 4-8 weeks to develop. You don't want to wait until you're up against an application deadline to start engaging/thinking about these relationships.

## **WHERE DO I FIND PARTNERS?**

You first want to consider people and organizations that you already know, either professionally or personally. Someone in your life may also be trying to accomplish the same activity in their own organization. These initial conversations can be as informal as a phone call or email. The goal is to gauge if you have similar interests and values, and if they are interested in your project. If you are part of a larger organization, there may even be an office or department in charge of networking, in which case you will want to start conversations internally to see where the potential lies. If you are unable to find partners through your office or your own personal network, then try attending community board meetings or events. This engagement will have the added benefit of networking AND gauging community needs.

## **WHO WOULD BE A GOOD PARTNER FOR MY PROJECT?**

Depending on your project goals and the grant objectives, you should strive to include partnerships with community members who will be impacted by the project. Community members can range from Local Education Agencies (LEAs), colleges and universities, law enforcement/first responders, industry/for-profit agencies, nonprofit organizations, rural end-users, etc.... Be intentional about who you approach and clear about why you want them to be a part of the project. To help decipher who would be a good partner, think about what role they will play in the project, who their audiences are and how will they broaden participation, will they be engaged and able to meet deadlines, and do they have any existing resources that could benefit the project. A good partnership should benefit and aid with the overall goals of your project.

## **WHAT DO I DO AFTER I HAVE MADE MEANINGFUL PARTNERSHIPS?**

Now that you have a strong set of partners, make sure you are keeping them engaged and involved throughout the entire grant process. Consider setting up meetings throughout the grant period to talk about progress or improvements and engage them in each step of the process. An easy way to keep them involved is by assigning roles, expectations, and a timeline for each partner involved. Grant funders require you to document a partners' role and commitment in the project AND it is a great way to ensure transparency and clarity of what is expected from everyone.

Finding good partners can be time consuming and stressful but also very rewarding and fulfilling. They will make your grant proposal much more competitive and bring new perspectives and resources to your project. Good communication and transparency are key to creating and maintaining successful grant partnerships.

# NATIVE AMERICAN LIBRARY SERVICES: ENHANCEMENT GRANTS

## PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

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### SUMMARY

Enhancement grants are competitive grants available to carry out activities, described in 20 U.S.C. 9141, that advance the programs and services of eligible Native American libraries. Successful Enhancement grant projects will align with one of three project categories: Preservation and Revitalization; Educational Programming; or Digital Services.

- **Preservation and Revitalization:** Preservation and Revitalization projects focus on the preservation and revitalization of Native American language and culture through use of efficient and effective strategies and incorporation of strategic partnerships.
- **Educational Programming:** Educational Programming projects include programs for library patrons and community-based users related to a specific topic or content area through development, implementation and evaluation of classes, events, tools, resources, and/or other services.
- **Digital Services:** Digital Services projects feature activities dedicated to the establishment and refinement of digital services and programs related to infrastructure, platforms, and technology, in general.

### ELIGIBILITY

Indian tribes are eligible to apply for funding under the Native American Library Services Enhancement Grant program.

### DEADLINE

Applications are to be submitted no later than April 1, 2022. A similar deadline is anticipated, annually.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

[imls.gov/grants/available/native-american-library-services-enhancement-grants](https://imls.gov/grants/available/native-american-library-services-enhancement-grants)

# NATIVE AMERICAN LIBRARY SERVICES: ENHANCEMENT GRANTS

## FUNDED PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

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### **FUNDED ORGANIZATION**

Forest County Potawatomi

### **PROJECT TITLE**

Forest County Potawatomi Community

### **AMOUNT FUNDED**

\$150,000

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Forest County Potawatomi Community will strengthen library programming and re-engage the community after the pandemic. The Cultural Center, Library, and Museum serves a rural population with limited resources, and the pandemic severely impacted the library's hours of operation, services, and staff. The project will hire an assistant librarian to develop reading programs; coordinate cultural activities such as star quilting, ribbon shirts and skirts, and war club classes; implement digital literacy and employment workshops; and collaborate with the three local school districts to provide resources and services. The library staff also will develop a virtual tour of a new museum exhibition and mentor youth in the community.

### **FOR MORE AWARD INFORMATION**

<https://www.ims.gov/grants/awarded/nae-250429-ols-21>

### **ORGANIZATION WEBSITE**

<https://www.fcpotawatomi.com/>

# TELEHEALTH FUNDING: BEYOND THE PANDEMIC

By Lynnette Cale, Grants Development Consultant (Healthcare)

Telehealth is not a new concept in healthcare but prior to the pandemic, its use was unpopular so there was little return on investment. The pandemic made telehealth a necessity and both patients and doctors now see its benefits. This need also revealed the gaps in an aging healthcare technology infrastructure. Funding programs such as the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)'s COVID-19 Telehealth program has awarded \$450 million dollars to healthcare providers and the USDA Rural Development Distant Learning and Telemedicine program, an annual federal grant program, awarded \$44.5 million in FY21. These grants supplied a much needed and long overdue boost to fill the gaps in telehealth and as a result, it is here to stay. The question now is **how will healthcare providers fund maintenance and improvements of these upgraded systems and infrastructure once pandemic and stimulus funding are no longer available?**

## THE TEAM

As you start to look at the future of telehealth needs within your organization, make sure you have the right people on your planning team. Your team is key to developing a realistic and well thought through approach, a key component when you begin looking for and applying for grants. Your team should include your IT director and key IT staff, finance officer or CFO, Chief Information Officer, Chief Operating Officer, staff grant writer or grants manager, department heads who will be using the equipment and software, and any other key decision makers.

Establishing a well-rounded team to develop and utilize your strategic technology plan will put you a step ahead in the grant application process. The planning team's role

in the grant application process will be to establish budget planning, product needs, requirements, and usage, and grant narratives, goals, and reporting systems. These plans will need to be cohesive and well thought out.

## THE PLAN

Once your team is in place, it's time to develop a strategic technology plan to renew, update, and replace equipment, software, and resources over the course of several years. This will help spread the cost out, reduce the likelihood of equipment failures, keep up with the latest and best technology, and will have the added benefit of helping you plan for alternative funding options. Knowing what technology needs you have and when you need them will also help narrow down grant opportunities and leave your organization well positioned when those grants are open for applications.

When determining project funding needs, your team should consider of how much staff will need to run the project, will training be needed, what equipment and software will need to be purchased, will it work with the existing systems, how much will it cost, how many will you need and who will use them, who is the target market, and is everything sustainable and renewable. The team and grants staff will also need to determine if the telehealth projects can be accomplished through one grant or will the overall project need to be broken up and funded over several grants or in phases. If this is the case, the overall strategic plan should establish what the phases will be or how the division among projects will be made and why. All this information will be needed when it comes time to apply for and justify multi-year or multi-funded projects in your grant applications.





## THE GOAL

Finally with your strategic plan and team as your guide, you are ready to start seeking grants and applying. Grant funding is usually from federal, state, or foundation/local sources and are available on a one-time basis or are cyclical in nature. You may be able to fund your overall project using different grants so as you search, make notes of what grants will best fund your project needs both short and long term and their deadlines. Grants do not specifically fund products only so think of how you can fund those products (equipment, software, etc.) by fulfilling the needs of an overall project. In this circumstance, the project is telehealth/telemedicine and the products necessary to meet the needs of the overall goals and objectives of this project are laptops, smart phones, cybersecurity, and telehealth software.

## THE APPLICATIONS

Once your team has determined which grants they are interested in applying for, the grant manager and grant writer will need to compile all the above information into a well-rounded grant application that meets all the individual grant application requirements. Failure to include all the grant application requirements often result in a grant application being disqualified so it is important to keep organized records through this entire process. This will give you a higher likelihood of being awarded the desired funding. Once the grant applications are submitted and awarded, it's important that the team stay in contact and on the same page throughout the project timeline.

Now is the perfect time to get your strategic plans and planning team together for 2022 grant opportunities. Telehealth is here to stay. Now it the time to build upon the infrastructure and equipment progress made over the pandemic and get the funding to sustain this healthcare option long term.



# DISTANCE LEARNING AND TELEMEDICINE PROGRAM (DLT)

## PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

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### SUMMARY

The Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Grant Program is designed to provide access to education, training, and health care resources for rural Americans. The DLT program provides financial assistance to encourage and improve telemedicine and distance learning services in rural areas through the use of telecommunications, computer networks, and related advanced technologies that students, teachers, medical professionals, and rural residents can use. Grants may be used to fund telecommunications-enabled information, audio and video equipment, and related advanced technologies which extend educational and medical applications into rural areas. Grants are intended to benefit end users in rural areas, who are often not in the same location as the source of the educational or health care service.

There are three categories of eligible purposes:

- Acquiring, by lease or purchase, eligible new or non-depreciated equipment
- Acquiring instructional programming that is a capital asset (including the purchase or lease of instructional programming already on the market)
- Providing technical assistance and instruction for using eligible equipment

### ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for a grant, your organization must be legally organized as an incorporated organization or partnership; tribal organization; a state or local unit of government; a consortium; or other legal entity and either operate a rural community facility, or deliver distance learning or telemedicine services to entities that operate a rural community facility or to residents of rural areas.

### DEADLINE

Applications were due June 4, 2021. A similar window is anticipated annually.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/telecommunications-programs/distance-learning-telemedicine-grants>



# DISTANCE LEARNING AND TELEMEDICINE PROGRAM (DLT)

## FUNDED PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

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### **FUNDED ORGANIZATION**

Alabama Department of Mental Health

### **PROJECT TITLE**

Telehealth to Rural Alabama

### **AMOUNT FUNDED**

\$156,183

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This Rural Development investment will be used to bring telehealth to rural Alabama through the Alabama Department of Mental Health Telehealth Rural Expansion Experiment. The funds will be used to achieve the following: 1) address and reduce the challenging barriers to accessing treatment services for residents in rural communities; 2) increase and improve access to healthcare education and behavioral healthcare treatment including treatment for Substance Use Disorders and Opioid Use Disorders for rural residents of Alabama; and, 3) utilize telehealth to bridge the gaps in treatment and healthcare services caused by provider shortages in rural areas of the state. Through placing adequate telehealth equipment in the proposed project end-user sites, the department will provide the treatment and services necessary to combat the growing epidemic of Substance Use Disorders, including Opioid Use Disorder, and mental health disorders in some of the most rural and poor communities in Alabama. More than 40,500 residents will be helped.

### **FOR MORE AWARD INFORMATION**

[https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/usdard\\_dltchart10\\_22\\_2021.pdf](https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/usdard_dltchart10_22_2021.pdf)

### **ORGANIZATION WEBSITE**

<https://mh.alabama.gov/>



# SMART GRID INVESTMENT GRANT PROGRAM (SGIG)

## PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

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### **SUMMARY**

The overall purpose of the SGIG is to accelerate the modernization of the nation's electric transmission and distribution systems and promote investments in smart grid technologies, tools, and techniques which increase flexibility, functionality, interoperability, cyber-security, situational awareness, and operational efficiency. The goals of the SGIG program involve accelerating progress toward a modern grid that provides the following specific characteristics that DOE believes define what a smart grid would accomplish:

- Enabling informed participation by consumers in retail and wholesale electricity markets
- Accommodating all types of central and distributed electric generation and storage options
- Enabling new products, services, and markets
- Providing for power quality for a range of needs by all types of consumers
- Optimizing asset utilization and operating efficiency of the electric power system
- Anticipating and responding to system disturbances
- Operating resiliently to attacks and natural disasters

### **ELIGIBILITY**

Organizations eligible for both lead and/or supporting roles include, but are not limited to:

- electric power companies
- state, county, local, or municipal government agencies
- universities and colleges
- electricity consumers singly or aggregated together, including residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural customer classes

### **DEADLINE**

The Department of Energy is expected to announce this funding opportunity in 2022.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

[https://www.smartgrid.gov/recovery\\_act/overview/smart\\_grid\\_investment\\_grant\\_program.html](https://www.smartgrid.gov/recovery_act/overview/smart_grid_investment_grant_program.html)

# NAVIGATING THE NUANCES OF EANS— EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS

By Patrick Riedy, Grants Development Consultant (K-12 Education)

When we think of non-public schools, we don't typically think of public funds. And for obvious reasons. However, with COVID-19 relief funds for K-12 education, efforts have been made on behalf of the federal government to extend support to non-public schools as they navigate operational disruptions brought about by the pandemic. Due to the unprecedented availability of federal emergency funds to non-public schools, confusion surrounds the access, eligibility, and allowances for these funds.

## HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Initially, Congress included language within the **Coronavirus Aid Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act** regarding a federal equitable share requirement with non-public schools that fall under attendance boundaries of any given local education agency. That process was quickly proven infeasible as local education agencies scrambled to ensure their own students, faculty, and staff were prepared, let alone the added task of preparing those attending private institutions. As a result, the **Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act** signed in December of 2020 set aside \$2.75 billion from the **Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER)** to provide emergency assistance grants to non-public schools. This subsidiary program, referred to as the **Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS)**, relieved some of the burden on all interested parties and created an application process for eligible non-public schools.

Most recently, with the passage of the **American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act** in March of 2021, a second round of \$2.75 billion for EANS was included. As a pass-through grant, the United States Department of Education once again determined the amount each state will receive for EANS by formula. Governors are still completing applications on behalf of their states and once approved each Governor will then work with their respective state education agencies to distribute these funds to eligible non-public schools through another application process. It is worth noting that the application process will vary from state to state, but keep in mind that stimulus grant applications are typically less burdensome than traditional grant opportunities.



## WHO'S ELIGIBLE?

With the CRRSA EANS I program already provided to non-public schools at the state level, it is important to note that there has been a slight change in eligibility from CRRSA EANS I to ARP EANS II. Given the unique circumstances of this support, it is important to keep these changes in mind as you consider pursuing these funds. So, let's compare the eligibility requirements of both programs...

Under CRRSA EANS I, an eligible non-public school was an elementary or secondary school that was:

- non-profit
- accredited, licensed, and operates in accordance with State law
- was in existence prior to March 13, 2020
- did not, and will not, apply for and receive a loan under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) that is made on or after December 27, 2020.<sup>1</sup>

For ARP EANS II, **the same as CRRSA EANS applies**, with the added caveat that:

- an SEA may provide services or assistance under the program only to an eligible non-public school that enrolls a significant percentage of students from low-income families and is most impacted by the COVID-19 emergency.<sup>2</sup>

Whereas CRRSA EANS I stated an SEA must prioritize non-public schools that enroll low-income students, the final requirements for ARP EANS II ask that a Governor's application must identify the significant poverty percentage and any factors of COVID-19 impact used to determine which non-public schools are eligible to receive services and/or assistance through the program. In simple terms, the Department of Education wants to ensure ARP EANS II will support students most in need of the additional assistance, because of both COVID-19 and their significant economic disparity. This may seem like an issue of semantics, but the difference between a prioritization under EANS I and identification for EANS II assures the program will align with the Department of Education's priorities.

What does that significant poverty percentage typically entail? That will vary from state to state, but the general benchmark would be the number of students from low-income families meets or exceeds 40% of the student population. It is also worth noting that a state may propose an alternate significant poverty percentage based on unique circumstances in the state. There are a few different options if a state wishes to do so, one of which may be the state's average percentage of students from low-income families in public and non-public schools. The best way to verify eligibility is to ask your state education department's EANS contact.

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1. Notice Announcing Availability of Funds for the Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) program under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSA Act). (2021, October 14). Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools. Retrieved January 12, 2022, from <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/education-stabilization-fund/emergency-assistance-non-public-schools/>.

2. American Rescue Plan Act Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools Program, Vol. 86 34 CFR 36649 (2021)

## WHAT CAN EANS PROVIDE?

The initial CRRSA EANS I program allowed eligible non-public schools to utilize funds for a variety of activities, such as purchasing educational technology (including hardware, software, connectivity, assistive technology, and adaptive equipment), as well as provide reimbursement for the expenses of any services or assistance described in the allowances list, with a few exceptions, that the non-public school incurred on or after March 13, 2020. These CRRSA EANS I funds are available for obligation until September 30, 2023.

ARP EANS II has the same allowances as CRRSA EANS I except for one important change: **ARP EANS II does not allow a state education agency to use these funds to provide reimbursements to any non-public school.** The implications of this are evident, but worth reiterating. If you are part of a non-public school or helping one acquire educational technology, remember that the school cannot pay for the equipment prior to receiving ARP EANS II funds and submit a receipt to the state education agency for reimbursement as they could for CRRSA EANS I. Regular communication with the state education agency will be important and they will do their best to get to yes, but that typically takes longer than saying no. Strategic planning, open communication, and patience will be key as these funds are available for obligation until September 30, 2024.

One final thing to keep in mind is that these are still public monies. Titles to material, equipment, and property purchased with EANS funds must be in a public agency's name (typically the local or state education agency). Congress has been expressly clear about a few ways these monies cannot be used—any equipment or material purchased must be used only towards secular, neutral, and non-ideological purposes (even if you're a religiously affiliated non-public school). They also say that these monies can't go towards scholarship granting organizations, to support vouchers, education savings accounts, tuition tax credit programs, scholarships, or tuition assistance programs. Navigating the nuances of EANS eligibility will take a few extra steps but funding for non-public schools is available.





# 21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS (21ST CCLC)

## PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

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### SUMMARY

This program supports the creation of community learning centers that provide academic enrichment opportunities during non-school hours for children, particularly students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools. The program helps students meet state and local student standards in core academic subjects, such as reading and math; offers students a broad array of enrichment activities that can complement their regular academic programs; and offers literacy and other educational services to the families of participating children.

Each eligible entity that receives an award from the state may use the funds to carry out a broad array of before- and after-school activities (including those held during summer recess periods) to advance student achievement.

These activities include:

- Remedial education activities and academic enrichment learning programs, including those which provide additional assistance to students to allow the students to improve their academic achievement
- Mathematics and science education activities
- Arts and music education activities
- Entrepreneurial education programs
- Tutoring services, including those provided by senior citizen volunteers, and mentoring programs
- Programs that provide after-school activities for limited English proficient (LEP) students and that emphasize language skills and academic achievement

### ELIGIBILITY

Awards are made to State Education Agencies (SEAs). Local education agencies (LEAs) and nonprofit organization may apply to states for subgrants.

### DEADLINE

Deadlines vary by state.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://www2.ed.gov/programs/21stcclc/index.html>



# ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY GRANTS (ELG)

## PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

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### SUMMARY

Environmental Literacy Grants (ELG) support projects that inform, educate, and inspire a diverse pool of educators, students and the public to use Earth systems science toward both improving ocean and coastal stewardship and increasing safety and resilience to environmental hazards. These grants support formal and informal education activities at local, regional, and national levels to address the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) mission of science, service, and stewardship. The goal of this program is to build environmental literacy of K-12 students and the public so they are knowledgeable of the ways in which their community can become more resilient to extreme weather and/or other environmental hazards, and become involved in achieving that resilience. Building sufficient environmental literacy in a community means that these communities are composed of individuals who are supported by formal and informal education that develop their knowledge, skills, and confidence to:

- reason about the ways that human and natural systems interact globally and where they live, including the acknowledgement of disproportionately distributed vulnerabilities
- participate in scientific and/or civic processes
- consider scientific uncertainty, cultural knowledge, and diverse community values in decision making

This funding opportunity has two priorities: Priority 1 awards will support new projects taking place in the Central and Eastern Regions of the United States. Priority 2 awards will support the evolution of projects funded under the 2015-2018 funding opportunities from this program.

### ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants are limited to institutions of higher education; K-12 public and independent schools and school systems; other nonprofits, including community-based organizations and informal education institutions, such as museums, zoos, and aquariums; state and local government agencies; and Indian tribal governments in the United States.

### DEADLINE

The deadline for Priority 1 full applications is 11:59 pm EDT on March 17, 2022. A similar deadline is anticipated, annually.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.noaa.gov/office-education/elp/grants/apply>



# GRANT SEEKING FOR MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTIONS

By Liz Shay, Senior Grants Development Consultant  
(Higher Education)

MSIs are uniquely positioned to help increase the number of traditionally underrepresented students entering, persisting in, and completing postsecondary degrees in in-demand fields, such as STEM.

Minority-serving institutions (MSIs) are institutes of higher education that serve large populations of traditionally underrepresented students. Some of these schools are defined as an MSI through their charters when they were formed, as is the case for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs). Others are defined as an MSI through the percentage of their student body that are members of a particular minority group, such as Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) and Alaska Native and Native-Hawaiian Serving Institutions (ANNH). MSIs are uniquely positioned to provide their students with close-knit community and a culturally relevant education to develop 21st century skills but they also face unique challenges and many schools have student populations that are primarily low-income, first-generation college students.

MSIs can utilize knowledge and skills to further innovate the educational experiences provided to students and the research conducted by faculty. Funding is always a challenge when trying to implement innovation but luckily, there are many grant opportunities available to support these efforts, some of which are also available to a larger pool of institutes of higher education where MSIs can be particularly competitive.

Most funding for MSIs come from a combination of federal and sometimes state funding (in the case of public MSIs) plus tuition (including Pell Grants) and private gifts. The main federal funding mechanism for MSIs is through the Higher Education Act, administered by the US Department of Education. Some of the programs under the Higher Education Act are competitive while others are formula funding that goes to all eligible institutions. These funds are typically used for a variety of campus-wide initiatives, designed to support the needs of the relevant student population (based on the type of MSI). MSIs also received additional allocations under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) for all three rounds. You may already be utilizing some or all these funding sources for various initiatives on your campus.

In addition to the funding sources above, there are also competitive funding opportunities from several different federal agencies with a focus on specifically supporting MSIs through achieving innovation in education or research. Applying to these grants can expand the budget of your institution and help continuously work towards goals. These programs are interested in MSIs developing their curriculum/research in a topic of interest as well as creating opportunities for more traditionally underrepresented students to enter, persist, and/or complete degree programs in that field. A few of the more popular programs are:

#### **HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM (HBCU-UP):**

This program from the National Science Foundation (NSF) helps HBCUs develop innovative undergraduate STEM curriculum, increase access for undergraduate students to STEM research experiences, provide support during critical transitions between school levels, and build the strength of STEM faculty.

#### **TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES PROGRAM (TCUP):**

A similar program to HBCU-UP, also from the NSF, TCUP awards grants to TCUs, Alaska Native-serving institutions, and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions to promote high quality STEM education, research, and outreach.

#### **HUMANITIES INITIATIVES AT HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTIONS:**

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) helps HSIs strengthen the teaching and study of the humanities through the development of courses and materials.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR HBCUS AND MSIS:**

This program is administered through the Army Research Laboratory and supports projects at MSIs that enhance research and engineering capabilities in areas important to national defense, increase the number of graduates in STEM disciplines, and encourage research and education collaborations with other institutes of higher education and with defense organizations.

#### **COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING (CISE) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTIONS RESEARCH EXPANSION PROGRAM:**

The NSF has a goal of broadening participation by increasing the number of research projects from MSIs funded by the CISE programs. Projects should focus on capacity building and research planning or building integrated and sustained partnerships with research-intensive organizations.





There are also a variety of grants for broader curriculum and research innovations at institutes of higher education and MSIs can be very competitive in this space. In some cases, MSIs are uniquely positioned to be able to achieve the goals of these grant programs. For example, the Nursing Workforce Diversity program from the Health Resources and Services Administration awards grants to institutes of higher education who propose projects to assist students from disadvantaged backgrounds (including groups underrepresented among registered nurses) through the educational pipeline in becoming registered nurses.

Some general higher education grant programs also give competitive preference points for MSIs. These additional points can help push your application ahead of other similarly qualified applicants who are not MSIs. It's important to still submit a competitive application that meets the goals of the grant program, but these additional points can be helpful in getting funding.

Ultimately, there is a plethora of grant programs available for institutes of higher education, and specifically for MSIs, to meet educational and research goals. Seek the grant programs that most closely align with your institutional focus areas and develop competitive applications addressing the goals of those programs.



# ADVANCING INNOVATION AND IMPACT IN UNDERGRAD STEM EDUCATION AT TWO-YEAR IHES

## PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

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### **SUMMARY**

NSF's Education and Human Resources Directorate seeks to significantly enhance its support for research, development, implementation, and assessment to improve STEM education at the Nation's two-year colleges. NSF encourages bold, potentially transformative projects that address immediate challenges facing STEM education at two-year colleges and/or anticipate new structures and functions of the STEM learning and teaching enterprise. This program description is a targeted approach for advancing innovative and evidence-based practices in undergraduate STEM education at two-year colleges. It also seeks to support systemic approaches to advance inclusive and equitable STEM education practices.

Projects will be expected to build on prior fundamental and/or applied research in STEM education and provide theoretical and empirical justification for proposed projects as needed. Projects will also be expected to be research-informed and to result in field-tested outcomes and products that enhance STEM teaching and learning at two-year colleges.

Potential Outcomes of Interest: NSF is interested in projects with potential outcomes that include, but are not limited to:

- making systemic improvements in STEM education
- promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion
- mitigating the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on two-year colleges

### **ELIGIBILITY**

All capable entities are eligible to apply.

### **DEADLINE**

Applications may be submitted at any time.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

<https://beta.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/advancing-innovation-and-impact-undergraduate-stem-education-two-year>

# ADVANCED TRANSPORTATION & CONGESTION MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGIES DEPLOYMENT (ATCMTD)

## PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

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### SUMMARY

The Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment (ATCMTD) initiative rewards competitive grants for the development of model deployment sites for large scale installation and operation of advanced transportation technologies to improve safety, efficiency, system performance, and infrastructure return on investments. The DOT intends for these model technology deployments to help demonstrate how emerging transportation technologies, data, and their applications can be effectively deployed and integrated with existing systems to provide access to essential services and other destinations. This includes efforts to increase connectivity to employment, education, services and other opportunities; support workforce development; or contribute to increased mobility.

Applicants may use funds under this program to deploy advanced transportation technologies, including:

- Advanced traveler information systems
- Advanced transportation management technologies
- Infrastructure maintenance, monitoring, and condition assessment
- Advanced public transportation systems
- Transportation system performance data collection, analysis, and dissemination systems
- Advanced safety systems, including vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure communications
- Technologies associated with autonomous vehicles, and other collision avoidance technologies, including systems using cellular technology
- Integration of intelligent transportation systems with the Smart Grid and other distribution systems
- Electronic pricing and payment systems
- Advanced mobility and access technologies, such as dynamic ride sharing and information systems to support human services for elderly and disabled individuals

### ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants are states, units of local government or political subdivision thereof, transit agencies, metropolitan planning organizations (representing populations of more than 200,000), and multijurisdictional groups made up of the above eligible applicants (with a signed agreement to implement the initiative across jurisdictional boundaries).

### DEADLINE

Applications were to be submitted by August 23, 2021. The USDOT will announce the next cycle of funding in FY22 and the program will be renamed the Advanced Transportation Technologies and Innovative Mobility Deployment program.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/factsheets/advtranscongmgmtfs.cfm>

# ADVANCED TRANSPORTATION & CONGESTION MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGIES DEPLOYMENT (ATCMTD)

## FUNDED PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

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### **FUNDED ORGANIZATION**

Pinellas County Department of Public Works

### **PROJECT TITLE**

Pinellas Connected Community

### **AMOUNT FUNDED**

\$4,622,880

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Pinellas County will expand the county's smart city data platform to integrate data from third-party providers and video analytics. It will deploy connected vehicle roadside units on managed corridors, US 19 and SR 60, along with predictive analytics for incident and congestion risk predictions.

### **FOR MORE AWARD INFORMATION**

<https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/fastact/atcmtd/2020/awards/index.htm>

### **ORGANIZATION WEBSITE**

<http://www.pinellascounty.org/publicworks/>

# GRANTS OFFICE ON THE ROAD

Are you attending? Check out our sessions below.

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## May 10-11, 2022 Merit Member Conference

The Henry 300 Town Center Drive, Dearborn, Michigan 48126



### Connectivity Funding: How to Prepare Your Broadband Grant Proposal

The conference schedule is still being finalized. Please refer to the event website for updates.  
To learn more, visit <https://www.merit.edu/>

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## June 15-17, 2022 The Learning Ideas Conference

NYC (In-person and online)



### Funding Institutional Innovation Needs Through Grants

The conference schedule is still being finalized. Please refer to the event website for updates.  
To learn more, visit <https://www.learningideasconf.org/>

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## June 27-30, 2022 IACLEA Annual Conference & Exposition

MGM Grand Hotel & Casino 3799 Las Vegas Boulevard South Las Vegas, NV 89109-4319



### Grant Funding for Campus Safety Technology 6/27/22 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM ET

To learn more, visit <https://www.cvent.com/c/src/981a257a-872f-4b30-a6a6-f5e0c793690c/summary>

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## UPCOMING GRANTSCASTS:

### **Funding for Innovation through Immersive Learning**

Sponsored by HP, AMD, and Microsoft

Date: February 17, 2022 - 2pm EST

Register [HERE](#)

### **FOIA Compliance in Education**

Sponsored by GovQA

Date: February 23, 2022 - 2pm EST

Register [HERE](#)

### **Modernizing Government Identity**

Sponsored by Okta

Date: February 24, 2022 - 2pm EST

Register [HERE](#)

### **Infrastructure Act Technology Funds**

Sponsored by SHI

Date: March 15, 2022 - 2pm EST

Register [HERE](#)

## RECENT GRANTSCASTS:

### **Cybersecurity Solutions and Funding for Education Providers and State and Local Governments**

Sponsored by HP and AMD

Download and Playback [HERE](#)

### **The Infrastructure Bill in Infrared: An Infrastructure Bill Primer by Grants Office**

Download and Playback [HERE](#)

### **Stimulus and Grants Funding for Education and Hybrid Learning Solutions**

Sponsored by HP and Microsoft

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### **Research Instrumentation Grants for HBCUs and Minority Serving Institutions**

Sponsored by Dell and AMD

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### **Freedom of Information Isn't Free**

Sponsored by GovQA and the National Association of Counties

Download and Playback [HERE](#)

### **Mobility Solutions for First Responders**

Sponsored by Samsung

Download and Playback [HERE](#)

### **Emergencies Don't Stop**

Sponsored by Samsung

Download and Playback [HERE](#)

### **Communication is Key**

Sponsored by Samsung

Download and Playback [HERE](#)

### **Influx of Information**

Sponsored by TD Synnex, Veeam, and Microsoft

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