



Federal Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

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Telecommunications Commission
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Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)

- National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) program
- Funded by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)
- \$4.7 billion in grants to NTIA for broadband projects (of which, \$350 million will fund broadband mapping initiative)
- Additional \$2.5 billion for rural broadband grants and loan guarantees to Dept. of Agriculture – Rural Utility Service



BTOP Grants

- Eligible organizations:
 - Local governments
 - Municipal electric utilities
 - Educational institutions
 - Non-profits
- Application areas:
 - Economic development
 - Digital inclusion
 - Health
 - Public safety
 - Education



Purposes for BTOP

ARRA states purposes for NTIA/BTOP grants:

1. Access to unserved areas
2. Access to underserved areas
3. Education, access, equipment and support for community “anchor” institutions
4. Improved access for public safety agencies
5. Economic growth and job creation (ARRA is “a job-creation engine, first and foremost”)



More on Purpose #3

Provide to

- Educational, medical and community organizations for greater broadband use
- Agencies and organizations serving low-income, aged and other vulnerable populations for broadband use in services
- Job-creation facilities operating in enterprise zones, development districts, etc.



Grants Timeline

- Three submission periods
 - Early Summer 2009
 - Fall 2009
 - Spring 2010
- Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)
 - Early June 2009 (approx.)
 - Sets exact dates for submissions
 - NTIA Request for Information on how to implement the BTOP program (comment period was in early April.)



City of Austin

- Initiate coordinated effort of City of Austin departments on broadband stimulus
- Austin Free-Net
- University of Texas Office of Sponsored Projects Omnibus Application – publish a benchmark application to serve as a model for application -