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TO TOMORROW'S INTERNET**

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**Volume 5, Issue 9 - Special Grant Edition
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This special edition of CENIC Today provides readers with two grant opportunities that may be of interest to your organization. It is being sent to all CENIC mailing lists.

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If you pursue either of these grant opportunities and would like a letter of support from CENIC, please send a note to editor@cenic.org with your request.

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Department of Agriculture Community Connect Broadband Grant Program

Proposals Due: November 5, 2002

For More Information: http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/initiatives/index_initiatives.htm

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) announces a pilot grant program for the provision of broadband transmission service in rural America. For fiscal year 2002, \$20 million in grants will be made available through a national competition to applicants proposing to provide broadband transmission service on a "community-oriented connectivity" basis. The "community-oriented connectivity" approach will target rural, economically-challenged communities and offer a means for the deployment of broadband transmission services to rural schools, libraries, education centers, health care providers, law enforcement agencies, public safety organizations as well as residents and businesses. This all-encompassing connectivity concept will give small, rural communities a chance to benefit from the advanced technologies that are necessary to foster economic growth, provide quality education and health care opportunities, and increase and enhance public safety efforts.

The provision of broadband transmission service is vital to the economic development, education, health, and safety of rural Americans. To further this objective, RUS will provide financial assistance to eligible entities that propose, on a "community-oriented connectivity" basis, to provide broadband transmission service that fosters economic growth and delivers enhanced educational, health care, and public safety services. RUS will provide this assistance in the form of grants. RUS will give priority to rural areas that it believes have the greatest need for broadband transmission services.

Twenty million dollars in grant authority will be utilized to deploy broadband infrastructure to extremely rural, lower income communities on a "community-oriented connectivity" basis. The "community-oriented connectivity" concept integrates the deployment of broadband infrastructure with the practical, everyday uses and applications of the facilities. This broadband access is intended to promote economic development and provide enhanced educational and health care opportunities. RUS will provide financial assistance to eligible entities that are proposing to deploy broadband transmission service in rural communities where such service does not currently exist and who will connect the critical community facilities including the local schools, libraries, hospitals, police, fire and rescue services and who will operate a community center that provides free and open access to residents. Under this Notice, grants will be made available, on a competitive basis, for the deployment of broadband transmission services to critical community facilities, rural residents, and rural businesses and for the construction, acquisition, or expansion and operation of a community center that provides free access to broadband transmission services to community residents for at least two years. Funding is also available for end-user equipment, software, and installation costs. A state-of-the-art community center will not only provide improved access but will aid rural residents in developing on-line businesses and will allow them to reap the benefits of Internet-based advanced placement courses, and continuing adult education. An application is limited to including only one project, as defined in this notice. Applicants wishing to serve multiple projects must submit an application for each project. Applicants will be required to provide a minimum matching contribution that is equal to 15 percent of the grant amount awarded.

Eligible Applicant

To be eligible for a grant, the applicant must:

(a) Be a public body; an Indian tribe; a cooperative, nonprofit, limited dividend or mutual association; municipality; an incorporated or limited liability company; or other legally organized entity. The applicant may not be an individual or a partnership; and

(b) Have the legal authority to own and operate the broadband facilities as proposed in its application, to enter into contracts and to otherwise comply with applicable Federal statutes and regulations.

Eligible Project

To be eligible for a grant, the project must:

- (a) Propose to serve a rural area where broadband transmission service does not currently exist;
- (b) Propose to serve one community;
- (c) Deploy basic broadband transmission service, free of all charges for at least 2 years, to all critical community facilities located within the proposed service area;
- (d) Deploy basic broadband transmission service, free of all charges for at least 2 years, to the community center;
- (e) Offer basic broadband transmission service to all residential and business customers within the proposed service area; and
- (f) Provide a community center within the proposed service area and make broadband transmission service available, free of all charges to users within the center for at least 2 years. The community center must have, as a minimum, 10 computer access points or computer access points equal to 1 percent of the service area's population, whichever is greater.

Eligible Grant Purposes

Grant funds may be used to finance:

- (a) The construction, acquisition, or lease of facilities, including spectrum, to deploy broadband transmission services to all critical community facilities and to offer such service to all residential and business customers located within the proposed service area;
- (b) The improvement, expansion, construction, or acquisition of a community center that furnishes free access to broadband Internet service, provided that the community center is open and accessible to area residents before and after normal working hours and on Saturday or Sunday. Grant funds provided for such costs shall not exceed the greater of 5 percent of the grant amount requested or \$100,000;
- (c) End-user equipment needed to carry out the project;
- (d) Operating expenses incurred in providing broadband transmission service to critical community facilities for the first 2 years of operations and to provide training and instruction. Salary and administrative expenses will be subject to review, and may be limited, by RUS for reasonableness in relation to the scope of the project; and
- (e) The purchase of land, buildings, or building construction needed to carry out the project.

Grant funds may not be used to finance the duplication of any existing broadband transmission services provided by other entities.

Facilities financed with grant funds cannot be utilized, in any way, to provide local exchange telecommunications service to any person or entity already receiving such services.

Community Technology Foundation of California Grant Program

NOTE: The Community Technology Foundation of California will fund grants to schools IF they are partnered with a community-based organization.

Proposals Due: November 1, 2002

For Additional Information: <http://www.zerodivide.org/grants/>

The Community Technology Foundation of California is one of the leading funders of community-based telecommunication and information technology programs. The goal of the Foundation's grantmaking programs is to bring the benefits of basic and advanced telecommunications and information technology to underserved communities. The upcoming submission deadline is November 1, 2002 for a May 2003 decision.

The goal of our General Grants program is to be responsive to the efforts of community-based organizations in designing and integrating telecommunications and technology into their programs. We believe that underserved communities drive and know best how to incorporate technology into their lives, identify barriers in access, and propose community-building and problem solving strategies.

The Foundation conducts two grant rounds per year, but we accept General Grants proposals year round from qualified applicants. We greatly appreciate early proposal submissions.

Program Areas

The Foundation organizes its general grantmaking in the following four program areas:

Community Building catalyzes community change and connectivity through technology. It utilizes community technology to engage citizens with broader community advocacy, civic involvement, civil rights, public policy and quality of life programs.

Community Economic Development increases access to technology-related knowledge or training that enhances economic self-sufficiency through workforce development, asset building, or microenterprise and small business assistance.

Education creates life-long learning opportunities for communities and individuals by increasing understanding and ability to apply learned knowledge through the use of technology.

Health provides and enhances community-wide access to health services, information and networking to promote community wellness.

Grant Specifics (amount, duration, and limitations)

CTFC grants range from \$10,000 to \$100,000 and can be up to two years in length. The maximum grant award is \$100,000 over two years (\$50,000 per year). If you apply as a collaborative of three or more agencies, CTFC will consider grants of up to \$150,000 over two years (\$75,000 per year). Planning grants range from \$10,000 to \$25,000.

The Foundation awards grants for planning, program implementation, collaboration, and technology. Requests for technology must be integrated into the program with the appropriate level of staffing and technical support.

Limitations

By our charter, CTFC was created to benefit California's underserved communities. Consequently, only programs that focus on California are eligible. Organizations may not have more than one active grant with CTFC at any given time, nor can organizations apply until their current grant has successfully concluded.

Presently, the CTFC is unable to fund the following:

- federal, state or local government agencies
- individuals
- capital campaigns or endowments
- facility construction or renovation
- programs that re-grant CTFC funds

About CENIC

CENIC is a not-for-profit corporation formed by the California Institute of Technology, the California State University, Stanford University, the University of California, and the University of Southern California to facilitate and coordinate the deployment, development, and operation of a set of seamless and robust advanced network services. The CENIC Associates program offers qualified companies the opportunity to collaborate with CENIC in pursuit of the goal of providing the most advanced network services for research and education. Cisco Systems, SBC, and the University and Community College System of Nevada are CENIC's Partner Associates.

Subscription Information

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