
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2022

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2021



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

Broadband Grants — OCIO

Purpose and History

This appropriation supports a broadband grant program as outlined in Iowa Code section [8B.11](#). The grant program was first established in 2015 Iowa Acts, chapter [120](#) (Iowa Cell Siting Act), and the process for awarding grants has most recently been amended in 2021 Iowa Acts, chapter [47](#) (Broadband Policy Act). The State share of a grant is 75.0%, 50.0%, or 35.0% of the communication provider's total project costs, and the percentage is determined by the broadband service that is currently available in a targeted service area. The definition of "targeted service area" includes the following three-tiered system:

- Tier 1: Maximum download speed of less than 25 megabits per second and a maximum upload speed of less than three megabits per second.
- Tier 2: Minimum download speed of greater than or equal to 25 megabits per second but less than 50 megabits per second.
- Tier 3: Minimum download speed of greater than or equal to 50 megabits per second but less than 80 megabits per second.

At least 20.0% of funds available for award are granted to projects that provide broadband in difficult-to-serve targeted service areas. The remaining funds available are granted to projects that facilitate a minimum download speed of 100 megabits per second and a minimum upload speed of 100 megabits per second in Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 areas or a minimum download speed of 100 megabits per second and a minimum upload speed of 20 megabits per second in Tier 1 areas. The Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) is allowed to use 2.5% of the moneys in the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Fund at the beginning of each fiscal year for the administration and operation of the program.

Funding — State General Fund

The General Assembly appropriated \$5.0 million from the General Fund for this program for FY 2020 and FY 2021 and \$100 million from the General Fund in FY 2022. The program received a \$1.3 million appropriation from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund in FY 2019.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code section [8B.11](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [129—22](#)

Budget Unit Number

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More Information

Office of the Chief Information Officer: ocio.iowa.gov/broadband
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