
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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COVID-19 — EMPOWER RURAL IOWA BROADBAND GRANT PROGRAM

Award. On January 19, 2021, the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) announced approximately \$15.5 million is being made available from the Iowa Coronavirus Relief Fund (ICRF) for the OCIO's Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Program. This funding is issued under Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) #005 and does not include any State funds.

Background. In total, \$50.0 million was allocated to the OCIO from the ICRF for funding of grants to expand broadband services in Iowa, and \$33.1 million was previously awarded to eligible broadband providers under NOFA #003.

Application Information. Eligible broadband providers may submit written questions by January 28, 2021, and the application acceptance window will open on February 4, 2021. Due to federal guidelines, all projects must be completed by December 1, 2021.

More Information. Additional information about this opportunity, including all documentation and related materials, can be found here: ocio.iowa.gov/broadband-grants.

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