

FY16 Promise Zone Benefits from Partnering Agencies

Agency: United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Utilities Service

Programs with PZ Benefits:
USDA Community Connect Grant Program

Community Connect Grant Program

Website: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-connect-grants>

Benefit Type: Grants

Eligible Communities: Rural, Tribal

Eligible Applicants: Only entities legally organized as one of the following are eligible for Community Connect Grant Program financial assistance:

- i. An incorporated organization;
 - ii. An Indian tribe or tribal organization, as defined in 25 U.S.C. 450b;
 - iii. A state or local unit of government; or
 - iv. A cooperative, private corporation, or limited liability company organized on a for-profit or not-for-profit basis.
- b. Applicants must have the legal capacity and authority to enter into contracts, to comply with applicable federal statutes and regulations, and to own and operate the broadband facilities as proposed in their application.
- c. Applicants must have an active registration with current information in the System for Award Management (SAM) (previously the Central Contractor Registry (CCR)) at <https://www.sam.gov> and have a Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number.

Funding Amount: Awards can range from a minimum of \$100,000 to a maximum of \$3 million.

Benefits to Promise Zone: Applicants may receive special consideration if they submit documentation demonstrating that they will provide broadband service within the following areas (15 points):

- i. Tribal jurisdiction or trust areas,
- iii. Promise Zone (for further information, see the Promise Zone Web site at <http://www.hud.gov/promisezones/>, or
- iv. Strike Force area

In making a final selection among and between applications with comparable rankings and geographic distribution, the Administrator may take into consideration the characteristics of the Proposed Funded Service Area (PFSA), as identified in 7 CFR 1739.17(d).

Program Description: The purpose of the Community Connect Grant Program is to provide financial assistance in the form of grants to eligible applicants that will provide broadband service to currently unserved, lower-income, and extremely rural areas. This broadband service is intended to foster economic growth and deliver enhanced educational, healthcare, and public safety services on a community-oriented connectivity basis. RUS will give priority to rural areas that have the greatest need for broadband services, based on the criteria contained herein. Grant authority will be used for the deployment of broadband service to extremely rural, lower-income communities on a community-oriented connectivity basis. By cultivating the deployment of new broadband services, the community-oriented connectivity concept will stimulate innovative uses and practical applications of the new broadband facilities in order to improve economic development and provide enhanced educational and health care opportunities in rural areas. Such an approach will also give rural communities the opportunity to benefit from the advanced technologies necessary to achieve these goals.

Application: The application deadline for this grant opportunity is June 17, 2016. For more information on how to apply for grants, see [page 22567](#) of the April 18, 2016 Federal Register.