

Mifflin County

Broadband Deployment Relief Grant Program

Guidelines

Revised: August 19, 2020

The application window will open August 20th.

You will have 25 business days to complete the application before the first window closes on September 24th.

The following website (www.restoremifflincounty.com) will be the primary location for information (guidelines & application) and making application. This is not a first-come, first-served program. There may be an additional application window. If you want to get prepared now, read all the text below.

Program Eligibility:

To be eligible to apply, providers (see below) must meet all four of the eligibility requirements:

- Grants are available for businesses, authorities, co-ops, or non-profit agencies that directly provide broadband internet connectivity to Mifflin County Residents during the COVID-19 pandemic, and only for the time period starting March 1, 2020 until the end of the disaster declaration or by December 30, 2020, whichever is earlier. No expenses will be reimbursed for anything that is not documented to be operational during the current pandemic.
- Grants are available only for businesses, authorities, co-ops, or non-profit agencies that will be able to expand service to unserved and underserved broadband internet connectivity areas of Mifflin County for use during the pandemic.
- Businesses, authorities, co-ops, or non-profit agencies, herein known as “**providers**”, must be able to show the intent to expand broadband internet connectivity service, herein known as “**service**”, in Mifflin County principally for use during the current pandemic.
- All expenses requested for reimbursement **MUST** contribute to service for individuals under the current COVID-19 Pandemic and can provide proof that individuals are benefiting from the new service, otherwise reimbursement for expenses will not occur.

Program Priorities:

Primary consideration will be given to:

- Providers who have **not** received funding for the area of the expansion of service from other Federal or State grant sources.

- Providers that are able to prove that the expansion into underserved and unserved areas of Mifflin County are within the business model.
- Providers that can provide service to Mifflin County residents and businesses at an affordable rate.
- Providers that can document a high level of customer service.
- Providers that can document the ability to re-invest in the system before the end of the typical life expectancy of the equipment needed to operate the service.

Grant Funding Structure:

Providers will be considered for only one grant due to the time-constraints on the funding. This does not prohibit providers from making a larger application for a larger service area.

Eligible Use of Funds:

- Documentable payroll costs for in-house staffing that provided labor for the expansion and/or new deployment project.
- Documentable equipment costs needed to be purchased to provide the new service.
- Documentable supplies that were purchased to provide the new service.
- All expenses (payroll, equipment, and/or supplies) contribute to a service that is built and activated or on-line by December 30, 2020.

Ineligible Providers:

- Providers that are not physically providing service in Mifflin County, Pennsylvania during the pandemic.
- Providers that are in active default (not on a payment plan) with taxes or fees owed to the federal, state or local governments.
- Providers engaged in any activity that is illegal under federal, state, or local law.
- Providers operated by/owned by/controlled by any individual that has ever obtained a direct or guaranteed loan from through a federal and/or state agency that is currently delinquent or has defaulted within the last seven years and caused a loss to the government.
- Providers engaged in any illegal activity, socially undesirable or those that may be considered predatory in nature.

- Providers that are operated by or owned by or controlled by any individual is incarcerated, on probation, on parole; presently subject to an indictment, criminal information, arraignment, or other means by which formal criminal charges are brought in any jurisdiction; or has been convicted of a felony involving fraud, bribery, embezzlement, or a false statement in a loan application or an application for federal assistance within the last five years or any other felony within the last year.

Get Prepared:

Required Documentation and Information from Applicants

(Items provided in electronic format for upload, such as a PDF)

- A short narrative describing how the Covid-19 Pandemic has affected your operations.
- A summary of the total new connected users and a breakdown of how many new connected users are using the service for remote education, telework, or telehealth.

➤ Copies of:

___ Plans outlining service area that was expanded or will be expanded to with Grant Funds

___ List of other areas of Mifflin County that are served by your organization

___ Map showing service area

___ Budget of Planned expenses for the distribution of Broadband to unserved and underserved areas of Mifflin County (including design documents if available) from which you wish to have paid for by the Broadband Relief Grant

___ Service Rate Structure

___ Certification of who can file on behalf of your organization.

Questions:

Contact the Mifflin County Planning & Development Department at (717) 242-0887 or mcplanning@mifflinco.org.

How to apply:

To receive a grant, you must apply through the following website:
www.restoremifflincounty.com.