

2016 Border-to-Border Broadband Grant Program

Overview Summary
July 19th, 2016

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Office of Broadband Development

Roles and Responsibilities - Highlights

- Inform state broadband policy discussions
- Administer the Border to Border broadband grant program
- Measure and map broadband availability across the state
- Act as clearinghouse for information on state and federal program resources
- Provide technical assistance to communities and providers
- Analyze community anchor institution needs
- Support digital inclusion (literacy and affordability)
- Foster the building of broadband needs into local planning processes
- Address Dig Once/ROW mgmt/Permitting

Border to Border Broadband Development Grant - Purpose

- **Purpose:** to provide financial incentive for the acquisition and installation of broadband infrastructure into unserved and underserved areas of Minnesota
- **Allowable costs:** project planning, construction permits, purchase or construction of facilities for last-mile and middle-mile infrastructure, and the installation and testing of the equipment used to provide broadband service.

2016 Border to Border Broadband Development Grant – Overview

- \$35 M one-time appropriation
- \$5 M for underserved (areas not currently served at 100/20)
- \$500,000 for low income areas
- ~ \$28.5 M for unserved areas (areas not currently served at 25/3)
- Distributed in single competitive grant round
- Technology must be scalable to at least 100Mbps Up/Down (Initial service must meet minimum state speed goal)
- Cap of \$5M per grant award
- Provider notification required
- At least 1 to 1 match (50% of eligible expenses) required (More points awarded for higher match)

2016 Border to Border Broadband Development Grant – Scoring highlights

- Amount of increase of broadband speeds
- % matching funds
- Sustainability (Financial, partnerships)
- Realistic project plan and timeline
- Community support
- Economic development potential
- Economic distress of area
- Benefit to anchor institutions

2016 Border to Border Broadband Development Grant – Status and Timeline

- The application, eligibility maps, and FAQ are now published on the OBD website
- Application window opens on July 22, 2016
- **Deadline:** October 3rd, 2016 4 p.m.
- Challenges due by November 7th, 4 p.m.
- Awards to be made by late November

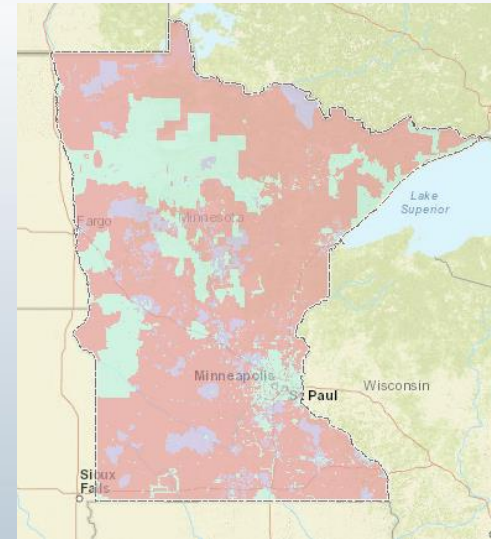
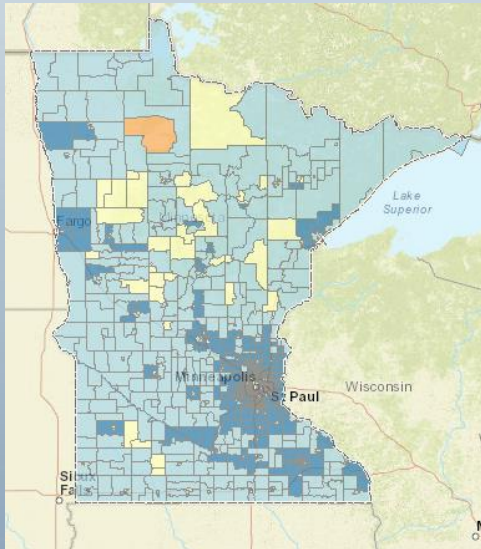
2016 Border to Border Broadband Development Grant – Resources

Grant Application & FAQ

<http://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/grant-program>

Interactive Eligibility Map

<http://map.connectmn.org/>



Recorded Grant Workshop Webinar

(link also on website)

<https://intercall.webex.com/intercall/ldr.php?RCID=3016d75d4806c5834511b0c9fd9ee2f1>

Questions?

For more information, contact:

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- Jane Leonard, Broadband Grants Administrator,
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- Diane Wells, Telecommunications Manager (can
answer policy, challenges, & mapping questions),
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<http://mn.gov/deed/broadband>