FRANKLIN COUNTY BROADBAND EXPANSION GRANT
NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The Franklin County Commission hereby provides public notice of a funding opportunity for a broadband infrastructure expansion project in designated areas of the county currently unserved or underserved with broadband service as identified and outlined in the grant application and accompanying maps. The Commission proposes to award a grant of up to $5,000,000 utilizing funds available to the county through the American Rescue Plan Act’s (ARPA) Coronavirus State and Local Recovery Funds Program (SLFRF).

GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Awarding Agency: Franklin County Commission, funded through American Rescue Plan Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provided by the United States Department of Treasury

Funding Opportunity Title: Broadband Infrastructure Expansion

Funding Instrument Type: Grant funded through ARPA

Announcement Type: Initial Grant Offering

Project Number: 01059-061-230308-0010

Assistance Listings Number: ALN 21.027

Federal Assistance Identification Number: SLFRP2958

Application Availability: Application packets will be available beginning May 17, 2023 Available through Franklin County’s website at http://franklincounty.al.org/

Application Deadline: Applications shall be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. on June 30, 2023

Application Submission: Applications shall be submitted to Franklin County Administrator Leah Mansell at mansell@hiwaay.net
Applicant Eligibility: Eligible applicants include a cooperative, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, other private business entity, or unit of local government that currently provides broadband service. Vendors interested in participating in one aspect of the project are not considered eligible applicants but may partner with an eligible applicant.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This grant opportunity seeks a provider to expand broadband fiber optic infrastructure to populated areas of the county which are currently unserved or underserved with broadband internet service, identified in maps of the county provided in the application packet. The county has as its priority in awarding this grant that the successful applicant construct, to the greatest extent possible, last mile fiber optic broadband which can be extended to businesses and residences in the identified areas in the most affordable manner. The county further seeks to have infrastructure constructed in a manner that meets FCC standards and allows for future growth and expansion.

An application packet with accompanying attachments and maps may be obtained at http://franklincountyal.org/. The application packet and attachments include all information regarding project requirements and priorities, application preparation and submission, evaluation criteria and process, and applicable terms and conditions for award.