



## Rural Development Opportunities Fund

Competition for these funds is fierce and these unique programs have varying requirements for completion and submission. You need to turn to someone who has a proven track record and the experience to help you through the entire process from beginning to end.

In August of 2019, the FCC voted to develop the Rural Development Opportunity Fund (RDOF), which essentially replaces the Connect America Fund II auction for distributing Universal Service Fund money to rural carriers. The main difference between the two is that any company delivering broadband and voice services can bid on the funding. This includes cable providers, public utilities and wireless companies.

The FCC's proposed \$20.4 billion RDOF will bring broadband to more than 6 million rural Americans. The funds will be distributed through a reverse auction process similar to that of the CAF II model. This type of auction promotes participation by small rural innovators, and helps the hardest to serve rural areas get high-speed broadband networks that will bring economic opportunity and help support future 5G technologies. The funds will be dispersed in two phases.

Finley Engineering can help manage the entire RDOF process. We have been instrumental in helping clients that want to secure rural broadband funding and as a result, have helped secure tens of millions of dollars on our clients' behalf. If you are a service provider that wants to build and operate a rural broadband network, contact one of our representatives for more information. Call 800-225-9716 and ask for Andy Heins, Mark Mrla or Sean Middleton.

### Phase 1

- \$16 billion
- Areas wholly unserved
- Companies offering the fastest speeds chosen first
- Prioritize areas with speeds less than 10 Mbps
- Prioritize Tribal Lands
- 6 million locations eligible

### Phase 2

- \$4.4 billion
- Locations in partially unserved census blocks
- If phase 1 funding is not obtained, eligible to bid on phase 2 funds
- Will use Digital Opportunity Data Collection mapping process

### Anticipated Timeline

May 2020 - Auction rules published  
Aug 2020 - Application window open  
Oct 2020 - Bidding Opens Phase 1

For more details visit:  
[www.fcc.gov/rural-digital-opportunity-fund](http://www.fcc.gov/rural-digital-opportunity-fund)