

Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program, NTIA will directly address the:

- Lack of broadband access
- Connectivity
- Adoption and equity at nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs)
- Surrounding anchor communities

NTIA will:

- Facilitate educational instruction and learning, including via remote instruction
- Purchase broadband internet access service including:
  - Installation or upgrade of broadband facilities on a one-time, capital improvement basis to increase/expand broadband capacity and/or connectivity at the eligible institution
  - Purchase/lease eligible equipment and devices for student or patron use, subject to any restrictions and prohibited uses
  - Hire and train information technology personnel who are a part of the eligible anchor institution

Purpose of the Connection Minority Communities Pilot Program:

- To expand educational instruction and remote learning opportunities
- Spur economic development
- Create opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship

How?

- By building the digital capacity of the eligible institutions and furthering broadband access, adoption, and digital skills within those institutions and in their surrounding anchor communities

NTIA believes:

- Broadband is a critical conduit for economic development and opportunities
- Broadband is a gateway for increased productivity, growth, and economic access
- HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs play an important role for their students and communities
- Many students, communities, and anchor institutions experience significant gaps in:
  - Broadband access
  - Adoption
  - Digital skills
  - Equity
- The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated these digital inequities for students, faculty, and staff of HBCU, TCU, and MSI anchor institutions to develop innovative solutions to address these digital gaps

Data the NTIA is looking for:

- Federal Pell Grant eligible students
- Student population size
- Students who receive any other need-based financial aid from the Federal government/state
- Students who are qualifying low-income consumers
- Students who are low-income individuals
- Students who have been approved to receive unemployment insurance benefits under any Federal or State law since March 1, 2020

Award Amount:

- NTIA will make the amounts appropriated under the Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program available to eligible recipients
- Eligible funding range:
  - \$500,000 to \$3,000,000
  - Range is not required minimum or maximum
    - Eligible recipients requesting amounts for projects outside of this range must provide a reasonable explanation for the variance in their project size

Resources for data:

- U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS)
- Currently, the most recent available data estimates are from 2015-2019
  - Most recent available data is from 2019