

March 15, 2024

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADBAND

NOTICE OF CONNECTED COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM

APPLICANT WEBINAR

High-speed internet has become an indispensable tool for participation in the economy, education, healthcare, and social relationships. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's ("DEEP") Office of Telecommunications and Broadband is focused on developing equitable policies and programs to bring the economic and social benefits of broadband access to the residents and businesses of Connecticut. This mission includes the equitable deployment of broadband infrastructure and removal of barriers to adoption for all Connecticut's residents. DEEP is administering two broadband infrastructure grant programs funded by the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund ("CPF") and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment ("BEAD") Program to further these goals.

ConneCTed Communities is a \$40.8 million competitive grant program that will fund the construction and deployment of broadband infrastructure designed to support the goal of universal access to affordable, resilient, and reliable broadband. DEEP is seeking applications for grant funding to facilitate low-income and multi-family curb-to-home and business broadband infrastructure buildout in underserved areas that will result in service at speeds of at least 100 Mbps/100 Mbps. Eligible applicants include governmental entities, private for-profit entities, non-profit entities, and certain other organizations and partnerships. For more information on the program and to download the application guidance, please visit <u>DEEP's website</u>.

DEEP will hold this applicant webinar meeting virtually via ZOOM on March 20, 2024, to provide an overview of the ConneCTed Communities Grant Program including requirements, prioritization factors, and the application process.

ConneCTed Communities Grant Program- Applicant Webinar

March 20, 2024, at 10:00 AM

You may register for and access the meeting at the following link:

https://ctdeep.zoom.us/j/82064717546

Any questions regarding this meeting may be directed to Nadya Hoolahan, DEEP Office of Telecommunications and Broadband, at <u>DEEP.CCGP@ct.gov</u>.

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