

**Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund
2020 Annual Report
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On March 28, 2018, Governor Kay Ivey signed the Alabama Broadband Accessibility Act. Because the availability of high-speed broadband services in unserved rural Alabama is important for economic development, education, health care, and emergency services, the Alabama Broadband Accessibility Act established the Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund. On May 30, 2019, Governor Ivey signed Act #2019-327 which provided numerous amendments to the original Act.

Key Legislative Changes

2018-2019

- Minimum Speed 10/1
- Maximum Grant 20 percent or \$1,000,000
- Priority Areas
- Application Due Date Established by Legislation (150 days)
- Limited Documentation of Project Completion

2019-2020

- Minimum Speed 25/3
- Maximum Grant 35 percent or \$1,500,00
- Added Additional Consideration Categories
- Application Due Date Established by ADECA (90 days)
- Specific Documentation of Project Completion
- Added Definitions

New Definitions and Reporting Requirements

- **End User:** “A residential, business, institutional, or government entity that uses broadband services for its own purposes and does not resell such broadband services to other entities. An internet service provider (ISP) and mobile wireless service provider are not an end user for the purposes of this act.”
- **Middle Mile:** “A broadband infrastructure project that does not provide broadband service to end users or to end-user devices.”
- **Reporting:** “operational testing, when possible, to confirm the level of service proposed in the grant application. Such regulations shall not exceed in degree or differ in kind from testing and reporting requirements imposed on the grant recipient by the Federal Communications Commission, as adjusted for the service specifications in the ADECA grant agreement.”

Accountability Measures

- **Reimbursement Program:** Funds are awarded prior to project commencement; however, funds are only disbursed after project completion and verification.
- **Time Requirement:** The Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund requires projects to be completed within two years of award.

Funded Projects (as of January 2020)

Applicant	Project Area/Name	Project Amount	Grant Amount	Potential New Services	Average Grant Cost Per New Service
Millry Telephone	Choctaw County Project 1	\$4,691,530.52	\$938,306.10	760	\$1,234.61
Charter	Eastwood Point	\$55,110.00	\$11,022.00	40	\$275.55
Charter	Emerald Ridge	\$55,316.40	\$11,063.28	41	\$269.84
Charter	Glen Ridge	\$147,835.00	\$29,567.00	94	\$314.54
Charter	Grace Haven	\$30,086.00	\$6,017.20	29	\$207.49
Farmers Telecommunications	Pea Ridge	\$372,932.00	\$74,586.00	62	\$1,203.00
Charter	Vickey Lane	\$42,076.00	\$8,415.20	44	\$191.25
Farmers Telecommunications	Fabius	\$443,340.55	\$88,668.11	48	\$1,847.25
Roanoke Telephone Company	Five Points Community	\$396,198.00	\$79,239.60	176	\$450.23
R. M. Greene	Pittsview Area	\$21,602.87	\$4,320.57	23	\$187.85
Troy Cablevision	SE AL Broadband Accessibility Project #1	\$2,875,576.57	\$575,115.31	957	\$600.96
Troy Cablevision	SE AL Broadband Accessibility Project #2	\$1,744,426.85	\$348,885.37	440	\$792.92
R. M. Greene	Dixie Area	\$253,560.43	\$50,712.09	219	\$231.50
Troy Cablevision	SE AL Broadband Accessibility Project #3	\$117,773.40	\$23,554.68	37	\$636.61
Cyber Broadband	Smith Lake – Sipsey Pines Community	\$568,400.00	\$113,680.00	200	\$568.40

Applications Funded to Date

- 22 applications were received during the 2018 application period and 5 applications were received during the 2019 application period
- 13 projects were awarded funding for 2018 and 2 projects were awarded funding for 2019
- Funds awarded total \$2,363,152.51 with a matching private investment of \$9,452,612.08
- The average grant dollar cost per new service is \$745.47

Unfunded Applications

- A total of 12 projects did not receive funding
- In most cases, projects that did not receive funding were for areas that were not eligible under the previous legislation
- In a few cases, there were problems with the application, or an applicant chose to rescind the application and resubmit under the new program guidelines
- In all cases, unsuccessful applicants were allowed to resubmit an application during a subsequent funding round (many chose to do so)

Statewide Broadband Plan Phase 1

- **Planning Contract:** In July of 2019, ADECA issued a request for proposals for planning and mapping services. Eight responses were received. CTC Technology and Energy received the highest score in the evaluation process. The contract was reviewed and approved by the Contract Review Committee. The amount of the contract is \$1.5 million, and the contract period is January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021. General scope of work items include provide technical expertise for grant program development, identify and develop strategy for leveraging state funds to attract other funding, legislative review and recommendations, identify and convene stakeholders, develop current broadband maps and system for updating maps over time, develop statewide strategic plan, and support and enable regional planning.
- **Next Steps:** Additional planning and mapping requirements will be identified through this process. The scope of work for phase 2 will be determined as a result of phase 1.

Preview of 2020 Program Year

Applications Received Under 2020 Round One Grant Period

- 61 Applications were received by the deadline
- The 30-day challenge period ended February 12, 2020
- The first 20 successful applications were announced March 31

2020 Round 1 Projects Awarded					
Applicant	Project Name	Project Amount	Grant Amount	Potential New Services	Average Grant Cost per New
Central Alabama Electric Cooperative	Zone 1	\$ 640,500.00	\$ 224,175.00	318	\$ 704.95
Central Alabama Electric Cooperative	Zone 2	\$ 826,000.00	\$ 289,100.00	382	\$ 756.81
Central Alabama Electric Cooperative	Zone 3	\$ 1,372,000.00	\$ 480,200.00	534	\$ 899.25
Central Alabama Electric Cooperative	Zone 4	\$ 1,949,500.00	\$ 682,325.00	706	\$ 966.47
Central Alabama Electric Cooperative	Zone 5	\$ 3,048,500.00	\$ 1,066,975.00	1,146	\$ 931.04
Central Alabama Electric Cooperative	Zone 6	\$ 1,594,250.00	\$ 557,987.50	772	\$ 722.78
Central Alabama Electric Cooperative	Zone 7	\$ 1,519,000.00	\$ 531,650.00	529	\$ 1,005.01
Central Alabama Electric Cooperative	Zone 8	\$ 798,000.00	\$ 279,300.00	419	\$ 666.59
Charter Communications	Town of Autaugaville	\$ 962,370.00	\$ 336,829.50	659	\$ 511.12
Comcast	Dauphin Island	\$ 2,345,000.00	\$ 820,750.00	2,600	\$ 315.67
Hayneville Telephone Company	Black Belt Community	\$ 587,730.00	\$ 205,705.50	264	\$ 779.19
Hayneville Telephone Company	Hayneville East	\$ 359,060.00	\$ 125,671.00	188	\$ 668.46
Hayneville Telephone Company	Hayneville West	\$ 409,330.00	\$ 143,265.50	194	\$ 738.48
Hayneville Telephone Company	Poorhouse Community	\$ 257,350.00	\$ 90,072.50	70	\$ 1,286.75
JTM Broadband	Lauderdale County Phase 1	\$ 1,155,470.00	\$ 404,414.50	1,570	\$ 257.59
Mon-Cre Telephone Cooperative	Clearview	\$ 1,513,447.33	\$ 529,706.57	350	\$ 1,513.45
National Telephone of Alabama	Red Rock Community Broadband Project	\$ 1,020,490.00	\$ 357,171.50	212	\$ 1,684.77
Roanoke Telephone Company	Roanoke Community Broadband Project	\$ 882,518.75	\$ 190,800.31	274	\$ 696.35
Troy Cablevision	Southeast Alabama Broadband Accessibility Project #4	\$ 3,955,139.29	\$ 1,384,298.75	1,273	\$ 1,087.43
Troy Cablevision	Southeast Alabama Broadband Accessibility Project #5	\$ 2,144,642.94	\$ 750,625.03	641	\$ 1,171.02
		\$ 27,340,298.31	\$ 9,451,023.16	13,101	\$ 721.40

The average cost per new service was \$721. 40. If all projects are completed as proposed, as many as 13,101 new services could be available within two years. These services will include households, businesses and industries, and anchor institutors such as hospitals. The grant investment of \$9,451,023.16 will leverage \$17,889,275.15 in private investment.

Six projects were rescinded from consideration after submittal. These projects are not included in the table above or below and have been removed from the website.

There are an additional 35 projects under review. These projects represent additional grant requests totaling \$17,360,739.36. If funded, these projects could provide as many as 67,277 new services at an average cost of \$258.05 per service.

2020 Round 1 Projects Pending Further Review					
Applicant	Project Name	Project Amount	Grant Amount	Potential New Services	Average Grant Cost per New Service
Alabama Lightwave	North Bibb County - West Blocton Area	\$ 4,277,728.00	\$ 1,497,204.80	7,969	\$ 187.88
Alabama Power	Vance, West Blocton, and Woodstock Middle Mile Project	\$ 1,785,000.00	\$ 624,750.00	5,542	\$ 112.73
Alabama Power	Jasper Area Middle Mile Project	\$ 1,365,100.00	\$ 477,785.00	10,587	\$ 45.13
Charter Communications	Creekside - Trussville	\$ 104,168.86	\$ 36,459.10	42	\$ 868.07
Charter Communications	Deerfield - Dallas County	\$ 158,516.83	\$ 55,480.89	55	\$ 1,008.74
Charter Communications	Lee Road 279	\$ 24,021.00	\$ 8,407.35	8	\$ 1,050.92
Charter Communications	Marina Marin - Tallapoosa County	\$ 701,621.00	\$ 245,567.35	316	\$ 777.11
Charter Communications	Raintree Area - Centre Al	\$ 90,469.00	\$ 31,664.15	51	\$ 620.87
Charter Communications	Timberline Area - Calera Al	\$ 510,889.00	\$ 178,811.15	259	\$ 690.39
Covington Electric Cooperative	South Alabama Middle Mile Broadband Accessibility	\$ 5,219,513.65	\$ 1,500,000.00	3	\$500,000.00
Cyber Broadband	Fiber to the Home - Baileyton Joppa East Cullman County	\$ 5,539,896.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	1,775	\$ 845.07
Cyber Broadband	Fiber to the Premise - Smith Lake AL-Phase II	\$ 3,852,400.00	\$ 1,348,340.00	815	\$ 1,654.40
DV GWA, LLC.	GETWIREDALABAMA - Macon County	\$ 3,072,956.00	\$ 1,075,535.00	7,515	\$ 143.12
DV GWA, LLC.	GETWIREDALABAMA - Dallas County	\$ 4,813,029.00	\$ 1,443,909.00	9,805	\$ 147.26
DV GWA, LLC.	GETWIREDALABAMA - Lowndes County	\$ 633,880.00	\$ 221,858.00	9,051	\$ 24.51
DV GWA, LLC.	GETWIREDALABAMA - Wilcox County	\$ 2,947,725.00	\$ 1,031,704.00	6,642	\$ 155.33
Farmers Telecommunications Cooperative	Northern DeKalb-Jackson County	\$ 1,063,917.70	\$ 372,371.20	270	\$ 1,379.15
Farmers Telecommunications Cooperative	Southern DeKalb County	\$ 3,288,981.36	\$ 1,151,143.48	812	\$ 1,417.66
Gigafy	Rural Heflin - Fiber to the Home - Broadband Expansion	\$ 544,549.04	\$ 190,592.16	584	\$ 326.36
Hayneville Telephone Company	Ebenezer Road	\$ 169,390.00	\$ 59,286.50	42	\$ 1,411.58
Hayneville Telephone Company	Sherling Lake	\$ 367,990.00	\$ 128,796.50	52	\$ 2,476.86
HCI	South Cleburne County	\$ 187,300.00	\$ 65,555.00	211	\$ 310.69
JTM Broadband	Winston County Phase 1	\$ 954,949.73	\$ 334,232.41	364	\$ 918.22
Mediacom Communications	Joe Carter Road	\$ 9,197.00	\$ 3,218.95	17	\$ 189.35
Mediacom Communications	Cypress Bay West	\$ 57,122.00	\$ 19,992.70	23	\$ 869.25
Mediacom Communications	Charmont Subdivision	\$ 170,826.00	\$ 59,789.10	121	\$ 494.12
Mediacom Communications	Beth Drive	\$ 42,984.00	\$ 15,044.40	40	\$ 376.11
Mediacom Communications	Hwy 90 Subdivision	\$ 105,179.00	\$ 36,812.65	97	\$ 379.51
Millry Telephone Company	FTH Phase III	\$ 2,728,290.00	\$ 954,901.50	577	\$ 1,654.94
Mon-Cre Telephone Cooperative	Hobbie	\$ 1,072,655.92	\$ 375,429.57	150	\$ 2,502.86
Moundville Telephone Co., Inc	MTC Middle-Mile	\$ 141,280.00	\$ 49,448.00	-	#DIV/0!
New Hope Telephone Cooperative	Berkley Fiber Expansion	\$ 364,784.00	\$ 127,674.40	192	\$ 664.97
OTELCO	Morgan City FTTP	\$ 1,770,000.00	\$ 619,500.00	1,649	\$ 375.68
Pine Belt Telephone Company	Project Bulldog	\$ 9,544,703.00	\$ 1,500,000.00	1,577	\$ 951.17
Windstream	Alabama Broadband Accessibility 2020	\$ 55,643.00	\$ 19,475.05	64	\$ 304.30
		\$ 57,736,655.09	\$ 17,360,739.36	67,277	\$ 258.05