

## Community Connect Grant Program

In the May 3, 2012 *Federal Register* the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service announced the availability of funding for the Community Connect Grant Program (*Catalog for Federal Domestic Assistance number: 10.863*)

. The purpose of this program is to provide financial assistance to furnish broadband service in rural, economically-challenged communities where such service does not currently exist. Grant funds may be utilized to: (1) deploy broadband transmission service to critical community facilities, rural residents, and rural businesses (2) construct, acquire, or expand a community center (3) equip and operate a community center that provides free access to broadband services to community residents for at least two years.

***The application deadline is June 18, 2012***

. Eligible applicants include state and local government, nonprofit organizations and small businesses.

To request an application package, visit

[www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)

. For further information, contact Kenneth Kuchno, Director, Broadband Division, 202-690-4389,

[kenneth.kuchno@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:kenneth.kuchno@wdc.usda.gov)