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Executive Director

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To: School District Personnel
From: Arizona School Facilities Board Staff
RE: Funding to Upgrade Internet Connectivity in Rural Communities

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is administering a new, \$600 Million program including grants, loans, and a combination of the two. It's called the "Rural e-Connectivity Pilot Program."

The program is for rural communities with very slow internet service, or no service at all. That is defined as connection speeds of less than 10 megabytes per second download and less than 1 megabyte per second upload. Although school districts are not explicitly on the list of eligible applicants, districts can apply.

The deadlines for the three types of funding are coming up soon (the grant-only funding deadline is this Friday May 31, others are in June and July). Click [HERE](#) for more info and applications.

About the Arizona School Facilities Board

Created in 1998, the Arizona School Facilities Board (AZSFB) is a cabinet-level, state-government agency managing \$350 Million in state funding appropriated for K-12 school district facilities. The 10-member board meets monthly to grant financing for new school construction and funding to renew existing school facilities. AZSFB staff is a partner and advocate for school districts in facilitating successful grant requests.