



### **Application Suggestions**

1. READ THE NOFA. The Application Guides are NOT a substitute for knowing and understanding the funding rules. READ THE NOFA. SEVERAL TIMES.
2. Follow application directions. Stick to font sizes and page limits. Do not let something so small render your application invalid.
3. Submit your electronic application at least a week early. Do not rely on the website to be stable.
4. Make sure the information in your application is consistent with your attachments. If you check yes to all the Eligibility Requirements, make sure the answer is consistent in your application materials. Financial information on the application should match financial information you attach.
5. Be thorough. If you fail to answer a question or do not answer completely, your application could be thrown out. Provide thorough documentation. Where you do not have the information readily available, provide a detailed explanation.
6. Signed contracts, agreements, MOUs, or Letters of Intent from vendors and contractors will HELP your application and show that your project is Shovel-Ready. Get these lined up in advance and include letters of intent from vendors with existing relationships.
7. Obtain letters of support from hospitals, libraries, schools, universities, community leaders, and elected officials.
8. Localize your Alabama-centered application with Alabama information – including broadband service maps, links to Alabama state priorities (e.g., Plan 2010), Alabama VISION-based insight and more.

### **Websites to Monitor**

[www.connectingALABAMA.gov](http://www.connectingALABAMA.gov) ~ Governor Riley's broadband initiative website with helpful Alabama-specific information critical to a successful ARRA application (including broadband service maps)

[www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov) ~ Monitor all stimulus news

[www.broadbandusa.gov](http://www.broadbandusa.gov) ~ Posts all applications, application guides, and rules. Check daily for updated FAQs as this is where the agencies will respond to all emailed questions.

[www.federalreporting.gov](http://www.federalreporting.gov) ~ Monitor website for registration to go live. Required of all grant recipients.

<https://eauth.sc.egov.usda.gov/eAuth/selfRegistration/selfRegLevel1Step1.jsp> ~ Register here for Level 1 eAuthentication, required to draw proposed service areas for applications.

[http://broadbandusa.sc.egov.usda.gov/ccr\\_register.htm](http://broadbandusa.sc.egov.usda.gov/ccr_register.htm) ~ Register for a CCR and DUNS number as soon as possible. This process could take some time and the applications require these numbers.

<http://broadbandsearch.sc.egov.usda.gov/SilverMap/EligibilityMap.aspx> ~ BIP Eligibility Map