

STATE OF NEW YORK

9103

IN SENATE

April 24, 2024

Introduced by Sen. MARTINEZ -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions

AN ACT to amend the New York state urban development corporation act, in relation to the affordable housing broadband assistance grant program

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Section 16-gg of section 1 of chapter 174 of the laws of
2 1968 constituting the New York state urban development corporation act,
3 as added by section 2 of part MMM of chapter 58 of the laws of 2022, is
4 amended by adding a new subdivision 10-a to read as follows:

5 10-a. Affordable housing broadband assistance grant program. (a) The
6 division shall establish the affordable housing broadband assistance
7 grant program. The program shall support no-cost and/or discounted
8 broadband subscriptions for households receiving federal, state, or
9 local housing assistance or residing in housing units designated for
10 low-income and/or vulnerable populations.

11 (b) For the purposes of this program, eligible grant recipients shall
12 include local governments, municipal housing authorities as defined in
13 section 3 of the public housing law, or for-profit or non-profit low-in-
14 come housing property owners or operators.

15 (c) The division shall establish criteria, consistent with this
16 section, for grant recipients to select and contract with an entity to
17 provide broadband service pursuant to the grant.

18 (d) The grants shall support the costs associated with providing
19 broadband services to residential end-users consistent with paragraph
20 (a) of this subdivision at no cost or a discounted cost, and would cover
21 expenditures of up to thirty dollars per month per housing unit for a
22 period of up to four years.

23 (e) The grant recipient shall, to the greatest extent possible,
24 provide for broadband services that meet the following criteria:

25 (i) Provide a baseline level of service offering minimum download
26 speeds of at least 100 megabits per second in each unit;

27 (ii) Utilize a fixed, wireline broadband service;

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 (iii) Allow residential end-users, at their own cost, to obtain an
2 increased level of service beyond the baseline level to be supported by
3 the grant; and

4 (iv) Utilize internet service providers that:

5 (A) Operate high-speed networks capable of delivering download speeds
6 of at least 100 megabits per second, and with consideration to providers
7 who can offer faster broadband speeds;

8 (B) Have experience in implementing and supporting low-income broad-
9 band adoption programs; and

10 (C) Have a demonstrated ability to meet the grant's obligations
11 including customer service capability and initiating service for resi-
12 dential end-users as determined by the division.

13 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.