

Rural Broadband, Department of Housing and Community Development

\$2.0 Million (S00A20.01)

Purpose: Recovery Now Funding

The Office of the Secretary, Department of Housing and Community Development, shall provide grants for rural broadband programs.

June 30 - Program Highlights and Plans to Allocate Remaining Balance:

- Three funding awards have been made
 - Think Big Networks for \$155,815, adjusted from \$570,561, for a project in Harford County;
 - Bay Country Communications for \$193,911 for a project in Dorchester County; and
 - Maryland Broadband Cooperative for \$563,383, adjusted from \$590,000, for a project in Wicomico County.

- Remaining funds (\$1,086,891) will be used to replace FY20 funding awarded to Maryland Broadband Cooperative. The FY20 funds will be used for future projects.

June 30 - Programmatic and/or Implementation Issues:

- June 30 deadline for spending; 4 months is a short timeframe for any infrastructure project.

- Think Big is having issues with easements for private rights-of-way needed to advance the project. They are working with the County on a work around.