



August 12, 2020

Dear Mayors, County Judges and ISPs:

The purpose of this letter is to remind you that the window to submit an ARC grant **will not** end August 15, 2020; but will remain open so long as we have money to issue grants. Therefore, I encourage everyone to continue to submit applications that can deploy broadband by December 30, 2020.

To address an issue on everyone's mind, we do not know if Congress will extend the December 30, 2020, deadline. But what we do know, in the event they do extend the deadline, we want to have your application reviewed and, if approved, ready for funding. The same would occur if we receive additional state funding. With that expressed, I wholeheartedly encourage everyone to continue submitting applications despite the December 30, 2020, deadline.

Finally, make sure that ANY application submitted to ARC includes a letter regarding how your project will impact telework, telemedicine/health and distance learning in that community. And remember, any project that is smaller or greater than the community boundaries must include a KMZ or shapefile map of your project footprint. When we do not have this information the review process for your application slows down. Please make sure we have what we need in your application before submission. Also, focus your application on deployment efforts in non-RDOF eligible communities as much as possible. These RDOF eligible areas are presently a low priority for us. Again, the time is reduced but we still can do a lot with the time remaining.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steven Porch", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Steven Porch
Chief Legal Counsel and
Executive Broadband Manager for ARC Broadband Program
Arkansas Department of Commerce