



Michael Preston  
Secretary of Commerce,  
Executive Director  
Arkansas Economic  
Development Commission

December 15, 2021

**VIA EMAIL**

Dear ISPs, County Judges and Mayors:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you where we are with projects and new developments. We are still reviewing applications; however, the state is currently out of available ARPA funds until June 2022. In the interim, we are looking at other funding sources such as the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund and the new Infrastructure Bill. These funding sources come with their own federal requirements.

We will still accept applications until January 15, 2022. However, we will encourage all to focus on unserved areas of Arkansas as broadband funding sources makes this the priority.

We also have changed the method by which we fund projects based on legislative direction. We previously paid in a lump sum to awardees. We will now use a quarterly reimbursement method of payment that is in accordance with our original rules. This means you will not receive any upfront payments for projects. We are currently working hard to modify our current agreement and processes to reflect this payment method.

Finally, once new funding is secured, we will issue rules in line with that funding source. Thank you again for your support in bridging the Arkansas digital divide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "SPORCH", written over a white background.

Steven Porch  
Arkansas Department of Commerce Chief Legal Counsel &  
Executive Broadband Manager