



**Department of Community
and Economic Development**

Regulatory Commission of Alaska

701 West Eighth Avenue, Suite 300, Anchorage, AK 99501-3469
Telephone: (907) 276-6222 • Fax: (907) 276-0160 • Text Telephone: (907) 276-4533
Website: www.state.ak.us/rca/

PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT:

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Agnes E. Pitts or Cathy Sabrowski
Regulatory Commission of Alaska
701 West Eighth Avenue, Suite 300
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Phone: 276-6222

**REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA
RELEASES GRANT APPLICATION GUIDE FOR RURAL ALASKA
BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS PROGRAM**

The Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) announces the release of the grant application guide for the Rural Alaska Broadband Internet Access Grant Program (Program). The purpose of the Program is to facilitate long-term affordable broadband Internet services in rural Alaska communities where these services do not currently exist.

The RCA is now requesting proposals from telecommunications carriers and cable operators interested in receiving a grant under this program. The RCA will provide up to 75 percent of the funding for projects that will: (1) establish common carrier facilities and services which expand broadband Internet service into areas of Alaska currently without local (toll free) dial-up Internet access or broadband service, and (2) continue to provide broadband Internet service to residents of those communities at rates comparable to those paid by residents of Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau.

The Grant Application Guide is now available on the RCA website at www.state.ak.us/rca. The deadline for filing the application is November 1, 2003. Questions regarding the application process should be directed to RCA Staff, Rich Gazaway or Jess Manaois at (907) 276-6222.