

# STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA

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## PRESS RELEASE .....

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### **REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA RELEASES GRANT APPLICATION GUIDE FOR THE SECOND ROUND OF THE RURAL ALASKA BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS PROGRAM**

The Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) announces the release of the grant application guide for the second round of the Rural Alaska Broadband Internet Access Grant Program (Grant 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 Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development\RCA will administer the Grant Program that is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development.

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

The Round Two Grant Application Guide is now available on the RCA website at <http://www.state.ak.us/rca/Broadband/>. The deadline for filing the application is June 1, 2006. Questions regarding the application process should be directed to RCA Staff, Jess Manaois or Rich Gazaway, at (907) 276-6222.