

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA

FRANK MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR
701 WEST EIGHTH AVENUE, SUITE 300
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-3469
PHONE: (907) 276-6222
FAX (907) 276-0160
TTY: (907) 276-4533

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 19, 2006

CONTACT:

Jess Manaos or Rich Gazaway
Phone: (907) 276-6222.

REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION FOR THE SECOND ROUND OF THE RURAL ALASKA BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS PROGRAM AND AMENDS A PROVISION REGARDING THE GRANT START-UP PHASE.

On May 1, 2006, the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) issued a press release announcing the release of the grant application guide for the second round of the Rural Alaska Broadband Internet Access Grant Program (Grant Program). In addition, the RCA has requested proposals from telecommunications carriers and cable operators interested in receiving a grant under this program, and set the deadline to file for application to June 1, 2006.

Initial comments indicated that the one-month deadline could impede an applicant's efforts to develop an effective proposal. Consequently, the deadline to file proposals is extended, including certain timelines in the Grant Application Guide. Further, the Grant Application Guide is revised to amend a provision in the Start Up Phase to state that:

"After the minimum 12 months of the Start-Up Phase, the applicant has the option of charging community residents for service. However, the grant will terminate immediately *for that community* upon the applicant's charging community residents for broadband Internet services that were free in the public facility. Any revenues from service charges must be applied toward the grant program.

Regardless of the grant's scheduled termination date identified in the Grant Agreement, an applicant's grant with the RCA will terminate immediately *for that community* upon the applicant's charging community residents for broadband Internet services that were free in the public facility."

The revised Round Two Grant Application Guide, incorporating the extended timelines and additional provision as discussed above, is now available on the RCA website at <http://www.state.ak.us/rca/Broadband/>. The deadline for filing the application is July 17, 2006. Questions regarding the application process should be directed to RCA Staff, Jess Manaos or Rich Gazaway, at (907) 276-6222.