

Rural Broadband, Department of Housing and Community Development

\$2.0 Million (S00A20.01)

Purpose: Recovery Now Funding

The Office of the Secretary, Department of Housing and Community Development, shall provide grants for rural broadband programs.

June 2 - Program Highlights and Plans to Allocate Remaining Balance:

- Three funding awards have been made
 - Think Big Networks for \$570,561 for a project in Harford County
 - Bay Country Communications for \$193,911 for a project in Dorchester County
 - Maryland Broadband Cooperative for \$590,000 for a project in Wicomico County
- Remaining funds will be used to replace FY20 funding awarded to Maryland Broadband Cooperative. The FY20 funds will be used for future projects.

June 2 - Programmatic and/or Implementation Issues:

- June 30 deadline for spending; 4 months is a short timeframe for any infrastructure project.
- Think Big is having issues with easements for private rights-of-way needed to advance the project. They are working with the County on a work around.