

Residential Retrofit Program

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute's (MBI) Residential Retrofit Program will modernize broadband infrastructure in eligible, affordable and public housing developments. The installation of cutting-edge fiber infrastructure will create opportunities for high-quality, low-cost and reliable home internet access for residents to increase their ability to engage in essential daily activities such as working remotely, pursuing educational opportunities, and accessing telehealth.



The funding for the Residential Retrofit Program comes from the U.S. Treasury's Capital Projects Fund (CPF), a program launched as part of the national American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The project is part of \$175 million in total CPF funding to address the digital divide in Massachusetts.

Who is Eligible?

Operators of public/affordable housing are eligible to submit properties that meet the following requirements:

- Serve residents at or below 80% area median income
- More than 50%* deed-restricted affordable
- Mixed income affordable housing developments will only be eligible if they are located in Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs)
- Properties with existing fiber to the unit or CAT6 cabling to the unit, with fiber backhaul, are not eligible

MBI will also evaluate building age and documentation of broadband wiring upgrades within the past five years when determining eligibility of properties.

*MBI will consider properties with less than 50% of units deed-restricted if the property owner can provide sufficient information regarding the long-term affordability of the property and that residents meet U.S. Treasury definitions of "impacted."



Share this flyer with your local housing operators and property managers that operate deed-restricted affordable housing.

Broadband Residential Retrofit Process



STEP 1

Housing operators submit sites and baseline info via expression of interest

MBI

STEP 2

MBI evaluates expression of interest submissions and triages eligible applications



STEP 3

MBI executes agreement with housing operator



STEP 4

MBI publishes list of eligible properties submitted via a Request for Proposal (RFP) and Internet Service Providers (ISPs) respond via grant application



STEP 5

MBI evaluates ISP applications against criteria outlined in program design and selects ISPs to match with properties



STEP 6

MBI Submits proposed ISP solution to housing operator for sign off



STEP 7

MBI facilitates agreement between housing operator and ISP



STEP 8

MBI executes grant agreement with ISP

broadband.masstech.org/retrofit
Questions? Contact us at broadband@masstech.org