1935, the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) provided financing to promote rural electrification.

1949, REA received authority to finance telephone service in rural communities.

1995, REA/RUS required all telecommunications networks financed to be broadband-capable.
RUS Telecom Mission:
To ensure that rural residents and businesses receive the same type of telecommunication services as urban areas.

RUS investment in broadband infrastructure since 2009 is over $6 billion in loans & grants.
RUS TELECOM PROGRAM

Infrastructure Loan Program
Loans for new and improved telecommunications infrastructure in rural communities.

Farm Bill Broadband Loan Program
Loans for construction, improvement and acquisition of facilities and equipment to provide broadband service to eligible rural communities.

Community Connect Grant Program
Provides grant funding to build out broadband networks in rural unserved areas.

DLT Grant Program
Grants for equipment needed to provide Distance Learning and Telemedicine services
Infrastructure Loan Program: $690 million
Community Connect Grant Program: $10 million
DLT Grant Program: $19 million
Broadband Loan Program: $55 million
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INFRASTRUCTURE LOAN PROGRAM</th>
<th>BROADBAND LOAN PROGRAM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• 14 loans approved:</td>
<td>2014 Farm Bill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$224 million</td>
<td>Mandated certain changes to the program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 7 loans pending:</td>
<td>Regulations have been in the process of being revised and should be complete before the fall.</td>
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<tr>
<td>$100 million</td>
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</table>
COMMUNITY CONNECT GRANT

FY15 application window closed February 17th.

68 applications submitted, totaling $106 million

Awards to be announced soon.

DLT GRANT

FY15 application window opened May 22nd.
And closed July 6, 2015.
BIP Awarded over $3.5 billion

- 297 Broadband Infrastructure Projects (LM and MM),
- 19 Technical Assistance Projects
- 4 Satellite Awards

RUS has advanced nearly 90% of funding

*BIP Program ends September 30, 2015*
RUS UPDATES

- New Leadership
  - Under Secretary: Lisa Mensah
  - Administrator: Brandon McBride

- Electronic Intake System
  - Across RUS telecommunications, electric and water Programs
  - Roll out scheduled for October 2015.

- Telecom Program Reorganization (3 divisions)
  - Policy and Outreach
  - Portfolio Management and Risk Assessment
  - Loan Origination and Approval
BROADBAND OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL

- Broadband Opportunity Council (BOC) established.

- Co-chaired by the Secretaries of Commerce and Agriculture,
- 25 Agencies represented on the council.

- Providing recommendations on how agencies can promote broadband deployment, adoption and competition.
- August 20 Report to the President.

BOC Report will include actions that each agency could take to remove barriers, incentivize investment, promote best practices, align funding decisions, and support deployment and adoption.
QUESTIONS?

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