

RURAL BROADBAND POLICY FRAMEWORK: CONNECTING THE UNCONNECTED

This Rural Broadband Policy Framework (RBPF) aims to provide guidance to address the persistent “Digital Divide”, with a focus on the context and challenges faced in rural areas.

DEVELOPING THE RURAL BROADBAND POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 1** Broadband policies should improve the availability of high-quality, affordable broadband services in underserved rural areas.
- 2** Rural broadband policies should draw from real-world experience – locally, regionally, and globally.
- 3** Rural broadband policies should harness the resources and capabilities of the private sector and complementary providers, such as community networks.
- 4** Rural broadband policies should be comprehensive.
- 5** Rural broadband policies (and all broadband policies) must be gender responsive.
- 6** Effective implementation will require evidence and standards – internet with defined broadband speeds, relevant devices, etc.





The RBPF should go through an inclusive, iterative, and consultative process with constituents. The process should be deliberately constructed with the following desired attributes in mind:

- The policymaking process should encourage broad participation.
- The policymaking process should be transparent.
- The policymaking process should allow stakeholders to meaningfully participate.

The results of the process should be captured in a specific, documentary work product specifically focused on rural policy issues (e.g., a “Rural Broadband Plan”).

ELEMENTS OF THE RURAL BROADBAND POLICY FRAMEWORK

The following are key elements to assist policymakers in crafting the policies that will support rural broadband development.



A
Harness market competition while addressing market failures



E
Leverage innovative technologies, architectures, and business models



B
Streamline regulatory processes



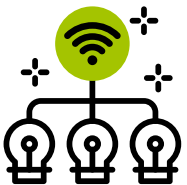
F
Adopt appropriate tax and fee structures



C
Invest in and improve public access and universal service and access funds



G
Stimulate demand for broadband services



D
Effectively manage spectrum resources



H
Monitoring and Accountability

A global coalition working to make broadband affordable for all



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