



School Technology Grant Program

HISTORY:

3 Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. is a cooperative organization that has provided telecommunications services for over 50 years. Margins are allocated annually to members of the Cooperative, based upon patronage. The funds are retained by 3 Rivers and invested in business activities until retired by the Board of Trustees. Each year the Trustees decide upon retirement of a portion of the retained capital credit allocations, typically retiring a percentage for each year involved. As capital credits are retired, checks are issued and mailed to members. There are instances where members cannot be located, which results in unclaimed capital credit funds.

State Law mandates that unclaimed capital credit funds be held for 5 years, and those funds which remain unclaimed after that period are to be used for educational purposes, at the discretion of the Board of the cooperative. 3 Rivers will disburse its unclaimed capital credit funds as described below.

PURPOSE:

In 2009, 3 Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc is going to disburse up to a total of \$20,000 within its service area, in the form of grants. These grants are to be used by the local schools to provide technological or communications equipment or services, with the goal of increasing students' access to enhanced communications systems. Maximum grant amount: \$5000.00.

REQUIREMENTS:

- A. The money will be used within the school district for technological or communications equipment or services, including but not limited to:
 - i. Computers for the classroom
 - ii. Laptops
 - iii. Servers
 - iv. Software
 - v. Broadband internet connection
 - vi. Local area network cabling and related equipment
 - vii. Wireless LAN
- B. The grant money cannot be used to pay for services that are currently covered by E-rate.
- C. The school district is required to supplement any grant award with additional funds to achieve completion of the plan.

- D. The school will provide a statement regarding the positive impact of receiving the grant and assist 3 Rivers in announcing the award, if successful in obtaining a grant, to all local media.
- E. The school will need to establish an accounting system to verify the expenditure of the money, and provide documentation to 3 Rivers within six months of the date of the grant that the money was spent in accordance with the written proposal the school had submitted.
- F. The school must provide the name and title of the contact person within the school who will be overseeing the implementation of the grant.

SELECTION PROCESS:

3 Rivers Board of Trustees will determine the disbursement of the School Technology grants. The decision will be based on the merit of each application. The application is due to 3 Rivers Communications by April 22, 2009. The Board will make a final decision and notify all the applicants by June 30, 2009. The money will be disbursed according to the timeline stated in the application and approved by the Board.

The 3 Rivers Board of Trustees reserves the right to amend any application and notify the grant recipient of the changes prior to the awarding of the grant.