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**CLIENT UPDATE**  
**March 23, 2009**

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**Broadband Stimulus Grants – Interested? Start Planning Now**

As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Congress allocated \$7.2 billion to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) for the purpose of distributing grants to spur broadband deployment throughout the nation.

On March 12, 2009, NTIA and RUS released a joint request for comments relating to all aspects of the broadband stimulus grant process. NTIA and RUS are also holding multiple meetings and roundtables to allow the public to comment on the structure and procedure for distributing the broadband stimulus funds.

NTIA plans to issue funds in three separate rounds. The first round will begin between April and June this year, the second between October and December this year, and the third between April and June next year. RUS has yet to determine when it will issue its first “notice of funds availability” window, but it will likely be within the next 60 to 90 days.

The grants will be awarded on a competitive basis, with published selection and evaluation criteria. Due to the strict time limitations Congress has imposed on the distribution of NTIA and RUS funds, it is vitally important for companies to begin preparing for the application process.

Cinnamon Mueller is taking an active role in shaping the regulatory process that will govern the application and awarding of the broadband stimulus grants. On behalf of ACA, Cinnamon Mueller is participating in NTIA and RUS public meetings, as well as drafting responses to the NTIA and RUS joint request for comments. We are uniquely situated to assist companies applying for grants.

If your company is planning or considering applying for broadband grant funds and would like assistance through the application process, please call Bruce Beard at (636) 778-0646, Jeremy Kissel at (202) 609-7793, or Heidi Schmid at (312) 372-3930.

**Reminder: New DTV Notice Requirements Take Effect April 1, 2009**

The FCC’s new DTV education notice requirements take effect **April 1, 2009**, and continue until **June 30, 2009**. The FCC’s order detailing the new DTV education notice requirements is available at [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-19A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-19A1.pdf).

If you have specific questions about the FCC’s DTV transition notification requirements, please call Jeremy Kissel at (202) 609-7793.

**Reminder: Form 499A Due April 1, 2009**

Every interconnected VoIP provider and telecommunications carrier is required to file their annual Form 499A with the Universal Service Administration Company on or before **April 1, 2009**. The 2009 Form 499A is available at <http://www.fcc.gov/Forms/Form499-A/499a-2009.pdf> .

If you have any questions regarding Form 499A or your filing requirements, please contact Bruce Beard at (636) 778-0646.

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Please visit our website at <http://www.cinnamonmueller.com> to learn more about our lawyers and practice. You can reach Cinnamon Mueller at 312-372-3930. *This update is provided by the law firm of Cinnamon Mueller. The document is intended for informational purposes only as a service to clients of Cinnamon Mueller and to the members of the American Cable Association. It is not intended to provide specific legal advice or to substitute obtaining appropriate legal counsel. We encourage you to consult with counsel to address special compliance issues and for assistance in negotiating or handling any such matter referred to in the update.*