

# State of Idaho Public Broadband Grant Application: Public Safety and Local Government

## GUIDELINES

The [transparent.idaho.gov](https://transparent.idaho.gov) website will include a list of grant recipients including the business name, the primary city location, and the total grant award. Grant applications will be posted to the Idaho Department of Commerce website for public review.

### 1. Program Description

The CARES Act funding received by the State of Idaho will fund projects across the state that create and retain local jobs and result in purposeful outcomes, including distance learning, telehealth public safety, commerce, and overall well-being. This CFAC Broadband Grant initiative grant program (the “Program for Public Safety and Local Government”) is designed to meet the CARES Act criteria, and help Idaho rebound from the COVID-19 Emergency. Approximately 20% of the total of \$50 million received by the Idaho Department of Commerce will be allocated to this program aimed at public safety organizations and local governments that lack access to broadband.

### 2. Eligible Projects

- A. Projects must meet the following eligibility criteria. The project must:
- i. Be infrastructure investment, associated equipment, and accessories related to broadband capable of speeds of 1,000 Mbps download and 1,000 Mbps upload, symmetrical.
  - ii. Be related to broadband with fiber to:
    - a. One (1) designated government facility; and
    - b. One (1) location for public Wi-Fi access where 100 citizens could simultaneously access minimum broadband speeds while practicing physical distancing. Examples of locations include a municipal building parking area or a municipal park.
  - iii. Meet the CARES Act criteria, which is designed to address key areas of public health and safety by improving opportunities to telework, facilitate distance learning, and improve public safety (additional guidance can be found [here](#) and [here](#)).
  - iv. Be a project that does not overbuild existing broadband infrastructure at the required speeds to a local government facility for public safety and local governance.
  - v. Applicants may own and maintain the infrastructure but make such infrastructure open and available for broadband service from only for-profit companies, or membership owned cooperative corporations as defined in Idaho Code section § 30-30-103 that provide broadband services to the public.
  - vi. Be completed, operable, paid for, and submitted to the Idaho Department of Commerce for payment no later than December 15, 2020.
  - vii. Include broadband infrastructure and equipment costs meeting CARES Act criteria. Satellite service is not eligible for grant award.

Eligible costs include, but are not limited to:

- Construction and materials.
- New and rehabilitative construction contracts.
- Architect and engineering services and legal and professional services, if required to complete the project by December 15, 2020.
- Permitting fees.
- Validation of service expenses.
- Equipment related to broadband infrastructure.
- Equipment installation.
- Expenses related to administering the grant.

The following are ineligible and grant funds may not be used to pay for:

- General broadband planning not associated with the project.
- Expenses related to providing broadband services.
- Ongoing overhead, operating costs, or staff costs.
- Political activities or lobbying.

- B. The State will prioritize the following projects:
- i. Projects that are serving communities of less than 3,000 people which represent more than 150 Idaho cities.
  - ii. Projects serving communities that are unserved at a maximum of 10 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload or less.

### 3. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants must be an Idaho local or tribal government or a State of Idaho agency. For ease of administration, the Program for Public Safety and Local Government adopts the definition of Idaho local governments described in Idaho Code section 67-1226. County governments may apply for grants on behalf of unincorporated communities. Broadband service may only be provided by for-profit companies, or membership owned cooperative corporations as defined in Idaho Code section § 30-30-103 and not the applicant.

### 4. Funding Terms and Limitations.

Grant funding is subject to the following:

- i. The maximum grant under this program is one million dollars (\$1,000,000) per project.
- ii. The State may award less than the funds requested.
- iii. There is no required match. Eligible applicants are encouraged to include any match in their application and any letters of support.
- iv. Projects must be completed by and operational by December 15, 2020. **The State will provide no funding and have no obligations for projects that fail to be completed by December 15, 2020.**

#### 5. Important Dates:

- i. Grant application posted for public comments from 6/25/2020 to 5:00pm MDT 6/26/2020.
- ii. Anticipated date Grant Portal will open for application submissions at 5:00pm MDT on 6/29/2020.
- iii. Anticipated date Grant Portal will close for application submissions at 5:00pm MDT on 7/15/2020.
- iv. Anticipated date Complete applications will be posted to the Idaho Department of Commerce website for public review at 12:00pm MDT on 7/17/2020.
- v. Anticipated grant challenge Period: 12:00pm MDT on 7/17/2020 to 5:00pm MDT on 7/24/2020.
- vi. All applicants will be notified of award no later than 7/31/2020.
- vii. Projects must be closed, completed, verified, and paid no later than 12/15/2020.

#### 6. Application Selection

A committee will review applications and rank eligible projects in accordance with the priorities set forth above and make recommendation to the Director of the Idaho Department of Commerce.

Applicants may submit one (1) project per application. However, Applicants can submit more than one application. Applicants submitting more than one project must prioritize their projects for the community in a cover letter submitted with each application.

The Idaho Department of Commerce reserves the right to not award funds to any project up to final award date.

#### 7. Challenge Process

The State will post all completed applications to the Idaho Department of Commerce website. Completed applications will be open to challenge for five (5) business days following posting. Any eligible applicant, or any internet service provider qualified and able to provide the broadband service proposed in the Program for Public Safety and Local Government application may submit a written challenge identifying the criteria the application does not meet and provide a basis for the challenge. Challenges must be submitted to the Idaho Department of Commerce Broadband Office at [broadband@commerce.idaho.gov](mailto:broadband@commerce.idaho.gov).

Upon notice that the Idaho Department of Commerce has received a challenge, applicants may, within three (3) business days:

- Submit a response to the challenge containing specific evidence that the applicant meets the challenged criteria.
- Modify the application to meet the criteria; or
- Withdraw their application.

Upon review of the application, the challenge, the applicant's response, and additional information requested and provided to the Idaho Department of Commerce, if any, the Director will issue a written determination concerning the challenge. Such determination shall be final and binding upon the applicant and the challenger.

**The entire application, challenges, responses to challenges, and the Director's determination will be posted to the Commerce website.**

## 8. Grant Administration

A. Recipients must administer their own grants. However, if approved by a resolution of their governing body, city and county governments may designate a non-profit organization to administer its grant.

B. The procurement of goods and services purchased with or reimbursed by funding under the Program for Public Safety and Local Government must comply with all laws applicable to the recipient including, where applicable:

[Idaho Code Title 54, Chapter 19](#) – Public works contractors

[Idaho Code Title 67, Chapter 23](#) – Design professional qualification-based selection

[Idaho Code Title 67, Chapter 28](#) – Purchasing by political subdivisions

[Idaho Code Title 67, Chapter 92](#) – The State Procurement Act

C. Prior to disbursement of funds, recipient and the Idaho Department of Commerce shall execute a Grant Agreement.

D. At its discretion, the Idaho Department of Commerce may establish special conditions in the Grant Agreement requiring additional reporting or documentation.

E. Grant funds shall be disbursed as a single “lump sum” payment upon completion of the project and the recipient’s submission of documentation verifying terms of the Grant Agreement to the Idaho Department of Commerce.

## APPLICATION

**NOTICE: Grant applications, challenges, and responses to challenges will be posted to the Idaho Department of Commerce website**

### Purpose:

#### 1. Program Description

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#### 2. Eligible Projects

- A. Projects must meet the following eligibility criteria. The project must:
- i. Be infrastructure investment, associated equipment, and accessories related to broadband capable of speeds of 1,000 Mbps download and 1,000 Mbps upload symmetrical.
  - ii. Be related to broadband with fiber to:
    - a. One (1) designated government facility; and
    - b. One (1) location for public Wi-Fi access where 100 citizens could simultaneously access minimum broadband speeds at 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload while practicing physical distancing. Examples of locations include a municipal building parking area or a municipal park.
  - iii. Meet the CARES Act criteria, which is designed to address key areas of public health and safety by improving opportunities to telework, facilitate distance learning, and improve public safety (additional guidance can be found [here](#) and [here](#)).
  - iv. Be a project that does not overbuild existing broadband infrastructure at the required speeds to a local government facility for public safety and local governance.
  - v. Applicants may own and maintain the infrastructure but make such infrastructure open and available for broadband service from only for-profit companies, or membership owned cooperative corporations as defined in Idaho Code section § 30-30-103 that provide broadband services to the public.
  - vi. Be completed, operable, paid for, and submitted to the Idaho Department of Commerce for payment no later than December 15, 2020.
  - vii. Include broadband infrastructure and equipment costs meeting CARES Act criteria. Satellite service is not eligible for grant award.

### Applicant Information

1. Contact information of applicant
  - a. Name
  - b. Title
  - c. Mailing Address
  - d. City/Zip
  - e. Email

- f. Phone
2. List the cities/communities where the project(s) will take place.
3. Grant Administrator
  - a. Enter name and title of designated grant administrator
  - b. Enter the email of the designated grant administrator
  - c. Enter the phone number of the designated grant administrator

### **Project Requirements**

1. Does Your project meet the CARES Act criteria? Y/N
2. Does your project meet all the following criteria, as outlined by the CFAC Committee Recommendation?
  - a. Project must provide a minimum of 1,000 Mbps download and 1,000 Mbps upload symmetrical to public facility and for access by citizens in municipal park or parking area such that a minimum of 100 citizens could have access simultaneously at 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload. Y/N
  - b. Provide high speed service within the applicant's proposed facility for public safety, local governance, and or one (1) open access municipal location nearby for public access for emergencies. Y/N
  - c. Applicants may only own and maintain the infrastructure and make such infrastructure open and available for service from only private sector internet companies. Y/N
3. [Check Box] I understand that the State of Idaho will provide no funding and have no obligations for projects that fail to be completed by December 15, 2020.

### **Scored Criteria**

1. Provide an overview of the project including why the project is important and will address broadband internet needs of the community. Include a scope of work, existing broadband plan, any ISPs that can provide service, technologies, equipment, installation, and operate new broadband services. (10% of Score)
2. Is your project in an area where no local government facility has the internet speeds and bandwidth described 1000 Mbps download and 1000 Mbps upload symmetrical? (35% of Score)
3. Is your project in an area where no public park, municipal parking area, or similar access area for physical distancing has broadband speed to support 100 citizens at 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload? (15 % of Score)
4. Is the project in a town/city/municipality of less than 3,000 in population? (25% of Score)
5. Does the project address a need as identified in a local or regional broadband plan? (10% of Score)
6. Will this project be in conjunction with another broadband grant for Households? (5% of Score)

### **Additional Criteria**

1. Estimated total project cost?
2. List the underserved and unserved community facilities (schools, libraries, government offices, hospitals, public safety, etc.) within the proposed project area.
3. Are permits, permissions, zoning requirements, accessible in order for the project to be completed and paid for by December 15, 2020?
4. Describe how the project will be administered, audited for completion, and accounting performed.

5. Include any other information regarding why your project should be considered for funding.

**Required Attachments:**

1. Upload Supporting Documents for Scope of Project including maps, site plans, studies, or photographs, demonstrating the location of the project.
2. Upload the completed Grant Budget Template for the project that outlines the various costs
3. Complete the Project Schedule Form
4. Include any Letters of Support or Community Match from the community.
5. Provide a copy of your Community Broadband Plan if applicable.
6. Provide a notarized CARES Act Certification that this project meets the CARES Act criteria.
7. Provide commitments from community anchor institutions or public safety networks which will utilize your service if the project is funded. (If applicable)
8. Maps.
  - a. Provide all maps electronically in PDF format.
  - b. Map of the project area demonstrating the insufficient availability of broadband service for a public facility at 1,000 Mbps download and 1,000 Mbps upload symmetrical service and in the proposed public service area for 100 citizens using the service at a minimum of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload.
  - c. Map of the project area which includes the public facility and public service area, the broadband speeds provided, the fiber, and the technology used to provide the services.