For: Governor Brad Little
By: Idaho Broadband Task Force
Presented: October 31, 2019
Approved: November 22, 2019

BROADBAND ACCESS IS IMPERATIVE FOR IDAHO

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE IDAHO’S BROADBAND PLAN
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In May of 2019, Governor Brad Little signed an Executive Order establishing a broadband task force to develop a plan to improve broadband speed, measured as 25 mbps down and 3 mbps up, connectivity, and infrastructure throughout Idaho. Over the past seven months, the task force has worked to develop recommendations to ensure both rural and urban Idaho are connected and well positioned for maximum future success for our communities, our businesses, and our citizens.

Comprised of internet providers, satellite providers, cellular providers, and other industry experts along with university, tribal, legislative, state, county and municipal representatives, the task force came together to share their expertise, experience, and perspectives on improving broadband accessibility and reliability for all Idaho citizens.

This report was developed through four task force meetings where members convened to learn about the present state of broadband in Idaho, discuss what is working well and where improvement is needed. For the final two meetings, the task force divided into seven topical subcommittees that met between task force meetings to bring forth specific recommendations for the Governor.

In this report, you will find recommendations from the task force aimed at improving broadband access across Idaho. The first section of the report highlights the background of the Idaho broadband plan, plan initiatives, and a summary of recommendations, including five calls to action.

In the appendixes of this report, you will find the complete, unedited recommendations from each of the seven subcommittees. While not all subcommittee recommendations were presented as task force calls to actions, all subcommittee recommendations were thoughtfully prepared, provide important perspective and expertise, and will be considered in future discussions.

As we conclude the work of the formal Broadband Task Force and begin the effort to execute the recommended next steps, I want to personally thank all task force members, stakeholders, and staff for all their hard work in developing this broadband report for Idaho, as well as Governor Little for his leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Tom Kealey
Director, Idaho Commerce
Chairman, Idaho Broadband Task Force
Like water, electricity and highways, Idaho citizens, communities and businesses, in both urban and rural areas, must have access to secure reliable, affordable broadband internet speeds in order to grow, thrive and connect to the world.

Whether you’re a wheat farmer on the rolling Palouse hills, a hotelier at the foot the Tetons, or a student near the Sawtooths, reliable broadband access is essential to send and receive information vital to crop health, to take visitor reservations, process payments, and access the global network of information and learning tools to do your homework.

Access to the broadband and high-speed internet services is an urgent priority for Idahoans in all corners of the state. A robust, comprehensive and dynamic broadband plan for Idaho is imperative in order to identify priorities and secure funding. This report contains recommendations from the Governor’s Broadband Task Force aimed at providing reliable broadband access to all residents and businesses in Idaho.

“To ensure Idaho can adapt to the rapidly evolving digital world, we must actively work to improve Idaho’s broadband access, pursing all options to increase broadband connectivity.”

-Governor Brad Little
State of the State, January 2019
IDAHO BROADBAND TASK FORCE

Governor Brad Little proclaimed during the 2019 State of the State his priority and intention for an updated broadband plan to increase broadband connectivity for all Idaho communities.

In May 2019, Governor Little issued an executive order to form a task force to make recommendations to the Governor on policies and actions the state should consider to dramatically improve the state in connectivity and service levels.

Governor Little named the Director of the Idaho Department of Commerce, Tom Kealey, to chair the task force and develop a strong, expert team of varied backgrounds, regions and technologies to focus on a statewide approach to ensure all of Idaho is represented, evaluated and all solutions are analyzed.

Director Kealey appointed the task force, containing experts from a variety of industries ranging from hospitality to agriculture, ISPs, carriers and utilities, members of the Idaho Legislature, tribal organizations, and the public sector.

The task force met four times throughout the state to take full inventory of the status of broadband across Idaho. In addition, task force members held committee meetings throughout the process to examine specific topics and make recommendations.

RURAL A COMMITTEE
Greg Lowe, President & CEO, Syringa**
Danae Wilson, Dept. of IT, Nez Perce Tribe*
Sen. Carl Crabtree, Senator, Idaho Legislature
Curtis Fryer, CIO, Idaho Forest Group
Jim Blundell, Government Affairs, T-Mobile
Mike Fitzgerald, Commissioner, Shoshone County

RURAL B COMMITTEE
Mike Kennedy, President, Intermax**
Sen. David Nelson, Idaho Legislature*
Dana Basset, Global IT Services Delivery, Glanbia
Dan Greig, Gen. Manager, Farmers Mutual Tel.
Steve Ehle, Director Infrastr, Simplot
Paul Desaulniers, Manager Reg. Ops, CenturyLink
Rep. Megan Blanksma, Idaho Legislature

URBAN COMMITTEE
Kevin England, Mayor, City of Chubbuck**
Michael Mattmiller, Gov. Affairs, Microsoft*
Rep. Mat Erpelding, Idaho Legislature
Doug Burnett, Res. Manager, Coeur d'Alene Resort
Jacob Larsen, CEO, Safelink Internet
Nancy Cyr, Engineering Lead, Idaho Power
Pat Felzien, Director, IT Engineering, Micron

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Jessica Epley, Manager Gov. Affairs, Frontier*
Cheryl Goettsche, General Manager, Sparklight
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Marian Jackson, State Director Gov. Affairs, Charter

REPORT COMMITTEE
Jaap Vos, Bioregional Planning, U of I**
Gordon Jones, Innovation/Design, BSU*
Chanel Tewalt, ISDA
Milt Doumit, Gov. Affairs, Verizon

INL/UNIVERSITIES COMMITTEE
Jerry Gwynn, Infrastr, Operations, INL**
Randy Gaines, CIO, ISU*
Kenneth Smith, Technologist, HP
Robert Hampton, CIO, Jackson’s

MAPPING COMMITTEE
Guy Cherp, Vice President, Cox Comm,**
Brad Richy, Director, Office of Emergency Mgt.*
Jeff Weak, Administrator, ITS- Office of Gov.
Jaynie Bentz, Asst. Port Manager, Port of Lewiston
Kari Saccomanno, City Manager, Ting

Tom Kealey, Director, Idaho Commerce***

*** Task Force Chair
** Committee Chair
* Committee Co-Chair
IDAHO BROADBAND PLAN GOALS

**Link Rural Idaho to a Global Marketplace**

Broadband access is essential to modern industry, including agriculture, food production, farming and ranching.

**Help All Communities Increase Speeds**

Many areas of Idaho, particularly the most rural locations, still lack reliable broadband-level speeds at an affordable price.

**Identify Funding and Partnership Models**

State efforts to fund infrastructure and encourage investment to improve broadband access can take a variety of forms.

**Give Students and Families the Tools to Succeed**

Broadband access is critical for students, parents, and educators to facilitate communication, reach vast sources of research and information, and utilize the most advanced learning tools.

**Connect Health Care and First Responders**

Broadband is an important tool for health care providers to access electronic health records, utilized telemedicine advancements and exchange urgent information.

**Convene Partners**

Improving broadband planning requires partnership from a variety of stakeholders including ISPs, carriers, entrepreneurs, utilities, and the public sector, including state agencies.
### APPROACH TO ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

| Governor Objectives | • Affirm State Broadband Plan for Idaho ensures both urban and rural Idaho are well connected and well positioned to attract business and create maximum success for our communities.  
  • Develop adequate mapping of broadband and high-speed internet infrastructure to progress connectivity throughout the state.  
  • Analyze existing resource gaps to help advance the state in connectivity, speeds and capacity. |
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<td>Task Force Formed</td>
<td>At the State of the State, January 2019, Governor Little announced improving broadband access would be a key economic development initiative in his administration. In May of 2019, a task force of diverse statewide technology experts ranging from ISPs, carriers, utilities, business leaders, tribal organizations, stakeholder associations and state, county and municipal government agencies was formed to fulfill the Governor’s directive to focus on a statewide approach, ensuring all of Idaho is properly represented and all options evaluated and analyzed.</td>
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| Meetings Held       | • Initial meetings focused on introducing task force members, establishing goals and desired outcomes, reviewing of technology capabilities and options, funding mechanisms and solutions currently in place.  
  • Between the second and third meetings, the task force broke into committees to focus on specific issues of communities across Idaho.  
  • The final two meetings focused on preliminary recommendations from committees, distilling and refining recommendations and crafting final recommendations in preparation to report to the Governor. |
| Committee Assessments | Seven committees were established to evaluate different market segments, users, technologies, and topics:  
  • Rural (A), Rural (B), Urban, INL/Universities, Mapping, State Broadband Office, Final Report.  
  • Each committee was tasked to develop ideas and recommendations to put forth to the task force.  
  • The Final Report committee was tasked with distilling the committee recommendations into final recommendations for improving Idaho’s Broadband Plan. |
| Broadband Plan       | • Addressing solutions for the unserved areas in rural Idaho is the highest priority.  
  • Importance of maintaining local authority and technology agnostic recommendations.  
  • Funding remains uncertain; accurate mapping and data remains a challenge.  
  • Strong support for a state broadband office.  
  • Affirm Governor support for Broadband Plan and notify federal partners to maximize Idaho funding.  
  • Urban areas, universities and INL are currently well served but will need to consistently improve. |
CURRENT ASSESSMENT

Broadband access is central to many activities in our day to day lives. Fast, reliable, affordable connectivity is essential for business, education, health care and public safety, and is required for many new services and entertainment options in modern life.

The Idaho Broadband Task Force defines unserved communities as areas that do not have the minimum federal guidelines of broadband service measured as 25 mbps down and 3 mbps up. Idaho has been reported to be below average for broadband connectivity, however, maps containing broadband speed and service are often inadequate and out-of-date. The Federal Government requires reporting by ISP’s but the data on maps is limited. More accurate private ISP mapping may be available 2020-Q1. Public sector infrastructure asset maps are unavailable or not aggregated.

ISPs and government programs have invested hundreds of millions of dollars for broadband infrastructure over the past several years. Idaho projects and assistance applications have not scored high by federal agencies that provided funding for rural and unserved communities. Idaho’s federal assistance awards have been low, partly due to the lack of a recognized State Broadband Plan. More investment is needed to unserved areas, particularly in rural communities, where poor broadband speed and service poses a significant threat to health and safety, education, and quality of life, and limits economic prosperity in times of economic strength.

In addition to challenges understanding exactly where speed and service gaps exist, Idaho is challenged addressing unserved areas due to the state’s geography, terrain, and lack of population density in many areas. In order to overcome these challenges, public-private partnerships are necessary to better coordinate broadband project communication, funding, and efficiencies to expand broadband connectivity.

Available maps and data depict North Central Idaho as the largest unserved area in the state. Other areas of the state may experience inconsistent speeds and service levels depending on capacity, technology, equipment, and usage. However, public safety agencies, educational institutions, libraries, and hospitals have some level of broadband service across Idaho utilizing proprietary networks created and funded for the respective, sole purpose needs; not developed for the broader community. These beneficiaries received service at varying times since there has not been a “dig once” or “hang once” policy to utilize which may have provided less expensive and more expansive coverage.

Idaho’s Broadband Plan addresses unserved areas across the state, however, the plan requires coordination and funding. There are potentially large federal funding sources, but the federal program rules are currently being altered and qualifications are uncertain at this time.
IDAH0 BROADBAND LANDSCAPE

The task force found that it is important to recognize that different market segments require different solutions. Larger and many smaller markets are presently well-served due to significant investments in technology and infrastructure. Solutions that limit regulation, increase efficiency, enable healthy competition and consider new technology options will help speed and service in most areas grow and improve.

Rural communities and remote locales face a different set of challenges. Geography, terrain, and lack of population density require different technology solutions, investment levels, and greater public-private collaboration. Better state coordination and federal scoring for Idaho rural projects may incent providers and entrepreneurs to deploy innovative technology solutions at attractive ROI's for the private sector. Federal funding programs are available to public entities to enable greater efficiencies for rural solutions.

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<tr>
<th>MARKET SEGMENTS</th>
<th>TECHNOLOGIES AND EQUIPMENT</th>
<th>INVESTMENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major Markets</td>
<td>Fiber; Cable; DSL; Cellular; Microwave</td>
<td>Significant investment; Large private sector funding; Government contracts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smaller Markets</td>
<td>Fiber; Cable; DSL; Cellular; Fixed-Wireless Towers</td>
<td>Cell towers require smaller investment; Portable towers emerging as new technology option</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Communities</td>
<td>Middle Mile to Central Town; Satellite; Fixed-wireless; CBRS; New, lower-cost technologies</td>
<td>Investment by public and private entities; Entrepreneurs funding new technology and service options</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remote Locales</td>
<td>Satellite; Line of Sight; Fixed-wireless; CBRS; New technologies</td>
<td>Investment is challenging, singular projects can be costly; Low ROI; Aerial infrastructure is half the cost of digging</td>
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</table>
RECOMMENDATIONS AND OUTCOMES

The task force agrees with the Governor that broadband and high-speed internet should be a strategic and economic priority for Idaho. Most importantly, developing solutions to better serve and assist rural Idaho should be the highest priority and thus the focus of most recommendations.

Recommended solutions should remain “technology neutral.” Due to the continuous technological advances in delivery of broadband services and Idaho’s geography challenges and communities’ unique circumstances, all technology options should be considered as solutions to improve connectivity across the state.

Idaho’s urban areas are well served given customer density, access to capital, and existing infrastructure. Idaho’s universities and the Idaho National Laboratory have adequate broadband but should maintain their leading edge with existing resources and could serve as a catalyst for improvements to broadband technologies.

With continued healthy competition among providers, reduced regulation, more awareness of options, and the benefit of policy recommendations noted below, Idaho’s broadband connectivity should improve and thrive.

Call For Action #1: Update Broadband Plan

Affirmation of the Idaho Broadband Plan by the Governor, along with the appropriate notifications to Federal and State agencies will support maximum funding opportunities and coordination to expand broadband service across Idaho. Letters of affirmation allow for maximum scoring for internet service providers and therefore higher probability of securing millions of dollars for reaching unserved communities. When combining the potential for more federal funding and state agency coordination efforts, the investment for ISP’s may be reduced such that their minimum ROI’s may be achieved to consider a successful public-private investment partnership.
RECOMMENDATIONS AND OUTCOMES

Call For Action #2: Establish a State Broadband Office

As part of its broadband plan, Idaho should create a State Broadband Office within the Department of Commerce, initially recommending one full time staff position. Idaho is not unique in the need for broadband. By establishing a State Broadband Office, Idaho will be better positioned to coordinate efforts across Idaho and to avoid costly errors by learning from what other states have successfully accomplished.

The State Broadband Office could be a resource for a state broadband strategy including consumer education, facilitating opportunities and funding sources, and coordinate where Idaho can leverage existing infrastructure, such as roadways and utility assets, to reach unserved communities in the state.

The task force evaluated many different data sources and mapping options to understand what best illustrates Idaho’s available services, speed and infrastructure. The task force identified where gaps exist, and recommends the Idaho Broadband Office should be the repository for all publicly available maps and data sources to create a clear understanding of Idaho’s opportunity. As new maps and data sources become publicly available, the State Broadband Office should include this information to enhance Idaho’s broadband availability.

Idaho must resolve the gap in funding that is creating a barrier, for needed broadband deployment. The State Broadband Office could assist the state and communities throughout Idaho by leveraging federal funding sources including, but not limited to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Federal Communications Commission and U.S. Department of Commerce programs. The State Broadband Office would also leverage State assets.

While awaiting the establishment of a State Broadband Office, members of the task force should continue to meet periodically and work together with the Department of Commerce as an “interim” state broadband office on the identified projects within Idaho.
Call For Action #3: Consider State Funding Options

Beyond the available federal programs, funding will continue to be a challenge. Moreover, the State could make a large contribution toward lowering project investment with the coordination of a “dig once” policy and a proactive coordination of potential large installation. The investment could be substantially smaller if several projects were completed with “one dig” or “one hang.” State funding solutions through grants and loans that complement existing programs and projects and reforming the existing State Universal Service Fund to include broadband subscribers should be considered to close the funding gap and deploy broadband infrastructure and service.

Call For Action #4: Improve Deployment Efficiency by Formalizing Dig Once and Hang Once Policies

Establish a state construction registry maintained by the State of Idaho for all upcoming transportation infrastructure projects and of existing available conduit in the public right of way and promote joint projects. Idaho’s most precious asset regarding broadband deployment is its Right of Way along its highways. A significant cost of broadband deployment is in the construction costs for installation in the Right of Way.

With uncertain funding, better communication between agencies and utilities when ground is broken in a public right of way is smart policy to immediately improve deployment efficiency. Broadband deployment incurs many costs and can be a burden to our state if not coordinated properly from the outset of a project.

Proactive and simultaneous broadband infrastructure planning with utility maintenance/expansion, Idaho Department of Transportation, County Highway District highway projects, or municipal road maintenance projects could dramatically change and improve the way our ISP’s view broadband preparation and development.

Encourage local communities to work with all applicable public entities and private partners to determine the most effective solutions for deploying broadband. All approaches and policies should support the efficient construction of cost-competitive, reliable broadband services while remaining technology neutral in its delivery.
RECOMMENDATIONS AND OUTCOMES

Call For Action #5: Engage on Near Term Projects

The task force recognized that there are current, unfunded projects in unserved areas which are very important for Idaho. These near term projects could have an immediate impact on unserved areas:

- North Central Idaho “open access” fiber network across five counties for the unserved region based on the District 2 Interoperability Governance Board (DIGB2) consulting study.*
- North-South pathway between Grangeville and Riggins
- I-90 corridor between Cataldo, Idaho and Montana border
- Melba

* DIGB2 consulting study map
NEXT STEPS

• Idaho Commerce to continue to lead the Idaho Broadband Plan ongoing effort with an interim broadband office to work on identified near term projects.

  • Engage Idaho legislators.
  • Establish smaller, regional working groups.
  • Focus on “high scoring” for federal grants and loans.
  • Focus on a comprehensive “beta” project in underserved North Central Idaho.
APPENDIXES

A. Governor’s Executive Order
B. Idaho Broadband Taskforce Members
C. Rural A Committee Recommendations
D. Rural B Committee Recommendations
E. Urban Committee Recommendations
F. Universities and INL Recommendations
G. Mapping Committee Recommendations
H. State Broadband Office Recommendations
I. BBTF Meeting #1 Agenda
J. BBTF Meeting #2 Agenda
K. BBTF Meeting #3 Agenda
L. BBTF Meeting #4 Agenda
M. Broadband Federal Funding Alternatives
N. Letter from Governor Little to Affirm Idaho’s Broadband Plan and USDA Evaluation Criteria
WHEREAS, we live in a data-driven society and connectivity is key for a thriving economy; and
WHEREAS, we must ensure both urban and rural Idaho are connected and well-positioned to attract business and create maximum success for our communities; and
WHEREAS, adequate mapping of broadband and high-speed internet infrastructure is vital in progressing connectivity throughout the state; and
WHEREAS, properly analyzing existing resources and gaps will help advance the state in internet connectivity, high speeds, expansion plans, and adequate capacity;
NOW, THEREFORE I, BRAD LITTLE, Governor of the State of Idaho, hereby establish the Idaho Broadband Task Force and the following:

1. The Idaho Broadband Task Force will make recommendations to the Governor on policies and actions the state should take to dramatically improve the state in connectivity and service levels.
2. The duties of the Idaho Broadband Task Force are advisory.
3. The Idaho Broadband Task Force will focus on a statewide approach, ensuring Idaho is properly represented, evaluated, and alternatives analyzed.
4. The Idaho Broadband Task Force will be chaired by the Director of the Idaho Department of Commerce.
5. The Idaho Department of Commerce will staff the Idaho Broadband Task Force.
6. Members of the Idaho Broadband Task Force are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Members include, but are not limited to:
   a. Director of the Idaho Department of Commerce;
   b. Director of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture or their designee;
   c. Director of the Office of Emergency Management or their designee;
   d. Director of the Office of Information Technology Services or their designee;
   e. Two members of the Idaho House of Representatives;
   f. Two members of the Idaho Senate;
   g. The member representing the Idaho Association of Cities;
   h. The member representing the Idaho County Association;
   i. Members representing internet service providers;
   j. Members representing satellite providers;
   k. Members representing cellular providers;
   l. Members representing various industries across the State of Idaho;

NOW, THEREFORE I, BRAD LITTLE, Governor of the State of Idaho, hereby establish the Idaho Broadband Task Force and the following:

IDaho BROADBAND TASK FORCE
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2019-07
One member representing the Idaho National Laboratory; one member representing the Idaho electric utilities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho in Boise, on this 23rd day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand nineteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred forty-third and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred twenty-nine.

BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

LAWRENCE DENNEY
SECRETARY OF STATE
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kevin England</td>
<td>Association of Cities</td>
<td>Mayor - Chubbuck</td>
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<td>Tara Thue</td>
<td>AT&amp;T</td>
<td>President - Gov Aff</td>
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<td>Gordon Jones</td>
<td>Boise State University</td>
<td>Dean - Innovation/Design</td>
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<td>Cheryl Goettsche</td>
<td>Cable One</td>
<td>General Manager</td>
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<td>CenturyLink</td>
<td>Manager - Gov Affairs</td>
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<td>Marian Jackson</td>
<td>Charter</td>
<td>Senior Director, Gov Affairs</td>
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<td>Cox Communications</td>
<td>President</td>
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<td>Dan Greig</td>
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<td>Jessica Epley</td>
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<td>President</td>
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<td>Dana Bassett</td>
<td>Global IT Service Delivery</td>
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<td>Jan Donnell</td>
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<td>Mike England</td>
<td>Idaho State University</td>
<td>Chief Information Officer</td>
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<td>Randy Gaines</td>
<td>Idaho State University</td>
<td>Engineering Logo</td>
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<td>Nancy Cyr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steve Ehle</td>
<td>ISG - Office of Gov</td>
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<td>Mike Yeandy</td>
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<td>Tom Kealey</td>
<td>Jordan Valley</td>
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<td>Milt Doumit</td>
<td>Nez Perce Tribe</td>
<td>Director, IT Engineering</td>
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<td>Tracy Freeman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kari Saccomanno</td>
<td>Ting</td>
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<td>Jim Blundell</td>
<td>T-Mobile</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Freytag</td>
<td>Association of Counties</td>
<td>Commission - Shoshone County</td>
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**TASK FORCE MEMBERS**

- Jacob Larson
- Robert Hampton
- Jeff Wack
- Tom Kealey
- Cheryl Tewalt
- Danae Wilson
- Nancy Cyr
- Jerry Gwynn
- Robert Hampton
- Mike England
- Randy Gaines
- Nancy Cyr
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- Jerry Gwynn
Executive Summary

The Rural Idaho A sub-committee has converged on a set of goals and recommendations that it is pleased to present to the Task Force leadership. The sub-committee focused on communities and areas of Idaho with greater than 3,000 residents, but less than 25,000 residents, and less than 25% coverage per Broadbandnow.com data. This paper will outline the three top priorities for broadband relief, provide suggested guidance for the Broadband Office once established, and offer three case studies that demonstrate the difficulties and expense of obtaining broadband connectivity. All of this information combined begins to establish near and long-term objectives to push broadband access further into the Rural Idaho A territory.

2. Top Three Recommendations from The Rural Idaho A Group:

2.1 Move forward with shovel ready projects that require 2019/2020 funding

The Rural A group has identified three projects that would provide near term advancements in middle-mile infrastructure for the state. The lack of middle-mile infrastructure is recognized by the Task Force and is identified as one of the hurdles to deployment.

• Fund ITD (est. $5 million) to complete conduit on I-90 from Cataldo to the Montana border. This will allow Syringa Networks to proceed with its deal with ITD and populate that conduit with fiber. ITD will have a 48-count of fiber for its own use or to swap with other carriers.

• In North Central Idaho, the District Two Interoperability Governance Board (DIGB2) developed a strategic analysis and plan to develop a fiber optic network to meet the needs of public safety across the five counties. Deployment of an open access fiber network would incentivize telecommunications providers to enter this underserved market. The estimated cost of this project is $50 million.

• Whitebird Hill represents a LATA divide, historically a dividing line of telecommunications providers in Idaho. The pathway from Grangeville to Riggins currently does not have access to fiber. The path between North and South Idaho is quite expensive to access. This project would allow for redundant pathing of communications networks, the estimated cost of which is $30 million.

2.2 Implementing best practices for broadband deployment cost reduction.

Idaho is not unique in its need for broadband. Given that 15% of states in addressing this issue, means that Idaho is positioned to avoid costly errors by learning what others have done.

2.3 Move forward with shovel ready projects that require 2019/2020 funding
is delivered regrettably broadband service. For sure, many consumers are frustrated by this.

Today, there is significant confusion around what consumers believe they are buying and what

2.3 Idaho legislated consumer protection and investment act

are positively done. Priority two is to install best practices learned to reduce the cost of
broadband deployment. Examples include:

• In Utah, the Department of Transportation actively facilitates fiber conduit deployment, maintains a conduit build-out registry and partners with telecommunication providers. In Utah this program has facilitated expanded fiber routes and enhanced connectivity. In Washington, legislation gave port authorities the opportunity to develop open-access infrastructure and regulations for lease to interested providers. This authorization has facilitated the build-out of a number of open-access infrastructure providers across rural Washington communities. In addition to providing access to dedicated fiber optic conduits, this legislation has resulted in a reduced cost of deployment, allowing more rapid and cost-effective deployment by telecommunication providers, consumers to capture more rapid and cost-effective deployment of these optical conduits/troughs to facilitate the delivery of high-speed internet to rural Idaho.

• Dig once policy; Utilities have for decades utilized transportation corridors to deliver infrastructure. The exchange could be a game changer for rural Idaho. In addition to providing access to dedicated fiber optic conduits, this legislation has reduced the costs of deployment, allowing more rapid and cost-effective deployment by telecommunication providers. The exchange would catalogue the conduits placed along rights-of-way by local and state transportation departments. This standardized and regulated environment will result in reduced costs, streamlined and streamlined permitting.

• Create a state conduit and fiber exchange website. Facilitating knowledge of available conduits that are available for telecommunication companies and available fiber strands is essential to effective deployment by telecommunication providers. Idaho's legislation requires engineering and design to include placement of dedicated fiber optic conduits/troughs to facilitate the delivery of high-speed internet to rural Idaho. In addition to providing access to dedicated fiber optic conduits, this legislation has resulted in a reduced cost of deployment, allowing more rapid and cost-effective deployment by telecommunication providers.

• Broadband Deployment Examples include:

- Facilitating shared conduits and fiber exchange websites:

- Pinpointing opportunities for providers to enter new markets.

- Creating a state conduit and fiber exchange website.

- Facilitating knowledge of available fiber strands and conduits.

- Promoting streamlined permitting and regulation.

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- Promoting streamlined permitting and regulation.
In this section, we suggest two actions that will both facilitate immediate investment into broadband and force the broadband providers to fully provide the service they are selling.

1. **Allow Idahoans to deduct their broadband fees from their state income taxes.** Affordability is a driving force for many in rural Idaho, where poverty levels range from 12-25%. By addressing affordability through a tax incentive, Idaho leadership could enable the low-income resident to access broadband capacity, thereby improving educational and economic opportunities. This efficiently and immediately pushes someone learning that could result in a certification or degree that could open the door to new career pathways. Allow Idahoans to deduct their broadband fees from their state income taxes.

2. **Legislate over subscription limits.** Over subscription results from providers selling more bandwidth capacity than what is available to meet all users' demands at all times of the day. Policy development aimed at regulating a cap on oversubscription will provide a metric for ensuring that money spent on broadband will result in receiving the service. This will relieve the lack of reliable connectivity in all communities.

### Focus areas for the Broadband Office to facilitate rural deployment

In addition to the above listed top priorities for Rural Idaho A, the group also wanted to extend suggested areas for further research once the Broadband Office is established. These are high impact areas that require more thought and coordination than what can be presented in a paper.

- **Develop an education and information program to enhance end user understanding of broadband.** The NTIA Broadband Group has over the past decade developed a variety of tools and resources to help citizens understand how to interpret the jargon used in telecommunications. The newly created Idaho broadband Office could rapidly deploy an educational and informational campaign to increase the availability of basic information and decision-making tools to eligible Idaho residents. An informed society will be engaged in grassroots efforts to facilitate local solutions. Low cost and local examples of educational and informational tools are available both from NTIA as well as in Idaho. Third-party (e.g., broadband office) initiatives to educate local populations will reduce the bandwidth available for providers to build their own educational programs. The newly created Idaho broadband Office could rapidly deploy these tools to enhance and user understanding of broadband services.

- **Leverage resources available to maximize investment by providers.** Across rural Idaho schools and businesses, there is a strong need for broadband to ensure economic development and improve the quality of life for residents. The newly created Idaho broadband Office could leverage these resources to maximize investment by providers.
libraries have been connected to the internet for broadband access. The infrastructure in place may have the capacity to provide enhanced services in rural community commercial, residential and government facilities. The E-Rate program funding covers a varying percentage of build and ongoing service costs to each school/library. Identifying whether the infrastructure in place is capable of serving additional internet subscribers would provide the Broadband Office with on the ground knowledge of where there was sufficient capacity to expand services. Follow up actions would include: Aggregating demand in the surrounding community to identify where bandwidth was needed and how much was desired. Collaborating with providers to evaluate where infrastructure capacity exists to meet the demand and/or to build out new capacity on the east side of property. We have been told for years that there was no pathway to our facility for Frontier to bring in high-speed internet access since 2003 when we acquired the facility.

4 Case Studies

4.1 Idaho Forest Group - Chilo

We have been requesting high-speed internet access since 2003 when we acquired the facility. We have been paying for a T1 of internet service and have been looking from Louisiana-Pacific who have been denying for a T1 of internet service and have been looking at alternatives with a specific focus on the delivery of fiber to our business. We have been told for years that there was no pathway to our facility for Frontier to bring in high-speed internet access.

On 9/4/2019 after some further investigation and a physical walk through we discovered that:

$50,000 and we were shocked.

Property ~2200 feet to the north end of the property. This was an estimated cost of nearly $78,000 to build out the pathway.

Additionally, we had to build out the pathway from the exchange at the south end of our property. This was an estimated cost of nearly $18,200 to build out the pathway.

We have been paying for a T1 of internet service and have been looking for a higher-speed internet access.

Idaho Forest Group - Chilo

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4.2 N&N Machine, Orofino

In 2016 Frontier Communications built out a fiber optic pathway to service an adjacent business but Frontier staff did not reach out to neighboring manufacturers. N&N had for over a decade paid for DSL service, only to obtain a maximum of 1.5 Mbps downstream. The lack of connectivity limited N&N Machine’s ability to compete for contracts that required large plan sets. N & N Machine A fiber optic conduit in their right of way.

5 Conclusion

The group wants to thank Director Kealey and his team for organizing the Broadband Taskforce.

The lack of adequate communications infrastructure presented various challenges for life safety, when calls for help were not routed through or inhibited access to vital services. For both residents and visitors alike.

There are significant economic and life safety consequences for not having reliable broadband access for both residents and visitors alike. N&N Machine needed.

A dedicated point to point service to meet N&N Machine needs. One year later, the solution N&N and the local economic development team facilitated was a fiber optic conduit in their right of way.

N&N was ready to build when ITD came back unwilling to permit a private individual to place a conduit.

4.3 Valley County

There are significant economic and life safety consequences for not having reliable broadband access for both residents and visitors alike.

About 20 years ago, highway 95 to our main building and it has been available since the ITD widened the highway.
Why is it important to energize the provision of broadband to communities with populations under 3,000 citizens?

Rural B Recommendations

Rural B focuses on communities lower than 3,000 population

Rural B Subcommittee Draft Report

2019 Idaho Broadband Task Force
Recommendations in order:

1. State Broadband Office with Dedicated Staff to Support

This recommendation will come through from multiple committees based on initial consideration. We view this as especially important for communities with populations less than 3,000 citizens. Often the communication, organizational, and bureaucratic barriers that are perceived from residents and small entrepreneurial companies seem too difficult to surmount. Yet in most cases the smaller companies that could provide services would benefit the most from the simplest outreach and communication from an organized state broadband office.

There are three tangible items that we think could be clearly and positively affected by an organized state broadband office.

a) Easing Requirements and Bureaucracy to use State Lands for Towers and Fiber Backhaul. For fixed wireless and cellular providers, often there is a very good one-stop shop for smaller entities remote from Boise. To the extent that a state broadband office could be a clearing house of information and communication to find the right people and assets, this could be a very good one-stop process for getting access to existing or potential tower sites to expand their facilities.

b) Supporting local providers in obtaining Federal and State grants and loans. There are programs and options that exist for serving the most rural communities. But often the requirements and application processes seem daunting. Additionally, there are other programs and options that might have more options than they are aware of, yet seem too laborious for smaller entities to go through.

c) Sharing Information. Often there are large projects that are funded by, impacted by, or otherwise involved with state or local governments. Buildings, state or local road projects, school construction, and public medical facility expansions are all examples of potential projects that might involve local or state broadband office.

This recommendation will come through from multiple committees based on initial consideration.

2. State Broadband Office with Dedicated Staff to Support

3. State Construction Registry

4. Technology Agnostic Delivery Mechanism

Recommendations in order:
2. Dig Once

Broadband deployment incurs many costs and can be a burden to our state if not coordinated properly from the outset of a project. Simultaneous broadband infrastructure deployment with utility or road maintenance can dramatically change the way our citizens view broadband preparation and development. Some report costs of installing fiber can be significantly cut if done concurrently with an already open trench. Idaho should study the work of the existing states that have dig once policies (https://broadbandnow.com/report/dig-once-digital-divide/) to craft policies that will work well in our rural state.

- **Shared Leasing**
  - Reduce obstacles to shared access of existing poles, ducts, and conduits.

- **Utilities**
  - Whenever there are sewer and water projects, conduit or fiber can be installed at the same time to increase cost savings.

- **Roads**
  - Coordinate with ITD and local road management teams through LHTAC (Local Highway Technical Assistance Council, http://lhtac.org/) to implement dig-once policies for conduit and/or fiber installation.

- **ITD** and local road management should be mandated to include fiber conduit as part of public projects to allow for future providers.

3. State Construction Registry

Private and public internet providers require enough foreknowledge of an upcoming road or utility project to plan for a project of their own to utilize an open trench from the project to stitch the resources together.

To know if there is already conduit or fiber in the adjoining segments to understand if the can be utilized, providers should be able to see if there are already existing conduits or ducts that are available. ITD should be mandated to include fiber conduit in collaborative trench work.

- **ITD** and local road management should be mandated to include fiber conduit in collaborative trench work.
- **Shared Leasing**
  - Reduce obstacles to shared access of existing poles, ducts, and conduits.

- **State**
  - Share lessons learned to spread awareness to existing poles, ducts, and conduits.

- **Roads**
  - Coordinate with ITD and local road management teams to install conduit at the same time to increase cost savings.

- **Utilities**
  - Whenever there are sewers and water projects, conduit or fiber can be installed at the same time to increase cost savings.

- **ITD** and local road management should be mandated to consider allowing private and public providers to include broadband resources (ducts, fiber) from private providers in construction projects.
The ITD (Idaho Transportation Department) manages 5,000 miles of roads in Idaho. Local Highway Jurisdictions, including cities, some counties, and local county highway districts, manage another 33,358 miles of roads in Idaho. LHTAC (the local highway technical advisory council) provides key technical and coordination efforts for these jurisdictions statewide.

We recommend that the state of Idaho maintain an online registry of all upcoming transportation infrastructure projects and of existing broadband resources in the public right of way. Specifically:

1. The online registry should be managed by an appropriate state agency. This might be ITD, LHTAC, or the state broadband office. It should be a single, searchable registry for providers of Internet access.
2. The online registry should be searchable by location, provider, and service type.
3. The online registry should include an inventory of all locations where existing dark fiber or conduit available for provider use is available.

4. The Rural B Subcommittee agrees that the technology used for providing options beyond the urban areas should not be limited to only wired options. The investments made in the urban areas should not be the only criterion for determining what options should be available in rural areas. Smaller communities in Idaho and around the country have gotten additional options beyond the traditional wired options by using newer wireless technologies which allow for increasing speeds without the full expense of laying new fiber. These technologies include cellular-based options, private microwave networks, and fixed wireless provided by WISPs.

Idaho’s digital divide is mirrored across the country. The problem of urban citizens having more options than rural citizens isn’t only in our state. Smaller communities in Idaho and around the country have gotten additional options beyond the traditional wired options by using newer wireless technologies which allow for increasing speeds without the full expense of laying new fiber. These technologies include cellular-based options, private microwave networks, and fixed wireless provided by WISPs.

4. Technology Agnostic Delivery Mechanism

We recommend that the state of Idaho maintain an online registry of all upcoming transportation infrastructure projects and of existing broadband resources in the public right of way.
Funding Source Discussion

A state broadband office, or alternatively the Idaho State Department of Commerce, should develop a menu of possible funding sources to assist in funding rural broadband. Our suggestions include working in the following areas where there has been demonstrable success:

1. **Federal Grants and Loans**: FCC, USDA, Other departments that have or could in the future (Dept. of Commerce)

2. **Idaho Broadband Tax Credit**: Currently it does not provide enough incentives to motivate providers. It should be eliminated or significantly enhanced (20% for rural investments, 10% for urban investments?)

3. **Fund the State Broadband Grant Fund**: Currently this just covers wired phone lines and is not relevant for broadband.

4. **Modernize the Idaho Universal Service Fund (USF)**: It could be modernized in many ways to provide funding for the future (Dept. of Commerce).

5. **Rural Investments**: 10% for urban investments?

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5. **Rural Investments**: 10% for urban investments?

Support in the committee. Nevertheless, committee members report State USF is a controversial concept and does not have unanimous support. Nevertheless, committee members report State USF is a controversial concept and does not have unanimous support. Nevertheless, committee members report State USF is a controversial concept and does not have unanimous support.
They want to stay in their home, but they do not have access to telemedicine in their community.

**Daughter:** My parents live in rural Idaho and they love it, but they want a better life for their children.

**Grandparent:** My grandchildren live in rural Idaho without broadband access and it is difficult for them to do their homework. I am concerned that they will have a disadvantage education, which is unacceptable to me. I am willing to pay a USF to make sure all children have equal access to education.

**Taxpayer:** As a citizen that pays income tax to support my state, I am very concerned about the economic development in my state. We all benefit. I am willing to pay a USF to foster economic development in all citizens in Idaho.

**Opposition:** Some in industry oppose the expansion of broadband access because it is cost prohibitive for carriers to serve these communities. It is estimated that more than 20% of Idahoans are underserved or unconnected by broadband.

**Problem Statement:** The need for broadband is significant. It is estimated that more than 20% of Idahoans are underserved or unconnected by broadband.

**Background:** Idaho currently has a Universal Service Fund (USF) for landline telephone. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has established the USF to ensure that all citizens have access to a telephone service. The USF is administered by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to ensure that all citizens have access to a telephone service.

**Current Funding Sources:** The USF is funded by a variety of sources, including:

- **Landline:** The USF is funded by a tax credit of 3% of gross revenue. This tax credit is necessary to ensure that all citizens have access to a telephone service.
- **Telecommunications:** The USF is also funded by a tax credit on telecommunications services.
- **Universal Service Fund:** The USF is funded by a tax credit on telecommunications services.

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I am worried, my parents live on a fixed income and cannot afford to move to a large metro, but they need access to quality healthcare in their rural home. I am willing to pay a USF, so that my folks can stay in their home and gain access to the healthcare they need.

**Proposal:** A state broadband office is being recommended by the Governor's Broadband Taskforce. Furthermore, it has been demonstrated that the current broadband tax credit and grant programs are not working in Idaho. A state broadband Universal Service Fund (USF) should apply for funds from the USF to build out broadband infrastructure in high cost areas including urban and rural areas.

Benefits:

As illustrated above, a broadband USF is right for Idaho. All Idaho broadband providers would pay equally into the Idaho broadband USF with a small monthly fee on their bill. All Idaho broadband providers would then be eligible to apply for funds from the USF to build out broadband infrastructure in high cost areas including urban and rural areas. Idaho broadband USF would be the single source of public assistance to broadband providers for high cost builds administered by the state broadband office, thereby replacing the existing tax credit and grant programs with one simple program that is efficient and administrable to all methods of broadband access in the state. The Idaho broadband USF should be instituted and applicable to all methods of broadband access.

Citizen of Idaho will benefit in countless ways from that universal broadband access.

The customers of all Idaho broadband providers would pay equally into the Idaho broadband USF with a small monthly fee on their bill, which would then be eligible to apply for funds from the USF to build out broadband infrastructure in high cost areas including urban and rural areas. All Idaho broadband providers would then be eligible to apply for funds from the USF to build out broadband infrastructure in high cost areas including urban and rural areas.
Goal 3 / Urban Broadband Committee Recommendations

- Maintain local authority for closing the broadband gap. Any state action should still allow for municipalities to build out retail or wholesale models. (e.g. Muni broadband like Ammon, or partnerships like Sandpoint-Ting). Should also maintain tech neutrality, so long as a common benchmark is attained (e.g. FCC definition of broadband).

- Maintain access in multi-dwelling unit buildings. Reiterate a prohibition on exclusive MDU contracts and offer resources to increase competition and thus improve speeds.

- Small cell/5G attractiveness. Explore pre-emption and other measures that would make Idaho cities more attractive for 5G and enhanced LTE.

- To promote a dig once philosophy, Idaho Power is willing to work with cities to work through coordination issues and partnering when there is an opportunity to deploy fiber. Also, require utilities to deploy fiber-owned fiber.

- Enact “dig once” legislation to ensure that any road construction also places new infrastructure for future broadband infrastructure.

- Idaho Transportation Department is currently working on a major reconfiguration project of US-95 & ID-53 interchange. This two-year project includes fiber optic infrastructure for future broadband connections.

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- Idaho Power is willing to work with cities to evaluate the feasibility of developing a process for notification on underground work as well as specific cities to be included. Work driven by customer complaints should also be addressed.

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The City would be responsible for the cost of the material and the material installation in the trench with the trench contractor.

- Fiber attachment is also allowed overhead in Joint Use.
- One-touch make-ready/pole management. Set standards for pole attachment installation in the trench with the trench contractor.
- The City would be responsible for the cost of the material and the material installation.

Funding Suggestions:

- Public-private partnership. Should the Director and Governor so choose, we could recommend the contours of public-private partnerships to incent additional broadband investment. I would suggest an approach like SD Governor Noem’s recent ConnectSD program, that encouraged builds in unserved and underserved areas, while cost-effective deployments but were not otherwise disallowed in unreasonable amounts of government regulation.
- Either repeal or rework the Idaho Universal Service Fund (IUSF) to protect customers’ interests, the cause, and the time needed to restore service.

- Create a tracking tool that actively tracks Internet outages, the number of complex outages, including having enough staff “on-call” for outages.
- Encourage providers to have a detailed emergency action plan to deal with frequent, unexpected and underserved areas with cost-effective deployments but were not otherwise disallowed in unreasonable amounts of government regulation.
- Create a statewide education/communication program to bring federal life-line program designed to increase access to the internet for free or reduced lunch students. About 45% of Idaho’s children are eligible for free or reduced lunch, and 15% of the federal poverty level is eligible for the federal life-line program. Any family containing a student eligible for reduced lunch at school is eligible. (Idaho.gov)
- Close the homework gap.
- Public/private partnerships for low-cost device programs.
- Define expectations for low-ready/standards for pole attachment.
- Equivalently make ready/pole management. Set standards for pole attachment.
Capitalize on the broadband infrastructure opportunities for "middle mile" and "community connections" located within the 2018 Farm Bill.

- Create an urban "One Fiber" that increases the local city's multi-platform access.
- Intermax and Idaho Falls Models:

  - Intermax helps bring broadband internet to rural North Idaho.
  - Intermax was awarded financial support to build service towers in many of the more rural areas in North Idaho (by census block). A project of expansion and construction is anticipated to begin intensely in 2020. Note / see attachment: "Internet contract represents big win for all of North Idaho"

- Additional broadband service improvements in the Coeur d'Alene market are

  - Intermax is currently building new access points (fixed wireless) in under-served areas of Kootenai County, including the Coeur d'Alene area. They are also co-locating on existing municipal water towers so that more residences can identify the fixed wireless locations that are in proximity.
  - Intermax has expanded fiber to several hundred buildings in four North Idaho counties in the last few years. These fiber connections have improved broadband access in businesses and residential new construction in the counties noted.
  - A new broadband service provider (TDS Metrocom) has entered the North Idaho / Coeur d'Alene market. TDS is marketing their goal of building fiber to the home in a new neighborhood.

- Ammon and Idaho Falls Models:

  - Ammon and Bear Prairie from Idaho Falls Power to address the municipal broadband systems and desire for further expansion.
  - Intermax and North Idaho Examples:

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- Ammon and Idaho Falls Models:

  - Intermax and North Idaho Examples:
For operator profit. This results in the lowest possible cost for the infrastructure.

The following principles form the foundation of the Ammon Model Strategic Solution:

1. Neither the State nor the Federal government are effectively addressing these challenges. 
2. Infrastructure completion is not economically feasible or responsible in urban or rural settings; economic viability will follow improvements in broadband access and costs.
3. Density putting communities like Ammon at a competitive disadvantage. 

Traditional Return on Investment (ROI) models favor population-scale and not identical, they do share some common characteristics and a common desire to see both models of municipal broadband supported by the State of Idaho.

Utility models are most effective in addressing monopoly infrastructure investment needs behind the more metro areas of the country in the absence of any strategic infrastructure. 
This is by economically separating service costs from infrastructure costs. 

Modern Internet Protocol technologies have successfully separated services.

2. Broadband infrastructure is a natural monopoly, just like electric, water and wastewater services.

3. Broadband services are essential, just like electric, water and wastewater services.

The following principles form the foundation of the Ammon Model Strategic Solution:

1. Neither the State nor the Federal government are effectively addressing these challenges.
2. Density putting communities like Ammon at a competitive disadvantage.
3. Traditional Return on Investment (ROI) models favor population-scale and not identical, they do share some common characteristics and a common desire to see both models of municipal broadband supported by the State of Idaho.
The separation of services from infrastructure provides an opportunity to create a marketplace for services. Because little investment is required for established services to enter the market, true competition can easily be created on the monopoly infrastructure. Additionally, because new services are not required to construct a new parallel infrastructure, innovation is encouraged. As a direct consequence of creating this open marketplace Ammon has seen the cost of 1Gbps Internet service drop from $99 a month to $19.99 a month in just under 3 years. A free 15Mbps service is also available. Contracts and data caps have also disappeared from the marketplace as a direct result of competition.

Research organizations such as Harvard University and the Benton Foundation have furnished research reports detailing the benefits of the Ammon Model’s open access marketplace to provide data to offset incumbent monopolistic lobbying:

https://tinyurl.com/y23q5r6k

Ammon Fiber Optic Utility Statistics:

• Started in 2011, some 30+ miles of backbone with access fiber to over 1,200 addresses by 2020.
• Local Improvement Districts are used to expand and pass approximately 500 properties per year.
• Ammon provides dark fiber leasing in support of national and regional wireless, academic and public safety communications.
• Approximately 900 residential properties have access to the Ammon fiber optic network.
• Ammon Fiber Optic Utility Statistics

Fiber has been an integral part of Idaho Falls Power for the last 20 years. Idaho Falls Power's extensive Fiber network throughout its service territory has allowed for the expansion into the residential neighborhoods.

In 1998 we started building dark fiber for city needs. Then in 2002 we greatly expanded this network into three rings throughout the city in which we oversubscribed, which allowed for the expansion into the residential neighborhoods in 2018.
entities. We have over 550 customers currently connected to our dark fiber which is predominantly connected to businesses, hospitals, schools, universities and the Idaho National Lab. We have 8 internet providers that use our dark fiber to provide ISP services to the community.

Idaho Falls Fiber plans to give access to approximately 1500 predominantly residential homes by the end of October this year to demonstrate the feasibility of the network bringing fiber to all city homes and businesses. Residents are not just able to benefit from state-of-the-art fiber infrastructure provided by Idaho Falls Fiber, but also from the public-private partnership that was established by Idaho Falls Fiber, Idaho Power, and other public/private partnerships that was established by Utah-based UTOPIA, a fiber-to-the-home-based cooperative.

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Residents are not just able to benefit from state-of-the-art fiber infrastructure provided by Idaho Falls Fiber, but also from the public-private partnership that was established by Idaho Falls Fiber, Idaho Power, and other public/private partnerships that was established by Utah-based UTOPIA, a fiber-to-the-home-based cooperative. We also use our fiber network to communicate with our electric meters and offer energy-efficient programs using our broadband network to customers. Idaho Falls Fiber is an open network that allows customers to choose from multiple internet service providers, providing them with a unique experience that gives them ownership of the network. Residents must pay a monthly flat fee of $30 for the fiber infrastructure, which covers the costs of installation and maintenance. This fee is added to their monthly city utility bill. Customers are not required to take service even if we pass by their home with the network. They only pay once they are using the service. All in monthly costs (includes the $30 infrastructure charge) start at $65 a month for residents with no installation or additional charges for the fiber infrastructure ($30 per month) on their city utility bill.

Residents can have a unique experience that gives them ownership of the network, allowing them to choose their internet service provider. Because of these collaborations, residents can choose from multiple internet service providers, providing them with a unique experience that gives them ownership of the network. Residents must pay a monthly flat fee of $30 for the fiber infrastructure, which covers the costs of installation and maintenance. This fee is added to their monthly city utility bill. Customers are not required to take service even if we pass by their home with the network. They only pay once they are using the service. All in monthly costs (includes the $30 infrastructure charge) start at $65 a month for residents with no installation or additional charges for the fiber infrastructure ($30 per month) on their city utility bill.

Residents can have a unique experience that gives them ownership of the network, allowing them to choose their internet service provider. Because of these collaborations, residents can choose from multiple internet service providers, providing them with a unique experience that gives them ownership of the network. Residents must pay a monthly flat fee of $30 for the fiber infrastructure, which covers the costs of installation and maintenance. This fee is added to their monthly city utility bill. Customers are not required to take service even if we pass by their home with the network. They only pay once they are using the service. All in monthly costs (includes the $30 infrastructure charge) start at $65 a month for residents with no installation or additional charges for the fiber infrastructure ($30 per month) on their city utility bill.
Summary of Presentation to Broadband Task Force for Goal 4

Goals 1 and 2.

Universities and INL. We share these issues below for consideration by the teams working on
development and possibly frame the public-private partnership that may want to collaborate with the
committee. The main issue raised is that much of today’s research collection is conducted in areas not
currently served by and related fields. A significant portion of research is conducted in areas not
covered by Idaho’s research enterprise in agriculture, forestry, energy, etc.

Committee thoughts:

1. The key Goal 4 points of maintaining edge for super computing, big data, network expansion, etc.

2. With the continued State support over $800,000 annually allocated in the 2018 legislative session,
IRON’s connectivity for this collaboration will cover most needs for INL and universities for 5 to 10
years. It is very difficult to look out further than this since technology changes so rapidly.

3. One area that will need continued review is connecting the state’s research enterprise to assets
which will allow them to join the other institutions in the ability to achieve 100 Gbps connectivity
where it is currently available. This will allow for more collaboration with other high
performance computing assets such as those at BYU Idaho and the RITON, which connect six of the eight state institutions as well as BYU Idaho and RITON’s assets.

4. The committee feels that the main issue raised is broadband access for rural Idaho.

Participants:

Dan Ewart (U of I)  -  Bear Prairie (Idaho Falls Power)
Matt Bond (Dean of Commerce)  -  Robert Hamrione (Recsources)
Ron Wiliams (ICBA)  -  Kenneth Smith (HP)
Brent Steady (IRON)  -  Randy Gaines (ISU) Co-chair
Jerry Gwynn (INL) Chair  -  -

Public & Private partnerships

• Funding: Federal dollars, State dollars, Private dollars, etc.
• Prepare for much larger research projects
• Maintain research edge for super computing, big data, network expansion, etc.
• Goal 4: INL Research and Universities
Issues:
1- Cities and municipalities don’t know what the legal rights they have for placing infrastructure onto existing power poles and providing these services to city residents. This needs to be clarified.
2- What about the most rural of areas where providers will find it difficult to have an ROI for their services?
3- Municipalities and Co OPs need to have statute clarity which would include easements, etc.

Solutions:
1- Utilize a Co Op idea where Providers or communities utilize an agreement to use IRON as their transport (mid mile) to extremely rural areas where there is no ROI opportunity.
2- Get statute clarity for municipalities from state to ensure their efforts are within their legal rights.
3- Ensure that we look at this from a procurement law perspective, so all entities receive fair treatment.

Define and initiate legislative clarity on statutes concerning city and municipal rights so these entities receive fair treatment.

Proposed Solutions:
3- Municipalities and Co OPs need to have statute clarity which would include easements, etc.
2- What about the most rural of areas where providers will find it difficult to have an ROI for their services? This needs to be clarified.
1- Cities and municipalities don’t know what the legal rights they have for placing infrastructure.
Idaho Broadband Task Force: Broadband Mapping Committee Report

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

The Task Force was asked to produce a map that reflects an accurate snapshot of the current status of broadband throughout Idaho. This map would serve as a tool visually summarizing the extent of broadband coverage and accessibility to Idaho citizens. For the Governor, the map would serve as an important tool to consider next steps toward developing a statewide broadband plan in an effort to improve broadband access and service across Idaho.

In the report and Order, the FCC requires fixed providers to submit broadband coverage polygons.

The FCC, overseen by Congress, regulates interstate and international communications by radio, television, wire, satellite and cable in all 50 states and is the primary authority for communications law, regulation and technological innovation. It was the consensus of the Task Force that the FCC 477 map is the most accurate and up-to-date data available currently. According to the FCC 477 data, 85% of Idaho’s population (84% of housing units) has access to fixed wireless and wireline technology of broadband speeds and technology.

Over the course of task force meetings, mapping was a topic of ongoing discussion. There were a variety of maps reviewed by the Task Force conveying various types of data (See presentations from task force meetings). Ancillary information was also gathered that referenced specific entity assets (See Task Force Meeting Notes).

MAIN ISSUES

Opportunities --

1. The FCC is requiring new reporting standards utilizing polygon maps that will provide more accurate reporting in the near future.

FCC: Digital Opportunity Data Collection

At the August 1, 2019, FCC Open Meeting, the Commission adopted a Report & Order and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking establishing the Digital Opportunity Data Collection. This is a result of broadband availability being overstated under current FCC Form 477 broadband deployment specifications.

Fixed providers (e.g. wired, fixed wireless, and satellite) are required to report by Cablelabs at https://www.cablelabs.com/informed.

In the Report and Order, the FCC requires fixed providers to submit broadband coverage polygons:

- Service available to end-user locations within 10 business days, including maximum download and upload speeds and technology.

The FCC, developed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on a semi-annual basis, provides the best available information currently. According to the FCC 477 data, 85% of Idaho’s population (84% of housing units) has access to fixed wireless and wireline technology of broadband speeds and technology.

Over the course of task force meetings, mapping was a topic of ongoing discussion. There were a variety of maps reviewed by the Task Force, conveying various types of data (See Task Force Meeting Notes). Ancillary information was also gathered that referenced specific entity assets (See Task Force Meeting Notes).

An allied objective was also to develop a stakeholder broadband plan in an effort to improve broadband access and service across Idaho.

For the Governor, the map would serve as a tool visually summarizing the extent of broadband coverage and accessibility to Idaho citizens. This map would serve as a tool visually summarizing the extent of broadband coverage and accessibility to Idaho citizens.
Directs USAC to develop a portal to accept coverage maps (polygons/shape files) from fixed providers, as well as public feedback on accuracy, (i.e. crowdsourcing).

New data collection to take place upon USAC’s Public Notice announcing the new platform and reporting deadlines; Form 477 fixed broadband deployment requirement stays in place for now.

Mobile broadband changes include ending requirement to supply polygons for each spectrum band, addition of a 5G-NR technology code, elimination of outdated technology codes and collection of mobile retail availability.

Clarification of existing rules and addition of broadband connection definition.

In the 2nd FNPRM, the FCC seeks additional ways to improve broadband availability:

Technical standards, e.g. buffer around physical plant facilities, service addresses, latency,

What Are Polygon Maps?

A polygon map/shapefile, which can be read by GIS-enabled software, can show physical node available per node which can be used to determine available download/upload speeds by node. Each node is correlated to additional data sources to determine the technology of transmission.

Providers maintain maps of plant facilities (coax, fiber, homes passed, etc.) in a GIS (Geospatial Information System) database. The map layers include node boundaries, which are drawn around physical plant facilities served by individual nodes encompassing the serviceable locations within.

Information should:

Utilizing the Digital Opportunity Data Collection by the FCC will help the Idaho Broadband effort by:

• Provide coverage maps on a much more granular level than the current census-block-level method.

• Identify underserved or unserved areas by clarifying where service exists, and where it does not.

• Provide consumers a feedback forum for verifying service offerings.

• Technical standards, e.g. buffer around physical plant facilities, service addresses, latency,

In the 2nd FNPRM, the FCC seeks additional ways to improve broadband availability:

• Clarification of existing rules and addition of broadband connection definition.

• Collection of mobile retail availability.

• Broadband addition of a 5G-NR technology code, elimination of outdated technology codes and technology changes include ending requirement to supply polygons for each spectrum.

• Reporting deadlines for Form 477 fixed broadband deployment requirements.

• New data collection to take place upon USAC’s Public Notice announcing the new platform and providers’ as well as public feedback on accuracy (i.e. crowdsourcing).
An example of polygon maps from the State of Kansas can be viewed at the following link:


Utilization of existing infrastructure - Discussion was had by the Task Force to consider leveraging existing infrastructure such as roadways and utility assets to get to the remote parts of the state.

Challenges

- Any map should take into consideration the size of the land area in Idaho is public land.
- Current FCC mapping concerns:
  - FCC maps show an entire census block is served if only one location has access to service. This inaccuracy is common in Idaho due to census blocks being large geographic areas.
  - Fixed providers report to the FCC based on services offered (represented by census block), and not by what services are subscribed to (e.g. customers may subscribe to a different tier of service).
  - Fixed providers are able to produce polygon maps one-time in advance of the implementation of the Task Force.

Additional mapping concerns:

- The task of collecting asset data of all non-ISP entities will also need to be incorporated into a map.
- Any polygon maps that could have different specifications than the FCC will require.
- The Broadband Mapping Committee of the Task Force is exploring whether Idaho fixed providers have expressed concern with the doubled time, effort, and cost to provide Idahopolygon maps.
- Some Idaho providers may contract out the creation of polygon maps.
- Some providers are just learning about the polygon map future requirements and will need time to create the process for their businesses.
- Fixed providers report to the FCC based on services offered (represented by census block), and not by what services are subscribed to (e.g. customers may subscribe to a different tier of service).

Current FCC mapping concerns:

- Challenges

The Committee identified the need to better coordinate activities and planning with such agencies as the State of Kansas to ensure that all necessary data is collected and shared.

Utah - Utilization of existing infrastructure - Discussion was had by the Task Force to consider leveraging existing infrastructure such as roadways and utility assets to get to the remote parts of the state.

An example of polygon maps from the State of Kansas can be viewed at the following link:
Customer equipment – the access to service may be available but the end user is limiting the full capability of their service subscription (Ex: modem, device specifications and limitations, hardwire vs Wifi, browser selection, # of devices, firewall and malware configuration, etc.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Work to leverage existing infrastructure such as roadways and utility assets to get to unserved communities in the state, and develop policy and process to better coordinate activities and planning with such agencies and organizations.

2. Utilize the new FCC Digital Opportunity Data Collection when available for more accurate and detailed broadband availability mapping for all fixed broadband providers. The new data will provide the granularity and consumer input/validation that are key shortcomings today. Ensure the Idaho Broadband Office is ready to use the new information when it becomes available.

3. Continue working with Idaho fixed providers to see if they are able to provide polygon maps according to the FCC requirements in a one-time effort in advance of USAC’s Public Notice.

4. Until the new FCC mapping information is available – expected sometime mid-year 2020 – the FCC Form 477 is the best data source and provides directionally correct information.

5. Work to leverage existing infrastructure such as roadways and utility assets to get to unserved communities in the state, and develop policy and process to better coordinate activities and planning with such agencies and organizations.

EXPENSIVE OPTION FOR DISAPPOINTING SERVICE

- Services offered vs purchased – Services may be available to areas but at a rate that is not feasible for the user at the service level they desire. Thus, the end user may purchase the less expensive option for disappointing service.
Today's fastest speed tests provide all the speed you need for all your devices, but exceed

- Run multiple speed tests on connected devices and open apps
- Decrease the speed test for each individual device
- Turn off the Wi-Fi and turn on 4G
- Use the speed test hex code

Speed Test Best Practices:
- Keep a few key steps in mind to get the best results
- Speed tests can be influenced by a number of variables,
Goal 6: State Broadband Office

Committee Report

Idaho Broadband Task Force

Committee Members:
CHAIR: Tara Thue, AT&T
VICE CHAIR: Jessica Epley, Frontier
STEVE DELBIANCO, Net Choice
CHRISSY GOODMAN, Idaho Education Technology Association
WILLI HARR, Idaho Coop Utility Association
STEVE DELEON, Charter
STEVE DELBIANCO, Net Choice
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WILLI HARR, Idaho Coop Utility Association
STEVE DELEON, Charter
STEVE DELBIANCO, Net Choice

STAFF: Jake Reynolds, Dept. of Commerce
Marlan Jackson, Charter
WILLI HARR, Idaho Coop Utility Association
CHRISSY GOODMAN, Idaho Education Technology Association
STEVE DELBIANCO, Net Choice

Create the Idaho Broadband Office within the Idaho Department of Commerce, staffed by one full-time employee.

TOPLINE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Create the Idaho Broadband Office within the Idaho Department of Commerce, staffed by one full-time employee.

RECOMMENDED BROADBAND OFFICE RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Make recommendations to the governor and Legislature regarding policies and initiatives that promote the development of broadband-related infrastructure in the state.
2. Support and coordinate efforts of the Idaho Broadband Taskforce or other groups to serve as state repository for broadband mapping information.
3. Research community broadband adoption barriers, including identifying technologies and applications.
4. Support local and regional broadband planning including both intra-state and inter-state projects.
5. Provide publicly accessible resources on communications technologies available within the state.
6. To serve as the state's subject matter expert on communications infrastructure construction, and collaboration.
7. Encourage and promote the development of broadband-related infrastructure in business and other community leaders, to facilitate communications deployment, including but not limited to local, state, federal, and tribal government officials, and local entities representing a wide variety of interests.
8. Promote private sector, public sector, and cooperative broadband solutions that promote the development of broadband-related infrastructure in the state.
9. Serve as state repository for broadband mapping information.
10. Produce an annual report and present findings to the Legislature, Governor, and stakeholders about the state of broadband in Idaho and the annual accomplishments of the Broadband Office to meet its responsibilities.
11. Support and coordinate efforts of the Idaho Broadband Taskforce or other groups.
12. TOPLINE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
The Idaho Broadband Task Force, established by Governor Brad Little by Executive Order No. 2019-07, has been charged with advising the Governor on “policies and actions the state should take to dramatically improve the state in connectivity and service levels.”

As part of the work of this Task Force, our committee was tasked with examining and making recommendations according to the following goal, identified by Task Force staff:

**Goal: State Broadband Office – Importance and Criteria**

- Maximize Federal funding “point system” and “compliant evaluation criteria”
- Reduce & expedite impediments for right of way, permitting, ITD “Dig Once,” etc.
- Identify Idaho critical communities and facilities identified in goals above
- Implement & expedite improvements for right of way, permitting, ITD “Dig Once,” etc.
- Inform and educate

Our committee met several times over the approximately 45 days we were given to produce recommendations that study move forward with creating an office to manage broadband-related issues. The discussion quickly turned to how to staff this office and where the office should be located. Below is a summary of many of the questions discussed before we ultimately settled on our recommendation.

**DISCUSSION ON RECOMMENDATION**

Our committee met several times over the approximately 45 days we were given to produce recommendations that study move forward with creating an office to manage broadband-related issues. The discussion quickly turned to how to staff this office and where the office should be located. Below is a summary of many of the questions discussed before we ultimately settled on our recommendation.

- What is the appropriate staffing level, considering our recommended responsibilities?
- Where does this office belong?
- Could this role be filled by an existing office or agency?
- Should this office be filled by an existing office or agency?
- What is the appropriate staffing level, considering our recommended responsibilities?

According to the following goal, identified by Task Force staff:

- Formulate specific recommendations related to several pertinent issues related to broadband planning and deployment.
- Our committee was tasked with examining and making recommendations.
- Formulate specific recommendations related to several pertinent issues related to broadband planning and deployment.
- The Idaho Broadband Task Force, established by Governor Brad Little by Executive Order No. 2019-07, has been charged with advising the Governor on “policies and actions the state should take to dramatically improve the state in connectivity and service levels.”

BACKGROUND
Could this work be handled by a non-government or non-profit entity?

• Could this work be handled by an outside contractor?

• Could this role be based in the Governor’s Office of Information Technology?

• Could this role be based in the Idaho Department of Transportation?

ANALYSIS OF OTHER WESTERN STATES

Looking to other states who have similar positions established in the West and past Idaho efforts to create this office, our committee evaluated several state legislation:

• Idaho legislation (2015—not passed) creating an office, but also dealing with other issues deemed by our committee to be outside of the scope of our recommendations:

  - Idaho legislation (2015—not passed) creating the Oregon Broadband Office, setting Broadband Goals, and creating a Grant Program. There were many items for consideration that should be undertaken by this new office, specifically, we focused our research and consideration on the creation of this position, our committee evaluated several roles and responsibilities that should be included in the new office, but not in the legislation:

  - Oregon legislation (passed in 2019) creating the Oregon Broadband Office, setting Broadband Goals, and creating a Grant Program. There were many items for consideration that should be undertaken by this new office, specifically, we focused our research and consideration on the creation of this position, our committee evaluated several roles and responsibilities that should be included in the new office, but not in the legislation:

  - Utah legislation (passed in 2015) creating the Utah Broadband Outreach Center with coordination, outreach and mapping responsibilities.

  - Washington legislation (passed in 2019) creating the Washington Broadband Office, setting Broadband Goals, and creating a Grant Program. There were many items for consideration here, including recommended roles and responsibilities, some of which were outside of the scope of our recommendations:

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  - Idaho legislation (2015—not passed) creating an office, but also dealing with other issues deemed by our committee to be outside of the scope of our recommendations:

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  - Oregon legislation (passed in 2019) creating the Oregon Broadband Office, setting Broadband Goals, and creating a Grant Program. There were many items for consideration that should be undertaken by this new office, specifically, we focused our research and consideration on the creation of this position, our committee evaluated several roles and responsibilities that should be included in the new office, but not in the legislation:
When applying for Federal funding, points are awarded if the state’s broadband plan is in place and the most recent version of the plan is updated. For example, when applying for Federal funding, a state that has a current broadband plan and a state that has an updated plan are rewarded differently. An updated plan allows for the receipt of additional points and eligibility for federal grants.

**Recommendations:**

- Develop a current broadband plan in place.
- Maintain and update the broadband plan regularly.
- Ensure the plan aligns with federal funding criteria.
- Provide evidence from the Governor’s Office to support the plan.
Without the existence of a Broadband Office, there are missed opportunities to leverage and/or economize construction by companies when state-initiated road projects have open trenches and/or conduit available.

Through the economies of a “dig-once” best practice and provider notification, more providers could be made aware of these projects, and the cost to build into these unserved areas would be much more feasible. A State Broadband Office could assist with this communication.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR FUTURE PLANNING

While the committee did not reach a consensus on the following as recommendations, we all agreed that these could be important future considerations. If there were considerable resources allocated to that expense, we could be able to

• Expand the responsibilities of the Idaho Broadband Office in the future.

If you live in an area with little to no broadband service, where do you call or where do you go for assistance? Without a State Broadband Office, it is difficult for the rural Idaho resident to voice their concerns.

If you live in an area with little to no broadband service, where do you call or where do you go for assistance? Without a State Broadband Office, it is difficult for the rural Idaho resident to voice their concerns. By capturing these constituent concerns, the State Broadband Office could be able to

Current providers often run into roadblocks when dealing with the Idaho Department of Transportation and local City and County officials in order to get timely permitting for projects. Establishing a centralized State Broadband Office will allow for better collaboration on individual projects, as well as improving policies and processes to become more efficient for all providers.

a. State Broadband Office could incorporate planning resources from the Idaho Department of Transportation and local government to create notification of publicly available data to

The Office could consider creating a statewide database/website for a state construction registry that could

b. State Broadband Office could assist in educating and communicating an accurate picture of broadband coverage in Idaho. Without the existence of a Broadband Office, there are missed opportunities to leverage and/or economize construction by companies when state-initiated road projects have open trenches and/or conduit available.

Without the existence of a Broadband Office, there are missed opportunities to leverage and/or economize construction by companies when state-initiated road projects have open trenches and/or conduit available.

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trenches associated with road construction projects. This effort could also incorporate consumer feedback related to demands for broadband service in some way.

- The Office could consider creating a voluntary fiber and conduit exchange database/website.
- The Office could take a more direct role in assisting providers to ease requirements and bureaucratic hurdles to use State Lands for communications towers and fiber backhaul.
- The Office may consider hiring additional employees as expanded responsibilities dictate the need for an increased staffing in the future.

COORDINATION WITH OTHER STATE ENTITIES

As mentioned earlier in this report, our committee discussed, at length, the possibility of this new broadband office being based in the Idaho Military Division. In meeting with the representatives of that office, we learned that many of the same stakeholders involved in the Broadband Task Force are also involved with the IPSCC. It was our committee’s conclusion that while there may be some overlap in stakeholders and subject matter, basing this office within the IPSCC could skew the focus of the Broadband Office heavily toward public safety. Likewise, if the Office were based in Education, the focus of the Broadband Office would be based in education, and the Office would be focused on education and subject matter. Basing this office within the IPSCC could skew the focus of the Broadband Office heavily toward public safety.

It is important, however, to recognize that this Office should work closely with other state entities that share stakeholders or subject matter. While recognizing distinct duties and responsibilities of different entities, the Office can ensure a more efficient and effective outcome for all stakeholders involved.

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<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Director Kealey &amp; Group</td>
<td>9:00am – 9:15am Goals and Objectives of the Task Force - Welcome and</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:15am</td>
<td>Director Kealey &amp; Group</td>
<td>9:15am – 9:50am Introductions to Task Force</td>
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<td>9:50am</td>
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<td>9:50am – 10:00am Break</td>
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<td>10:00am</td>
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<td>10:00am – 11:00am Overview of Broadband Technologies - Moderator: Dean Gordon Jones – Boise State University</td>
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<td>11:00am</td>
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<td>11:00am – 11:30am Preliminary Service Maps and Resources at Idaho - Moderator: Professor Jaap Vos – University of Idaho</td>
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<td>11:30am</td>
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<td>11:30am – 12:00pm What Have Other Cities, Counties, and Tribes Done for Broadband - Moderator: Jake Reynolds, Rylon Hofacer, Michael Mattmiller</td>
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<td>12:00pm – 1:00pm Lunch</td>
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<td>1:00pm – 2:00pm Experiences &amp; Discussion Panel - Moderator: Professor Jaap Vos – University of Idaho</td>
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<td>2:00pm – 2:45pm What Have Other States Done for Broadband - Moderator: Dean Gordon Jones – Boise State University</td>
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<td>2:45pm – 3:00pm Review next Task Force Meeting - Follow up and General Questions</td>
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<td>10:00am</td>
<td>Review of Goals and Objectives - Housekeeping</td>
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<td>10:15am</td>
<td>Idaho Cities Overview</td>
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<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Citizen Perspectives</td>
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<td>Lunch – Demonstration of &quot;Plum Case&quot;</td>
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<td>Idaho State Programs</td>
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<td>Transmission and Right of Way Options/Permitting</td>
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<td>Idaho Cities</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>Consumer Owned Electricity, PUC, Arista, IDP, PUC, Rocky Mountain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:45pm</td>
<td>鉄道, INL, IEP, Management Hospitals, First Interstate Public Utilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:15pm</td>
<td>Mapping Update/Outside Service Providers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30pm</td>
<td>Adjourn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Agenda**

- Review of Meeting #3 Agenda
- Discussion of Preliminary Recommendations

**Lead**

- Director Kealey
- Cable One

**Website**

[https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1888190618959886849]

**Call In Details**


**July 17, 2019**

1375 Blue Lakes Blvd N, Twin Falls, ID 83301
Red Lion Hotel - Forest Ballroom
Meeting 2 - Twin Falls, Idaho

Broadband Task Force Meeting
**Broadband Task Force Meeting 3**

**The Coeur d'Alene Resort**

**115 S 2nd St, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814**

**August 28th, 2019**

**Call in Details:**

(562) 247-8321

Access Code: 332-584-935

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:30am-9:40am</td>
<td>Review of Goals and Objectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:40am-10:00am</td>
<td>Goal 7: Broadband Mapping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00am-10:20am</td>
<td>Goal 1: Urban Idaho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:20am-10:40am</td>
<td>Goal 2: Rural Idaho (B)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:40am-10:50am</td>
<td>Goal 11: Rural Idaho (A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00am-11:10am</td>
<td>Goal 6: State Broadband Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:10am-11:30am</td>
<td>Goal 3: Urban Idaho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30am-11:50am</td>
<td>Goal 5: Broadband Mapping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:50am-12:10am</td>
<td>Goal 4: INL Research and Universities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:10pm-1:15pm</td>
<td>Working Lunch: Breakout Session with Different Requests &amp; Teams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:15pm-1:45pm</td>
<td>USDA and Federal Funding Opportunities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:45pm-2:00pm</td>
<td>Satellite Technology Overview – RSki Inc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00pm-2:15pm</td>
<td>USDA OA A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:15pm-2:45pm</td>
<td>Joe Bradley - USDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:45pm-3:05pm</td>
<td>Joe Bradley - USDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:05pm-3:20pm</td>
<td>Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:20pm-3:45pm</td>
<td>Joe Bradley - USDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:45pm-4:00pm</td>
<td>Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00pm-4:15pm</td>
<td>Joe Bradley - USDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:15pm-4:45pm</td>
<td>Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:45pm-5:00pm</td>
<td>Joe Bradley - USDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00pm-5:15pm</td>
<td>Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:15pm-5:30pm</td>
<td>Joe Bradley - USDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30pm-5:45pm</td>
<td>Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:45pm-6:00pm</td>
<td>Joe Bradley - USDA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00pm-6:15pm</td>
<td>Break</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Follow up Assignments/Adjourn: 3:15pm-3:30pm
# Broadband Task Force Meeting 4

**Location:** JR Williams Building, East Conference Room | First Floor
700 W. State St., Boise, ID 83702

**Date:** September 25th, 2019

**Call and web meeting details:**
- Dial: +1 (224) 501-3412
- Access Code: 814-707-197
- [https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/814707197](https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/814707197)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Lead</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:00 am – 12 noon</td>
<td>Welcome and Housekeeping</td>
<td>Director Kealey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 noon – 12:30 pm</td>
<td>Refreshments Served (Task Force Members Only)</td>
<td>Director Kealey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 pm – 1:15 pm</td>
<td>Overview of Preliminary Recommendations</td>
<td>Director Kealey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:15 pm – 2:00 pm</td>
<td>Questions, Discussion, and Next Steps</td>
<td>Director Kealey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 pm – 2:00 pm</td>
<td>Adjourn</td>
<td>Director Kealey</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Lead:**
- Director Kealey
Telecommunications Programs

- Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan Program
- Rural Broadband Access Loan Program
- ReConnect Program
- Community Connect Grant
- Distance Learning and/or Telemedicine Grant

* Changes are occurring in all programs and appropriations have not been finalized nor are there application materials available.
Since FY2010, RUS has invested approximately $6.4 Billion in projects serving rural residents in the United States:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Projects Approved</th>
<th>Funds Awarded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Telecommunications Infrastructure Program</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>$2.9 Billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Bill Broadband Program</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>$225.6 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program</td>
<td>807</td>
<td>$249.7 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Connect Grant Program</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>$144.9 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broadband Initiatives Program</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>$2.9 Billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,339</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6.4 Billion</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Who Can Apply?

- States, local governments, or any agency, subdivision, instrumentality, or political subdivision thereof
- A territory or possession of the United States
- An Indian tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act)
- Non-profit entities
- For-profit corporations
- Limited liability companies
- Cooperative or mutual organizations
## Telecommunications Infrastructure Program – ILEC’s

### Available Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Available Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY2017</td>
<td>$690 million available in FY2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2018</td>
<td>$690 million available in FY2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2019</td>
<td>$690 million available in FY2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Loans finance new &amp; improved telecommunications infrastructure, primarily for the benefit of rural populations of 5,000 or less</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Program Updates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Updates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY2017</td>
<td>21 loans approved: $427.4 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2018</td>
<td>13 loans approved: $161.9 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>States (x11): NV, SD, VA, IA x 3, MN, WI, SD, MO, AZ, NM, KY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2019</td>
<td>8 loans approved: $135.0 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>States (x7): KY, IL x 2, TN, NM, SC, WI, IN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9 loans in process: $119.8 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Applications are accepted year round</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RD Apply online application system</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Available Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Appropriations/Loans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY2017</td>
<td>$27 million appropriated in FY2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2018</td>
<td>$29.9 million available in FY2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2019</td>
<td>$29.9 million available in FY2019 *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* Additional Carry over funding is available from previous fiscal years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Program Updates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Updates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY2017</td>
<td>2 loans approved: $24.0 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2018</td>
<td>1 loan approved: $19.9 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2019</td>
<td>1 loan approved: $17.7 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 loans in process: $48.6 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>There will be program changes in FY2020, see next slides... TBD</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>No applications can be accepted until changes are complete there is an application guide and appropriations final.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Farm Bill Highlights – TBD as to final appropriations and funding criteria.**

- **Section 6201: Access to broadband service in rural areas** – Expands the funding authorities to include grants, loans, loan guarantees and payment assistance; modifies some of the program priority and eligibility requirements; and increases the potential funding level for the program
  - Adds Grant Funding and Payment Assistance
  - Requires Guarantee Program
  - Modifies Required “unserved” HH percentage from 15% to 50% for loans and 90% for grants
  - Establishes New Priorities
  - Increases Authorized Funding Level from $25 million to $350 million
  - Establishes new “broadband buildout” standards associated with the life of the loan
  - Requires additional communication and coordination with NTIA and FCC

- **Section 6202: Expansion of Middle Mile Infrastructure** – authorizes the agency to provide funding for stand alone middle mile projects
Farm Bill Highlights Continued

- **Section 6203: Innovative Broadband Advancement Program** – Authorizes the development of a new program to provide grants and loans to eligible entities demonstrating innovative broadband technologies or methods (Replaced the Gigabit Grant Program)

- **Section 6204: Community Connect Grant Program** – Codifies the Community Connect Program

- **Sections 6209 and 6211: Use of Loan Proceeds for Refinancing** – Removes the 40% cap that was in place on the amount of project funding that can be used for refinancing and expands the agency’s authority for the types of loans which can be refinanced

- **Section 6214: Rural broadband integration working group** – Establishes a rural broadband working group across Federal agencies to identify, assess, and determine possible actions relating to barriers and opportunities for broadband deployment in rural areas
Farm Bill Highlight Continued

**Section 6207: Public Notice, Assessments and Reporting Requirements**
- Expands the Searchable Database and Public Notice Filing/Existing Service Provider Response Process for “Retail Broadband” projects provided assistance through a loan, grant or loan guarantee program administered by the USDA
  - For Telecom, this expands this process across the Community Connect and the Infrastructure Loan Program
  - Public Notice Filing – PNF and Public Notice Response - PNR not required when the project is within an area where the entity receives FCC federal universal support
- Requires USDA to confer with NTIA and the FCC when determining the areas that are “unserved
- Requires awardees of funding for “Retail Broadband” projects to submit an annual report for 3 years after completion of the project regarding the use of the assistance and progress towards fulfilling the objectives for which the funding was provided
Modified Loan Terms for Serving a Substantially Underserved Trust Area (SUTA) include:

- At the discretion of Administrator, RUS can modify certain loan terms or application requirements, which may include:
  - Interest rates as low as 2%, extended amortization period, and/or priority processing
  - Loan interest rates as low as 2 percent;
  - Waiver of certain documentation requirements regarding non-duplication of service;
  - Waiver of matching funds or credit support requirements for loans;
  - Extension of the time period in which loans are repaid; and
  - Providing the highest priority for funding to eligible projects that will serve trust areas.

- *** Please see final and individual program regulations for details and specifics.***
2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act

ReConnect Program
Pilot program that provides loans and grants to extend broadband service to rural areas.

$600 million in funding
Assist rural areas that do not have sufficient access (10/1) to broadband
Minimum requirements: 25Mbps down/3Mbps up

Additional $550 million added in FY 2019
Application Intake System Available: April, 23, 2019

**Buildout Speed**
- 25/3 Mbps minimum
- Max award: $50 million
- 2% Interest Rate
- Open (non-competitive)
- $200 million

**Application Review**
- July 12, 2019

**Application Deadlines**
- Round 1 Federal Funds
- July 12, 2019
- June 21, 2019
- May 31, 2019

**Terms**
- Buildout Speed
- Application Review
- Application Deadlines

**LOAN**
- 25/3 Mbps minimum
- Max award: $50 million
- 2% Interest Rate
- Open (non-competitive)
- $200 million

**COMBO**
- 25/3 Mbps minimum, incentive for higher speeds
- Max award: $50 million
- 50/50 Loan/Grant UST Rate
- Competitive Scoring
- $100 million grant + $100 million loan

**GRANT**
- 25/3 Mbps minimum, incentive for higher speeds
- Max award: $25 million
- 25% match
- Competitive Scoring
- $200 million
ReConnect Application FY-2018 – 600 Million

• All program applications for each funding type: Grant, Grant/Loans and Loans are currently being:
  • Evaluated for technical and financial requirements.
  • Competitively scored
  • Reviewed against other requirements as listed in the regulations
  • Field validation of service areas
  • **TBD** as to final competitive determinations and any awards date.

* **FY2019** funding (550 million) will have some changes as to application and qualifying criteria **TBD**....
ReConnect Application Eligibility Factors – FY-2018

- Unqualified Audited Financial Statement
- Fully Complete Application
- Timely Buildout Completion
- Financial Feasibility and Sustainability
- Technical Feasibility
- Service Areas Identified
- Scoring Elements
- Fully Funded

* FY2019 funds will have some changes TBD.....
ReConnect Applications **FY-2018**

- Received 78 applications requesting more than **$522 million** in **grant only** funding (200 million available) in the first round, closed May 31\(^{st}\).

- Received 53 applications requesting **$635 million** in **loan-grant** combination funding (200 million available) in the first round, closed June 21.

- Received 15 applications requesting more than **$258 million** in **loan only** funding (200 million available) in the first round, closed July 12\(^{th}\).
Telecommunications Grant Programs

- Community Connect Grants
- Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grants
## Community Connect Program

### Available Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Available Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY2017</td>
<td>$34.5 million available in FY2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2018</td>
<td>$30.0 million available in FY2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2019</td>
<td>$33.0 million available in FY2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Carryover funding is sometimes available from previous fiscal years

### General provisions as of the latest FOA:
- Grant funds for Broadband Service deployment
- Population of 20,000 or less
- Amounts from $100,000 to $3 million
- Service Area must be entirely unserved
- Minimum Broadband Service is defined as 10 Mbps (download) and 1 Mbps (upload)
- Minimum Broadband Grant Speed is defined as 25 Mbps (download) and 3 Mbps (upload)
- 15% Matching Requirement
- Opens for a short period of time, typically during the 1st calendar quarter for 45-60 days.

### Program Updates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Updates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY2017</td>
<td>48 Applications processed: $90.8 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16 grants approved: $35.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>States (x11): AL, GA*, ID, ME, MN, NC, OK, TN, VA, WA, WY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2018</td>
<td>124 Applications processed: $225.6 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14 grants approved: $30.0 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>States (x9): KY*, MN, NC, ND, OK, NC, TN, VA*, UT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* HQ State, but grant benefited additional state(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2019</td>
<td>62 Applications in-process*: $100.1 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>* Applications received by April 15, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TBD grants approved: $TBD million, still processing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Program regulations will change in 2020, TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Applications received by April 15, 2019
## Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Program

### Available Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY2018</th>
<th>FY2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$29.0 million available in FY2018</td>
<td>$37.9 million available for Traditional DLT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$20.0 million additional available in FY2018 in rural areas to help address the opioid epidemic in rural America</td>
<td>$26.1 million available for Opioid DLT FY2019 in rural areas to help address the opioid epidemic in rural America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants fund equipment needed to provide Distance Learning and Telemedicine services</td>
<td>Grants fund equipment needed to provide Distance Learning and Telemedicine services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15% Matching Requirement</td>
<td>15% Matching Requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Grant amount: $50,000</td>
<td>Minimum Grant amount: $50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum Grant Amount: $500,000</td>
<td>Maximum Grant Amount: $500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only grants are available-no loans or combo loan/grants</td>
<td>Only grants are available-no loans or combo loan/grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broadband transmission facilities will be considered eligible for grant funding as they are an integral part of providing distance learning and telemedicine services. See guide for details.</td>
<td>Broadband transmission facilities will be considered eligible for grant funding as they are an integral part of providing distance learning and telemedicine services. See guide for details.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Program Updates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY2018</th>
<th>FY2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>225 applications received for $68.4 million</td>
<td>Opioid DLT FY2019 – 15 Submissions received - April 15, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>132 applications approved for $40.8 million:</td>
<td>12 grants approved for $2.75 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DL  TM  Overall</td>
<td>States (x10): AL, CA, LA, MI x 2, MT, NV, OH x 2, PA, UT, VT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67 awards  65 Awards  132 awards</td>
<td>Traditional DLT FY2019 – Submissions received - May 15, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32 States  39 states  45 states &amp; Territories represented</td>
<td>166 Applications received &amp; being processed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$22.7 million  $18.1 million  $40.8 million</td>
<td>Opens for a short period of time, typically during the 1st calendar quarter for 45-60 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEM &amp; Opioid Special Consideration Point Projects</td>
<td>Tot: $40.8 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63 Opioid  51 STEM  18 None  132 awards</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recommendations and Suggestions (as allowed per program):

- Review existing material knowing that there will be changes but, it will speed up your understanding of the new program when it is available.
- Identify possible consortium members and understand each others strengths, weaknesses and organizational goals to insure that all elements required in the application are addressed clearly and fully.
- Identify financial support and cost sharing early for; application development, construction, maintenance and any match required from parties such as from; State funds, foundations, internal general funds etc.....
- For any consortium, a clear and legal agreement of the rolls and responsibility’s of all, that also designates a fiscal agent, which must be be defined and be unequivocal.
Recommendations and Suggestions (as allowed per program):

• Contact the Field Representative early and often. We can’t review your specific competitive application but, you can ask clarifying questions on content and common mistakes to avoid.

• Loan applications can/should/must be reviewed by the Field Representative prior to submitting them to insure completeness as well as to include ancillary material.

• Develop an internal review team that double checks application material for completeness and that the application material is consistent across all sections.

• Sign up for notifications and program announcements at:
  • [https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDARD/subscriber/new](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDARD/subscriber/new)
Questions?
December 2, 2019

Secretary Sonny Perdue
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue,

The State of Idaho is committed to improving broadband connectivity and infrastructure in communities throughout Idaho that are unserved or underserved. Providing sufficient connectivity for all Idahoans is a priority for me, and it is necessary for the growth of our state and the benefit of our citizens.

In 2017, the Idaho Rural Partnership Committee was responsible for the state’s "Broadband Model." After I took office as Idaho’s Governor earlier this year, I issued an executive order directing the Idaho Department of Commerce to form a task force and update our state’s Broadband Plan. Over the past six months, the task force has provided recommendations on a path forward and developed an updated Idaho Broadband Plan. I have reviewed the task force’s recommendations and approved our plan, which can be viewed at commerce.idaho.gov/broadbandplan.

In accordance with the evaluation criteria for USDA Reconnect Funds, my office confirms the following:

• Idaho has adopted and updated its Broadband Plan as of November 22, 2019
• The State of Idaho does not restrict any utilities from providing broadband service
• All Idaho agencies under the purview of my office, specifically the Idaho Transportation Department, have adopted and updated the Idaho Department of Transportation’s broadband plan

I respectfully ask that you please confirm that Idaho receives maximum points when the USDA evaluates broadband projects in our state. If you have any questions regarding broadband in Idaho, please reach out to the Idaho Department of Commerce Director, Tom Kealey. He can be reached at 208-334-2470 and tom.kealey@commerce.idaho.gov.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brad Little
Governor of Idaho

Cc: Layne Bangerter, State Director, USDA
Chad Parker, Assistant Administrator, USDA
Chad Pfeiffer, Assistance Administrator, USDA

December 2, 2019