

# Idaho Broadband Advisory Board Meeting

October 11, 2022 | 12:30pm – 2:00pm  
JRW Building (Hall of Mirrors)  
1st floor West Conference Room

**Chairman,  
Representative  
John Vander  
Woude**  
Ada County

**Vice-Chairman,  
Senator Carl  
Crabtree**  
Bonner, Clearwater,  
Idaho, and  
Shoshone Counties

**Representative  
Megan Blanksma**  
Elmore, Owyhee,  
and Twin Falls  
Counties

**Representative  
Barbara Ehardt**  
Bonneville County

**Senator David  
Nelson**  
Benewah & Latah  
Counties

**Senator Doug  
Ricks**  
Bonneville and  
Madison Counties

**Andrew Emerson**  
MH Solutions

**Mitch Watkins**  
Watkins Distributing

**Margie Watson**  
JC Watson &  
Company

Time	Topic	Lead	Notes
12:30 pm	Call to Order Roll Call	Chairman Vander Woude	
12:35pm	Approval of 7.13.22 Meeting Minutes	Idaho Broadband Advisory Board	Action Item
12:40pm	Introduce State's new Broadband Program Manger	Administrator Jake Reynolds, Commerce	
12:45 pm	Update on Capital Projects & BEAD funding timelines	R. Hobdey-Sánchez, Commerce	
12:55 pm	Update on Broadband RFPs	Ewa Szewczyk, Commerce	
1:05pm	Discussion on Call for Projects & Planning Grants in Advance of '23 Legislative Session	Chairman Vander Woude & Vice-chairman Crabtree	Action Item
1:50pm	NTIA/Commerce/Locals Broadband Summit	R. Hobdey-Sánchez, Commerce	
1:55pm	Next IBAB Meeting Dates	Chairman Vander Woude & Vice-chairman Crabtree	Action Item
2:00pm	Adjournment	Idaho Broadband Advisory Board	

**Virtual Option:** [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Or by phone:

Call in #: 1.253.215.8782

Meeting ID: 819 8559 1033



## **Capital Projects (CPF) Timeline**

**December 2021:** State of Idaho informs US Treasury that we will accept the \$125 million award.

**January 2022:** State of Idaho informs US Treasury the administrative dollars needed to plan for deployment for CPF.

**March 2022:** Idaho Legislature does not approve spending authority for CPF dollars for Idaho Commerce. The Department will ask for additional spending authority during the 2023 legislative session.

**September 24, 2022:** DFM submits final grant and program plan to US Treasury.

**September 2022:** Idaho Commerce requests, and is approved by DFM, that CPF dollars be requested as a supplemental during the 2023 legislative session, allowing for expenditures of the monies as early as February 2023, pending JFAC and legislative approval.

**Fall 2022 (Tentative):** Idaho Commerce receives approval from US Treasury for \$125 million of CPF funds.

**Spring 2023:** Idaho Commerce receives supplemental budget approval for CPF funds from JFAC, Idaho Legislature and the Governor.

**Steps needed to implement CPF grant program by IBAB and Idaho Commerce pending US Treasury final approval, as well as JFAC, Idaho Legislature and Governor final approval of funds in Commerce's budget:**

- i. IBAB and Commerce develop grant guidelines. Guidelines opened for public comment.
- ii. IBAB approved grant guidelines for Commerce are released.
- iii. Grant is open in the Commerce portal for applications.
- iv. Grant window closes, and challenge period opens.
- v. Challenge period closes, Grant Committee comprised of multiple agencies and the Idaho Department of Commerce as directed by the IBAB starts initial review of applications.
- vi. Presentation from Grant Committee to the IBAB for broadband awards.
- vii. Award Notices and get contracts signed.
- viii. Period of implementation, performance and continued reporting for projects. All funds must be expended by December 31, 2026.



## IIJA Broadband (BEAD Program) Timeline

**May 13, 2022:** Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) released from NTIA detailing program requirements, timelines, and deliverables. This includes what is needed for the Five-Year Action Plan.

**July 18, 2022:** Deadline for states to submit Letter of Intent (LOI) to NTIA. LOI was submitted by DFM in early July.

**August 15, 2022:** Deadline for states to request initial planning funds. States may request up to \$5 million for initial planning purposes. Request for initial planning funds was submitted in early August and revisions were finalized in early September.

**September 27, 2022:** RFP for broadband mapping is released with a close date of 11/2/22.

**September 29, 2022:** Idaho Commerce received approval for \$4,376,087.09 of initial planning funds for the BEAD program. This also started the 270 day “shot clock” for submission of the Five-Year Action Plan to NTIA.

**October-November 2022:** Idaho Commerce works with DOP to get an RFP out for the Five-Year Action Plan.

**November-December 2022:** Draft FCC Broadband Location Map is released, notifying states of remaining unserved locations (homes/businesses) as well as determining percentage of \$42 billion that will be allocated to Idaho.

**January-February 2023:** Idaho will likely submit formal challenges to the FCC Map. Once the challenge process is complete, states will know full award allocation from the BEAD program.

**February-March 2023:** State allotment of funds released after challenge period for mapping is approved.

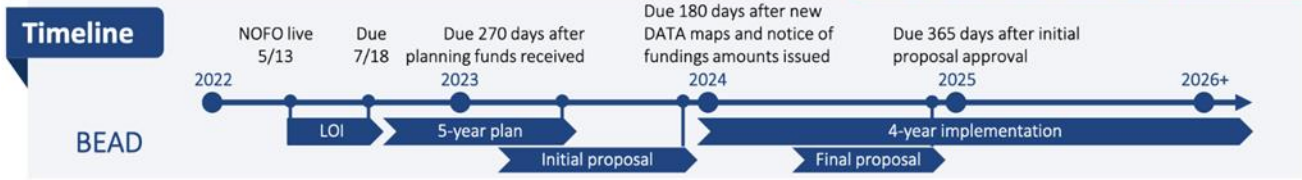
**May 2023:** Five-Year Action Plans are due after 270 day “shot clock” from receipt of initial planning funds.

**Summer-Fall 2023:** Idaho will submit an initial proposal/plan to NTIA for grant funding within 180 days of being informed of state’s available BEAD award (which is expected in February-March 2023). This plan must be approved by NTIA. If approved, 20% of total funds are released.

**Summer-Fall 2024:** Within 1-year of initial plan approval, Idaho must submit a final proposed plan to NTIA. Once that plan is approved, the remaining 80% of BEAD funds will be released.



Timeline approximate unless exact date specified



Program Sequencing	Key Dates
NOFO Release/Application Intake Opening	May 13, 2022
Letter of Intent Due	July 18, 2022, by 11:59 p.m. EDT
Request for Initial Planning Funds Due	August 15, 2022, by 11:59 p.m. EDT
Five-Year Action Plan	Within 270 days of receipt of Initial Planning Funds
Program Fund Allocation and Notice of Available Amounts	On or after the date on which the FCC Broadband DATA Maps are made public
Initial Proposal	180 days to submit after issuance of their Notice of Available Amounts
State Challenge Process	Challenge: Begin after submission of Initial Proposal and before allocating BEAD funds Final Classification: After resolving each challenge and at least 60 days before allocating grant funds for network deployment
20 Percent Funding Release	Assistant Secretary shall make available to the Eligible Entity 20% of the grant funds
Final Proposal and Release of Remaining Funds	No later than twelve (12) months after the date upon which the Assistant Secretary approves the Eligible Entity's Initial Proposal

# Idaho Broadband Advisory Board: Request for Proposals for Broadband Projects & Planning Grants

## A. DESCRIPTION

The Idaho Broadband Advisory Board is committed to improving access to broadband infrastructure for Idahoans, and recognizes that affordable, accessible, and reliable high-speed broadband is one of the most critical infrastructure challenges facing its citizens. To address this digital divide, the Board is requesting proposals from entities for broadband projects in Idaho, including middle mile, last mile, and planning grant proposals for unserved and underserved locations.

## B. DEFINITIONS

- a. **Mbps.** Mbps is the abbreviation for megabytes per second, a data transfer rate generally used when referring to upload and download speeds for broadband service.
- b. **Middle Mile Infrastructure.** Middle Mile Infrastructure links a broadband service provider's core network infrastructure to last-mile infrastructure.
- c. **Last Mile Infrastructure.** Last Mile Infrastructure serves as the final leg connecting the broadband service provider's network to the end-user's on-premises telecommunications equipment.
- d. **Planning Grant Proposal.** Planning grant proposals are requests from eligible entities to request planning funds to be approved by the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board for broadband planning purposes.
- e. **Underserved Locations.** Underserved locations are locations without access to reliable broadband service of 100/20 Mbps.
- f. **Unserved Locations.** Unserved locations are locations without access to reliable broadband service of 25/3 Mbps.
- g. **Broadband.** High-speed reliable Internet delivered via multiple technologies including fiber, fixed wireless, digital subscriber line (DSL), Hybrid Fiber Coaxial, cable modem, or low orbit satellite.
- h. **Broadband Infrastructure.** Networks of deployed telecommunications equipment, conduit, and technologies necessary to provide broadband and other advanced telecommunications services to wholesalers or end users, including but not limited to private homes, businesses, commercial establishments, schools, or public institutions.
- i. **BEAD Funding.** The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, established by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), appropriates \$42.45 billion for States, Territories, and the District of Columbia (DC) to utilize for broadband deployment, mapping, and adoption projects.
- j. **Capital Projects Funds.** The American Rescue Plan provides \$10 billion for payments to eligible governments to carry out critical capital projects that directly enable work, education, and health monitoring, including remote options, in response to the public health emergency.
- k. **State funds.** State of Idaho appropriated funds approved by the Legislature and Governor for broadband deployment.

### C. ELIGIBLE PROPOSALS

Proposals shall meet the following eligibility criteria:

- i. Expanding and extending middle mile or last mile infrastructure to connect unserved or underserved areas to the internet to improve access to telehealth, remote work, distance learning opportunities, or increasing public safety infrastructure, and or;
- ii. Planning proposals detailing how planning funds will be used for local planning purposes to improve access to telehealth, remote work, distance learning opportunities, or increasing public safety infrastructure.

Eligible costs in proposals include, but are not limited to:

- Construction and materials.
- New and rehabilitative construction contracts.
- Architect, engineering, and legal services
- Permitting fees.
- Validation of service expenses.
- Equipment related to broadband infrastructure.
- Installation of equipment related to broadband infrastructure.
- Administration costs not to exceed one percent (1%) of proposed funding
- Local broadband planning, including contractor costs.

Ineligible costs in proposals include, but are not limited to:

- Expenses related to providing broadband services.
- Ongoing overhead, operating costs, or staff costs.
- Political activities or lobbying.

### D. ELIGIBLE PROPOSAL CANDIDATES

Entities that are eligible to submit proposals are limited to broadband service providers that are incorporated businesses or partnerships, Idaho nonprofit organizations, limited liability companies, cooperative entities, Idaho local or tribal governments, and political subdivisions.

### E. TIMELINE

- i. Proposals may be submitted to the Idaho Office of Broadband immediately and ongoing thereafter. Proposals need to be submitted by December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, to be considered for review by the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board. Proposals may be submitted after December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, and will be reviewed on a monthly basis.
- ii. Idaho Commerce will collect and review all proposals submitted by the December 1<sup>st</sup> deadline by December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, in preparation to present all submitted proposals to the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board.
- iii. Anticipated date the Idaho Department of Commerce will present proposals to the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board is 12/20/2022.

## F. PROJECT PROPOSAL SCOPE

- a. Applicant's contact information:
  - i. Name
  - ii. Title/Position
  - iii. Mailing address
  - iv. Email address
  - v. Phone number
  
- b. Broadband project proposal outline and scope should include the following:
  - i. Description of the extent to which the project will facilitate deployment of high-speed broadband networks to areas that are currently either unserved, underserved, or both.
  - ii. Description of type(s) of technology to be used (i.e., fiber, fixed wireless, cable etc.).
  - iii. Number of unserved or underserved locations and/or households that will be served by the project and at which speeds the locations will be connected (i.e., 25/3 Mbps, 100/20 Mbps, or 100/100 Mbps).
  - iv. Project term for the proposal (anticipated time frame for project from start to finish in months).
  - v. Funding Request.
  - vi. Anticipated total project costs and financing sources.
  - vii. Project Ownership (i.e., private, public, public/private partnership, other).
  - viii. Proposed project costs (include budget overview and estimated costs).
  - ix. Explanation and demonstration of the applicant's financial ability to complete the project within the applicant's proposed budget.
  - x. Description of any proposed match. Match includes financial and in-kind contributions toward the project. In-kind contributions should be converted into monetary values for calculation.
  - xi. Description of whether (and if so, how) this project works in conjunction with the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board's Strategic Plan. This includes addressing distance learning, telehealth, public safety, economic development, business opportunities, and/or promotes dig once policies.

Broadband project proposals may be submitted with the acknowledgment that the submission in no way guarantees funding in the future. Idaho Broadband Advisory Board projects will be awarded pursuant to future grant guidelines and application criteria for Capital Project Funds, BEAD Funds, and/or State funding, and in correlation with the statewide broadband plan.

## G. PLANNING GRANT PROPOSAL SCOPE

- a. Applicant's contact information:
  - vi. Name
  - vii. Title/Position
  - viii. Mailing address
  - ix. Email address
  - x. Phone number
  
- b. Broadband planning grant proposal outline and scope should include the following:
  - i. Description of the extent to which the planning funds will be used to facilitate deployment of high-speed broadband networks to areas that are currently either unserved, underserved, or both.
  - ii. Description or name of contractors or third party vendors to be used to facilitate a planning study or strategic plan.
  - iii. Funding Request.
  - iv. Planning proposal costs (include budget overview with estimated costs).
  - v. Project term in which the planning grant would start and be completed.
  - vi. Explanation and demonstration of the applicant's financial ability to complete the planning process within the applicant's proposed budget.
  - vii. Description of any proposed match for the planning grant. Match includes financial and in-kind contributions toward the project. In-kind contributions should be converted into monetary values for calculation.
  - viii. Description of whether (and if so, how) this planning grant would help address broadband infrastructure in Idaho in conjunction with the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board's Strategic Plan or federal fund guidelines.
  - ix. Explain how the proposed planning grant would address priorities outlined in the Board's Idaho Broadband Strategic Plan. This includes addressing distance learning, telehealth, public safety, economic development, and business opportunities, promotes dig once policies.

Broadband planning proposals may be submitted with the acknowledgment that the submission in no way guarantees funding in the future. Idaho Broadband Advisory Board planning funds will be awarded pursuant to future grant guidelines and application criteria and in correlation with the statewide broadband plan.