

Idaho Broadband Advisory Board

Meeting Packet: 12.20.2022

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RFI proposals can be found [here](#).

Letters of Support:

[City of Boise/Ada County](#)

[IRON](#)

Idaho Broadband Advisory Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 20, 2022 | 1 p.m. – 2:30pm (or upon adjournment)

Idaho Capitol Building

Room WW53

This meeting will also be held virtually via Zoom

Register in advance [here](#).

Time	Topic	Presenter	Notes
1:00 pm	Call to Order Roll Call	Chairman Vander Woude	
1:05pm	Approval of 11.10.22 Meeting Minutes	Idaho Broadband Advisory Board	Action Item
1:10pm	Update on Broadband ITB & RFP	R. Hobdey-Sánchez, Commerce	
1:15 pm	Capital Projects Fund Executive Summary	R. Hobdey-Sánchez, Commerce	Action Item
1:30 pm	Review Board's RFI: "Call for Broadband Project and Planning Proposals"	R. Hobdey-Sánchez, Commerce	
2:00pm	Open Discussion at Discretion of the Chair	Idaho Broadband Advisory Board & Commerce Staff	
2:25pm	Next IBAB Meetings	R. Hobdey-Sánchez, Commerce	
2:30pm	Adjournment	Idaho Broadband Advisory Board	



Brad Little, Governor
Tom Kealey, Director

Idaho Broadband Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, November 10, 2022

Idaho Capitol Building

Room WW53

Idaho Broadband Advisory Board Members	Idaho Commerce Staff
Chairman, Rep. John Vander Woude, <i>Idaho Legislator</i>	Jake Reynolds, <i>Business Development & Operations Administrator</i>
Vice Chair Sen. Carl Crabtree, <i>Idaho Legislator (Z)</i>	Ramón Hobdey-Sánchez, <i>State Broadband Program Manager</i>
Sen. David Nelson, <i>Idaho Legislator (Z)</i>	Ewa Szewczyk, <i>Grants and Contracts Manager</i>
Sen. Doug Ricks, <i>Idaho Legislator (Z)</i>	
Rep. Barbara Ehardt, <i>Idaho Legislator (Z)</i>	
Andrew Emerson, <i>MH Solutions</i>	
Mitch Watkins, <i>Watkins Distribution (Z)</i>	
Margie Watson, <i>JC Watson & Company (Z)</i>	
Rep. Megan Blanksma, <i>Idaho Legislator (Absent)</i>	Tom Kealey, <i>Director Idaho Commerce (Absent)</i>
(Z) denotes via Zoom	

Call to order:

Chairman Rep. John Vander Woude called the meeting to order at **1:30 pm** with a quorum present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from **October 11, 2022** Meeting.

Motion by Mitch Watkins: To approve meeting minutes

Seconded by: Andy Emerson

All in favor: motion passes

Middle-Mile Update

Brief explanation and described Middle-Mile grants that were submitted directly to NTIA under IIJA.

Update on Broadband ITB & RFP

Informed the Board of status for mapping ITB and five-year action plan RFP.

Update on “Call for Broadband Project and Planning Proposals”

Shared feedback and information received from potential applicants. Also discussed plans for December Board meeting.

Introductions and Public Comment

Please see Board packet for complete list of presenters.

Next meeting: December 20, 2022 at 1:00 pm.

Adjournment at 4:05 pm.

Idaho Broadband Advisory Board

ARPA Capital Projects Fund Program Summary

Program Description and Background

This program is designed to outline, implement and audit the deployment of Capital Projects Fund (CPF) monies from the US Department of the Treasury (US Treasury) for the State of Idaho. Based on the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board's (IBAB) Strategic Plan, the priority for this \$125 million in funding is the construction and expansion of broadband infrastructure across Idaho, to underserved and unserved areas of the state that lack access to 25/3Mbps and 100/20Mbps, respectively, and to build technology capable of speeds of 100/100Mbps or if that is not feasible, speeds of 100/20Mbps scalable to 100/100Mbps.

Funding Availability for FY2023/24

The funding available for award to selected grantees is \$125 million in CPF dollars via the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Additionally, as designated during the 2021 legislative session, \$35 million was appropriated from state general revenue funds to the Idaho Broadband Fund. These funds are currently available for expenditure at the discretion of the Board and will be included as a possible funding source within this grant program.

Early in the 2023 legislative session, the IBAB and Idaho Department of Commerce will pursue a supplemental from the state legislature to seek spending authority for the CPF monies. This will position the IBAB to award and obligate funds prior to July 1, 2023. Priority consideration may be given to projects that leverage greater amounts of funding for a project from other private and public sources. The maximum individual grant amount is \$XX million. The maximum grant funding award cannot exceed XX% of the eligible total project costs.

Eligible Applicants

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

Eligible Project Areas

Based on guidance outlined by the US Treasury and the IBAB's Broadband Plan, projects will be scored and ranked based on criteria that addresses those priorities. Projects must deliver speeds of 100/100Mbps or if that is not feasible due to topographical or geographical issues, deliver 100/20Mbps scalable to 100/100Mbps. Project areas are any underserved or unserved areas without access to wireline delivery of 100/20Mbps and must deliver to the location, as well as exclude areas that have received state or federal funds that deliver or will deliver wireline speeds of 100/20Mbps.

Projects must demonstrate why the communities have identified this project as a critical need as it relates to access, affordability, reliability, and/or consistency and must address telehealth/health monitoring, distance learning and remote work.

As well as following CPF guidelines, the State of Idaho's guidelines will rank projects based on the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board's Strategic Plan which prioritizes projects that address broadband infrastructure gaps where there is a higher number of students and teachers without access to broadband, address gaps in public safety, provides greater economic opportunities for businesses, farms, ranches, and other rural businesses. Finally, the State will analyze projects based on locations served and cost of build.

Eligible Program Costs

Eligible costs refer to the costs associated with the acquisition and installation of broadband infrastructure that can support broadband service scalable to speeds of at least 100 Mbps download and 100 Mbps upload.

Matching Funds Requirement

Idaho's CPF Grant Program may pay up to 0-100% of the total costs for a qualifying project. To obtain a broadband grant, the applicant must provide the funding, not covered by the grant, with matching funds. The match can come from any private and/or public sources that allow for such use and are available to the applicant. The state grant funding period begins after the grant application is received, evaluated and officially approved by the IBAB with an award letter and executed contract.

Other State Examples

GA = no match required

FL = no match required

CA = no match required

MT = minimum 20% match

MN = minimum 50% match

UT = minimum 25% match

OR = no match required

ME = minimum is \$700 per potential subscriber location within the proposed project area.

Affordability

Projects will need to address affordability in their project applications. Projects must offer an affordable broadband plan and participate in the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP); which is a \$30 monthly rebate as of January 2022.

Projects will need to provide evidence that customers in project areas are able to access and purchase broadband at 100/20Mbps for less than \$50 a month as well as participate in the ACP.

Community Engagement/Open, Public Comment Period

Idaho has a robust community network. The state relies on councils of governments, local economic development agencies, cities, counties, local businesses and other community organizations to provide input on projects. In the past, letters of support from local governments, community anchor institutions, public safety organizations and other community organizations for successful grant applications have been included. For CPF grant applications, additional points will be awarded in the scoring rubric for applications that show significant support from the community and partnerships.

Upon IBAB approval, draft guidelines will be open for public comment for a time certain identified by the Board. This comment period will occur prior to publication of the final guidelines and opening of the grant portal.

Application Window and Deadlines

Idaho's CPF Grant Program is a competitive grant. The official grant portal and application is expected to open in early to mid-spring 2023. The grant application period will be open for XX weeks. A copy of the application packet can be found on the Idaho Broadband webpage [here](#).

All applications must be received by the Idaho Department of Commerce on or before the application deadline of: TBD

Applications MUST be UPLOADED to Salesforce prior to XX Mountain Time on XX, 2023, to be deemed eligible for funding. The application portal to submit your completed application will open on XX, 2023. The instructions to submit your application via the grant portal will be located online [here](#).

Announcement of awards is anticipated in early to mid-summer 2023.

Challenge Period

Upon the closing of the CPF grant application window, there will be an open challenge period that will run for XX business days and/or XX weeks.

Contact Information

Information regarding the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board can be found [here](#).

Information regarding the Idaho Office of Broadband can be found [here](#).

For additional questions, please contact Idaho's Broadband Program Manager, Ramón Hobdey-Sánchez at ramon.hobdey-sanchez@commerce.idaho.gov or 208-287-3153.

Next Steps

Idaho Department of Commerce staff has been researching and analyzing other state CPF programs to identify best practices that have already been implemented. Staff will continue these efforts in order to help advance draft grant guidelines, rules and scoring matrix in relation to the program guidelines for the CPF program. Staff intends to share this information and collaborate with the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board to develop a robust and compliant grant program that is ready to go to market by mid-spring 2023.

Broadband Project and Planning Proposals

On October 19th, the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board (Board) issued a “call for broadband infrastructure project and planning proposals” open through December 1st. The goal was two-fold:

- 1) To identify the types of projects and locations local communities and service providers are interested in pursuing as the State readies for the formal Capital Projects Fund (CPF) grant program; and
- 2) To gather information and data that can be shared with state legislators as the Department and Board work through securing a \$124.1 million. FY2023 Supplemental for CPF grant program spending authority.

Information collected during this process has been summarized and is reflected in the data presented here.

OVERVIEW OF SUBMISSIONS

39

**Total
Submissions**

\$417M

**Total
Requested**

\$561M

**Total Project
Costs**

Total Projects

61

Planning - 8

Last-Mile - 41

Middle-Mile - 9

**Middle and
Last-Mile - 3**

**Technology
Type**

In-Ground Fiber - 50

Fixed Wireless - 2

Hybrid - 1

N/A (Planning) - 8

**Total Requested -
\$416,875,641**

