



Idaho Broadband Advisory Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 25, 2026 | 7am – 8am MT (or upon adjournment)

Idaho Capitol Building: WW53

The meeting can be watched online [here](#).

Time	Topic	Presenter	Notes
7am	Call to Order & Roll Call	Chairman Ricks	
	Approve Meeting Minutes: September 23, 2025	Idaho Broadband Advisory Board	Action Item
7:05am	Idaho BEAD Program Update	Ramón Hobdey-Sánchez, Idaho Office of Broadband	
7:15am	CPF Program: Latah County	Ramón Hobdey-Sánchez, Idaho Office of Broadband and Commissioner Tom Lamar, Latah County	Action Item
7:55am	Next IBAB Meeting(s) & Any New Business	Idaho Broadband Advisory Board & Idaho Office of Broadband	
8am or Call of the Chair	Adjournment	Chairman Ricks	



Brad Little, Governor
Tom Kealey, Director

Idaho Broadband Advisory Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 23, 2025
Idaho Capitol Building
Room WW53 and via Zoom

Idaho Broadband Advisory Board Members	Idaho Commerce Staff
Chairman Sen. Doug Ricks, Idaho Legislator	Director Tom Kealey, Idaho Department of Commerce
Vice-Chair Rep. Vander Woude, Idaho Legislator	Ramón Hobdey-Sánchez, State Broadband Program Manager
Sen. James Ruchti, Idaho Legislator (Z)	Jake Reynolds, Idaho Department of Commerce
Sen. Treg Bernt, Idaho Legislator (A)	Kim Glineski, State Broadband Project Manager
Rep. Brandon Mitchell, Idaho Legislator (Z)	Krista Baker, State Broadband Project Manager
Rep. James Holtzclaw, Idaho Legislator (A)	Alexis Malcomb, Idaho Department of Commerce (Z)
Andrew Emerson	Sarah Lawrence, Bespoke GIS Solutions (Z)
Margie Watson	Jackie Reader, Bespoke GIS Solutions (Z)
Rick Belluzzo (A)	Jeremy Collier, Idaho Department of Commerce
(Z) denotes via Zoom	Beth Crow, Michael Baker International (Z)
(A) denotes absent	Christina Mailloux, Michael Baker International (Z)

To view/hear entire meeting A/V, please click [LINK](#).

Call to order: Chairman Ricks called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. with a quorum present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes June 30, 2025.

Motion by: Margie Watson
To approve meeting minutes with corrected date.
Seconded by: Rep. Vander Woude
All in favor: Motion passes

Idaho BEAD Program Update

Ramón Hobdey-Sánchez, Idaho Office of Broadband, presented an update on the Idaho BEAD Program. He noted that today is a milestone for the state and represents three years of work, thanked the applicants, ISPs, and gave an overview of the agenda. He reviewed the noting 156 applications were received for Round 1, with a shortened application window from 45 days to meet the NTIA mandated timeline. Round 2 received a further 56 applications in a 7-day application window.

In response to questions from the Board, Mr. Hobdey-Sanchez advised that unlike some other states, Idaho did not have a previous award round to base point allocation on.

Application Process

Beth Crow, Michael Baker International, presented on Application Materials and gave an overview of the evaluation process. She reviewed Michael Baker International's internal team responsible for Idaho, explaining their qualifications, experience and structure. She thanked the applicants for rising to the challenge of the shortened timeline and meeting it. She noted Key Evaluation Documents were a critical part of the evaluation process, as they included workplans, committed speeds, network diagrams, resiliency plans and milestone timelines. Ms. Crow explained the process for financial and compliance reviews, which included a comprehensive budget check, cost reasonableness, financial capability and sustainability assessments, proven documentation of financial health and viability of business models. She went on to explain Michael Baker International's methodology for determining priority broadband project status. This process included a review of service speeds, latency lower than or equal to 100ms, ease of scalability over time to meet evolving needs and supporting the deployment of 5G. She continued, noting the criteria used to validate proposed networks meet or exceed technical requirements. She explained the Primary Criteria as it related to scoring the Lowest Cost, which was defined in Idaho's matrix. Ms. Crow continued, explaining Secondary Criteria Speed & Performance review criteria, which was also outlined in Idaho's matrix. She concluded by explaining the process for the evaluation of local conditions to validate priority project status.

Chair Ricks stated he appreciated the work Michael Baker had done.

In response to questions from the Board, Ms. Crow explained the report analyzing Idaho's internet technology but did not predict its long-term future.

Evaluation Process

Jackie Reader, Bespoke GIS Solutions, presented on excessive cost analysis. She reviewed multiple methods to calculate excessive cost that were considered, concluding the NTIA's investment cost per BSL in extremely high-cost (EHC) Census Block Groups (CBGs) was selected. She advised the board this method of analysis was chosen because it includes no data points outside of what NTIA provided, and analyzed locations that NTIA predetermined and identified as high cost. She concluded the results were an excessive cost threshold of \$24,200.

Ramón Hobdey-Sánchez reviewed the excessive cost thresholds provided by NTIA, noting his preference for the \$24,200 threshold.

In response to questions from committee Mr. Hobdey-Sánchez advised if priority projects were considered too expensive, the state would then go to non-priority projects, with multiple priority projects per application individuals were able to compete and bid with each other. In every instance of that, they would select the lowest cost option.

Preliminary Awards

Mr. Hobdey-Sánchez continued, providing an overview of the preliminary awards. He stated the total deployment cost, the average cost per Broadband Serviceable Location (BSL), the lowest cost per BSL for a project, the highest cost per BSL for a project and the total match provided. He reviewed the top eleven highest cost per BSL projects, the top five projects for BSLs served. He concluded by providing an overview of the overall mix of technology types and NTIA reason codes used for exclusions.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Hobdey-Sánchez advised the Board that connecting to middle-mile infrastructure could improve service coverage, with LEO potential, though funding and coverage vary between states.

Final Proposal

Christine Mailloux, Broadband Planner, Michael Baker International, presented a review of the Final Proposal for BEAD Funds. She noted stakeholders could view the draft final proposal on the LinkUp Idaho website. She stated the narrative document responds to specific questions and guidance from NTIA. She explained the key elements of the narrative proposal, which go back to the original guidance, subgrantee selection process and how Idaho adjusted to the June NTIA restructuring notice.

Public Comments

Krista Baker, Idaho Office of Broadband, reviewed the 43 public comments that were split into four categories. One accolade/kudos, three suggestions to use remaining funds for non-deployment purposes, 7 comments that LEO satellite service is not optimal, 32 comments with applicant responses to provisional awards. All comments are publicly available on the Link Up Idaho site.

In response to questions from the Board, Mr. Hobdey-Sánchez stated some comments challenged provisional awards. He noted there is not a formal challenge process currently built into the program because of the federal structure of the program.

Subgrantee Agreement

Mr. Hobdey-Sánchez reviewed the extent of program monitoring and compliance moving forward. He encouraged all provisional awardees to review the subgrant agreement.

In response to questions from Committee members, he advised the the Idaho Office of Broadband has not been directly involved in the rule writing process relating to permitting on utilities.

Motion by: Margie Watson

I move that the Idaho Office of Broadband submits the State's BEAD Final Proposal, attachments and provisional awards to NTIA as presented here today. Furthermore, the Board recognizes that the IOB will be engaged in ongoing discussions and negotiations as it relates to high-cost projects and direction from NTIA

Seconded by: Andy Emerson

All in favor: Motion passes.

New Business: None.

Next IBAB Meeting: Call of the Chair.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 11:53AM.



9 - Hauser Lake Area Project
Intermax Networks

APP-005976

Unserved Locations	25
Underserved Locations	620
Awarded Amount	\$ 1,585,130.00

15 - Project Last Mile Priest River & Oldtown
MIFiber

APP-005947

Unserved Locations	790
Underserved Locations	116
Awarded Amount	\$ 6,259,109.70

8 - Selle Valley Project
Intermax Networks

APP-005952

Unserved Locations	611
Underserved Locations	1,876
Awarded Amount	\$ 6,315,211.28

11 - Bonner County- Sagle Fiber (FTTX) for speeds up to 2.5Gbps
Kaniksu

APP-006030

Unserved Locations	1,372
Underserved Locations	544
Awarded Amount	\$ 2,527,975.69

7 - State Hwy 54 Corridor Broadband Project
Intermax Networks

APP-005938

Unserved Locations	1,411
Underserved Locations	1,818
Awarded Amount	\$ 5,889,174.99

12 - Latah County Dark Fiber Network
Latah County/Inland Cellular/FSI

APP-005924

Unserved Locations	
Underserved Locations	1,155
Awarded Amount	\$ 15,000,000.00

6 - Orofino to Grangeville Fiber Optic Conduit Project
Idaho County/TBD

APP-005896

Unserved Locations	112
Underserved Locations	3,402
Awarded Amount	\$ 11,589,881.00

18 - Valley County Broadband Project
Zipty Fiber

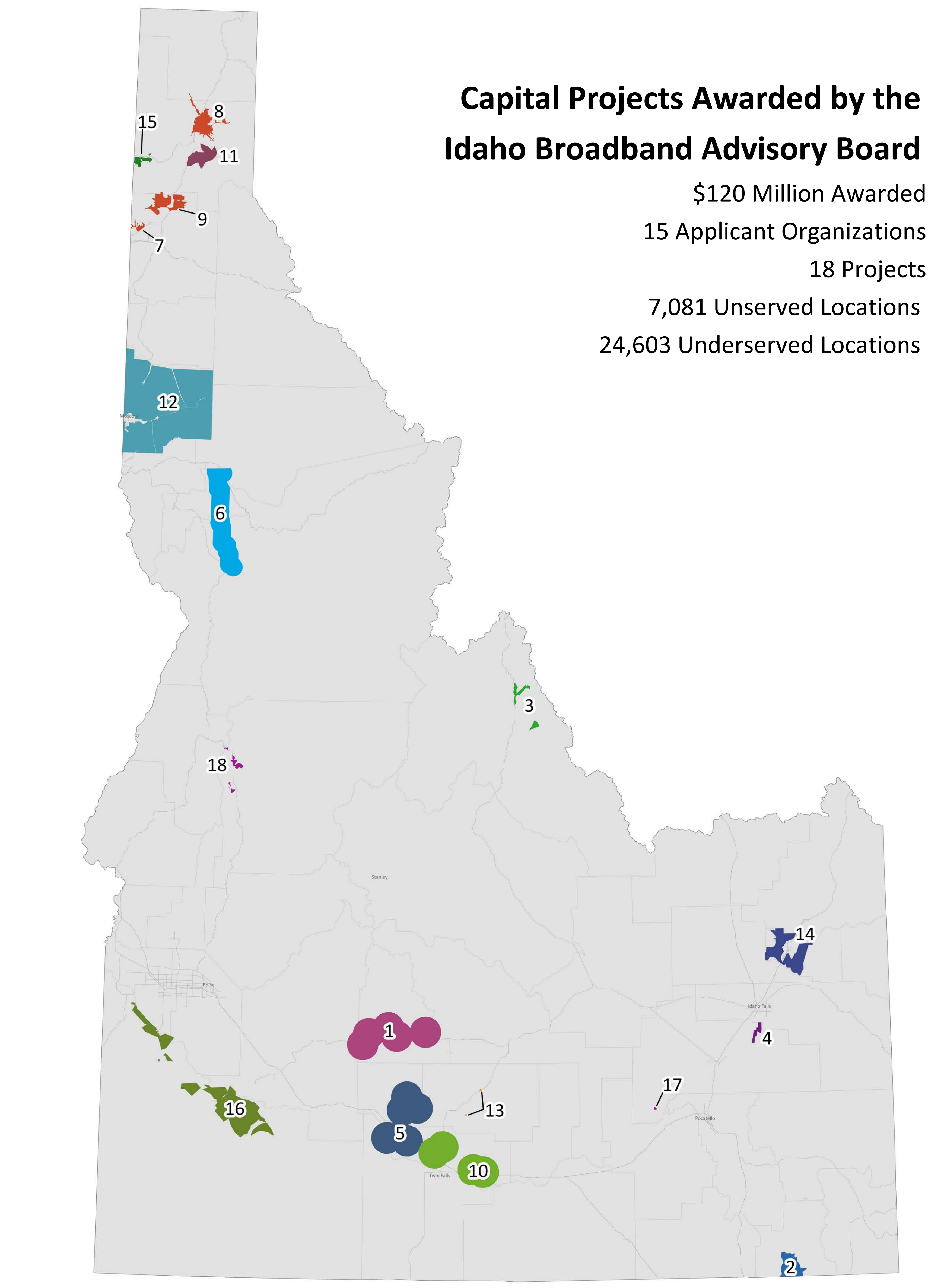
APP-005923

Unserved Locations	1,315
Underserved Locations	302
Awarded Amount	\$ 9,027,501.00

16 - Owyhee County Broadband Project
Whitecloud Communications

APP-005904

Unserved Locations	1,173
Underserved Locations	424
Awarded Amount	\$ 4,357,749.00



3 - Salmon Idaho Hwys 93 North Fiber and Hwy 28 South Project
Custer Telephone Cooperative Inc

APP-005883

Unserved Locations	22
Underserved Locations	337
Awarded Amount	\$ 3,399,900.00

14 - Madison County & Fybercom Fiber Initiative- Rural Broadband Proposal
Madison County/Fybercom

APP-005958

Unserved Locations	4
Underserved Locations	2,988
Awarded Amount	\$ 13,673,938.79

4 - Taylor/Basalt Fiber Project
FyberCom

APP-006037

Unserved Locations	0
Underserved Locations	651
Awarded Amount	\$ 716,947.54

17 - Aberdeen Fiber to the Premise
Zipty Fiber

APP-005932

Unserved Locations	3
Underserved Locations	736
Awarded Amount	\$ 2,306,353.00

1 - Camas County Wireless Fiber and Fiber to the Premises
Camas County /ETS

APP-005921

Unserved Locations	77
Underserved Locations	786
Awarded Amount	\$ 5,090,020.50

5 - Gooding County Wireless Fiber and Middle Mile Fiber
Gooding County/ETS

APP-005949

Unserved Locations	34
Underserved Locations	2,542
Awarded Amount	\$ 7,509,334.00

10 - Jerome County Fiber to the Premises & Fiber Fed Fixed Wireless
Jerome County/ETS

APP-005989

Unserved Locations	61
Underserved Locations	2,928
Awarded Amount	\$ 10,838,021.50

13 - Lincoln County, ID Broadband Initiative- Phase 2- Fiber to the Premises
Lincoln County/ETS

APP-005918

Unserved Locations	11
Underserved Locations	292
Awarded Amount	\$ 4,039,860.01

2 - City of Preston, City of Franklin and Surrounding Area Partnership
Comcast Cable Communications LLC

APP-005889

Unserved Locations	60
Underserved Locations	3,086
Awarded Amount	\$ 9,873,892.00



Brad Little, Governor
Tom Kealey, Director



January 21, 2026

TO: Latah County Commissioner Tom Lamar and Finance Officer Christine Nauman
FROM: Idaho Office of Broadband
RE: Latah County CPF Project – Suspension Notice

Dear Latah County,

After careful and thorough evaluation and examination of Latah County's most recent Capital Projects Fund (CPF) Request for Funds (RFF) submission, and current status of the project, the State has determined that payments and reimbursements for this subgrant, including the above-referenced RFF, will be suspended as of the date of this notice.

The Idaho Department of Commerce (Commerce) and Idaho Office of Broadband (IOB) have the following concerns regarding this project's match commitments and ultimately, it's successful viability.

1. Based on the budget records and supporting documentation submitted to date, the project does not demonstrate sufficient financial capacity to meet the required project match obligations as stipulated in the grant agreement. Documentation provided by Latah County does not adequately verify the availability or commitment of matching funds necessary to complete the approved project scope.
2. Latah County's in-kind match commitment currently includes approximately \$1.6M for repeater sites within the County's public safety communications system; however, these repeater sites will not be connected to fiber or the infrastructure being constructed with CPF monies. Therefore, the documentation submitted is insufficient to justify this commitment as an eligible project cost in compliance with Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 200 (2 CFR Part 200).
3. Work time tracking records submitted as match contained unsupported or potentially unallowable hours and were not reported in compliance with the documentation requirements of Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 200 (2 CFR Part 200).
4. Pursuant to the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (2 CFR Part 200), and Section 6. (Recordkeeping, Examination of Records and Facilities) of the Idaho CPF Grant Agreement, the State's review has determined that your organization has not responded to timely requests from IOB auditors and has demonstrated

inadequate record keeping practices, placing the project in noncompliance with federal award requirements and the Idaho CPF Grant Agreement.

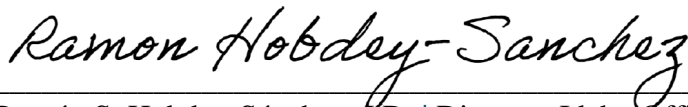
Therefore, in accordance with the Idaho CPF Grant Agreement, the State of Idaho gives Latah County 30 calendar days from the date of this notice to provide substantiated and relevant documentation outlining the County’s plan to clearly account for approximately \$2M in both cash and in-kind matches. See Section 18 of the Agreement:

“For cause, and upon giving written notice to Grant Recipient and the thirty (30) day opportunity to cure period provided in this Agreement, the Department may suspend reimbursements or payments. Any costs directly attributable to activities incurred upon such notice will cease to be Eligible Costs unless otherwise authorized by the Department.”

Failure to execute this request by February 20, 2026, will result in notification to the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board of the project’s deficiencies and shortfalls, with a recommendation to consider suspension of the project and termination of the grant agreement as outlined in Section 28 of the Idaho CPF Grant Agreement.

The IOB remains committed to fair, transparent, and clear processes that align with the State, Board, IOB and U.S. Department of Treasury requirements as well as the objectives within the Idaho Broadband Strategic Plan. The State appreciates Latah County’s engagement and partnership throughout this process.

Best regards,



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MEMO



TO: Idaho Department of Commerce

FROM: Latah County Broadband Leads
Christine Nauman, Finance Officer
Tim Besst, Chief Deputy
Ari Woodyard, Civil Attorney
Tom Lamar, Commissioner

DATE: November 20, 2025

RE: Request for Funds – Additional Information Requested Email Dated 11/18/2025

INFORMATION REQUEST:

Can you please provide a justification detailing how the Latah Co Office of the Sheriff - Contract with RACOM Corp - Install of Radio system match relates to your project costs?

RESPONSE:

The upgrade of the system relates to the project’s intent to improve connectivity for anchor institutions, including the Sheriff’s Office, Fire Stations, and Emergency Medical Services. The repeater site upgrades were necessary to improve emergency communications between critical emergency services provided by the anchor institutions including the Latah County Sheriff’s Office, rural fire districts, emergency medical services, search and rescue, and first responders. The fiber project facilitates additional capacity to improve the connection that these anchor institutions need. This project funds the mid-mile loop that includes vaults located at strategic points for a future project phase to build a fiber extension to each of the tower sites that received upgrades. Attached to this email is a .kmz file that shows the tower locations and the fiber extensions as preliminarily designed. The following excerpts from the design show the vault and mid-mile fiber that will be part of this project’s construction. Materials have been purchased and the construction contract awarded for this work.

Latah County Questions to be Addressed at the IBAB Meeting

(1) How is Latah going to reach the match commitment that the County is contracted for?

- \$25% or \$3,750,000 of in-kind/cash match

(2) Provide a detailed explanation for each match component included in this project. Be sure to address the following:

- How each match component directly relates to the project scope.
- How each match component is **necessary, reasonable, and directly tied to the performance of this project as an eligible cost** in alignment with 2 CFR 200.
- Confirmation that the project includes cash and/or in-kind match equal to or exceeding \$3,750,000. Latah should be ready to address and describe each individual match component.

(3) Please explain how the proposed IIG addition is specific to the Latah County CPF project and how it is **necessary, reasonable, and directly aligned with the established project scope**, including its role in connecting unserved and underserved locations within Latah County.

The cure documentation references backhaul connections in Spokane, Lewiston, and Orofino - none of which are located in Latah County. Please clarify how this additional match consideration provides a direct and demonstrable benefit to Latah County residents and is in alignment with the Latah County CPF application and grant agreement.

(4) Describe how Latah County will complete this build and reporting requirements by December 31, 2026.

(5) What is the Operations and Maintenance Plan for this project after the build is complete? How will this network be maintained? How does Latah plan to market this service to residents?

(6) Please provide an update on the County's financial and contractual progress for this project, including:

- A. The total CPF-funded investments or expenditures made since the award was received, as well as the total amount currently committed through purchase orders or agreements with vendors.
- B. The status of all required permits, easements, and related approvals, performance bonds, etc. and the anticipated timeline for securing any remaining items.