ConnectWyoming
Broadband Initiative
COVID-19 State Funds
GUIDELINES

Initiative Description
The CARES Act funding received by the Wyoming Business Council will fund projects across the state that create and retain local jobs and result in purposeful outcomes, including distance learning, telehealth, public safety, commerce and overall well-being. This Wyoming Broadband Grant initiative program is designed to meet the CARES Act criteria, and to help Wyoming rebound from the COVID-19 public-health emergency.

Eligible Applicants
1) Eligible applicants are for-profit companies, or membership-owned cooperative corporations.
2) Companies who have submitted .shp or .kml files of their entire service territory in Wyoming to the Broadband Coordinator.
3) Companies that provide mass market retail service by wireline or fixed terrestrial wireless technology that provides the capability to transmit and receive data from all or substantially all internet end points.

Eligible Projects
Projects must:
1) Provide infrastructure investment, associated equipment, and accessories to deliver broadband access at speeds that meet or exceed those defined in W.S. 9-12-1501 (e).
2) Meet the CARES Act criteria, which is designed to address key areas of public health and safety by improving opportunities to telework, facilitate distance learning and improve public safety.
3) Serve unserved areas as defined by W.S. 9-12-1501(e) or underserved areas as defined by the Wyoming State Broadband Plan adopted by the Wyoming Business Council and which does not overbuild existing adequate broadband service.
4) Include broadband infrastructure to be installed, owned and operated by for-profit companies, or membership owned cooperative corporations.

5) Include broadband infrastructure and equipment costs meeting CARES Act criteria.
   
   I. Middle-mile fiber-optic infrastructure, the primary purpose of which is to connect last-mile infrastructure and networks to network service providers

   II. Last-mile fixed terrestrial infrastructure, the primary purpose of which is to provide broadband internet service to end users or end-user devices, including households, businesses, public safety entities and community facilities

**Eligible costs include, but are not limited to**

1) Construction and materials
2) New and rehabilitative construction contracts
3) Architect and engineering services, and legal and professional services, if required, to complete the project
4) Permitting fees
5) Equipment related to broadband infrastructure
6) Equipment installation

**The following are ineligible and grant funds may not be used for**

1) General broadband planning not associated with the project
2) Ongoing overhead, operating costs or staff costs
3) Political activities or lobbying
4) Reimbursement for cost or lost revenue associated with FCC Keep America Connected Pledge
5) Matching other Federal Awards
Funding Terms and Limitations
Grant funding is subject to the following:

There is no required match. Applicants are encouraged to include any match in their application and any letters of support.

Important Dates
1) Grant Portal will open for application submissions on July 9, 2020; submit applications to wbc-broadband@wyo.gov
2) Grant Portal will close at 8 a.m. MDT on July 27, 2020.
3) A list of applicants and proposed service areas will be posted to the Wyoming Business Council Broadband website for public review at 5 p.m. MDT on July 27, 2020.
4) It is anticipated that all applicants will be notified of award no later than August 14, 2020.
5) Potential discussions with applicants may occur August 3-7, 2020.

Application Selection
A committee of (5) will review applications and rank eligible projects in accordance with the scoring matrix attached. Recommendations will be made to the Wyoming Business Council Board of Directors for approval.

Applicants may submit one (1) project per proposed service area. However, applicants can submit more than one application.

Priority may be given to communities with fewer than 2,000 people or unincorporated areas.

The Wyoming Business Council reserves the right to not award funds to any project at any time.
Additional Items

The Wyoming Business Council will post a list of applicants, Proposed Service Areas and Maps to the website at [www.wyomingbusiness.org/broadband](http://www.wyomingbusiness.org/broadband) and [wyobbmap.org](http://wyobbmap.org).

Applicant must be in good standing with the State of Wyoming and registered with the Secretary of State’s office.

Prior to disbursement of funds, recipient and the Wyoming Business Council shall execute a contract.

At its discretion, the Wyoming Business Council may establish special conditions in the Grant Agreement requiring additional reporting or documentation.

Grant funds shall be disbursed as a single “lump sum” payment upon execution of the Contract.

Notwithstanding payment in advance of completion of the project, recipient remains liable for timely completion of the project in accordance with the terms of the grant contract.

Applicant will be required to report project progress and may be subject to an audit by state or federal authorities.

The State of Wyoming reserves the right to demand repayment of funds in the event of non-compliance with the terms of the CARES act or these guidelines.