

**Rural Broadband Capacity Program  
In Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency  
Request for Applications for Funding  
June 19, 2020**

Is your Oregon community trying to expand broadband to support telework, telehealth and distance education in response to the pandemic? Business Oregon is pleased to announce that CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund monies have been allocated by the Oregon Legislative Assembly Joint Emergency Board to support broadband projects targeting unserved and underserved areas.

This request seeks Applications for Funding from Oregon cities, counties, ports, tribes, cooperatives, non-profit corporations, public-private partnerships, school districts, education service districts, hospitals, health systems and private sector internet service providers for infrastructure construction and emergency response projects to provide increased broadband capacity internet access for telework, telehealth and K-12 distance learning applications in unserved and underserved areas in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

An overview of the program and instructions for submitting applications is provided below and in the Application Form. The timeframes for this program are:

- Request for Applications for Funding issued June 19, 2020
- Applications are due July 2, 2020 by 5:00 pm Pacific Time
- Award offers will be made as soon as possible until all funds are committed

Funding offers will be contingent upon successful completion of the application process and negotiation between Business Oregon and funding recipients of contractual terms for the awards and performance objectives. All projects must be completed and grant funds must be expended by December 30, 2020. Unexpended funds will be returned to the U.S. Treasury in accordance with the CARES Act of 2020.

**1. Description of the Program**

The Oregon Legislative Assembly Joint Emergency Board has allocated \$10,000,000 for grants from funds received by the State of Oregon under the CARES Act of 2020 Coronavirus Relief Fund for the support of infrastructure construction and emergency response projects to provide increased broadband capacity internet access for telework, telehealth and K-12 distance learning applications in unserved and underserved areas in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Business Oregon will administer the Rural Broadband Capacity Program and will provide financial support in the form of grants of up to a cumulative total of \$10,000,000. A grant may be used for the following:

- Infrastructure - For the construction of broadband infrastructure capable of delivering basic broadband, a minimum of 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream or better.
- Emergency Response Capacity Projects – For emergency response projects to provide increased broadband capacity internet access for telehealth and K-12 distance learning applications.

## **2. Requirements to Participate**

Applicants must establish that:

1. Broadband services delivering the current Federal Communications Commission benchmark of 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream via terrestrial networks are not available or accessible to users being served by the proposed infrastructure construction project.
2. The applicant is an Oregon city, county, port, tribe, cooperative, non-profit corporation, public-private partnership, school district, education service district, hospital, health system or private sector internet service provider.
3. The project will address community needs and are necessary expenditures incurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
4. The expenditures were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 (the date of enactment of the CARES Act) for the State or a government.
5. Projects must be completed and in-service before December 30, 2020 delivering basic broadband level service or better at affordable prices that are competitive with areas in the state that have broadband service available today.
6. Project expenditures are incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020.

## **3. Guidance**

“Unserved area” means a geographic area within which there is no service provider offering residential wireline or wireless terrestrial broadband service at a speed of at least 10 megabits per second for downloads and one megabit per second for uploads.

“Underserved area” means a geographic area within which there is no service provider offering residential wireline or wireless terrestrial broadband service at a speed of at least 25 megabits per second for downloads and three megabits per second for uploads.

Projects to build new infrastructure, and projects to provide broadband access to K-12 students by the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year are priorities.

## **3. Submission Instructions**

Complete the Application Form. Submit the Application Form and any Exhibits electronically via e-mail as Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF) attachments no later than by 5:00 pm Pacific Time, July 2, 2020 to:

Oregon Broadband Office  
Oregon Business Development Department  
E-mail: [broadband.oregon@oregon.gov](mailto:broadband.oregon@oregon.gov)  
Phone: 503 508-0178  
Website: [www.broadband.oregon.gov](http://www.broadband.oregon.gov)

Business Oregon will send a confirmation of receipt via e-mail. Contact the Oregon Broadband Office by phone if you do not receive a confirmation of receipt.

Note: Information updates may be issued as guidance on the Coronavirus Relief Fund is received from the U.S. Treasury Department.