



# FUNDING ALERT!

Professional Assistance for Today's Unprecedented Funding Opportunities

## Program Name

Nebraska 2023 Capital Projects Fund Grant Cycle

## Funding Amount

Up to \$128 million from U.S. Treasury Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund

- Congressional District 1 – No less than \$40 million for eligible projects
- Congressional District 3 – No less than \$40 million for eligible projects

## Key Dates

- **February 9** – Application Opens
- **February 24 – Application Closes at 5:00 pm Central Time**
- **March 1** – Applications posted to the Commission website for review
- **March 8** – Notice of Intent to Challenge provided to applicant and the Commission (required)
- **April 24** – Supplemental information and/or responses to challenges due
- **May 16** – Commission determinations on credibility of challenges released
- **June 2** – Modified applications from successful challenges due
- **June 20 or 27** – Remaining final challenge results and grant award notifications released



## Nebraska

# \$128 Million

## Eligible Applicants

- Broadband Internet Service Provider (ISP)
- Cooperatives
- Political Subdivision
- Tribal Government

\*Applications from a political subdivision or a tribal government shall be made as part of a public-private partnership with a broadband ISP

## Eligible Areas

- Unserved or underserved areas in Congressional District 1 or 3
- Congressional District 3 projects must be entirely located within the geographical boundaries of cities of the second class and villages
  - Cities of the second class – a municipality pop. <800 and >5,000
  - Villages – municipality pop. containing not >than 100 nor <than 800
- **Unserved Area** – no access to broadband internet service of at least 25/3 Mbps
- **Underserved Area** – no access to broadband internet service of at least 100/20 Mbps

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## Eligible Projects

- A single project may request up to \$5 million
- Must meet a critical need of the community, related to access, affordability, reliability, and/or consistency (applicants must document critical need)
- Must have local support, demonstrated by community letters of support or feedback from public outreach
- Proposed service areas must be contiguous
- Proposed service area must not include areas with enforceable federal and or state funding commitment to deliver speeds of 100/20 Mbps
- May not fund more than 50% of the total project cost, when combined with any state or local funds

## Application Contents

- Applications must be received in PDF format (use fillable PDF provided)
- An application must include:
  - Section I – Applicant Details
  - Section II – Project Details
  - Section III – Required Attachments
    - Label attachments as follows: “[Applicant Name]\_[Attachment Letter]”

## Selection Criteria

- Grant Prioritization Tiers
  - Tier 1 – Unserved areas that have not received public assistance for development of a broadband network
  - Tier 2 – Unserved areas that have received federal support for development of a broadband network but construction will not be completed within 24 months after the grant application deadline if determined that NBBP grant funding will accelerate broadband deployment
  - Tier 3 – Underserved areas
  - Projects that include a mix of unserved and underserved will be considered in Tier 3
- Applications to be sorted into three tiers, will be reviewed and scored
- Applications are eligible for a maximum **160 points**
- Scoring Criteria:
  - Financial Capability Demonstrated (**up to 10 points**)
  - Legal Capability Demonstrated (**up to 10 points**)
  - Technical Capability (**up to 15 points**)
  - Digital Inclusion Plan (**up to 5 points**)
  - Rate Comparability (**up to 10 points**)
  - Speed Additive (**up to 10 points**)
  - Match Source (**up to 10 points**)
    - NUSF High Cost – **0 points**
    - Certain Federal Broadband funds – **5 points**
    - Applicant and/or carrier outside funds – **10 points**
  - Match Percentage (**up to 60 points**)
    - Any match up to 60% will be awarded points on 1 point/percentage point basis

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## Selection Criteria (continued)

- Location Density (**up to 20 points**)
  - Less than or equal to 10 locations/sq. mile – **20 points**
  - More than 10 but less than 20 locations/sq. mile – **12 points**
  - More than 20 but less than or equal to 42 locations/sq. mile – **5 points**
- Eligible Telecommunication Carrier Certification (**up to 5 points**)
- Public Private Partnership (**up to 5 points**)
- Tiebreaker - If applications receive the same score, the application demonstrating lower per location cost will be given preference

## Middle Mile

Middle mile projects will be funded only if required for last mile build

## Buildout Requirements

- Completion prior to December 31, 2026
- Must offer broadband internet service in the project area for 15 years after receipt of grant funding
- Commit to maintaining minimum speed capability of 100 Mbps symmetrical for 15 years

## Eligible Costs

- Project planning
- Permitting
- Construction of facilities including both middle-mile and last-mile
- Equipment
- Installation and testing of the broadband internet service

## Links & Emails

- [Program Website](#)
- [Program Guide](#)
- [Program Map](#)
- [Program Application Form](#)
- [Program Scoring Reference Sheet](#)
- Please submit questions and final application to [psc.broadband@nebraska.gov](mailto:psc.broadband@nebraska.gov)

- Opportunity Evaluation
- Effective Grant Writing
- Track Record of Success