



FUNDING ALERT!

Professional Assistance for Today's Unprecedented Funding Opportunities

Program Name

Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program (NBBP)

Funding Amount

\$20 million appropriated annually by the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Act

Key Dates

- **June 13** – Applications Open
- **July 1** – **Applications Due by 5:00pm CT**
- **July 6** – Applications posted to Commission website
- **July 15** – Due date for Notice of Intent to Challenge
- **September 2** – Due date for Detailed Challenges
- **September 22** – Due date for challenge response and/or supplemental information
- **October 25** – Commission releases determinations on credibility of partial challenges
- **December 6** – Grant Awards Released

Eligible Applicants

- Internet service providers (ISP) including any telecommunications company, cable television company, or wireless network provider
- Cooperatives
- Political subdivisions, as part of a public-private partnership with ISP
- Indian tribes, as part of a public-private partnership with ISP

Eligible Areas

- **Unservd Area** - locations lack access to internet service at speeds of at least 25/3Mbps
- **Underserved Area** - locations lack access to internet service at speeds of at least 100/20Mbps
 - Applications in underserved areas must include a digital inclusion plan
 - Plan must describe carrier's efforts to ensure affordability of the services offered, and must describe discounts and/or support programs
- High-cost Project Area - the Commission will publish a spreadsheet of high cost Nebraska census blocks

Eligible Projects

- Broadband network projects in an unserved area or an underserved area
- Maximum grant amount is \$5 million for a single project



Nebraska

\$20 Million

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Application Contents

- Applicant Details
- Project Details
- Attachments

Evaluation Criteria

- Applications will first be sorted into prioritization tiers
 - Priority Tier 1 - unserved area lacking 25/3 Mbps and has not received prior funding
 - Priority Tier 2 - unserved area lacking 25/3 Mbps and has received federal broadband funding but construction will not be completed within 24 months of the NBBP grant application deadline
 - Priority Tier 3 - underserved area lacking 100/20 Mbps with a digital inclusion plan
- Application Scoring/Weighting Criteria **(155 points max)**
 - Financial Capability Demonstrated **(up to 10 points)**
 - Legal Capability Demonstrated **(up to 10 points)**
 - Technical Capability **(up to 15 points)**
 - Rate Comparability **(up to 10 points)**
 - Speed Additive **(up to 10 points)**
 - Match Score **(up to 10 points)**
 - Match Percentage **(up to 55 points)**
 - Digital Inclusion Plans **(up to 5 points)**
 - ETC Certification **(up to 5 points)**
 - Location Density **(up to 20 points)**
 - Public Partnership **(up to 5 points)**

Middle Mile

Middle mile is an allowable cost



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Eligible Costs

- NBBP pays up to 50% of the eligible development costs (amount paid for acquisition and deployment of infrastructure scalable to at least 100/100Mbps) for a qualifying project if located outside a high-cost area
 - 75% of the eligible development costs of the project if located inside a high-cost area
- Allowed Costs
 - Project planning, engineering costs, obtaining construction permits, construction of facilities including both middle-mile and last-mile infrastructure, equipment, regulatory and compliance, direct labor and contract labor, and installation and testing of the broadband Internet service
- Disallowed Costs
 - Legal expenses, lease initiation costs, interest/financing expenses, ongoing operating costs, contractor milestone payments, liability costs, repair of lawns/sidewalks, system maintenance agreements, labor not directly related to the project, collocation fees, taxes, refundable costs (deposits)

Links & Emails

- [Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program \(NBBP\)](#)
- [2022 NBBP Program Guide](#)
- [2022 NBBP Grant Application Form](#)
- [NBBP Allowed and Disallowed Costs](#)
- Please submit questions and final application to psc.broadband@nebraska.gov

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