



Broadband Funding Opportunities in Idaho

September 2014

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Introduction

There are many Federal programs that can be used to fund broadband deployment, operations, or adoption. Such programs provide general support of broadband (e.g. loans for network deployment) and targeted support of broadband (e.g. grants for telehealth and distance learning) as well as general support for economic development or business operations that could be used for broadband-related initiatives. Based on information collected from the programs' websites, regulations, and other resources, this document provides an overview of the following programs:

- Broadband and telecommunications programs
 - USDA's Broadband Loan and Loan Guarantee Program
 - USDA's Community Connect Program
 - USDA's Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan Program
 - FCC's Connect America Fund and Mobility Fund

- Broadband healthcare and education programs
 - USDA's Distance Learning and Telemedicine Loans and Grants
 - HHS's Telehealth Network Grant Program
 - HHS's Licensure Portability Grant Program
 - HHS's Telehealth Resource Center Grant Program
 - FCC's Schools and Libraries Program (E-rate)
 - FCC's Healthcare Connect Fund
 - IMLS's Library Services and Technology Act Grants to States Program
 - IMLS's Native American Library Services Basic Grant

- General infrastructure and business support programs
 - USDA's Business & Industry Loan Guarantee Program
 - EDA's Public Works Program
 - HUD's Community Development Block Grant
 - Sustainable Employment and Economic Development Strategies (SEEDS)
 - Rural Infrastructure Opportunity Fund (announced July 24, 2014)

Also included at the end of the document are descriptions of three state programs – the Idaho Universal Service Fund, the Rural Community Block Grant, and the Idaho Bond Bank program -- that could each be used to support broadband as well as private sources of low-cost funding available from large, national organizations including the national network of Federal Home Loan Banks, the Gates Foundation, and the Ford Foundation.

General Guidance

No two funding programs are exactly alike. Even the same program can change in emphasis and requirements from year to year. However, there are a few basic elements common to most grant and loan programs. A prospective applicant can begin to prepare even before the agency has opened an application window. The following contains common requirements found in many applications for state and federal government funding programs. Addressing these elements early in the process will ensure that administrative items will not delay the submission of an application.

Who is the Applicant?

It may seem basic, but identifying the applicant is one of the most important strategic decisions in a successful grant or loan application. Statutes and regulations often limit who may apply. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utility Service (USDA/RUS), for example, excludes sole proprietors and partnerships from program eligibility. Other programs are limited to non-profits. Applications will require explicit legal, tax and financial information for all applicants such as federal and state tax id numbers, registered legal names, pro-forma financial statements, etc.

An entity that is ineligible to apply may, however, be able to participate in the same program as a vendor to an eligible applicant. The applicant's track record can have a profound effect on the success of an application, and some agencies over time demonstrate a preference for certain types of applicants. All programs have an application process to carefully identify the applicant(s) and any relationship to parents and/or subsidiaries as this will be the legal entity for any loan, grant or legal notice. Agency reviewers may be confused by how a subsidiary is related to a parent or which entity is offering to take on the obligations of the project. Fully explain any circumstances in which the parent will step in and provide financial backing to the subsidiary, if applicable.

Expect to provide biographies of organization and project leaders. If the applicant is a subsidiary, provide the parent's legal name. If the organization is a subsidiary of another legal entity, provide the legal name of the parent organization.

Documents of Legal Existence/Governance

Applicants should locate the documentation proving their legal existence, including Articles of Incorporation and evidence of authority to enter into a contract with the federal government. Sufficient documentation of Legal Existence and Governance is required.

DUNS and CCR Numbers

A Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and a Central Contractor Registration (CCR) will most likely be required. Secure these numbers as soon as possible, as the process can take several days to complete. If you wait until the application is ready for submission, you may miss a funding opportunity. The CCR may not update correctly due to IRS consent procedures. Federal agencies use these numbers for a variety of purposes. Prospective applicants should plan ahead to apply for these numbers early in the application process, if they do not have them currently.



Small Business Act (SBA)

In order to help to secure grants and loans, determine if you qualify and meet the definition of a socially and economically disadvantaged small business under section 8(a) of the SBA. These classifications include women, minority, tribal or veteran owned businesses. More information can be found at: <http://www.sba.gov/category/navigation-structure/contracting/contracting-support-small-businesses>

Congressional District of Applicant Headquarters

It is necessary to determine the Congressional District(s) where your project will be located. In most cases, you will need to identify both the Congressional districts for the applicant's headquarters and the districts for the project itself.

Start-Ups

If the applicant is a start-up, determine the name of the entity with controlling interest in the start-up. Typically, for the purposes of financial review, a start-up organization will be defined as either 1) a legal entity with an operating history of less than one year, or 2) a legal entity that has an operating history of less than 2 years, has had limited activity during that period, and is not profitable.

Delinquent on Federal Debt

The applicant will need to certify whether or not they are delinquent on any federal debt. If delinquent, the applicant must provide a substantial explanation as to why. This question applies to the applicant itself, not the individual who signs as the authorized representative. Categories of debt include delinquent audit disallowances, loans, and taxes.

RUS Borrower or Grantee

If the applicant is applying for USDA/RUS programs, identify if you are a current or former RUS borrower or grantee.

RUS Title II Borrower

If the applicant is applying for USDA/RUS programs, identify if you are a current or former RUS Title II Borrower. Title II of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (RE Act), as amended, authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to make loans for Rural Telephone Service. A RUS Title II borrower refers to an organization that has received a loan under the Traditional Telecommunications Infrastructure Program. Applicants that are current or former RUS Title II borrowers receive additional competitive points. As such, the legal entity submitting the application must be identical in all respects to the entity that received the RUS Title II loan to qualify for this status.

Project Description

The application will require a short and concise description of the project and proposal. Be articulate and straightforward.

Executive Summary

This is a longer narrative which gives the applicant a chance to describe the project purpose, main objectives and attributes to provide a framework and context for the application reviewers. A good executive summary will describe the project purpose, goals and location; highlight the problems it seeks to address; and outline the proposed solution and overall investment. Some applications include a high-level summary budget in the executive summary. As this is the introduction to the application, make sure the executive summary and supporting application tells a clear and compelling story. Show the need or problem and describe how the grant money will allow the applicant to provide an effective and feasible solution and is sustainable if a longer term project.

Budget, Pro-Forma and Other Financial Documents

Many applications that fail reviews are due to lack of financial feasibility, sustainability or inadequate documentation for the project plan or applicant. Be prepared to demonstrate with precision the project cost. This should be one of the first tasks, as it is essential to the success of the application. Basic financial requirements for applications include pro forma financial statements from at least two prior years and forecasts for five to ten years, a capital budget for the proposed project and market and operating cost assumptions for the pro forma period. The financial budgets need to describe and fund the proposed investments and demonstrate how the project affects overall operations; i.e., how you expect to sustain the project once government funds are expended. Federal programs also generally require Standard 424 and 424A budget forms. These are not complicated forms, but become familiar with them early in the application process. If the program requires a specific format to the budget section of the application, you will need to adapt your financials to that format. Review this at the onset of your application.

Grant and loan reviews normally require detailed revenue, operating expense and capital expenditure assumptions to support the pro forma financial statements. Demonstrating cash flow and adequate operating cash reserves is a basic requirement for feasibility and sustainability. Given the importance of passing the financial feasibility and sustainability review for applications, it is recommended that the application team include a good accountant.

Competitive Environment / Existing Levels of Service

The competitive environment and the existing level or lack of service in the proposed community is increasingly important in telecommunications-related funding programs. This is a critical element in demonstrating the need for investment, as well as the ability to execute the project, sustain it or pay back a loan. Be prepared to succinctly describe the existing competitive environment to include market pricing at various service levels.

Matching Requirements

Many of the programs operate under fiduciary responsibilities to ensure program compliance and that public funds are used for viable projects. This leads many programs to seek outside matching, equity from applicants or other security for applicants to have incentives to complete the project and have a continued ownership of the project. Most broadband programs have matching or equity requirements for their loans or grants, and many reward higher levels of match when prioritizing approvals. While in-kind contributions are often possible, cash is the preferred option under most programs. The most fundamental rule of matching funds is that the match must be only for an eligible expenditure under the grant guidelines. Agencies often discount the viability of vendor discounts, vendor in-kind contributions or contingent payments when considering matching or adequate operating funds.



Compliance Forms

All Federal grants and loans require standard compliance forms. Become familiar with these forms and determine what information will be required from your company, organization, and/or partnership to complete the forms and obtain appropriate signatures. Legal advice is recommended for final applications to ensure compliance and understanding of the obligations agreed to with the standardized forms.

Letters of Support

Letters of support from the community and political leaders rarely harm an application, but form or courtesy letters that do not demonstrate genuine support and project involvement may do little to help. Congressional, gubernatorial or other political letters will illustrate that a project has demonstrated a level of credibility to a political leader and demonstrate community or local support for the application.

Is it appropriate to contact the granting agency?

Entities may contact the granting agency with logistical and substantive questions **before** a grant is announced to inquire when and how much funding might be available. Once the rules are released, contact with the agency is usually limited to administrative and process questions. Given that most grants are competitive in nature, the agency will not provide advice to one applicant that may unfairly influence its review process.

After the applications are submitted, unless the program permits discussion and negotiations with the applicants, it is difficult to speak with someone at the agency about a submitted application. The applications are reviewed as submitted and assumed complete. In fairness to all applicants, the agencies limit communications to process questions during the review cycles.

Note that the rules about communicating with an agency will usually vary from program to program and agency to agency.

Best Practices and Recommendations

- ✓ **Read the rules and related documents.** The Application Guides are not a substitute for knowing and understanding the funding rules or the underlying statute. READ THE RULES carefully and it is recommended that you prepare a compliance matrix to ensure you address the requirements adequately. Do not request something that does not fit within the rules. Make sure your project and applicant are eligible or that you can make a compelling argument as to why your application should be considered an exception to the published guidelines.
- ✓ **Follow application directions and adhere to the guidelines.** Stick to font sizes, page limits and required formats. Do not let something simple render your application invalid.
- ✓ **Continually monitor the relevant agency's website for updates regarding the application process.** Register for e-mail lists, updates and RSS feeds.
- ✓ **Do your best to answer every question.** Do not leave any question blank. At a minimum, state that the question is not applicable to your project by typing 'N/A' or 'not applicable' into the blank. Unanswered questions may cause the reviewer to think that your application is incomplete and stop processing the application.
- ✓ **Check and double check your application.** Make sure the information and data in your application is consistent with your attachments. All components of the application should contain the same data and same descriptions. A final review for spelling, punctuation and formatting will facilitate a more professional application for the reviewer to assess.
- ✓ **Be thorough.** If you fail to answer a question or do not answer the question completely, the application may be deemed ineligible and will not be scored. Provide thorough documentation. Where the information is not readily available, provide a detailed explanation as to why this information is not readily available or does not exist.
- ✓ **Prepare the budget early.** The financial budgeting assumptions and schedules are essential to an application's eligibility and feasibility review. Understand the requirements clearly, and do not leave budgeting to the last task on your application agenda.
- ✓ **Determine the appropriate person in your organization that needs to sign the required application documents.**
- ✓ **Be articulate and concise.** Applications should be written with the reviewer and the application guidelines in mind. Seek to be concise and informative with your descriptions and assumptions. Chances are you can answer the question in fewer words with more clarity. Quality and completeness, not quantity, are critical in writing grant and loan applications.
- ✓ **Be specific and organized.** Provide data to support application requirements and support your arguments. Organize the application to address the review/grading process and include the required information for the application in the appropriate sections.
- ✓ **Plan to submit the application early.** For electronic applications, do not rely on the stability of the agency website. For grant programs with high interest and tight deadlines, late filers run the risk of not being able to submit on time due to heavy volume or system issues. Try not to wait to submit the application to the last day.
- ✓ **Letters of support, especially from elected officials, will strengthen the application.** Request these in advance and include letters of intent from both new and existing vendors.

- ✓ **Assume that the reviewers are not experts in this field and have no prior knowledge of the proposed project.** That will ensure you have clearly laid out your argument as to why your project should receive funding.
- ✓ **Remember that a project cannot win if it is not entered.** No one can predict the level of competition for federal funds.

Resources

There are a number of resources available to assist with applications. Agencies often provide application guides with helpful tips and advice. Look at the agency's awards in previous years to get a better understanding of what type and size of awards are within the agency's comfort zone.

In addition to agency websites and the Federal Register, the following websites may be helpful in your application process:

- Daily updates to the Federal Register Table of Contents: listserv.access.gpo.gov/
- Federal Reporting: www.federalreporting.gov/federalreporting/home.do
- Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: www.cfda.gov
- Central Contractor Registration (CCR):
www.federalcontractorregistry.com/?gclid=Ci6Si42_rLcCFfHm7Aodn1AAQQ
- Dun & Bradstreet (DUNS): www.dnb.com
- Source to locate and apply for federal grants: www.grants.gov
- Subscribe to the Grants.gov RSS feed: <http://grants.gov/help/rss.jsp>
- The LinkIDAHO Initiative: www.linkidaho.org

Compliance

If you receive a federal loan or grant, it is important to implement a project management and compliance program to measure progress, report status, facilitate project implementation and meet your fiduciary obligations under the grant/loan agreement. Hold a project kick off meeting with the key project and stakeholder team members to ensure a shared understanding of the project goals, objectives, timelines and responsibilities. Periodic project status meetings should be held to identify project milestones, accomplishments and issues that need to be addressed. Ensure that your project financial systems, accounting and reporting comply with federal and program requirements. Federal grant programs require awardees to periodically report various data after receiving the grant or loan.

Awardees should prepare for periodic and final project audits. These are standard operating procedures for federal programs. You should proactively determine how the organization will handle compliance matters during the application process. This includes documenting project responsibilities and roles, addressing proper document and purchase controls, ensuring adequate payroll and invoice tracking policies and capabilities, determining indirect and direct costs, submitting reports on the amount of monies obligated and expended, and preparing for audits.

Stimulus (ARRA) grants included an additional set of reporting requirements, governed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), on job creation and retention.



The following programs are those that can be used for broadband deployment in the State of Idaho. The list attempts to be comprehensive and is up-to-date as of August 2014. On July 24, 2014, the White House Rural Council announced the creation of the **U.S. Rural Infrastructure Opportunity Fund**. An initial \$10 billion has been committed to the fund and more capital investment is expected. The Fund is managed by Capitol Peak Asset Management, an investment firm, while USDA and other agencies will help to identify rural projects in need of financing through the Fund. Eligible activities include wastewater systems, energy projects and infrastructure development, including broadband expansion in rural areas. Because the fund is so new, it is not detailed below. Please consult the USDA website at www.usda.gov for further details as they become available

For further information on each of the programs listed below, please follow the links in the program description or contact ICF at broadband@icfi.com.



Broadband and Telecommunications Programs

Broadband Loan and Loan Guarantee Program

<i>Administering Agency</i>	U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utility Service (RUS)
<i>Program Purpose</i>	Broadband loans provide funding for: the construction, improvement, and acquisition of all facilities required to provide service at the broadband lending speed to rural areas, including facilities required for providing other services over the same facilities; the cost of leasing facilities required to provide service at the broadband lending speed; or an acquisition, under certain circumstances and with restrictions.
<i>Description of Funding</i>	Loans are made at the “cost of money” or at 4% to eligible applicants proposing to deploy broadband service to eligible rural areas.
<i>Eligible Applicants</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Corporations ▪ Limited liability companies ▪ Cooperatives or mutual organizations ▪ Federally recognized Indian tribes or tribal organizations ▪ State or local governments including any agency, subdivision, or one of their units
<i>Application Process</i>	<p>Applications not currently being accepted: With the recent enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Farm Bill), changes to the program will have to be implemented and 7 CFR Part 1738 that directs that program be modified. Until a new regulation is published in the Federal Register detailing the new requirements, the RUS is not accepting loan applications for federal assistance under the Broadband Program.</p> <p>When applications are again being accepted, the new RUS application guide should be followed. Applications are expected to be thorough and awards are made following a rigorous review process by RUS.</p>
<i>Key Factors for Award</i>	<p>To be eligible for a broadband loan all of the following must be true:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The service area is completely contained within a rural area; ▪ At least 25% of the households in the service area are underserved; ▪ No part of the service area has three or more incumbent service providers; ▪ No part of the funded service area overlaps with the service area of current RUS borrowers and grantees; and ▪ No part of the funded service area is included in a pending application before RUS seeking funding to provide broadband service. <p>The application must also show financial feasibility, including a minimum equity position equal to 10% of the requested loan amount at the time of application that must remain available at loan closing. Additional equity may be required depending on the results of the underwriting. The applicant must also demonstrate that the entire operation will be able to meet a minimum TIER requirement equal to 1.25 by the end of a five-year forecast period.</p>
<i>Program Website</i>	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/utp_farmbill.html



Community Connect

<i>Administering Agency</i>	U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utility Service (RUS)
<i>Program Purpose</i>	The Community Connect Grant Program provides financial assistance in the form of grants to eligible applicants that will provide, on a “community-oriented connectivity” basis, broadband transmission service that fosters economic growth and delivers enhanced educational, health care, and public safety services.
<i>Description of Funding</i>	Grants are made available to serve rural areas where broadband service does not currently exist, provided that: service will be made available to all residents and business within an applicant-defined service area; that basic broadband transmission service, free of all charges for at least two years, will be provided to all Critical Community Facilities located within the proposed service area; and a community center will be provided with at least ten computer access points to which broadband service will be provided free of all charges to users for at least two years.
<i>Eligible Applicants</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Incorporated Organizations ▪ Indian Tribes or Tribal Organizations ▪ State or local units of government ▪ Cooperative, private corporations or limited liability companies, organized on a for-profit or not-for-profit basis
<i>Application Process</i>	Applications are accepted in response to a notice of funding availability published annually in the Federal Register. RUS makes an application guide available for use by applicants. The application window for 2014 funding closed in July 2014, and the application window for 2015 funding has not yet been determined.
<i>Key Factors for Award</i>	The grant applicant must contribute a matching contribution of at least 15 percent of the grant amount requested.
<i>Program Website</i>	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/utp_commconnect.html



Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan Program

<i>Administering Agency</i>	U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utility Service
<i>Program Purpose</i>	The Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan Program makes long-term direct and guaranteed loans to qualified organizations for the purpose of financing the improvement, expansion, construction, acquisition, and operation of telephone lines, facilities, or systems to furnish and improve telecommunications service in rural areas.
<i>Description of Funding</i>	Loans are made at the “cost of money” to eligible applicants proposing to deploy telephone and broadband service to eligible rural areas.
<i>Eligible Applicants</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rural utilities ▪ Municipalities ▪ Commercial corporations ▪ Limited liability companies ▪ Public utility districts ▪ Indian tribes ▪ Cooperative, nonprofit, limited-dividend, or mutual associations
<i>Application Process</i>	Applications are accepted year round on a rolling basis. Interested applicants should contact their local General Field Representative (GFR) for detailed information on application requirements. Applicants can also access the Infrastructure Loan Application Guide online. All applications must be submitted through the local GFR.
<i>Key Factors for Award</i>	Like the Broadband Loan and Loan Guarantee Program, the application must show financial feasibility including the ability to repay the loan as demonstrated through a specified TIER ratio. Awards are also dependent on compliance with a “non-duplication” rule that essentially prohibits an award from being made to an entity proposing a service area that is already serviced by existing carriers.
<i>Program Website</i>	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/utp_infrastructure.html



Connect America Fund & Mobility Fund

<i>Administering Agency</i>	Federal Communications Commission, Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC)
<i>Program Purpose</i>	The Connect America Fund (CAF) and Mobility Fund modernize the FCC's legacy Universal Service Fund (USF) High Cost program. CAF is being implemented in two phases. Phase I provided a one-time infusion of funds to bring broadband to unserved areas. Phase II provides ongoing support to deploy and maintain broadband and voice service in high-cost areas at rates reasonably comparable to urban areas. The Mobility Fund provides support to wireless providers to deploy 3G service to unserved areas through a reverse auction.
<i>Description of Funding</i>	<p>CAF Phase 1 provided \$438 million to price cap providers to build-out unserved areas. CAF Phase 2 will use a combination of a forward-looking cost model and competitive bidding to efficiently support deployment for networks providing both voice and broadband service within a defined geographic area.</p> <p>The Mobility Fund will likewise be awarded through two phases. A nationwide reverse auction held in September 2012 awarded up to \$300 million of Phase I funds to over 30 service providers. A separate auction, called the Tribal Mobility Auction, awarded up to \$50 million to five providers that serve Tribal lands. Phase 2 will be ongoing support to deploy and maintain mobile voice and broadband services in high cost areas. Up to \$500 million will be available every year; however, the FCC is studying the exact amount to be allocated for services on Tribal lands in future years.</p>
<i>Eligible Applicants</i>	In order for funding to be authorized, an entity must be designated as an "Eligible Telecommunications Carrier" by the relevant state or the FCC, in cases where the state lacks jurisdiction over an entity.
<i>Application Process</i>	CAF Phase 2 support will be offered to price cap carriers in exchange for a state-level commitment and where they decline the support, will be awarded through a competitive reverse auction. Mobility Fund funding will be awarded through competitive reverse-auctions. The mechanics of the auctions have not been announced by FCC.
<i>Program Website</i>	http://www.fcc.gov/connecting-america

Broadband Healthcare and Education Programs

Distance Learning and Telemedicine Loans and Grants

<i>Administering Agency</i>	U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utility Service (RUS)
<i>Program Purpose</i>	The Distance Learning and Telemedicine Loan and Grant Program (DLT) is designed to meet the educational and health care needs of rural America. Through loans, grants and loan/grant combinations, advanced telecommunications technologies provide enhanced learning and health care opportunities for rural residents. Funds can be used for the acquisition of eligible capital assets, instructional programming that is a capital asset, or technical assistance and instruction for using eligible equipment. Awards that include a loan/grant combination and awards that are 100% loan can also be used for links between teachers and students or medical professionals in the same facility, site development and alteration of buildings, purchase of land, purchase or construction of buildings, or the acquisition of telecommunications transmission facilities, provided no facilities exist. Awards that are 100% loan can also be used for project operating costs for the first two years or for distance learning broadcasting.
<i>Description of Funding</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 100% grant applications are accepted through a competitive process. Applicants are required to provide a minimum 15% match. Awards can range from \$50,000 to \$500,000. ▪ 100% loan applications are accepted year-round, are non-competitive and do not require the applicant to provide matching funds. Loan awards range from \$50,000 to \$10,000,000. ▪ Combination loan/grant applications are accepted year-round, are non-competitive and do not require that applicant to provide matching funds. Loan awards range from \$50,000 to \$10,000,000.
<i>Eligible Applicants</i>	<p>Entities providing education and medical care via telecommunications including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Corporations or partnerships, ▪ Indian tribes or tribal organizations, ▪ State or local units of government, ▪ Consortia, and ▪ Private for-profit or not-for profit corporations.
<i>Application Process</i>	Applicants seeking only grant funds must apply in response to an annual Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) published in the Federal Register.
<i>Key Factors for Award</i>	Grant applications are scored in eight categories. Four are objective (based on publicly verifiable information) and four are subjective (based on the case made by the applicant in its narrative response to that subjective scoring category). Guidance for applicants on achieving the best possible score is provided in the program's application guide.
<i>Program Website</i>	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UTP_DLT.html



Using the Funds

North Idaho Rural Health Consortium

In 2010, the North Idaho Rural Health Consortium was awarded \$421,622 through the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Loans and Grants program for upgrade and expansion of the telemedicine and distance learning system of four hospitals in Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, and Shoshone counties. Upgrades as a result of the program included a new video bridge, a new room for video systems, and the addition of a telemedicine video chart at each site. Improvements are allowing the four facilities to offer new services, such as tele-psychiatry, special consultations, cardio-care follow-up, and diabetes education.

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/SupportDocuments/dltawards-id.pdf>

Idaho Education Network

In FY 2013, \$496,727 in Distance Learning and Telemedicine was awarded to the Idaho Education Network to purchase distance learning equipment for K-8 schools in 62 of Idaho's most rural and economically challenged communities. The distance learning equipment will also be used to train emergency service personnel after school hours.

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/SupportDocuments/rdDLTJanuary2014Recipients.pdf>

Telehealth Network Grant Programs

<i>Administering Agency</i>	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration
<i>Program Purpose</i>	The primary objective of the Telehealth Network Grant Program (TNGP) is to demonstrate how telehealth programs and networks can improve access to quality health care services in rural and underserved communities. Applicants are encouraged to develop innovative applications that meet new and emerging needs in a changing health care delivery system with a focus on value and improved health care outcomes.
<i>Description of Funding</i>	TNGP is a competitive program offering grants of up to \$250,000 per year for up to three years.
<i>Eligible Applicants</i>	<p>Eligible applicants include rural or urban nonprofit entities that will provide services through a telehealth network. Each entity participating in the networks may be a nonprofit or for-profit entity. Faith-based, community-based and tribal organizations are eligible to apply. Services must be provided to rural communities, although the applicant can be located in an urban area. The Telehealth Network shall include at least two of the following entities (at least one of which shall be a community-based health care provider):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community or migrant health centers or other federally qualified health centers; ▪ Health care providers, including pharmacists, in private practice; ▪ Entities operating clinics, including rural health clinics; ▪ Local health departments; ▪ Nonprofit hospitals, including community (critical) access hospitals; ▪ Other publicly funded health or social service agencies; ▪ Long-term care providers; ▪ Providers of health care services in the home; ▪ Providers of outpatient mental health services and entities operating outpatient mental health facilities; ▪ Local or regional emergency health care providers; ▪ Institutions of higher education; or ▪ Entities operating dental clinics.
<i>Application Process</i>	The Health Resources and Services Administration issues an annual Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) that includes instructions on preparing and submitting an application.
<i>Key Factors for Award</i>	The most recent TNGP FOA includes 7 criteria under which applications are reviewed. Applicants are also required to have a successful track record in implementing telehealth technology and have a network of partners in place and committed to the project as of the date of application. Signed Memorandum of Agreements (MOA) from network partners committed to the proposed project must also be included in the application.
<i>Program Website</i>	http://www.hrsa.gov/telehealth/

Using the Funds

Telehealth Network Grant Program Funding Allocations 2010-2013

Grantee	Location	2010	2011	2012	2013
BMH, Inc.	Blackfoot, ID			\$83,600	
Clearwater Valley Hospital & Clinics, Inc.	Orofino, ID	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	
Franklin County	Preston, ID		\$299,558	\$299,758	
Family Health Services Corporation	Twin Falls, ID	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	
Idaho Department of Health and Welfare	Boise, ID	\$227,630	\$242,840	\$229,972	
Public Hospital Cooperative, Inc.	Pocatello, ID			\$249,750	\$249,750
St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center, Inc.	Boise, ID	\$250,000	\$245,000		
St. Mary's Hospital, Inc.	Cottonwood, ID			\$150,000	\$150,000

<http://www.hrsa.gov/ruralhealth/grants/grantsmap/index.html>

Telehealth Licensure Portability Grant Program

<i>Administering Agency</i>	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration
<i>Program Purpose</i>	The primary objective of the Telehealth Licensure Portability Grant Program is to provide support for State professional licensing boards to carry out programs under which licensing boards of various States cooperate to develop and implement State policies that will reduce statutory and regulatory barriers to telemedicine. Non Competing Continuation grants will continue to focus on licensure issues for physicians and nurses. The funded projects are to build on the first year of efforts to develop national models for implementing model agreements to expedite the licensure process and eliminate redundancies associated with applying for physician licenses in multiple jurisdictions.
<i>Description of Funding</i>	In FY 11, one grantee received \$350,000. From FY 12 – FY 13, two grantees received \$350,000 each.
<i>Eligible Applicants</i>	A grantee must be a State professional licensing board, or a national organization of professional licensing boards that provides services to state licensing boards. American Indian and/or Alaska Native Tribal Organizations are eligible to apply.
<i>Application Process</i>	The Health Resources and Services Administration issues an annual Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) that includes instructions on preparing and submitting an application.
<i>Key Factors for Award</i>	Funding is awarded to projects that can clearly serve as national models and have implications for overcoming state statutory and regulatory licensure barriers to cross-state practice of telemedicine for all the health professions, with an emphasis on projects proposed by boards or national organizations of professional licensing that have demonstrated success in pioneering creative programs to address these issues.
<i>Program Website</i>	http://www.hrsa.gov/telehealth/



Telehealth Resource Center Grant Program

<i>Administering Agency</i>	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration
<i>Program Purpose</i>	The primary objective of the Telehealth Resource Center Grant Program is to expand the availability of technical assistance in the development of telehealth services, leveraging the experience of mature programs with expertise in providing and implementing telehealth services. It also supports the establishment and development of Telehealth Resource Centers (TRCs), which serve as a focus for the provision of telehealth technical assistance across the country.
<i>Description of Funding</i>	In FY 11 through FY 13, the financial assistance ranged from approximately \$300,000 to \$325,000. The average award was approximately \$321,000.
<i>Eligible Applicants</i>	A grantee must be a public or private nonprofit organization. Faith-based, tribal and community based organizations are eligible to apply. Services may be provided to rural or urban communities.
<i>Application Process</i>	The Health Resources and Services Administration issues an annual Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) that includes instructions on preparing and submitting an application.
<i>Key Factors for Award</i>	The grantee and their partners must have experience in providing technical assistance related to the provision of telehealth services. The grantee must establish a baseline level of activity and then measure performance. Specific areas to measure/address are: Satisfaction, Efficiency, Effectiveness and Sustainability. In addition consortiums must be established and able to demonstrate a history of working together. A signed consortium agreement that outlines tasks must be provided.
<i>Program Website</i>	http://www.hrsa.gov/telehealth/

Schools and Libraries Program (E-Rate)

<i>Administering Agency</i>	Federal Communications Commission, Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC)
<i>Program Purpose</i>	The Schools and Libraries Program, commonly known as E-Rate, provides discounts to eligible schools and libraries on their telecommunications, Internet access, and related services.
<i>Description of Funding</i>	<p>Discounts of 20 to 90 percent to help most schools and libraries in the United States obtain affordable telecommunications and Internet access. Funds can be used for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Telecommunications services such as local and long distance services, 800 services, and cellular service; ▪ Basic conduit Internet access, including Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and other data services; ▪ Internal connections, including network equipment and the wiring needed to bring information directly to classrooms and library patrons; or ▪ Basic maintenance of internal connections. <p>E-Rate funds do not cover such things as desktop computers, learning software, or teacher/librarian training.</p> <p>In July 2014, the FCC revised the program to allow for expanded Wi-Fi networks in schools and libraries. The program increases focus on closing the Wi-Fi gap while transitioning support away from legacy technologies to 21st Century broadband connectivity.</p>
<i>Eligible Applicants</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All public K-12 schools and all nonprofit K-12 private and parochial schools with endowments not exceeding \$50 million. ▪ All public libraries and private, not-for-profit libraries accessible to the public that (1) have a budget completely separate from any school, and (2) are eligible for Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) assistance in its state.
<i>Application Process</i>	Schools and libraries apply for funding on the USAC website . Once they have applied, the service providers have a 28-day period to review and respond to the application with a bid that is also submitted on the USAC website. The applicant schools and libraries will select a bid and enter into a contract with a service provider. This will be reviewed by USAC prior to funds being awarded.
<i>Key Factors for Award</i>	<p>When reviewing applications, USAC considers the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eligibility of the entities receiving service; ▪ Eligibility of the services requested; ▪ Discount calculations; ▪ Contracts; ▪ The competitive bidding process; and ▪ Discrepancies in application forms.
<i>Program Website</i>	http://www.universalservice.org/si/



Healthcare Connect Fund

<i>Administering Agency</i>	Federal Communications Commission, Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC)
<i>Program Purpose</i>	The FCC established the Healthcare Connect Fund (HCCF) as part of its efforts to modernize and reform USF. HCCF will permit healthcare providers to purchase services and construct their own broadband infrastructure where it is the most cost-effective option.
<i>Description of Funding</i>	Public or not-for-profit hospitals, rural health clinics, community health centers, health centers serving migrants, community mental health centers, local health departments or agencies, post-secondary educational institutions/teaching hospitals/medical schools, or a consortia of the above are eligible to apply for funding. HCCF funding may be used to pay for up to 65% on broadband services, equipment, connections to research and education networks, and healthcare provider-constructed and owned facilities. Applicants are required to contribute the remaining 35% of funding.
<i>Eligible Applicants</i>	Under the program, eligible rural HCPs, and those non-rural HCPs that are members of a consortium that has a majority rural HCP sites, can receive a 65 percent discount from the fund on all eligible expenses. HCPs are required to contribute the remaining 35 percent to participate in the program. Applicants can search the USAC website's list of eligible rural areas to determine if their county is eligible under this program.
<i>Application Process</i>	The multi-step application process is detailed in FCC Report and Order 12-150. The application process for funding in FY 2014 began in January 2014. FY 2014 began July 1, 2014.
<i>Key Factors for Award</i>	To be awarded HCCF funds applicants must apply to USAC seeking a determination of eligibility. Applicants must also issue a request for broadband services that complies with FCC requirements. Eligible applicants that, in USAC's determination, meet all program requirements will be awarded HCCF support.
<i>Program Website</i>	http://www.universalservice.org/rhc/healthcare-connect/default.aspx

Library Services and Technology Act Grants to States Program

<i>Administering Agency</i>	Institute of Museum and Library Services
<i>Program Purpose</i>	The Grants to States Program supports the delivery of library services by supporting them in being responsive to the extreme shifts brought on by the information age.
<i>Description of Funding</i>	<p>Grant funds can be used for a variety of purposes. The program's authorizing statute – the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) – includes the following among other priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expand services for learning and access to information and educational resources in a variety of formats, in all libraries, for individuals of all ages in order to support their needs for education, lifelong learning, workforce development, and digital literacy skills; ▪ Establish or enhance electronic and other linkage, and improve coordination among and between libraries and entities for the purpose of improving the quality of, and access to, library and information services; ▪ Provide training and professional development, including continuing education, to enhance the skills of the current library workforce, and advance the delivery of library and information services; ▪ Target library services to individuals of diverse geographic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds, and to individuals with limited functional literacy or information skills; ▪ Target library and information services to persons having difficulty using a library and to underserved urban and rural communities, including children from families with incomes below the poverty line; ▪ Develop library services that provide all users access to information through local, state, regional, national, and international collaborations and networks. <p>Funds are awarded using a population-based formula. Grant recipients are responsible for complying with matching and “maintenance of effort” provisions intended as a catalyst for library support from nonfederal sources.</p>
<i>Eligible Applicants</i>	State library administrative agencies (SLAAs) located in one of the 50 states or one of the United States territories are eligible for funding. SLAAs may distribute the funds through sub-grant competitions or cooperative agreements to public, academic, research, school, and special libraries in their state.
<i>Application Process</i>	To receive funding, SLAAs must submit a five-year plan to IMLS at the beginning of a grant cycle. The plan must be based on LSTA priorities for use of funds and identify goals and outcomes that each state will achieve within the five-year cycle.
<i>Key Factors for Award</i>	Because funds are awarded via formula, applicants will generally be awarded funding provided they submit acceptable five-year plans and commit to meeting the match and maintenance of effort requirements.
<i>Program Website</i>	http://www.imls.gov/programs/default.aspx

Native American Library Services Basic Grant

<i>Administering Agency</i>	Institute of Museum and Library Services
<i>Program Purpose</i>	The Native American Library Services Basic Grant is noncompetitive and distributed in equal amounts among eligible applicants. Basic Grants are available to support existing library operations and to maintain core library services.
<i>Description of Funding</i>	<p>Funds may be used to support existing library operations and to maintain core library services, particularly as they relate to the goals in the Museum and Library Services Act, which are listed in the above description of the Grants to States Program.</p> <p>The estimated Basic Grant award for FY 2014 was \$6,000. The estimated Basic Grant with Education/Assessment Option award amount was \$7,000, which includes the \$6,000 Basic Grant and the supplemental amount of \$1,000 for eligible education and assessment activities. The final amounts are determined after all applications have been received and eligibility has been determined, subject to the availability of funding and IMLS discretion.</p>
<i>Eligible Applicants</i>	Indian tribes, Alaska native villages, regional corporations, and village corporations are eligible to apply for funding under the Native American Library Services grant program. Entities such as libraries, schools, tribal colleges, or departments of education are not eligible applicants, although they may be involved in the administration of this program and their staff may serve as project directors, in partnership with an eligible applicant.
<i>Application Process</i>	<p>Eligible applicants can apply for funding during an annual application window held by IMLS. The next deadline for applications is March 2, 2015.</p> <p>For reference, FY 2014 program guidelines are available on the IMLS website.</p>
<i>Key Factors for Award</i>	Available funding is equally distributed to all eligible applicants who propose using the funds for eligible purposes. The anticipated award amount for FY2013 is \$6,000.
<i>Program Website</i>	http://www.ims.gov/applicants/grants/nativeAmerican.shtm

General Infrastructure and Business Support Programs

Business & Industry Guaranteed Loan Program

<i>Administering Agency</i>	U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Business Service
<i>Program Purpose</i>	The Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loan Program finances business, industry, and employment opportunities to improve the economic and environmental climate in rural communities. This purpose is achieved by bolstering the existing private credit structure through the guarantee of quality loans which will provide lasting community benefits.
<i>Description of Funding</i>	<p>USDA guarantees loans that are made by participating lending institutions that make loans under the program to applicants that meet one or more:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide employment; ▪ Improve the economic or environmental climate; ▪ Promote conservation, development, and use of water for aquaculture; ▪ Reduce reliance on nonrenewable energy resources by encouraging the development and construction of solar energy/other renewable energy. <p>The total amount of Agency loans to one borrower must not exceed \$10 million. The Administrator may grant an exception to the \$10 million limit for loans of \$25 million under certain circumstances. The Secretary may approve guaranteed loans in excess of \$25 million (up to \$40 million) for rural co-ops that process value-added agricultural commodities.</p>
<i>Eligible Applicants</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cooperative organization ▪ Corporation, partnership, or other legal entity organized and operated on a profit or nonprofit basis ▪ Indian tribe on a Federal or State reservation or other Federally recognized tribal group ▪ Public body ▪ An individual
<i>Application Process</i>	Loan applications are available from and submitted to RD state offices. A list of offices and additional information can be obtained at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/recd_map.html .
<i>Key Factors for Award</i>	<p>Loans are made to viable businesses that serve purposes that are consistent with the general purpose contained in the regulation, which include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Business and industrial acquisitions when the loan will keep the business from closing, prevent the loss of employment opportunities, or provide expanded job opportunities; ▪ Business conversion, enlargement, repair, modernization, or development; ▪ Purchase and development of land, easements, rights-of-way, buildings, or facilities; or ▪ Purchase of equipment, leasehold improvements, machinery, supplies, or inventory.
<i>Program Website</i>	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/bcp_gar.html

Public Works Program

<i>Administering Agency</i>	U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration
<i>Program Purpose</i>	This program funds strategic public works investments that support the construction/ rehabilitation of essential public infrastructure and facilities to help communities and regions leverage their resources and strengths to create jobs, drive innovation, become centers of competition in the global economy, and ensure resilient economies.
<i>Description of Funding</i>	Funding is available in the form of grants of up to 50% of project costs. Projects may receive up to an additional 30%, based on the relative needs of the region in which the project will be located, as determined by EDA. Eligible entities include: (i) Indian Tribe, (ii) State (or political subdivision of a State) if the Assistant Secretary determines that it has exhausted its effective taxing/borrowing capacity, or (iii) non-profit organization that the Assistant Secretary determines has exhausted its effective borrowing capacity, the Assistant Secretary has the discretion to establish a maximum EDA investment rate of up to 100% of the total project cost.
<i>Eligible Applicants</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ District Organization of a designated Economic Development District ▪ Indian Tribe or a consortium of Indian Tribes ▪ State, city, or other political subdivision of a State, including a special purpose unit of a State, local governments performing economic or infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of these ▪ Institution of higher education or a consortium of these institutions ▪ Public or private non-profit organization or association acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of a State
<i>Application Process</i>	EDA accepts applications during funding cycles identified in a Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) announcement that is published annually. EDA encourages applications to be submitted via grants.gov.
<i>Key Factors for Award</i>	<p>To be eligible under the mostly recently published FFO, a project must be located in a region that, on the date EDA receives the application for investment assistance, meets one (or more) of the following economic distress criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An unemployment rate that is, for the most recent 24-month period for which data are available, at least one percentage point greater than the national average unemployment rate; ▪ Per capita income that is, for the most recent period for which data are available, 80%; or ▪ Special need circumstances including the closure or restructuring of industrial firms or loss of a major employer essential to the regional economy, substantial out-migration or population loss, underemployment, military base closures or realignments, natural or other major disasters, extraordinary depletion of natural resources, communities undergoing changes to their economic base as a result of shifting trade patterns, or other special needs or extraordinary circumstances as determined by the Assistant Secretary.
<i>Program Website</i>	http://www.eda.gov/pdf/about/Public-Works-Program-1-Page.pdf

Community Development Block Grant

<i>Administering Agency</i>	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
<i>Program Purpose</i>	The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is a flexible program that provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs. There are multiple CDBG “program areas,” the most common of which are formula based grants to states and Entitlement Communities (which are generally metropolitan cities or urban counties). The Idaho Department of Commerce administers the state’s grant. Boise, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho Falls, Lewiston, Meridian, Nampa, and Pocatello all receive funds directly from HUD.
<i>Description of Funding</i>	<p>CDBG funding can be used for a variety of community development purposes. Funding must be used to accomplish one of three “national objectives”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Benefit to low- and moderate- income persons; ▪ Aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight; or ▪ Meet a need having a particular urgency. <p>While CDBG has not traditionally been used for broadband, it has commonly been used to support the planning and development other forms of key infrastructure (sewers, streets, sidewalks, etc.). As high-speed internet access has become critical to economic development in recent years, some CDBG grantees have begun using it to support broadband deployment.</p>
<i>Eligible Applicants</i>	HUD awards the majority of CDBG funds to states and Entitlement Communities using a formula. States and Entitlement Communities in turn provide funds to sub-recipients to be spent in accordance with program rules. Entitlement Communities may also directly spend its CDBG award.
<i>Application Process</i>	Funding is distributed by HUD to grantees via formula. Grantees may re-distribute funding via their own application process which can vary depending on grantee timelines and priorities.
<i>Key Factors for Award</i>	Grantees can establish their own factors for re-distributing grant funds based on local need and development strategies.
<i>Program Website</i>	http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/communitydevelopment/programs

Using the Funds

2011 CDBG Funding Allocations in Idaho

Type of Activity	Expenditure	Percentage
Economic Development	\$1,487,245	16.3%
Public Facilities and Improvements	\$6,224,547	68.3%
Public Services	\$418,765	4.6%
General Administration and Planning	\$894,192	9.8%
Other	\$93,670	1.0%
Total	\$9,1128,419	100%

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=cdbg_pp_fy2011_id.pdf

Sustainable Employment and Economic Development Strategies (SEEDS)

<i>Administering Agency</i>	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Administration for Native Americans
<i>Program Purpose</i>	The Sustainable Employment and Economic Development Strategies (SEEDS) program, funded through the Administration for Native Americans, provides grants that support sustainable employment and business opportunities in Native American communities.
<i>Description of Funding</i>	Funded for the first time in FY2013, the program will provide \$4.5 million per year in grants toward efforts that focus on job creation and training, business development and incubation, and retaining money and funds in the Tribal community or reservation. Each project has a ceiling of \$500,000 and a maximum project length of five years. SEEDS projects must measure at least of the following outcomes: full time jobs created, number of Native Americans employed, the number of businesses created or expanded, and revenues generated.
<i>Eligible Applicants</i>	<p>Eligible applicants include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Federally-recognized Indian Tribes, as recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs; ▪ Incorporated non-federally recognized Tribes; ▪ Incorporated state-recognized Indian Tribes; ▪ Consortia of Indian Tribes; ▪ Incorporated nonprofit multi-purpose community-based Indian organizations; ▪ Urban Indian Centers; ▪ Alaska Native village; ▪ Nonprofit native organizations in Alaska and Hawaii; ▪ Non-profit Alaska Native Regional Corporations/Associations; ▪ Non-profit Alaska Native community entities or tribal governing bodies; ▪ Public and nonprofit private agencies serving native peoples from Guam, American Samoa, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; ▪ Tribal Colleges and Universities.
<i>Application Process</i>	The FY 2014 funding announcement was posted on February 14, 2014, and the application period ended on April 15, 2014. For reference, the expired announcements can be viewed here .
<i>Key Factors for Award</i>	<p>ANA promotes the following four priorities through the SEEDS initiative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Creation of sustainable employment opportunities; ▪ Professional training and skill development that increases participants' employability and earning potential; ▪ Creation and development of small businesses and entrepreneurial activities, and; ▪ A demonstrated strategy and commitment to keeping the jobs and revenues generated by project activities within the native communities being served.
<i>Program Website</i>	http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ana/grants/funding-opportunities



State Administered Financing Sources

Idaho Universal Service Fund

<i>Administering Agency</i>	Idaho Public Utility Commission
<i>Program Purpose</i>	The Idaho Universal Service Fund (IUSF) provides support to companies providing service in high cost areas so they could keep their rates affordable.
<i>Description of Funding</i>	IUSF funding support is provided to companies that, when setting their local rates at 125% of statewide average and their access rates at 100% of statewide average, cannot earn their revenue requirements.
<i>Eligible Applicants</i>	Telephone companies that provide local exchange service and access service for message telecommunication service (MTS)/wide area telecommunications service (WATS) providers may apply for IUSF funds if its average residence and business rates for local exchange service for one-party, single-line services exceed 125% of the weighted statewide average rates for one-party, single-line services for residence and business lines, respectively, and its average rates per minutes for MTS/WATS access services exceed 100% of the weighted statewide average of the same or similar access services.
<i>Application Process</i>	Program regulations stipulate that applications must comply with the Commission’s “Rules of Procedure” which can be accessed on the Commission’s website. IUSF regulations also stipulate an application for initial IUSF funding or changes in IUSF funding must quantify the IUSF funding sought and the proposed rates to be charged for one-party, single-line residence and business services and for MTS/WATS access services, indicating how USF funding will benefit the rates for these services.
<i>Key Factors for Award</i>	If the Commission finds that an applicant is eligible for IUSF funds, it will award the applicant between 75% and 100% of the applicant’s residual revenue requirement as define by the program’s statute and regulation.
<i>Program Website</i>	http://www.puc.idaho.gov/TELECOM/TELECOM.HTM http://www.puc.idaho.gov/laws/usf_00.pdf



Rural Community Block Grant

<i>Administering Agency</i>	Department of Commerce
<i>Program Purpose</i>	The Rural Community Block Grant (RCBG) program is to provide funds to distressed rural areas for building public infrastructure in support of economic expansion and job creation.
<i>Description of Funding</i>	Funding is provided in the form of grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$500,000. A local match is required but there is no required amount. Funding can be used for four activities. The first such activity includes projects designed to construct or expand public infrastructure, such as water, wastewater, transportation, power, telecommunication, or other infrastructure systems that are necessary for a specific business development, relocation or expansion. The project assisted business must document the creation or retention of jobs.
<i>Eligible Applicants</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cities with a population of less than 25,000 or for projects that have a measurable rural benefit—the sole beneficiary of the project cannot be a large city. ▪ Counties may apply for countywide projects that have a measurable rural benefit – the sole beneficiary of the project cannot be a large city. ▪ Indian Tribes may apply if the project site is located on reservation land and within a community of less than 25,000 or the project has a measurable rural benefit and the sole beneficiary of the project cannot be a large city.
<i>Application Process</i>	Applications are accepted on a quarterly basis; due on the third Monday of the month prior to quarterly Economic Advisory Council meetings held in January, April, July and October. Applications must be completed using the process and format prescribed in RCBG Handbook, which is available on the program’s website.
<i>Key Factors for Award</i>	Applications will be evaluated on the impact to distressed areas. Other evaluation factors include the number and quality of jobs created by the project, long-term economic impact, community support, and project financing and readiness.
<i>Program Website</i>	http://commerce.idaho.gov/communities/community-grants/rural-community-block-grant-rcbg

Idaho Bond Bank Program

<i>Administering Agency</i>	Idaho State Treasurer
<i>Program Purpose</i>	The Idaho Bond Bank Authority Program (IBBA) supports local governments within the state, with the goal of providing funds for their infrastructure needs and access to the capital markets at competitive interest rates.
<i>Description of Funding</i>	A municipality or other eligible entity may obtain a loan from the Bond Bank secured by either the municipality's bond or a loan agreement with the Bond Bank. The Bond Bank pools several loans to municipalities into one bond issue. The municipalities then repay the loan, and those repayments are used to repay the revenue bonds. The Bond Bank can obtain better credit ratings, more attractive interest rates and lower underwriting costs than municipalities could achieve individually. The Bond Bank is able to pledge certain state funds as additional security for its bonds, further reducing interest costs.
<i>Eligible Applicants</i>	Participation is open to all state agencies and to all political subdivisions including: Cities, Towns, Counties, Public Retirement Systems, Regional School Districts, Local Public Agencies, Public Health Districts, Irrigation and Soil Conservation Districts and Water and Sewer Districts.
<i>Application Process</i>	<p>An IBBA application is available on the program's website. In addition to the application, the IBBA may require supplemental information. IBBA issues bonds on a quarterly basis, and applicants should consider the timing of issues on its impact on their projects.</p> <p>IBBA Bond Issuance Schedule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Issued end of June, deadline November 30 ▪ Issued end of April, deadline February 28 ▪ Issued end of July, deadline May 31 ▪ Issued end of October, deadline August 31
<i>Key Factors for Award</i>	IBBA staff and advisors will review the application and other materials provided by the applicants. Applications will be presented to the board for approval. After approved, IBBA staff will work with participant or their representative to issue the bonds based on quarterly issuance schedule. Approved applicants can expect to receive financing from the IBBA based on quarterly issuance schedule.
<i>Program Website</i>	http://www.sto.idaho.gov/Services/IBBA/

Private Financing Sources

Community Investment Program

<i>Administering Agency</i>	Federal Home Loan Banks
<i>Program Purpose</i>	Each Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) operates a Community Investment Program (CIP) that offers below-market-rate loans to members for long-term financing for housing and economic development that benefits low- and moderate-income families and neighborhoods.
<i>Description of Funding</i>	Funding is available in the form of low-interest loans from FHLB member institutions. Lenders have used CIP to fund owner-occupied and rental housing, construct roads, bridges, retail stores, sewage treatment plants and provide small business loans. CIP has not traditionally supported broadband deployment, but given the flexible nature of the program it appears that it could be a source of broadband financing provided that it meets the strategic objectives included in the FLHB's community lending plan.
<i>Eligible Applicants</i>	CIP funds must be accessed by an FHLB member institution. Entities interested in accessing CIP funds must work with an FHLB member institution to secure funding. There are 12 government-sponsored, privately managed FHLBs across the country. Idaho is located in the service area of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Seattle.
<i>Application Process</i>	Each FHLB and member institution will have its own application process. As of January 1, 2013, Seattle Bank members applying for a CIP/EDF discount must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Submit a completed CIP/EDF – Required Loan Funding Information form for the Seattle Bank's approval at least one business day prior to the effective date of the advance. ▪ Draw the CIP/EDF advance within 90 calendar days of funding the qualifying loan.
<i>Key Factors for Award</i>	Each FHLB determines its underwriting and loans. Loans must be made in accordance with their community lending plans.
<i>Program Website</i>	http://www.fhlbsea.com/CommunityInvestment/OurPrograms/CIPEDF/Default.aspx

Global Libraries Grants

<i>Administering Agency</i>	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
<i>Program Purpose</i>	The Global Libraries program works to support the transformation of libraries and expand their role as engines of development. The Gates Foundation aims to work in partnership with governments and other public and private funders to expand technology access in public libraries, foster innovation in libraries, train library leaders and advocate for policy changes that benefit public libraries.
<i>Description of Funding</i>	<p>Global Libraries grants are provided in support of the following areas of focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technology Access in Libraries grants support efforts that provide technology access in public libraries throughout entire countries—with a focus on developing and transitioning countries as well as a continued commitment to U.S. libraries. Grants fund efforts to understand local technology needs, purchase equipment for libraries, train library staff and help libraries build public support for long-term funding. ▪ Research and Innovation grants fund projects and research on public access to information and the Internet, trends that affect how libraries serve their communities, and ways to foster innovation in libraries. These efforts help public library leaders and staffs understand and quickly integrate innovative ideas, tools and services in response to the changing needs of their communities. ▪ Training and Leadership grants identify strong library leaders and equip them to create high-impact libraries. Through leadership training, they can learn ways to foster a culture of innovation and risk taking, collaborate with others in the library field, create and test new service models, and engage community members and other stakeholders in the design and delivery of library services. ▪ Policy and Advocacy grants enables library leaders and others in the library field to measure the impact of public access in libraries, strengthen their advocacy skills, and support policy changes that benefit libraries.
<i>Eligible Applicants</i>	The Gates Foundation does not accept grant requests or unsolicited proposals for library projects. It works directly with governments and other public and private funders to expand technology access in public libraries, foster innovation in libraries, train library leaders and advocate for policy changes that benefit public libraries.
<i>Application Process</i>	Not applicable.
<i>Key Factors for Award</i>	Not applicable.
<i>Program Website</i>	http://www.gatesfoundation.org/what-we-do/global-development/global-libraries

Advancing Media Rights and Access Grants

<i>Administering Agency</i>	Ford Foundation
<i>Program Purpose</i>	The Ford Foundation supports fair media policies that advance competition, openness, innovation and universal access to high speed internet for everyone. Its grantees are working to ensure that all people—especially the poor and marginalized—have both the means and the rights to participate in a diverse media system.
<i>Description of Funding</i>	The Ford Foundation makes funding available in the United States and Brazil to shore up the infrastructure, and regulatory and technical standards of the Internet. Funding is intended to focus on increasing access to diverse media systems for all people—particularly in poor and marginalized communities—and on establishing, expanding and protecting public interest obligations in the digital media environment.
<i>Eligible Applicants</i>	Because it is a private foundation, the Ford Foundation retains flexibility in whom and what it will support. However, the activities supported through grants and program-related investments must be charitable, educational or scientific as defined under the appropriate provisions of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code and Treasury Regulations.
<i>Application Process</i>	The Foundation Application Guide provides an overview of its application process. To seek funding, applicants are first required to submit a Grant Inquiry that explains why funding is being sought. Foundation staff will review the inquiry and respond seeking additional information if the Foundation is interested in further considering making a grant award.
<i>Key Factors for Award</i>	The Foundation only funds activities that support the goals of its programs. If the Foundation responds favorably to a grant inquiry, its program staff will work with applicants to develop and refine a formal proposal.
<i>Program Website</i>	http://www.fordfoundation.org/issues/freedom-of-expression/advancing-media-rights-and-access



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