



Nevada County 2021 Last Mile Broadband Grant Application

The Sierra Business Council is managing the 2021 Last Mile Broadband Grant program on behalf of the County of Nevada.

Instructions:

Refer to Nevada County 2021 Last Mile Broadband Grant Program Guidelines before continuing with Grant Application.

Application must be reviewed by a professional engineer (PE) or other qualified individual. A separate review is required for each grant application if submitting multiple applications.

Final application deadline is March 1, 2021, at 5:00 pm.

No incomplete or late applications will be accepted.

Attachments

- For attachments containing more than 5 pages, a summary page is required.
- For surveys or petitions, the summary page must include the number of signatures and description of process to verify addresses are in the proposed service area.

Funding Match

The grant will cover up to 50% of eligible project expenses. In-kind matches (i.e. donation of land for infrastructure, labor, donation of lease for infrastructure, etc.) will be accepted at a lower point value than cash matches.

Send application and all inquiries regarding this RFA in writing to:

Kari Sinoff, Project Manager, Sierra Business Council, at ksinoff@sierrabusiness.org

Please copy: Caleb Dardick, Projects Administrator, County of Nevada Executive Office, at caleb.dardick@co.nevada.ca.us

Subject Line: Nevada County 2021 Last Mile Broadband Grant Application

Pre-Application Conference

An applicant call is scheduled for Friday, February 5, 2021, 1:00 - 2:00 PM via Zoom Meeting. See guidelines for meeting link and optional call in phone number.

1. Applicant Information

1.1 Applicant Contact Information

Name:

Company:

Title:

Email:

Phone:

1.2 What type of legal entity is the applicant? (Refer to Grant Guidelines for types of eligible applicants)

1.3 Describe applicant's history with other Broadband deployment projects

1.4 Provide a Financial Statement of Entity.

An entity's financial statement typically includes: a balance sheet, income statement, cash flow statement, and statement of changes in equity.

2. Project Overview

2.1 Project Name

2.2 Project Technology

What type of technology will the applicant use to provide broadband?

2.3 Describe the proposed network design

2.4 Proposed Service Area

Describe geographic area to be served, including service area boundaries, place names, buildings, road/street names and addresses, bordering highway, bodies of water, or other features that clearly identify the project coverage area.

Attach a .shp or .kml/.kmz/Shape File format or File GO Database format file showing the map of the proposed service area showing boundary data for each contiguous area. *Note: If submitting multiple applications, submit a separate mapping file for the project area with each application.*

2.5 Project Permitting

Include a schedule of all required permits for the project including permit type, fee, permitting agency or regulatory board and status of the permit. Ensure the application is complete and that all of the required local/city/county/state and CEQA documents necessary for this project to proceed have been considered (planning commission, zoning, route and road authorities, railroad crossing, etc.). Indicate clearly what remains to be done and what is required for completing the process of obtaining approvals. Include this information in the project timeline/schedule.

2.6 Service and Pricing Levels

Provide the service and pricing levels to be offered in the grant project area:

Service Level/Tier	Pricing

2.6a Are there any limitations on data usage? (e.g. data caps, reduced speeds, etc.) If yes, please explain.

2.7 Project Schedule and Timeline

Provide a detailed project schedule outlining the individual tasks and their timing for the overall project including broadband deployment tasks and activities necessary to complete the project. Include expected completion date (month and year) of the activity. The last task on the project schedule should indicate the date upon which service to the last location will be connected.

2.7a List any factors that may change or delay this schedule

3. Level of Service Verification

3.1 Provide evidence of current service levels which may include but is not limited to:

- Testimonials and commitments from residents, businesses or institutions in project area are strongly encouraged and/or statistically significant survey of residents from grant area
- Documentation of area’s existing infrastructure demonstrating existing service area
- Documentation from website of reported service provider stating that service is not available in this area

3.2 Describe the methodology used to determine the number of locations (e.g. number of meters, existing customers, address points)

3.3 With respect to density, what is the average number of homes, businesses and institutions per square mile within the proposed service area?

3.4 In terms of infrastructure installation, explain why this area was chosen for the grant and is unlikely to be served without Nevada County grant funding. Include an explanation of terrain, population density, or other factors contributing to the overall cost of the project.

If necessary, provide any additional information on the grant area that may be helpful during the scoring process that was not asked on the application. This may include information related to distance learning, access to telehealth, and remote work limitations.

3.5 Anticipated Improvements

Using the “Anticipated Improvements” table below, provide the number of households, businesses, and community institutions that will be able to receive improved broadband services as a result of the proposed project. Identify the speeds currently available for each type of location and the speeds that will be offered if the project is awarded grant funding.

**Anticipated Improvements in Broadband Service
Based on the Broadband Project Investments**

# of Passings	Speed Now:	Speed After Build:
Households:		
Businesses:		

Community Anchor Institutions:		
Total		

3.6 If applicable, provide a list with the names of the community anchor institutions. *Community anchor institutions “CAI” means governmental, nonprofit, educational and similar entities including by way of illustration and not limitation: schools, libraries, hospitals and other medical providers, public safety entities, institutions of higher education, governmental entities, rural electric cooperatives, and community support organizations.*

3.7 Include a description of the business model and plan to sustain operation of the network. Include estimated take-rate in the grant area.

4. Project Cost Analysis

A full project budget must be completed and attached as part of this application. Additionally, provide a summary in the table in section 4.3.

4.1 What are the total eligible project costs?

4.2 How much grant money are you seeking from the Nevada County Last Mile Grant program for this project?

**up to 50% of the total broadband development cost is eligible to be reimbursed by the county broadband grant, to a maximum of \$250,000.*

4.3 Fill out a PROJECT BUDGET TABLE indicating the sources, uses, and amounts of all funds that will be used for eligible broadband development costs as defined in the guidelines. Attach your full project budget to the grant application. Be sure to include a contingency for project completion.

Sources and Uses of Broadband Grant Funds and Local Match for the Project

PROJECT BUDGET

Use of Funds (Activity-Category)	Amount	Costs Incurred (Y/N)	Date Incurred	Source of Funds (Local portion/County grant)	Date Funds Committed

Explanation of Budget Table

- **Use of Funds (Activity-Category)** – Use the recommended category where possible, creating other categories where anticipated expenses do not fall within one of the recommended categories. You can also add additional rows as necessary
- **Amount** – Total cost of the budget line item
- **Costs Incurred** – Has work on this activity started?

- **Date Incurred** – When was this work done?
- **Source of Funds** – Who is paying for this activity? Please note if it will be included in an invoice for reimbursement from the Nevada County Last Mile Broadband Grant Program.
- **Date Funds Committed** – When were the funds secured from this source?

4.4 Attach all written funding commitments from all project funding partners, including public, private, and non-profit or philanthropic sources.

4.5 If the grant request was approved for this project, is the remainder of the financing (the local match) in place for building this project?

No, the local match funds are not yet in place. If funds are not secured yet, what is the process to secure the funds and what is the timeline in which they will be obtained?

Yes, all of the local match funding is in place. If yes, you must attach evidence that local match funds are secured.

4.6 Are there additional costs related to this project that are not eligible costs that will be incurred as part of the overall project costs for deploying broadband to this area? If yes, what are those costs?

4.7 Is this project part of a larger build for which the applicant is not requesting Nevada County grant funds? Is there any additional relevant information regarding the investment in the area surrounding the grant project area?

If yes, please explain and/or attach proof of leveraged financing.

(Attachment optional)

5. Financial and Governance Plan

5.1 Describe the need for funding from the Nevada County Last Mile Grant fund and why the project could not proceed without this funding. Be as specific as possible.

5.2 Provide an organizational chart, applicant's history including experience relevant to the proposed project, and an indication of readiness to build, manage, and operate the proposed broadband project. Include resumes of key officers and management personnel.

6. Community & Economic Development Impact

6.1 Describe the economic and community development potential of the project, including how the project will provide opportunities for existing businesses, new businesses, telecommuting, improved public safety, telehealth care, improved distance learning, and improved service to economically distressed areas.

This question is intended to understand how the applicant worked with the local community in identifying areas of greatest need and determining specific community impacts of broadband connectivity. Narrative here should explain the expected results the project will have on the specific community, not just a general explanation of the positive impact of broadband.

6.2 Describe any partners or subcontractors associated with the project's deliverables related to deployment and service delivery. Please describe each party's role in the project. Please include copies of any applicable executed contracts or anticipated contractual language and/or insurance requirements.

6.3 Attach evidence of community support for the project. This may include resident surveys, local government resolutions, and/or letters from residents, businesses, government officials, other stakeholders or the partners listed above. Note: the upcoming public comment period is not designed to extend the application period. Members of the public may comment during this time, but all community support intended for application must be included at time of submission. *(Attachment required)*

Selection Criteria & Weights

Grants will be awarded to projects that provide the highest return in public benefits for the public costs incurred and meet all of the statutory requirements. To fulfill this requirement of reviewing applications in an objective and fair manner, applications will be reviewed and evaluated by a team compiled by Sierra Business Council and Nevada County and using the following criteria and point values to assist in systematically awarding grants. The criteria reflect information sought via the grant application questions. To ensure that your application receives its maximum point total, be sure to provide complete responses to the information requested in the application.

100 Points Possible

Project Readiness: 0-30

- Approved engineering and design plan
- Approvals or permits secured, or in process, including CEQA documentation
- Project financing secured and validated by documentation
- All project partners identified and written agreements in place
- Comprehensive proposal
- Team strength and readiness to build, manage, and operate the project

Connections and Community Support: 0-20

- Amount of increase in speed from current service to reach speed goals combined with number of households, businesses, and community anchor institutions passed
- Evidence of community support, including demonstration of customer interest such as potential/current customer surveys and/or canvasses as to desire/need for improved service, letters of support, and take-rate estimates
- Benefits to community anchor institutions.

Financial Soundness and Project Sustainability 0-20

- Identification of eligible costs, leveraging existing broadband, need for funding clearly identified, financial plan, financial strength demonstrated.
- Cost per connection
- Ability to be replicated and/or expand project model

Economic Development & Community Impact Review: 0-20

- Does the project demonstrate economic and community development impacts and how? This might include documenting specific impact statements from businesses as to business retention, expansion, and attraction impact, including home-based businesses and telecommuting. Also, evidence of education, health, and public safety benefits and general quality of life improvements.
- Is the project area economically distressed? This would include documentation that in the proposed project area, unemployment, poverty, or population loss are significantly greater than statewide average and/or would reference median household income and/or percent of students eligible for free or reduced school lunches.
- Does the project support the goals of any particular county specific plan, area specific plan, economic development plan, or energy action plan?

Grant request amount: 0-10 points

- Percent of grant request compared to eligible project costs (a higher local match percentage above 50% will result in a higher application score in this category)

GRANT REQUESTER AMOUNT SCORING TABLE

Percent of eligible project costs requested	Points
Less than 30%	10
30 to 39%	7
40-45%	4
46-48%	2
49-50%	0