

TOWN OF LIBERTY GROVE PUBLIC MEETING

Technology Committee

Date: Thursday, April 8, 2021

Time: 4:00 pm

Place: Liberty Grove Town Hall, 11161 Old Stage Road *via Zoom*

Agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Approve agenda
4. Approve minutes: 2/11/2021
5. Public input
6. Discussion and possible action: Town Hall IT Business Continuity Project status
7. Discussion and possible action: review of Technology Committee Mission Statement
8. DCEDC Broadband Infrastructure study and responses
9. Discussion and possible action: Future direction for Liberty Grove broadband expansion
 - a. 2021 PSC Grant awards
 - b. Fiber versus fixed wireless projects
 - i. American Recovery Act monies to Liberty Grove and Door County
 - ii. DCB tower project cost sharing proposal in lieu of PSC grant project
 - iii. Washington Island Electric Co-op FTTP project
10. Review of Technology Committee possible five year projects list
11. Schedule next meeting
12. Adjourn

Anastasia Bell, Clerk/Treasurer

Members of the Town Board or any other Town committee, who are not members of the body whose meeting agenda is published in this notice, are entitled, as any other citizen of the Town of Liberty Grove, to attend this meeting in an unofficial capacity. It is possible the attendance of one or more non-members may create a quorum of the membership of another body. Such a quorum is unintended, and the non-members are not meeting for the purpose of exercising the powers or duties attendant upon their membership on any Town committee or board.

Town of Liberty Grove is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting (teleconferencing). Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82100191450?pwd=eW1PcDVGeTNOcUJrczZsRnVPSS9qQT09>

Meeting ID: 821 0019 1450

Passcode: 837644

If the link doesn't work, go to <https://zoom.us/>, click the "Join a meeting" button and enter the meeting ID and Password when prompted.

To find your local number visit <https://zoom.us/u/atMFqvZKe>. To join the meeting by telephone dial one of the numbers below based on your location.

(312) 626-6799 US (Chicago)
(646) 558-8656 US (New York)
(253) 215-8782 US (Tacoma)

(301) 715-8592 US (Germantown)
(346) 248-7799 US (Houston)
(669) 900-9128 US (San Jose)

Town of Liberty Grove
Minutes of the Technology Committee meeting on February 11, 2021
(This meeting was posted correctly)

Agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Approve agenda
4. Approve minutes: 1/14/2021
5. Public input
6. Introductions
7. Update, discussion, and possible action: 2018 PSC Grant
8. Discussion and possible action: 2021 Technology budget activities
9. Discussion and possible action: review of Committee mission statement
10. Discussion and possible action: Technology Committee 5-year plan foundation and details
11. Schedule next meeting
12. Adjourn

Chair David Studebaker called the meeting to order at 4:11pm. Committee members Cathy Ward, Les Keepper, and Dan Watts were present along with Administrator Walter Kalms, and Clerk/Treasurer Anastasia Bell, via teleconference (Zoom). Committee members John Dwonch and Peter Brooks were excused.

Ward moved, Studebaker second to approve the agenda as posted. Passed 4-0.

Studebaker moved, Ward second to approve the 1-14-2021 minutes as presented. Passed 4-0.

Public Input – None

2018 PSC Grant – Studebaker indicated that the grant application was originally for the installation of three new towers within the Town during 2019 and had a budget of \$237,520. Due to many contributing factors, the construction phase of the project was not completed until 2020 and the final project expenses were \$298,068.03 which is \$60,548.03 more than the budget. It was confirmed that there are funds available in the Tech Capital Reserve account for some overage since the taller tower at the fire station was expected to increase the overall costs. **Keepper moved, Studebaker second** to recommend that the Town Board accept 1/3 of the overrun for the 2018 Tower Grant project. Since the Town has already paid \$3,251.71 more than the grant budget, this would involve a payment of \$16,930.97 to Door County Broadband. Roll call vote with Studebaker, Watts, Ward, and Keepper voting aye, no nays. Passed 4-0.

Mission Statement – Bell reported that Town Chairman, John Lowry, has requested all committee review their mission statements annually. Ward provided information from the Comprehensive Plan which could be incorporated into the mission statement. It was the consensus to discuss this at a future meeting.

2021 Technology budget activities – Not discussed, to be included on future agenda.

5-year plan – Not discussed, to be included on future agenda.

The next Technology Committee meeting will be Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 4:00pm

Ward moved, Studebaker second to adjourn at 5:31pm. Passed 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anastasia Bell, Clerk/Treasurer

DRAFT

Mission Statement
Technology Committee
(Approved by Technology Committee 6-9-2009)

The mission of the Technology Committee is as follows:

To assist the Town Board and staff to stay up to date with technology that benefits the Town of Liberty Grove.



AMENDED REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

2/22/21

All Amendments Are Indicated in Red

**2021 Broadband Infrastructure Engineering
Study
Door County, Wisconsin**

In Partnership with

**County of Door
Town of Liberty Grove
Door County Medical Center**

February 22, 2021

Door County 2021 Broadband Infrastructure Engineering Assessment

Door County Economic Development Corporation

185 E Walnut St

Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin 54235

Phone: 920-743-3113

Steve@DoorCountyBusiness.com

Prepared by: DCEDC Broadband Taskforce

Date: Issued January 26, 2021

Amended: February 22, 2021

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
2021 Broadband Infrastructure Engineering Assessment
Door County, Wisconsin

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: ~~FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2021, 12:00 PM CST~~ **FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2021, 12:00 PM CST.**

WRITTEN QUESTION SUBMISSION DEADLINE: ~~FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2021, 12:00 PM CST~~ **FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 2021, 12:00 PM CST**

All questions and/or requests for clarification must be submitted in writing to the following Project Manager Contact. All questions and/or clarifications will be provided to all consultants being invited to submit a proposal. No questions and/or clarifications will be provided in person or via telephone.

RFP Contact Name: Steve R. Jenkins, CEcD, Executive Director
Contact Address: 185 E Walnut St
Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin 54235
Telephone Number: 920.421.3777
Email Address: Steve@DoorCountyBusiness.com

DOOR COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Door County Economic Development Corporation (DCEDC) is a public/private partnership dedicated to improving the economic vitality of the county and its residents. Founded in 1989, DCEDC has been successful in helping existing businesses create and retain thousands of jobs through a myriad of programs and initiatives. Additionally, DCEDC places strong emphasis on fostering entrepreneurial endeavors in county residents as well as those who vacation in Door County.

Mission

The Door County Economic Development Corporation is a public/private partnership dedicated to improving the economic vitality of the County and its residents.

Websites

www.DoorCountyBusiness.com

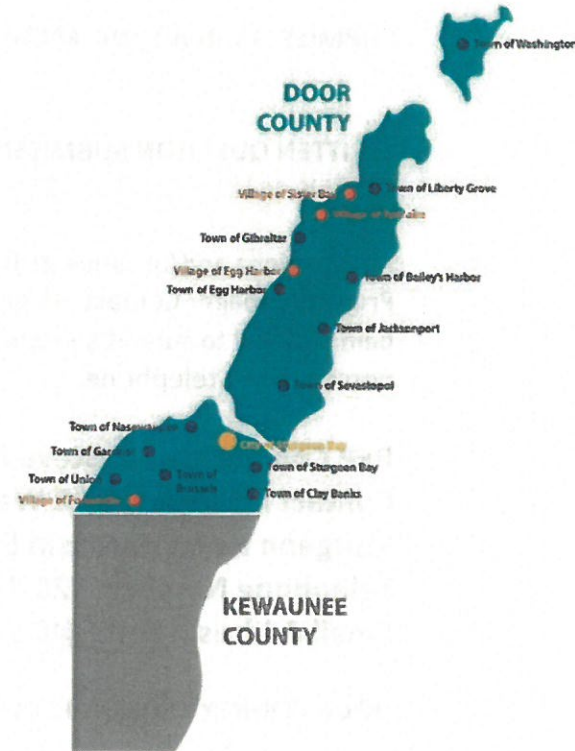
www.LiveDoorCounty.org

DOOR COUNTY OVERVIEW



Door County, Wisconsin is a rural county on a peninsula located on Northeast Wisconsin with Lake Michigan on the East and Green Bay on the West. The 2019 population was 27,472. The economy is comprised of three sectors. Agriculture in Southern Door; manufacturing and shipbuilding in Central Door, primarily in Sturgeon Bay; and hospitality and tourism in Northern Door County.

Door County is seeing an increase in remote workers and the potential is expanding. The County also has a high number of both seasonal and permanent senior citizen residents. We also see incumbent businesses adapting to the COVID-19 Pandemic with increasing use of the Internet as a tool. All of this sectors and opportunities require a high level of Broadband service.



RFP INTRODUCTION:

Door County Economic Development Corporation (DCEDC) invites and welcomes proposals for their 2021 Door County Broadband Infrastructure Engineering Assessment. Based on your previous work experience, your firm is invited to submit a proposal. Please take the time to carefully read and become familiar with the proposal requirements. All proposals submitted for consideration must be received by the time as specified above under the "SUBMISSION DEADLINE."

BIDDERS SHOULD NOTE THAT ANY AND ALL WORK INTENDED TO BE SUBCONTRACTED AS PART OF THE BID SUBMITTAL MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE SAME BACKGROUND MATERIALS AND REFERENCES FOR THE SUBCONTRACTORS AS THAT FOR THE LEAD CONTRACTOR— NO EXCEPTIONS. THESE ARE OUTLINED IN "PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORMAT" ON PAGE 9 10.

PROPOSALS THAT DO NOT ENCOMPASS THE ENTIRE SCOPE OF SERVICES WILL BE DEEMED NON-RESPONSIVE AND WILL BE REJECTED.

PROJECT AND LOCATION:

The bid proposal is being requested for 2021 Broadband Infrastructure Engineering Assessment which is or shall be located at 185 E. Walnut St., Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin 54235.

PROJECT MANAGER CONTACT INFORMATION:

For questions or information regarding the study, contact:

Name: Steve R. Jenkins, CEcD

Title: DCEDC Executive Director

Phone: 920.421.3777

Email: Steve@DoorCountBusiness.com

PROJECT OBJECTIVE:

As Door County continues to struggle with Broadband service issues, the DCEDC has begun to work with local municipalities, private companies, and local foundations to fund a comprehensive assessment of the current Broadband infrastructure, along with possible short- and long-term solutions. The ultimate objective is to develop a comprehensive strategy that will provide reliable Broadband service up to 1 gigabit to every residence and business in Door County. If technologies that are not scalable to 1 gigabit or greater are used or recommended in order to provide an interim or transitional solution for the unserved, such technologies must be considered transitional only. Interim solutions may be necessary, but should only be recommended as transitional to a scalable final solution.

The goals of the study would be to:

- Understand what is currently available, where does the infrastructure serve, capacity, and who owns the infrastructure
- Voids or deficiencies in service
- Options in providing service both in the short-term and long-term along with possible financing plans and strategies

AVAILABLE DATA

Several sources of local market and resource data are available through DCEDC. Data from these sources may be used but should not to be relied upon to the exclusion of other data available. These sources include:

- a. K-12 data collected by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.
<https://dpi.wi.gov/broadband>
- b. Speed test results solicited from County residents (already implemented).
- c. Maps of the public school and library BadgerNet network

- d. **Wisconsin Public Service utility pole maps – permission from the proper authority to access these maps is required.**
- e. **PSC Data:** <https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/Programs/WBO.aspx>
<https://maps.psc.wi.gov/apps/WisconsinBroadbandMap/>

PROJECT SCOPE AND SPECIFICATIONS

This section outlines the study and report requirements.

Section A – Current assessment and market demand

- Review of the competitive environment
 - Complete an inventory of existing fiber networks and all other Broadband providers and services within the county, including ownership and availability for use by other network providers.
 - Provide an overview of current broadband providers' services, pricing strategies and coverage area. To the extent possible, determine and analyze the investment and deployment plans of incumbent providers.
 - Map existing the location of existing fiber and broadband-related electronics and available broadband speeds available by provider. This information should be provided in a format usable by the County GIS systems.
 - Provide an assessment of the services available to our existing and prospective businesses and how that impacts our economic development efforts.

Data Deliverables

- a. **A list of all the providers of broadband services in Door County, to include wired, fixed wireless, cellular and satellite**
- b. **A coverage map for each provider and a consolidated map showing all the providers' coverages.**
- c. **Services and rates (including data caps) available from each provider in each of their coverage areas. The service availability needs to be confirmed, not just claimed. Speeds available need to be confirmed by specific area. For example, DSL speed available is much slower (or not available at all) as the distance to certain equipment increases. A speed of 15 Mbps available at 1 mile is of no use to a user further out. Or, houses below a bluff might not have line of sight to a fixed wireless signal from a tower only a half mile away as the crow flies.**
- d. **Address lists contained within each defined coverage area. Practical limits apply – e.g. satellites can claim the whole county, detail not required.**
- e. **Physical location maps for all broadband structures (e.g. towers) and cables. For cables, are they above ground or buried, cable or fiber optic?**
- f. **If possible, estimates of how much unused capacity is installed by type (cable, fiber, fixed wireless, etc.)**

Section B – Technology options

- Determine the best technology path for our county
 - What are the broadband capacities and considerations that are necessary now and in the future that will enable our county to be economically competitive? What technologies can provide broadband services at those speeds?
 - What are the technologies best suited to the various areas of the County based on geography and demographics? What are the pros and cons of each technology?
 - What opportunities exist to provide a protected-ring fiber network that would connect businesses and anchor institutions such as schools, libraries, hospitals, public safety, cities, institutions of higher education and community support organizations?
- Options for services provision to include:
 - Mix of technologies and phased build out plans with multiple platforms scalable to 1 gigabit and include wireless, fiber, ARMER, cell, and other towers/structures, cable, etc.
 - Options should include scenarios using what already exists within the County, with a minimum service level of (25/3, 100/100, Gb, symmetrical and asymmetrical options (county must choose)).
 - Business models and pro forma to be analyzed to include but not be limited to:
 - a. Build on existing networks: Options to combine or collaborate with existing providers to provide middle and last mile coverage to the underserved and unserved, with special emphasis on leveraging CAF2 and other Federal agency dollars.
 - b. Create new networks:
 - 1. Open Access: The County would finance and contract to build the network and invite other service providers to contract to deliver services over the network.
 - 2. Proprietary Network:
 - i. The County would build and operate the network, with or without private sector operating partners
 - ii. The County would incent a private sector partner, including existing cooperatives, the creation of a new cooperative, or other entity to invest, build and operate a network by using development powers as necessary.

3. Other options that might involve multiple local entities or other scenarios as contractor sees appropriate.
- Conduct pre-engineering study(s) at sufficient depth to estimate costs and approximate implementation timeframes for full network implementation.
 - This evaluation should include an assessment of all available mainstream high-speed technologies either alone or in combination and include an assessment and consideration of both Fiber to the Premise (FTTP) and wireless technologies. All parts, materials, and service proposed must be currently available on the market and in continuing production (no discontinued manufacturers or parts).
 - Assessment of primary and redundant backhaul connection options between local network and the Internet.
 - Define the proposed service area and create a conceptual fiber route and high level design to provide the greatest coverage, showing businesses and publicly owned facilities passed within ½ mile on both sides of the fiber route.
 - Use algorithmic tools to combine the map data with historical cost data to provide an estimated cost to offer scalable broadband service for all options identified. Costs will be calculated by service area and anticipated route miles to determine capital costs for fiber optic mainline, access equipment, cell tower backhaul, routers, and switches. Costs should be all inclusive of any design, initial configuration and installation costs.

Section C – Partnership options

- Provide examples of who might be a prospective partner with a brief summary of how each relationship would function.
- What sectors, groups and individuals may help our county achieve the broadband goals? Please identify synergies and sharing opportunities that exist with local businesses/providers and customers to include but not limited to:
 - ISP Providers, Telecoms, Cooperatives, Statewide telecom networks, Government entities, NGO's, K-12 and higher education, including library systems, Healthcare providers and the industry and business community
 - If no local businesses/providers available, what might be possible to set-up?

Section D – Financing and Legal Considerations

- Provide financing options to include, but not limited to general obligation bonds, revenue bond, public/private partnerships, USDA RUS, other state and federal funding and others where appropriate.
- Provide an assessment of legal requirements, risks and regulations relevant to the building or operation of a network and partnership arrangements.
- Prepare financial projections for at least two project scenarios as selected by the project steering team:
 - Options Identified
 - Operational Cash flow for expenditures
 - Breakeven projections for various levels of adoption
 - One Time and Recurring Capital Expenses
 - Business and technical expertise needed
 - Staffing requirements for operation, maintenance including equipment and inventory required
 - Organizational support
 - Community Support

PROPOSAL SELECTION CRITERIA:

Only those proposals received by the stated deadline will be considered. All proposals, submitted by the deadline, will be reviewed and evaluated based upon information provided in the submitted proposal. The following criteria will be given considerable weight in the proposal selection process:

- Timeline / proposed milestones
- Cost effectiveness
- Experience / staff assigned
- Project approach
- Consultant and any sub-consultants experience in doing similar work
- Consultant unique value to Door County

Accepted proposals will be reviewed and ranked by a panel of technical experts. **Technical review and rankings will then be used by the Selection Panel for final selection. The DCEDC has the final authority in the selection of the consultant.**

DCEDC shall reserve the right to cancel, suspend, and/or discontinue any proposal at any time they deem necessary or fit without obligation or notice to the proposing bidder/contractor.

SCHEDULED TIMELINE:

The following timeline has been established to ensure that our project objective is achieved; however, the following project timeline shall be subject to change when deemed necessary by management. **The allotted time for the completion of the contract is six (6) months (Contract execution to Final Report submittal).**

Interview: Week of ~~March 14, 2021~~ March 22, 2021

RFP Engagement: Week of ~~March 28, 2021~~ April 5, 2021

Study Completion and Scenario Recommendation: ~~July 30, 2021~~ August 2, 2021

Scenario Selection: August 16, 2021

Financial Projections on Selected Scenario: September 17, 2021

Draft Report: September 24, 2021

Revisions & Clarifications: Week of ~~August 1, 2021~~ September 27, 2021

Final Report: October 4, 2021

Presentation for Study Investors and Interested Parties: Week of ~~August 15, 2021~~ October 18, 2021. This is anticipated to be in-person subject to health conditions at the time.

PROJECT PROPOSAL EXPECTATIONS:

DCEDC shall award the contract to the proposal that best accommodates the various project requirements. DCEDC reserves the right to award any contract prior to the proposal deadline stated within the "Scheduled Timeline" or prior to the receipt of all proposals, award the contract to more than one Bidder, and refuse any proposal or contract without obligation to either Door County Economic Development Corporation or to any Bidder offering or submitting a proposal.

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT PROPOSAL:

All proposals must be received by DCEDC no later than 12:00 PM on February 26, 2021 12:00 PM CST on FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2021 for consideration in the project proposal selection process.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORMAT:

The following is a list of information that the Bidder should include in their proposal submission:

Summary of Bidder Background

- Bidder's Name(s).
- Bidder's Address.
- Bidder's Contact Information (and preferred method of communication).
- Legal Form of Bidder (e.g. sole proprietor, partnership, corporation).
- Date Bidder's Company Formed.

- Description of Bidder's company in terms of size, range and types of services offered and clientele.
- Bidder's principal officers (e.g. President, Chairman, Vice President(s), Secretary, Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer, General Managers) and length of time each officer has performed in his/her field of expertise.
- Bidder's Federal Employee Identification Number (FEIN).
- Evidence of legal authority to conduct business in Wisconsin (e.g. business license number).
- Evidence of established track record for providing services and/or deliverables that are the subject of this proposal.
- Organization chart showing key personnel that would provide services to Door County Economic Development Corporation along with resumes of the personnel.

Description of Subcontractors

- Provide a detailed description of what subcontractors will be used as part of the proposer's work, experience and evidence of capabilities to do the assigned work, and personnel that will be engaged along with resumes.

Financial Information

- State whether the Bidder or its parent company (if any) has ever filed for bankruptcy or any form of Reorganization under the Bankruptcy Code.
- State whether the Bidder or its parent company (if any) has ever received any sanctions or is currently under investigation by any regulatory or governmental body.

Proposed Outcome

- Summary of timeline and work to be completed.

Equipment or Service

- List any accommodation, services, or space required from Door County Economic Development Corporation, along with a brief explanation.

Cost Proposal Summary and Breakdown

- A detailed list of any and all expected costs or expenses related to the proposed project.
- Summary and explanation of any other contributing expenses to the total cost.
- Brief summary of the total cost of the proposal.

References

- Provide 3 or more references on similar projects. More references on similar projects will be beneficial.

Bidder agrees that DCEDC may contact all submitted references and others derived from reference discussions to obtain any and all information regarding Bidder's performance.

Bidders not providing required information for submission will be deemed non-responsive and the proposal will be rejected.

END

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
2021 Broadband Infrastructure Engineering Study
Door County, Wisconsin

Grant Applications Approved on March 18, 2021

1. **24-7 Telcom, Inc.,** Town of Brunswick fiber project - \$105,725. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 3 businesses and 31 residences along County Trunk Hwy Z and State Highway 37 in the Town of Brunswick in Eau Claire County. This project area is about one mile east of the FY 2018-2 Caryville project and about one mile north of the proposed Drammen West project.
2. **24-7 Telcom, Inc.,** Town of Drammen - West project - \$709,700. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 6 businesses and 110 residences in the east central portion of the Town of Drammen in Eau Claire County. This project area is adjacent to and immediately west of the project area that the Tri-County Town of Drammen project proposes to serve.
3. **24-7 Telcom, Inc.,** Town of Menomonie Highway BB project - \$320,300. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 6 businesses and 85 residences in the Town of Menomonie in Dunn County. This project area is immediately northwest of the City of Menomonie and is just west of the FY 2020 24-7 Telcom Town of Sherman project.
4. **24-7 Telcom, Inc.,** Town of Menomonie Irvington West project - \$335,160. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 4 businesses and 66 residences in the Town of Menomonie in Dunn County. This project area is just west of the FY 2018-1 24-7 Telcom Irvington project and just north of the FY 2018-2 24-7 Telcom Town of Weston project.
5. **24-7 Telcom, Inc.,** Town of Red Cedar project - \$467,250. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 6 businesses and 140 residences in the Town of Red Cedar in Dunn County. This project area is southeast of the City of Menomonie and immediately south of the Menomonie regional airport. The project area is just northeast of the FY 2020 24-7 Telcom County Highway J project.
6. **Bayfield Wireless,** Bayfield County fixed wireless project - \$472,539. This project will build a fixed wireless service in the Towns of Barksdale, Bayview and Washburn in Bayfield County. The service will use CBRs and LTE small cell architecture, and will reach 80 businesses and 1,003 residential locations. There may be some overlap with RDOF funding.
7. **Hager Telecom d/b/a Bevcomm,** Towns of Hartland and Trenton fiber project - \$307,686. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 13 businesses and 155 residences in the Towns of Hartland and Trenton in Pierce County. This project area is immediately east of the FY 2020 Bevcomm Hager City grant project.
8. **Indianhead Telephone Company d/b/a Bevcomm,** Potato Lake fiber project - \$461,929. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 7 businesses and 146 residences in the Towns of Rusk, Big Bend and Stubbs, in Rusk County. This project area is west of the FY 2018-2 Indianhead Island Lake grant project.
9. **Bloomer Telephone Company,** Town of Colfax Phase II fiber project - \$947,548. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 5 businesses and 470 residences in the Towns of Colfax and Elk Mound, in Dunn County. This project area is west and south of the FY 2020 Bloomer Telephone Company Town of Colfax Phase I fiber project.
10. **Bug Tussel Wireless,** Florence County fixed wireless project - \$227,248. This project will build one new wireless tower and upgrade the fixed wireless service on six existing towers in seven sites within Florence County. Five sites will use a Cambium product providing a maximum 100 Mbps down, and two sites will use a MIMO LTE product also offering a maximum 100 Mbps down. The project will potentially reach 71 businesses and 3,377 residential locations.
11. **Bug Tussel Wireless,** Fond du Lac County fixed wireless project - \$213,472. This project will build two wireless towers and install a fixed wireless service in the southwestern portion of Fond du Lac County. The service will

use a Cambium product providing a maximum 100 Mbps down, and will potentially reach 97 businesses and 1,913 residential locations.

12. **Bug Tussel Wireless**, Iron County fixed wireless project - \$511,627. This project will build one new wireless tower and upgrade the fixed wireless service on eight existing towers within Iron County. The nine sites will use a MIMO LTE product offering a maximum 100 Mbps down. The project will potentially reach 175 businesses and 6,131 residential locations.
13. **Bug Tussel Wireless**, Wood County fixed wireless project - \$492,988. This project will build eight new wireless towers and upgrade the fixed wireless service on three existing towers, located in Wood County. Nine sites will use a MIMO LTE product providing a maximum 100 Mbps down, and two sites will use a Cambium product, also providing a maximum speed of 100 Mbps down. The project will potentially reach 1,742 businesses and 34,884 residential locations.
14. **Bug Tussel Wireless**, Wood County - Southwest (Pittsville SD) fixed wireless project - \$499,233. This project will build six new wireless towers and upgrade the fixed wireless service on one existing tower, located in Jackson and Wood Counties. The seven sites will use a MIMO LTE product providing a maximum speed of 100 Mbps down. The project will potentially reach 1,293 businesses and 23,654 residential locations.
15. **CCI Systems, Inc. d/b/a Astrea**, Towns of Solon Springs and Gordon fiber project - \$326,858. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 8 businesses and 244 residential locations in the Towns of Gordon and Solon Springs in Douglas County.
16. **CCI Systems, Inc. d/b/a Astrea**, Green Lake fiber project - \$66,897. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 1 business and 78 residential locations in the Town of Mountain in Oconto County.
17. **CenturyTel of Northern Wisconsin, LLC d/b/a CenturyLink**, Boulder Junction Phase II fiber project - \$2,225,032. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 19 businesses and 585 residential locations in the Town of Boulder Junction in Vilas County.
18. **ChoiceTel, LLC**, Town of St. Germain Phase II fiber project - \$598,925. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 185 businesses and 2,000 residential locations in the Town of St. Germain in Vilas County. This project extends the FY 2019 ChoiceTel St Germain build out to about 90% of the locations in the township.
19. **Clear Lake Telephone Company**, Clear Lake telephone exchange fiber project - \$400,000. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 17 businesses and 405 residential locations in the Towns of Blackbrook and Clear Lake in Barron County, and in the Town of Forest in St. Croix County. This project builds on the FY 2020 Clear Lake Telephone Company within the Village of Clear Lake.
20. **Whitewater Wideband LLC d/b/a Edge Broadband**, Whitewater Lake fiber project - \$537,093. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 52 businesses and 1,015 residential locations near Whitewater Lake, in the Towns of Richmond and Whitewater in Walworth County. This project builds on the FY 2020 Edge Broadband Lake Lorraine fiber project.
21. **Hilbert Communications, LLC**, Kewaunee County fiber route - \$1,402,537. This project will build a 61.7-mile fiber route through Kewaunee County. The route will provide improved broadband support for wireless service to 1,752 businesses and 20,434 residential locations in Kewaunee County.
22. **Marquette-Adams Telephone Cooperative, Inc.**, Towns of Dakota and Wautoma fiber project - \$162,543. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 11 businesses and 109 residential locations in the Towns of Dakota and Wautoma in Waushara County. This project will also provide the local electric utility, Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative, with broadband connections to electric substations in the project area.

23. **Marquette-Adams Telephone Cooperative, Inc.**, Towns of Harris and Westfield fiber project - \$164,242. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 24 businesses and 59 residential locations in three project areas, east and west of the Village of Westfield in the Towns of Harris and Westfield, in Marquette County.
24. **Marquette-Adams Telephone Cooperative, Inc.**, Town of Newport Phase II fiber project - \$94,064. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 5 businesses and 43 residential locations in the Town of Newport in Columbia County. This project builds on the FY 2020 MATC Town of Newport Phase I fiber project.
25. **Midcontinent Communications**, Ellsworth cable project - \$83,169. This project will build a cable internet service past 5 businesses and 49 residential locations in two neighborhoods, one is west of Ellsworth in the Town of Trimble and the second is south of Ellsworth in the Town of Ellsworth. Both areas are in Pierce County.
26. **CTC Telcom d/b/a Mosaic Technologies**, Town of Cedar Lake fiber project - \$1,263,791. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 78 businesses and 1,133 residential locations in the Towns of Cedar Lake in Barron County, in the Town of and Village of Birchwood in Washburn County, and in the Town of Edgewater in Sawyer County.
27. **Chibardun Telephone Cooperative, Inc. d/b/a Mosaic Technologies**, Towns of Prairie Farm and New Haven fiber project - \$946,819. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 27 businesses and 788 residential locations in the Towns of Prairie Farm and Vance Creek, in Barron County, and Towns of New Haven and Sheridan, in Dunn County.
28. **Chibardun Telephone Cooperative, Inc. d/b/a Mosaic Technologies**, Towns of Sand Creek and Otter Creek fiber project - \$960,218. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 23 businesses and 615 residential locations in the Towns of Sand Creek, Otter Creek, and Grant in Dunn County, and the Town of Sioux Creek in Barron County.
29. **Somerset Telephone Company, Inc. d/b/a Northwest Communications**, Town of Star Prairie fiber project - \$168,000. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 6 businesses and 470 residential locations west and south of Cedar Lake in the Town of Alden in Polk County and the Town of Star Prairie in St. Croix County.
30. **Brown County C-LEC, LLC d/b/a Nsight Telservices**, Washington Island Phase II fiber project - \$297,603. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 73 businesses and 143 residential locations on Washington Island in Door County. This project builds on the FY 2019 Nsight Washington Island fiber route connecting Gills Rock, Plum Island and Washington Island.
31. **Ntera, LLC**, Chippewa County fiber project - \$242,138. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 10 businesses and 90 residential locations along three routes: the Dutch Creek addition in the Towns of Anson and Goetz, the Pike Lake addition in the Towns of Arthur and Colburn, and the 260th Avenue in the Town of Birch Creek. These routes are extensions from the FY 2019 Ntera Birch Creek project, the FY 2020 Ntera Andersen & Estella project, and fiber routes funded from other sources.
32. **Ntera, LLC**, Gilman fiber project - \$320,966. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 14 businesses and 200 residential locations along Highway 64 in the Town of Aurora in Taylor County. This route is an extension off of a fiber route funded by a USDA ReConnect Grant.
33. **Ntera, LLC**, Sheldon fiber project - \$194,469. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 7 businesses and 71 residential locations along Highway 64 in the Village of Sheldon and in the Town of Marshall in Rusk County, and in the Towns of Lake Holcombe and Estella in Chippewa County.
34. **Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services**, Beldenville fiber project - \$473,273. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 13 businesses and 229 residential locations in the Town of River Falls in Pierce County.

35. **Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services**, Trimble fiber project - \$316,189. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 18 businesses and 294 residential locations in the Towns of Oak Grove, Trenton, and Trimble, in Pierce County.
36. **Price County Telephone Company**, Soo Lake fiber project - \$1,590,410. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 70 businesses and 1,446 residential locations in the Phillips and Soo Lake telephone rate centers, in Price and Sawyer Counties.
37. **Reedsburg Utility Commission d/b/a LightSpeed**, Highway 130 and Bear Valley fiber project - \$327,000. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 10 businesses and 123 residential locations adjacent to Highway 130 in the Town of Buena Vista in southeast Richland County.
38. **Reedsburg Utility Commission d/b/a LightSpeed**, Town of Fairfield fiber project - \$355,000. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 9 businesses and 299 residential locations in the Towns of Delton and Fairchild in northeast Sauk County.
39. **Reedsburg Utility Commission d/b/a LightSpeed**, Town of Lyndon fiber project - \$40,000. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 2 businesses and 27 residential locations along County Road HH in the Town of Lyndon in southern Juneau County.
40. **Reedsburg Utility Commission d/b/a LightSpeed**, River Valley Phase III fiber project - \$334,300. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 10 businesses and 166 residential locations in the Town of Spring Green in southern Sauk County. This project is an extension off of the FY 2019 and FY 2020 RUC River Valley projects.
41. **Richland Grant Telephone Cooperative, Inc.**, County Road Z fiber project - \$500,000. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 6 businesses and 139 residential locations along County Road Z between CTH 14 and CTH 56 in the Towns of Dayton and Marshall in Richland County.
42. **Richland Grant Telephone Cooperative, Inc.**, Highway 80 Corridor Phase II fiber project - \$690,000. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 5 businesses and 220 residential locations adjacent to CTH 80 between Boaz and Richland Center, in the Towns of Dayton and Eagle in Richland County. This project is an extension off of the FY 2020 Richland-Grant Highway 80 project.
43. **Siren Telephone Company**, Green Lake to Voyager Village fiber project - \$278,406. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 47 work-at-home and 185 residential locations near Voyager Village, on the northwest side of Birch Island Lake, in the Towns of Jackson and Scott in Burnett County.
44. **Siren Telephone Company**, Sand Lake fiber project - \$320,061. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 249 residential locations near Green, Mallard and Sand Lakes, in the Town of Jackson, in Burnett County.
45. **Spectrum Mid-America, LLC**, Town of Lyons cable internet project - \$142,500. This project will build a cable internet service past 41 residential locations along Steele Road southwest of Burlington, in the Town of Lyons in Walworth County.
46. **Starwire Technologies**, Town of Clam Falls - North Phase III fiber project - \$282,294. This project will build a Fiber-to-the-Premises service past 8 businesses and 94 residential locations in the Town of Clam Falls in Polk County. This project completes the fiber build out in Clam Falls begun with the FY 2019 and the FY 2020 CARES projects.
47. **Starwire Technologies**, Spencer Lake and Indian Creek fiber project - \$315,202. This project will build a Fiber-to-the-Premises service past 14 businesses and 92 residential locations in the Town of Lorain in Polk County. This project extends the FY 2019 Clam Falls project east to the adjacent township of Lorain.

48. **Starwire Technologies**, West Sweden fiber project - \$297,950. This project will build a Fiber-to-the-Premises service past 9 businesses and 79 residential locations in the Towns of Clam Falls and West Sweden in Polk County. This project extends the FY 2019 Clam Falls and FY 2020 CARES projects west to the adjacent township of West Sweden, north of Frederic.
49. **Superior Connections**, Bad River Communities Essential fiber project - \$1,871,814. This project will build a Fiber-to-the-Premises service past 13 businesses and 330 residential locations in the Bad River Tribe Reservation, within the boundaries of Ashland County.
50. **Tech Com, Inc.**, Richland County Phase II fiber project - \$342,000. This project will build a Fiber-to-the-Premises service past 5 businesses and 150 residential locations northwest of Richland Center along County A from Hwy 80 to County Road Z, and from Hwy 56 to Hwy 14, in the Towns of Dayton, Marshall, Richland and Rockbridge, in Richland County. This project builds on the FY 2020 Tech Com Richland County fiber project.
51. **Tri-County Communications Cooperative, Inc.**, Town of Drammen - East fiber project - \$739,400. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 6 businesses and 156 residences in the east portion of the Town of Drammen in Eau Claire County. This project area is adjacent to and immediately east of the project area that the 24-7 Telcom Town of Drammen project proposes to serve.
52. **Tri-County Communications Cooperative, Inc.**, Newcomb Valley fiber project - \$151,100. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 1 business and 49 residences in the Town of Arcadia in Trempealeau County.
53. **UpNetWI, LLC**, Town of Bristol fiber project - \$182,656. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 11 businesses and 210 residences along County Highway V in the Town of Bristol in Dane County, and north along County Road N in the Town of Hampden in Columbia County.
54. **UpNetWI, LLC**, Town of Cottage Grove fiber project - \$86,609. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 5 businesses and 81 residential locations near the intersection of Buckeye Road and Femrite Drive, in the Town of Cottage Grove and in the Town of Bristol in Dane County.
55. **US Internet**, Light the Lake Phase II - \$1,526,618. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 45 businesses and 515 residences in the Towns of Omro, Poygan and Wahau in Winnebago County. This project extends the FY 2020 US Internet Light the Lake Phase I project.
56. **Vernon Communications Cooperative**, Crawford County fiber project - \$172,900. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 8 businesses and 130 residences in the Village of Ferryville in Crawford County. This project would replace the DSL facilities constructed with the FY 2015 CenturyLink Ferryville project.
57. **Vernon Communications Cooperative**, Vernon County Phase V fiber project - \$395,415. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 17 businesses and 127 residences in the Towns of Freeman, Franklin, Jefferson and Viroqua, in Vernon County.
58. **Wittenberg Telephone Company, Inc. d/b/a Wittenberg Wireless LLC**, Marathon County Phase I fiber project - \$172,872. This project will build a Fiber-To-The-Premises (FTTP) service past 3 businesses and 85 residences along County Road Y south of the City of Hatley, west along Townline Road, and south along County Road Q, in the Towns of Reid and Ringle, in Marathon County.

0 Seq #	counties	communities	applicant	grant amount	businesses served	residences served	Service Type
1	Vilas	Town of St. Germain	ChoiceTel LLC	\$ 598,925.00	185	2000	FTTP
2	Door	Washington Island	Nsight Telservices	\$ 297,603.00	73	143	FTTP
3	Juneau	Town of Lyndon	LightSpeed	\$ 40,000.00	2	27	FTTP
4	Marathon	Tows of Reid, Town of Ringle	Wittenberg Wireless LLC	\$ 172,872.00	3	85	FTTP
5	Florence	null	Bug Tussel Wireless	\$ 227,248.00	71	3377	Fwireless
6	Jackson, Wood	null	Bug Tussel Wireless	\$ 499,233.00	1293	23654	Fwireless
7	Polk, St. Croix	Town of Alden, Town of Star Prairie	Northwest Communications	\$ 168,000.00	6	470	FTTP
8	Iron	null	Bug Tussel Wireless	\$ 511,627.00	175	6131	Fwireless
9	Wood	null	Bug Tussel Wireless	\$ 492,988.00	1742	34884	Fwireless
10	Polk	Town of Clam Falls	Starwire Technologies	\$ 282,294.00	8	94	FTTP
11	Walworth	Towns of Richmond and Whitewater	Edge Broadband	\$ 537,093.00	52	1015	FTTP
12	Vernon	Towns of Freeman, Franklin, Jefferson and Viroqua	Vernon Communications Cooperative	\$ 395,415.00	17	127	FTTP
13	Crawford	Village of Ferryville	Vernon Communications Cooperative	\$ 172,900.00	8	130	FTTP
14	St. Croix	Towns of Blackbrook and Clear Lake	Clear Lake Telephone Company	\$ 400,000.00	17	405	FTTP
15	Eau Claire	Town of Brunswick	24-7 Telcom	\$ 105,725.00	3	31	FTTP
16	Pierce	Towns of Hartland and Trenton	Bevcomm	\$ 307,686.00	13	155	FTTP
17	Waushara	Towns of Dakota and Wautoma	Marquette-Adams Telephone	\$ 162,543.00	11	109	FTTP
18	Dunn, Barron	Towns of Sand Creek, Otter Creek, Grant and Sioux Creek	Chibardun Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	\$ 960,218.00	23	615	FTTP
19	Richland	Towns of Dayton, Marshall, Richland and Rockbridge	Tech Com, Inc.	\$ 342,000.00	5	150	FTTP
20	Washburn, Sawyer	Town of Cedar Lake, Village of Birchwood, Town of Edgewater	CTC Telcom dba Mosaic Technologies	\$ 1,263,791.00	78	1133	FTTP
21	Trempealeau	Town of Arcadia	Tri-County Communications Cooperative, Inc.	\$ 151,100.00	1	49	FTTP
22	Sauk	Towns of Delton and Fairchild	LightSpeed	\$ 355,000.00	9	299	FTTP
23	Polk	Towns of Clam Falls and West Sweden	Starwire Technologies	\$ 297,950.00	9	79	FTTP
24	Barron, Dunn	Towns of Prairie Farm, Vance Creek, New Haven and Sheridan	Chibardun Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	\$ 946,819.00	27	788	FTTP
25	Rusk	Towns of Rusk, Big Bend and Stubbs	Bevcomm	\$ 461,929.00	7	146	FTTP
26	Richland	Towns of Dayton and Marshall	Richland Grant Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	\$ 500,000.00	6	139	FTTP
27	Chippewa	Towns of Anson, Goetz, Arthur, Colburn, Birch Creek	Ntera, LLC	\$ 242,138.00	10	90	FTTP
28	Dane, Columbia	Towns of Bristol, Hampden	UpNetWI, LLC	\$ 182,656.00	11	210	FTTP
29	Pierce	Town of River Falls	Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services	\$ 473,273.00	12	229	FTTP
30	Winnebago	Towns of Omro, Poygan, Wahau	US Internet	\$ 1,526,618.00	45	515	FTTP
31	Richland	Town of Buena Vista	LightSpeed	\$ 327,000.00	10	123	FTTP
32	Kewaunee	null	Hilbert Communications, LLC	\$ 1,402,537.00	1752	20434	Backbone
33	Sauk	Town of Spring Green	LightSpeed	\$ 334,300.00	10	166	FTTP
34	Polk	Town of Lorain	Starwire Technologies	\$ 315,202.00	14	92	FTTP
35	Price, Sawyer	null	Price County Telephone Company	\$ 1,590,410.00	70	1446	FTTP
36	Eau Claire	Town of Drammen	24-7 Telcom	\$ 709,700.00	6	110	FTTP
37	Vilas	Town of Boulder Junction	CenturyLink	\$ 2,225,032.00	19	585	FTTP

38 Eau Claire	Town of Drammen	Tri-County Communications	\$	739,400.00	6	156	FTTP
39 Pierce	Towns of Oak Grove, Trenton and Trimble	Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services	\$	316,189.00	18	294	FTTP
40 Taylor	Town of Aurora	Ntera, LLC	\$	320,966.00	14	200	FTTP
41 Richland	Towns of Dayton and Eagle	Richland Grant Telephone Cooperative,	\$	690,000.00	5	220	FTTP
42 Dunn	Town of Menomonie	24-7 Telcom	\$	335,160.00	4	66	FTTP
43 Rusk, Chippewa	Towns of Marshall, Lake Holcombe and Etella	Tech Com, Inc.	\$	194,469.00	7	71	FTTP
44 Dunn	Towns of Colfax and Elk Mound	Bloomer Telephone Company	\$	947,548.00	5	470	FTTP
45 Walworth	Town of Lyons	Spectrum	\$	142,500.00	0	41	Cable
46 Burnett	Town of Jackson	Siren Telephone Company	\$	320,061.00	0	249	FTTP
47 Dunn	Town of Red Cedar	24-7 Telcom	\$	467,250.00	6	140	FTTP
48 Dunn	Town of Menomonie	24-7 Telcom	\$	320,300.00	6	85	FTTP
49 Fond du Lac	null	Bug Tussel Wireless	\$	213,472.00	97	1913	Fwireless
50 Douglas	Towns of Gordon and Solon Springs	Astrea	\$	326,858.00	8	244	FTTP
51 Dane	Towns of Bristol, Cottage Grove	UpNetWI, LLC	\$	86,609.00	5	81	FTTP
52 Pierce	Towns of Trimble and Ellsworth	Midcontinent Communications	\$	83,169.00	5	49	Cable
53 Columbia	Town of Newport	Marquette-Adams Telephone	\$	94,064.00	5	43	FTTP
54 Bayfield	Towns of Barksdale, Bayview and Washburn	Bayfield Wireless	\$	472,539.00	80	1003	Fwireless
55 Marquette	Village of Westfield, Towns of Harris and Westfield	Marquette-Adams Telephone	\$	164,242.00	24	59	FTTP
56 Burnett	Towns of Jackson and Scott	Cooperative, Inc.	\$	278,406.00	47	185	FTTP
57 Oconto	Town of Mountain	Siren Telephone Company	\$	66,897.00	1	78	FTTP
58 Ashland	Bad River Reservation	Astrea	\$	1,871,814.00	13	330	FTTP
59		Superior Connections	\$				
60	Totals (less Kewaunee backbone)		57 \$	27,029,201.00	4,407	85,778	
61	58 Awards in total (less Kewaunee backbone)		\$	474,196.51	77.3	1,504.9	
62	FTTP Award totals	Average per award	49 \$	24,386,425.00	944	14,726	
63	FTTP Award averages		\$	497,682.14	19.3	300.5	
64	FTTP Award average \$ per Premises		\$	1,556.25			

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Broadband Support Opportunities for State and Local Governments Under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

By [Casey Lide](#) on March 15, 2021

POSTED IN [BROADBAND](#)



President Biden has now signed the [American Rescue Plan Act of 2021](#) (H.R 1319, “Act”) into law. As many are aware, the \$1.9 trillion package includes \$7.17 billion for an Emergency Connectivity Fund to enable remote learning, for which the FCC is to issue rules within 60 days of the Act’s enactment. This blog entry describes a few *other* aspects of the Act that present significant opportunities for broadband service providers and their partners, particularly state and local governments.

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

A major component of the Act overall is the relief funding appropriated to state and local governments. Subtitle M of the Act creates a “Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund,” providing for payment of \$220 billion to states, territories and Tribal governments, and a “Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund,” providing \$130 billion to local governments (including “metropolitan cities, non-entitlement units of local government, and counties”).^[1]

How those funds are to be allocated among the various states and units of local governments is prescribed in detail in the Act. Importantly, while distributed funds may only be used for certain purposes, *this is not a grant program where a state or local government must describe and apply for funds to support a particular project*. In general, distribution will be of a prescribed amount, and is essentially automatic.

As compared to local government funding provisions under consideration as part of the CARES Act in 2020, the new Act gives states and local governments significant flexibility in how the Fiscal Recovery Fund monies may be spent. For both states and local governments, the funds can be used for a variety of purposes relating to COVID-19 fiscal recovery, including (to paraphrase): (A) to respond to “negative economic impacts” and to aid impacted industries, (B) to provide premium pay and grants to essential workers, and (C) to address budget shortfalls stemming from the pandemic.^[2]

Of most interest for our purposes is subsection (D), which states that the Fiscal Recovery Funds may be used **“to make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.”** The Act does not elaborate further.

In short, states and local governments are about to receive a massive infusion of funding. They may conclude that the development of necessary broadband infrastructure is a worthy use of some of that money, particularly if such infrastructure is necessary to support their other COVID-related programs, and under the Act, they would be permitted to do so.

Two other points are also worth noting. Unlike some of the other new programs under the NTIA and FCC, the funds would not need to be expended until December 31, 2024. The Act also specifically allows the funds to be transferred to a private nonprofit organization, or special-purpose unit of state or local government.^[3]

Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund

The Act provides \$10 billion to states, territories, and Tribal governments (not local governments) “to carry out critical capital projects directly enabling work, education, and health monitoring, including remote options, in response to the public health emergency.”^[4] The scope of that appropriation plausibly includes broadband-related projects. The Act directs the Treasury Department to establish a grant process to access the funding within 60 days of enactment.

Economic Development Administration (EDA) Appropriation

Section 6001 of the Act provides \$3 billion to the Economic Development Administration within the Department of Commerce. Broadband projects in economically distressed communities are eligible for funding under the Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance programs.

Homeowners Assistance Fund

The Act appropriates nearly \$10 billion for a “Homeowners Assistance Fund” that states can use for payment assistance for “qualified expenses” of households that need help due to COVID-19, including mortgage payment assistance.^[5] The fund can be used for “internet service, including broadband internet access service.” It is to remain available until September 30, 2025.

^[1] Section 9901.

^[2] Section 9001 of the Act, adding Sections 602 and 603 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 801 *et seq.*).

^[3] Section 9901 of the Act; Sec. 602(c)(3).

^[4] *Id.*; Sec. 604.

^[5] Section 3206.

American Rescue Plan Commits Billions to Broadband

Posted on **March 16, 2021** by **Ann Treacy**

[CTC Technology and Energy report...](#)

President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act into law on March 11, 2021. Included in the \$1.9 trillion package is significant funding that can be used to support expansion of broadband infrastructure and initiatives. We'll provide updates and analysis in this space as we learn more. Based on our initial review of the new law, here are some of the key broadband-related funding provisions:

- **Economic Development Administration (Department of Commerce):** \$3 billion in additional funding to the Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance (PWEAA) program through September 2022
- **Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (Department of the Treasury):** \$10 billion for "capital projects directly enabling work, education, and health monitoring, including remote options, in response to the public health emergency"; in addition to capital projects, eligible efforts include ancillary services (such as broadband mapping) to increase efficiencies of capital projects, and cost support efforts (such as subsidies)
- **Emergency Connectivity Fund (FCC):** \$7.2 billion for E-Rate support to reimburse schools and libraries for provision of eligible equipment and advanced telecommunications and information services during the pandemic, including for locations other than schools and libraries
- **Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund:** \$219.8 billion for **investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure**
- **Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund:** \$130.2 billion for rural community development block grants (CDBG) (\$45.6 billion), rural areas (\$19.5 billion), and counties (\$65.1 billion, population-based), including **for investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure**

Technology Committee – possible project areas for future attention – 5 year plan

From Technology Committee meetings in 2020 & 2021

1. Broadband expansion
 - a. Fixed wireless or fiber or combination?
 - b. Use of copper phone line for home connections?
 - c. Pursue PSC 2022 grant or other state/federal funds; note PSC FTTT preference
 - d. Budget more grant match funds?
2. More public access wi-fi locations
3. More public EV charging stations
 - a. One at Town Hall; one at the North Fire Station
 - b. Generators for back-up power at charging station locations
4. (2022?) Upgrade/replacement of Town Hall phone system – include conference phone or use internet/VOIP?
5. Town Hall security cameras
6. Town vehicle dash cams
7. (2022) Install individual monitors at Board Dias seats at front of meeting hall (Bluetooth?)
8. *Adopted as 2021 project:* Review and recommendations for Town computes systems cyber security & safety against hacking, phishing, etc.
9. Build working relationships re technology with NWTC, DC Library system, local technology vendors. Seek project suggestions from these.
10. Help local business identify technologies that will help their businesses
11. Solar panels for water pressure tank in Gills Rock Mariners Park
12. Gather data on residents eligible for new Recovery Act Broadband cost supplement support
13. Develop projections on how Liberty Grove economy, property values and taxes would benefit from a 100% coverage high-speed broadband build out. (do in cooperation with LG Economic Development Committee?).
14. Create documentation about how quality of life would benefit from a 100% coverage high-speed, affordable broadband build out.
15. Identify where in Liberty Grove there is broadband access at FCC defined high speed (25 down / 3 up) and where the access is either none or below 4/1.
16. Consider how technology which could be supported in some way by the Town can be used to improve quality of life and economic life better in Liberty Grove