



County of Nevada 2021 Last Mile Broadband Grant Response to questions from February 5-12, 2021

Q1: Can the grant be used to fund portions of the work in the unincorporated County if the larger project also includes incorporated areas?

A1: Yes, as long as the County funds were only used in the unincorporated areas.

Q2: Are CAF-II and RDOF areas eligible or excluded?

A2: Yes, they are eligible since many of those projects haven't moved forward. If a project is ready to go it will be considered for funding.

Q3: Does the ISP need to adhere to prevailing wage requirements if the County money is used only for equipment or other non-labor costs?

A3: Yes, this grant is subject to prevailing wage. Even if a project was not funded by County money, but the County served as a pass-through, it would be subject to prevailing wage. The Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) has made it clear that if a government entity has any control of management, or handling of the funds, then prevailing wage is required. This is noted in the Application Guidelines on page 3, and further referenced below, as written in the 2019/2020 Nevada County Last Mile Broadband Grant contract.

*7. COUNTY is a funding source only, and has no right, title, obligation or interest in the Project, nor any control over the design, permitting, purchases, construction and/or installation, operation or maintenance of the Project. ORGANIZATION shall be solely responsible for the proper execution of and on-going operation and maintenance of the Project, and for full compliance with all legal requirements including, but not limited to, safety codes, accessibility laws, development regulations and permitting requirements, CEQA/NEPA, and legal requirements relating to public contracting and construction, public bidding, **and prevailing wages.***

Q4: If a neighborhood association is sponsoring the project, what are the insurance requirements, as they might not have insurance?

A4: The organization applying for the grant must "procure and maintain" insurance per the requirements in Appendix A. If a neighborhood association is not able to get and maintain insurance, they may consider partnering with another entity who is insured. However, the association, regardless of its formal creation, would not be absolved of its liabilities.

Q5: What changes have been made between Round 1 and Round 2 of this grant program?

A5: The key difference is the 2021 Last Mile Broadband grant project area must be in unincorporated Nevada County. Prioritizing project readiness remains important, as there is an urgent need to connect homes and businesses due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Q6: How does a neighborhood association compete for this grant?

A6: Sierra Business Council recommends neighborhood associations partner with experienced ISPs (contact SBC for assistance in making those connections).

Q7: Are there any new provisions in the County's contract language we should know about?

A7: The County typically uses standard contract terms in grant agreements. Applicants can expect to see clauses covering insurance requirements, prevailing wage, bond requirements, and liquidated damages to name a few.