

## REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS AND PROPOSALS

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Idaho County is soliciting proposals from qualified firms for assistance in the following:

#### ***DESIGN, BUILD AND OWN IDAHO COUNTY BROADBAND SYSTEM***

### SCOPE OF WORK

Idaho County is seeking proposals from private for-profit internet service providers to provide all services, equipment and construction to deploy, own and operate a fixed wireless broadband system to serve approximately 2000 households across Idaho County. A copy of project concept (grant application) is provided in **Attachment A**.

Project requirements include:

- System must meet broadband speeds as defined by the FCC of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload.
- Project will serve underbuilt areas and does not overbuild existing broadband service. Underbuilt areas are defined as locations where less than fifty percent (50%) of households in the project area have access to broadband service.
- Only new broadband service to be installed, owned, and operated by the for-profit company.
- Project completed and operable by December 15, 2020.

The project would be funded through the state of Idaho Broadband Grant Program (funded by an allocation of the federal CARES Act). As such the goals of the broadband project is to address key areas of public health and safety by improving opportunities to telework, facilitate distance learning, and improve public safety. Award announcement is anticipated around July 31, 2020.

The successful firm will be required to comply with all Idaho state building statutes, such as Idaho Public Works contractor licensing (Idaho Code Title 54, Chapter 19), purchasing by political subdivisions (Idaho Code Title 67, Chapter 28) and any county ordinances related to planning and building.

The firm must be sufficiently bonded and insured. The selected firm will be required to provide performance and payment bonds, each for 100% of the contract amount, issued by a surety company authorized to conduct business within the State of Idaho. The selected firm will also be required to supply evidence of insurance coverage (worker's compensation, contractor's public liability and property damage, and contractor's vehicle liability) and to ensure that subcontractors do not commence work until the subcontractors' insurance requirements have been met.

Idaho County is exempt from sales taxes; however, per Idaho statutes, the contractor is responsible for sales tax on materials used within the project.

**PROPOSAL  
CONTENT  
AND  
EVALUTION**

The proposal must be organized in sections containing the following information, and evaluated according to these criteria:

**Capability to Perform Project** The firm’s history, areas of expertise, address of office that will manage project, length of time in business, firm’s legal structure, firm’s commitment to provide necessary resources to perform and complete project. (20 pts)

**Relevant Project Experience** Description of other projects executed by the firm that demonstrate relevant experience. List of all public sector clients for whom you have provided services or performed similar work in the past five years, which should include name, address, and phone number of a person who can be contacted regarding the firm’s performance on the project. (15 pts)

**Qualifications of Project Team** Resumes for the key people assigned to the project including sub-consultants. Key personnel roles and responsibilities on this project. Identify project manager who will be responsible for the day-to-day management of project tasks and will be primary point of contact. (20 pts)

**Benefits of the Project to the Community Served:** A description of how you will ensure that the customers, specifically households and public entities, benefitting from this project will be served over the lifespan of telecommunications investment. The responder shall provide a concrete, measurable response including a pricing model over a five-year period for all customers served by this project, given the project is 100% grant funded. (25 pts)

**Project Approach and Schedule** The tasks that must be accomplished to complete the project. How the firm proposes to execute the tasks. Unique aspects of the project and alternative approaches the owner might wish to consider. (20 points)

**PROPOSAL  
DEADLINE**

Proposals **must** be received no later than 3:00 PM (PDT) August 3, 2020 by email to Dodd Snodgrass, Development Manager, Clearwater Economic Development Association at [dsnodgrass@clearwater-eda.org](mailto:dsnodgrass@clearwater-eda.org). Email file size delivery cannot exceed 10 MB. Proposal should be titled **“Broadband Proposal: Idaho County.”**

**SELECTION  
CRITERIA**

Proposals will be evaluated on the criteria listed above.

Selected references may be contacted. The County may conduct such other investigations as the County deems necessary to assist in the evaluation of any

proposal and to establish the responsibility, qualifications, and financial ability of the design-build firm or team.

Idaho County will seek to negotiate a contract, a detailed scope of work, fee schedule, etc. with the preferred firm.

This solicitation is being offered in accordance with OMB Circular A-102 and the Idaho statutes governing procurement of professional services. Idaho County reserves the right to negotiate an agreement based on fair and reasonable compensation for the scope of work and services proposed, as well as the right to reject any and all responses deemed unqualified, unsatisfactory or inappropriate.

# Attachment A

## State of Idaho Public Broadband Grant Application: Households

Applicant	Gavin Lewis
Applicant ID	APP-004117
Company Name	Ida-Lew Economic Development
Recipient Address	Ida-Lew Economic Development PO Box 393 Grangeville, ID 83530
Email	gavin@ida-lew.org
Amount Requested	\$850,000.00
Status	Draft
Funded	<input type="checkbox"/>

Application Title: Idaho County Fixed Wireless Broadband Project

### Applicant Information

**NOTICE: Grant applications, challenges, and responses to challenges will be posted to the Idaho Department of Commerce website**

**Purpose:**

1. Program Description

The CARES Act funding received by the State of Idaho will fund projects across the state that create and retain local jobs and result in purposeful outcomes, including distance learning, telehealth public safety, commerce, and overall well-being. This CFAC Broadband Grant initiative grant program (the “Program for Households”) is designed to meet the CARES Act criteria, and help Idaho rebound from the COVID-19 public health emergency. Approximately 70% of the \$50 million received by the Idaho Department of Commerce will be allocated to this program aimed at households that lack access to broadband.

**• Projects must be completed and grant funds requested and dispersed before December 15th, 2020.**

**Question:** Contact information of applicant: Name Title Mailing Address Email Phone

Kathy Ackerman, Idaho County Clerk, 320 W Main St, Grangeville, ID 83530,  
kackerman@idahocounty.org, 208-983-2751

**Question:** List the cities/communities where the project(s) will take place.

Rural Idaho County (Keuterville, Greencreek, Clearcreek, Winona, Woodland, Harrisburg, Mt Idaho, Slate Creek), Riggins, Whitebird

**Question:** Enter the zip code(s) where the project will take place.

83530, 83549, 83554, 83533, 83522, 83542, 83544,83553, 83539

**Question:** Enter name and title of designated grant administrator

Dodd Snodgrass, Development Manager

**Question:** Enter the email of the designated grant administrator

dsnodgrass@clearwater-eda.org

**Question:** Enter the phone number of the designated grant administrator

208-746-0015

## Project Requirements

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### Eligible Projects

Projects must meet the following eligibility criteria: The project must:

- Be infrastructure investment, associated equipment, and accessories related to broadband as defined by the FCC: speeds of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload.
- Meet the CARES Act criteria, which is designed to address key areas of public health and safety by improving opportunities to telework, facilitate distance learning, and improve public safety
- Be a project that serves underbuilt areas and does not overbuild existing broadband service. Underbuilt areas are defined as locations where less than fifty percent (50%) of households in the project area have access to broadband service.
- Include only new broadband service to be installed, owned, and operated by for-profit companies, or membership owned cooperative corporations as defined in [Idaho Code Title 30, Chapter 30](#) that provide broadband services to the public.
- Provide broadband service within the applicant's proposed project area.
- Be completed, operable, paid for, and submitted to the Idaho Department of Commerce for payment no later than December 15, 2020.
- Include broadband infrastructure and equipment costs meeting CARES Act criteria. Satellite service is not eligible for grant award.

**Question:** Does your project meet the CARES Act criteria?

Yes

No

**Question:** Does your project provide a minimum of 25 Mbps Download and 3 Mbps Upload as outlined by the CFAC Committee Recommendation?

Yes

No

**Question:** Does your project provide service to areas where less than 50% of households in the project area has broadband as outlined by the CFAC Committee Recommendation?

Yes

No

**Question:** Include only new broadband service to be installed, owned, and operated by for-profit companies, or membership owned cooperative corporations as defined Idaho Code Title 30, Chapter 30 that provide broadband services to the services to the public.

Yes

No

**Question:** I understand that the State of Idaho will provide no funding and have no obligations for projects that fail to be completed by December 15, 2020.

Yes

No

## Scored Criteria

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**Question:** Provide an overview of the project including why the project is important and will address broadband needs of the community.

Only 3.6% of Idaho County residents have broadband according to Broadband Now. According to the FCC website the majority of people in the White Bird to Riggins corridor have internet options less than 10 Mbps. Low population density and topographical challenges makes investment elusive for ISPs.

Rapid deployment of wireless in multiple underserved areas is the only technological medium to solve the problem, meet the grant deadline, while making economic sense. Since wireless technology relies on "line of sight," having numerous points of reference is key since no one tower/site can see all of rural Idaho County.

The project concept is to build-out 22 fixed wireless sites in seven underserved communities throughout Idaho County. Total covered households in the project area will be approximately 2,000. This is most of the accessible households outside of the city limits of Cottonwood, Grangeville, Kooskia and Stites (communities which are adequately served by existing providers). The estimate is 65% of households in the project area reside in an unserved/underserved area. The project area includes two underserved small cities (White Bird, 94, Riggins, 419). These cities do not have the capacity to sponsor stand-alone projects. The unincorporated Elk City area is another population node, but due to its remoteness, is proposed as a separate project.

Existing ISPs that can provide service, technologies, equipment, installation, and operate include AirBridge, First Step and Mtida/Inland Cellular. State-of-the-art wireless technology is possible by mounting on a variety of existing structures. Two fiber feeds will supply bandwidth to the project area, preventing oversubscription and providing ample bandwidth to endpoints. Two redundant wireless pathways are available to feed service to the White Bird/Riggins corridor.

**Question:** Is your project in an area where 50% of households is in an unserved area?

Yes

No

**Question:** Is your project in an area where more than 50% of households is in an underserved area?

Yes

No

**Question:** Is the project in a town/city/municipality of less than 3,000 people?

Yes

No

**Question:** How many households may receive broadband service because of this project?

2000.00

**Question:** Does the project address a need as identified in a local or regional broadband plan? If yes, please describe.

Yes. According to the Idaho Broadband Taskforce Report (November 22, 2019), "Available maps and data depict North Central Idaho as the largest unserved area in the state," specifically Idaho, Lewis, and Clearwater counties. Near term recommendations of the report include a "North-South pathway between Grangeville and Riggins." (p 12) This project will meet that recommendation with a fixed wireless connection along the Salmon River/US 95 corridor. The

report also emphasizes a next step project in “underserved North Central Idaho” (p 13), which would qualify this project. Additionally, CEDA sponsored a study in 2005 called “North Central Idaho Telecom Assessment and Implementation Plan,” which thoroughly assessed the conditions, needs and opportunities for broadband deployment. Wi-Fi technologies have improved considerably and some deployment has occurred in the region since this report was completed.

## Additional Requirements

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Upload Supporting Documents for scope of project including maps, site plans, studies, or photographs, demonstrating the location of the project.

### Project Attachment Templates:

[CARES Act Certification](#)

[Grant Budget Template](#)

[Project Schedule Form](#)

[Letters of Support/Community match template](#)

**Question:** Estimated total project cost?

850000.00

**Question:** List the underserved and unserved community facilities (schools, libraries, government offices, hospitals, public safety, etc.) within the proposed project area.

Greencreek and Big Butte Community Halls, White Bird City Hall/Fire District, White Bird Community Center, Riggins City Hall, Riggins Community Center, Carrot Ridge Fire Station/Community Hall, Woodland QRU

**Question:** What is the average cost per household of new broadband service based on this project cost?

425

**Question:** What is the maximum broadband speed that will be provided by the project?

Residential = 50 Mbps/15 Mbps

**Question:** Are permits, permissions, rights of way and zoning requirements readily available in order for the project to be completed and paid for by December 15, 2020?

Yes

**Question:** If answered no in previous question, please describe. If the project does not require any of the above answer N/A.

N/A

**Question:** Describe how the project will be administered, audited for completion, and

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accounting performed.

Clearwater Economic Development Association (CEDA), the regional planning district, will support the county with in-kind administration. This includes preparing and advising the county with Request for Proposals for the broadband service provider and compliance with the Commerce contract. The county has received and internally managed many public grant awards and has internal controls for financial management and accounting. CEDA will support the county with the close-out procedure with Commerce.

**Question:** Include any other information regarding why your project should be considered for funding.

In the past, most of these rural communities were overlooked due to the time and expense of putting in the necessary infrastructure to serve them. It simply is not cost effective to do a \$500,000 build-out (traditional cell phone tower) to service only 100 homes. Fiber to the home would be ideal and most desirable, but is not feasible given topography, costs and easements/ROW, especially given the timeframe of the project deliverable. This lack of investment in broadband infrastructure has had a negative impact on Idaho County economically, but these shortcomings have become even more apparent in light of COVID-19 as residents do not have access to broadband capabilities that enable social distancing, telework, and distance learning. This project meets the broadest level of need for a feasible price in the timeframe required. MEMO: Clearwater Economic Development Association prepared this application in its entirety on behalf of Idaho County without the assistance or co-operation of Ida-Lew EDC.

**Question:** Upload Supporting Documents for scope of project including maps, site plans, studies, or photographs, demonstrating the location of the project.

No Attachments

**Question:** Upload the completed Grant Budget Template for the project that outlines the various costs.

No Attachments

**Question:** Complete the Project Schedule Form

No Attachments

**Question:** Include any Letters of Support or Community Match from the community.

No Attachments

**Question:** Provide a copy of your Community Broadband Plan if applicable.

No Attachments

**Question:** Provide a notarized CARES Act Certification that this project meets the CARES Act criteria.

No Attachments

**Question:** Provide commitments from community anchor institutions or public safety networks which will utilize your service if the project is funded.

No Attachments

**Question:** Map of the project area demonstrating the insufficient availability of broadband service (25/3Mbps) in the proposed service area where less than 50% of households have access to broadband.

No Attachments

**Question:** Map of the project area which includes the number of households served, the broadband speeds provided, and the technology used to provide that service.

No Attachments

## Signature

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Your identity has been authenticated through the login process with a unique email address and password available only to you. You agree that by typing your name, title and date below, you are electronically signing the application. By electronically signing the application, you acknowledge and represent that you understand and accept all the terms and conditions stated within the application and declare that the information provided is true and that the documents you are submitting in support of your application are genuine and have not been altered in any way.

**Question:** Type your name.

Dodd Snodgrass

**Question:** Type your title.

Development Manager, CEDA

**Question:** Type the submission date.

Not Answered