



State of Maine
ConnectME Authority
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The ConnectME Authority Announces the Fourteenth Round of Broadband Infrastructure Grants and the Fourth Round of Community Broadband Planning Grants

Applications and related materials are on the ConnectME's website: <https://www.maine.gov/connectme/grants>

Infrastructure Grant Program

ConnectME awards grants for "last mile" infrastructure to provide broadband to customers in unserved areas of Maine. Specifically, such grants provide a percentage of the cost, matched with funding from an internet service provider or a community. Prospective applicants indicate in their application that they have communicated with nearby existing broadband service providers for current expansion plans in the proposed project area. The intent of this contact is to minimize overlap and to prevent ConnectME Authority funds from being used in areas where private investment is delivering broadband service.

Eligible for grant funding will be any area that receives no broadband service or service less than 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload. Projects approved for funding must provide service levels of 10 Mbps download and 10 Mbps upload.

To date ConnectME has awarded 146 grants totaling \$12.33 million and making broadband available to over 39,000 households. With contribution by private sector internet providers' total funds expended exceed \$24 million.

Community Planning Grant Program Phase I and Phase II

Phase I grants are to help to produce plans that define local broadband needs, goals and encourages adoption of identified best practices by participating municipalities and organizations. This is to be a community planning process that identifies how your area is currently served, what your area's goals are for increased connectivity, what your areas needs for digital literacy and how your planning is going to address those needs. This Phase is intended to begin the process of building broad community support to expand broadband.

Phase II grants are to bring communities to the next step in their broadband plans. Phase II grants will help the community develop plans for one or more potential network designs with cost estimates. The funds will help a community identify operating models and potential business models that might be used to build out a network.

To date ConnectME has awarded 14 planning grants, totaling \$582,872 providing planning assistance to over 50 communities.

ConnectME is happy to answer questions up until seven days (June 5th) before the grant is due on June 12th.
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