

CONNECTMAINE



State of Maine
ConnectMaine Authority
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The ConnectMaine Authority Announces the Fifteenth Round of Broadband Infrastructure Grants and the Fifth Round of Community Broadband Planning Grants

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

Infrastructure Grant Program

ConnectMaine 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 ConnectMaine 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 ConnectMaine has awarded 150 grants totaling \$12.96 million and making broadband available to over 40,000 households. With contribution by private sector internet providers' total funds expended exceed \$23 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 assist communities to obtain factual information on technology alternatives, costs and market opportunities to help stimulate the development of state-of-the-art broadband networks. The grant helps communities define the feasibility of moving forward and help a community identify operating models and potential business models that might be used to build out a network.

To date ConnectMaine has awarded 18 planning grants, totaling \$636,847 providing planning assistance to over 60 communities.

ConnectMaine is happy to answer questions!

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