

# Maine West Regional Technology Plan

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## Appendix C Grant Funding Resources

### State Grant Funding Resources

The **ConnectME Authority** offers two types of grants - Infrastructure and Community Broadband Planning Grants. For the purposes of this report, the planning grant is not a consideration. Axiom recommends looking toward Infrastructure grants, details can be found here:

<http://maine.gov/connectme/grants/>

- Grant proposals must meet the state standard of 10/10Mbps
- Grant limits are suggested, but are typically \$100,000; they must be matched 1 to 1 with a combination of cash and in-kind services
- Targeted areas must be unserved or severely underserved (service that is less than 25/3Mbps)
  - Unserved is 25/3 Mbps
  - Underserved is a geography that 20% is below 25/3 Mbps

Typically, ConnectME accepts grant applications in the March- April timeframe. For 2018, applications were made available on February 5 and were due on March 30.

The **Maine Community Foundation** has regional grants that can support initiatives up to \$10,000.

<http://www.mainecef.org/GrantsNonprofits/AvailableGrantsDeadlines/CommunityBuildingGrantProgram.aspx>

- Grants available up to \$10,000
- Local decision makers by county
- Various criteria that needs review
- Deadline February 15<sup>th</sup> of each new year

**Northern Border Regional Commission** Grants, <http://www.nbrc.gov>. The Commission accepts grant applications from across the northern border regions of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York.

- Requires at least a 1 to 1 cash match
- Must be tied to quantifiable job creation
- Very competitive

Contact: Andrea Smith in the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development at (207) 624-9813 or [andrea.smith@maine.gov](mailto:andrea.smith@maine.gov) for information on deadlines and program parameters.

### Federal Grant Funding Resources

U.S. Department of Commerce, **Economic Development Administration (EDA)** provides funding for economic development projects across the state of Maine. Maine projects are reviewed and administered by EDA's local representative, Alan Brigham at (215) 316-2965 or [abrigham@eda.gov](mailto:abrigham@eda.gov). Programs and eligibility can be found at [www.eda.gov](http://www.eda.gov)

- Various funding programs
- Guidelines encourage regions to incorporate broadband investments in their regional strategies (CEDs)
- Funding requires match

U.S. Department of Commerce, **Broadband USA** is helping communities nationwide ensure that they have the broadband infrastructure, digitally literate workforce and engaged citizens to thrive in the Digital Economy. Details can be found here: <https://www2.ntia.doc.gov/>

- Provides direct (one-to-one) assistance to communities
- Resource rich website, no direct grants
- Building a self-assessment tool for communities

U.S. Department of Agriculture, **Rural Development** has a number of grant programs worth investigating. Local office in Bangor, contact Timothy Hobbs, State Director, (207) 990-9160. More information on programs in Maine can be found here: [www.rd.usda/me](http://www.rd.usda/me)

- Rural Broadband Access Loans and Loan Guarantees Program
  - 2018 Program has not been announced

U.S. Department of Treasury, **New Markets Tax Credits (NMTC)** has recently clarified that (remove "the eligibility of") broadband infrastructure and related activities are eligible for NMTC provided they meet certain criteria located here:

<https://www.cdfifund.gov/Documents/2015%20NMTC%20Application%20QA%20FINAL.pdf>

- Axiom is exploring the potential of NMTC funding
- Eligible census tracts are being reviewed
- It's unclear without investigation if Maine West and/or the communities may be eligible

**Broadband Opportunity Council Funding Report**- U.S. Dept. of Commerce and USDA released a report in January 2017 listing all federal broadband funding resources - See Addendum 3 Broadband Opportunity Funding Report.