



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

3B

Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: February 28, 2017

Title of Item: Aitkin County Broadband Development Grant

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	Action Requested: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft)	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing* <small>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</small>
Submitted by: Ross Wagner		Department: Economic Development & Forest Ind
Presenter (Name and Title): Ross Wagner, Economic Development & Forest Industry Coordinator		Estimated Time Needed: 20 minutes
Summary of Issue: Attached is the revised Aitkin County Broadband Grant. Revisions are per my initial presentation last November and include; - Review by County Attorney Jim Ratz, the use of Con-Con funds can be used only if the affected area is in the Con-Con area, therefore, the entire program could be funded through the Economic Development Fund. - Wording was added so that Aitkin County has the right to refuse or deny any grant application. - A technical review committee would be established to review the grant applications and make a recommendation to the county board. - Request a 3 year work plan. With the broadband developments that are happening in Aitkin County, the timing of this grant program is very good. Broadband providers will be working in the county over the next 5 years. It is our intent to partner with existing internet service providers to provide high speed internet access to as much area in Aitkin County as possible. The purpose of this grant fund is to incentivize private investment in the Aitkin County broadband infrastructure. Aitkin County is striving to have as many of our citizens, businesses and institutions to have access to high speed broadband internet. Currently, areas of Aitkin County are experiencing growth in the broadband infrastructure; the purpose of this grant to assist private broadband providers to reach areas in Aitkin County that otherwise would not be part of planned broadband infrastructure investments.		
Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:		
Recommended Action/Motion: Approve Aitkin County Broadband Development Grant		
Financial Impact: Is there a cost associated with this request? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$ Is this budgeted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <i>Please Explain:</i>		

Aitkin County Broadband Development Grant

Overview: It is our intent to partner with existing internet service providers to provide high speed internet access to as much area in Aitkin County as possible. The purpose of this grant fund is to incentivize private investment in the Aitkin County broadband infrastructure.

Purpose: Aitkin County is striving to have as many of our citizens, businesses and institutions to have access to high speed broadband internet. Currently, areas of Aitkin County are experiencing growth in the broadband infrastructure; the purpose of this grant to assist private broadband providers to reach areas in Aitkin County that otherwise would not be part of planned broadband infrastructure investments.

Availability of Funds, required match:

Aitkin County is providing \$150,000.00 per year in funding for the Aitkin County Broadband Development Grant for the years 2017, 2018, 2019. Applicants can apply for all or some of the total amount available. Aitkin County reserves the right to not award any grants and or to offer a pro-rated amount if more than one qualified application is received. Applicants must provide, at a minimum, a match equal to or greater than the grant amount requested.

Criteria of Aitkin County Broadband Development Grant:

The goal of this grant program is to fund those projects that will provide internet access at the State of Minnesota established speeds of 10Mbps down and 5Mbps upload. Aitkin County will consider projects that do not immediately meet those guidelines but demonstrate they will be scalable to meet those speeds in the future. A Fiber to the Home (FTTH) network is most desired by Aitkin County; projects that are not FTTH but can meet the guidelines will be eligible. Applications that demonstrate the ability to meet the State of Minnesota guidelines of 10Mbps down and 5Mbps up, ability to provide service to the largest number of households and offer the ability to be scalable up to even higher speeds will receive the most consideration in the awarding of grant funds. Any broadband development project located in Aitkin County is eligible for the Aitkin County Broadband Development Grant. However, most consideration will be given to those projects that provide service to areas of Aitkin County that either do not have adequate coverage nor will not have adequate coverage in the near future.

Eligible Program Costs:

Aitkin County Broadband Development Grant Program can be used for infrastructure deployment costs for a qualifying project. "Broadband deployment costs" or "costs" mean the cost of the acquisition and installation of middle-mile and last-mile infrastructure that support broadband service.

Construction of broadband infrastructure may include any of the following: project planning; obtaining construction permits; construction of facilities, including construction of both "middle mile" and "last mile" infrastructure; equipment; and installation and testing of the broadband service. All costs must occur after the awarding of this grant to be eligible, no reimbursements will be allowed.

Leverage of State of Minnesota or other broadband funding sources:

Aitkin County Broadband Grants funds can be used to match State, Federal or other public or private funding as those funding sources allow. Though it is our desire that additional funds be leveraged by this grant, it is not a requirement to receive Aitkin County Broadband Grant funds.

Application Process:

Applications are available through the Aitkin County Economic Development & Forest Industry Coordinator Department, c/o

Ross Wagner

Aitkin County Courthouse

217 2nd Street NW, #131

Aitkin, MN 56431

rwagner@co.aitin.mn.us

218-927-7305

Please direct any questions or inquiries to Ross Wagner

Due Date:

Applications with all attachments are accepted annually on or before 4:00 PM May 31st and must be submitted to the address above or emailed with attachments to rwagner@co.aitkin.mn.us

Technical Review Committee:

All completed applications will be reviewed by the Technical Review Committee. The Technical Review Committee will then make recommendations on funding to the Aitkin County Board. It is anticipated that recommendations will be made at the first regular board meeting in July. The Aitkin County Board will have final say in any funding decisions. Furthermore, Aitkin County reserves the right to refuse, reject or deny any and or all applications.

Aitkin County Broadband Development Grant Application Form

Project Title: _____

Name of Applicant Organization: _____

Applicant Primary Contact Person: _____

Applicant Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Authorized Signature: _____

By signing this application on behalf of the above organization I am agreeing that I have the authority to do so and that all information contained in this application is true and accurate.

Description of your project, area to be covered, speeds that will be obtained now and in the future:

Description of need, why are Aitkin County funds necessary to complete this project:

Provide information on any activities planned to actively promote the adoption of broadband services in the project area when the services become available: Include a description on any marketing and training programs on broadband applications for residents, businesses and institutions in the areas served by the project. _____

Grant request amount: How much funding are you seeking from the Aitkin County Broadband Development Grant Program for this project? How much are you committing?

Total cost of project: \$ _____

Local/Provider match provided: \$ _____

County Funds Applied for: \$ _____

Other Funds applied for or anticipating to apply for: \$ _____

What is the source of these funds: _____

General Time Frame of Grant Project:

Starting Month ____ / ____ Year Ending Month ____ / ____ Year

Location(s) of your project:

In addition to the written location information supplied above, you must provide a map of the project area, including geographical boundaries and road segments where broadband will be provided. Include the service area boundaries and also include place names, boundaries, buildings, road/street names, street addresses, or other features that clearly identify the project coverage area. Please be clear and concise and add any other information you feel is pertinent.

Total number of eligible properties to be served:

Provide information on what properties will be eligible for broadband under this project. Include what broadband speeds will be available to that property and what if any options for scalability there is. This can be provided on the map requirement above or on a separate map. Information that needs to provided;

- Number of and location of properties that will be able to receive service of at least 10Mbps down and 5Mbps upload as a result of this broadband development grant project.
- Number of and location of properties that will be receiving less than 10Mbps down and 5Mbps upload but will be scalable to meet those speeds in the near future.
- Number of locations that will be receiving less than 10Mbps down and 5Mbps upload now and into the future.
- What is your estimated time table to meet 10Mbps down and 5Mbps upload for those properties not meeting those speeds.
- Provide a three year work plan as it relates to your planned work in Aitkin County, it is our intention to not duplicate services in the same area.

Project Costs, Attach a list or schedule of all project elements including materials, equipment, design services, etc. to be purchased for the project. This will be used to determine the applicants match for this grant request.

Attachments: Please attach any additional information or use attachments for the application questions. Label each attachment for the question you are intending to provide information on.