

Strengthening Idaho Act 2006

Rural Broadband Connectivity

IDAHO
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Strengthening Idaho Act

Senate Bill 1498 – 2006 Session

- Started July 1, 2006
- \$5 million for matching funds for rural broadband expansion
- Administered by then Idaho Department of Commerce & Labor

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Program Details

- Provide broadband service to potential new subscribers
- Up to \$1 million available for each project
- Rural defined as city or unincorporated area less than 10,000
- Applications could contain more than one project
- Matching funds - 50% of project cost
- Administered by then Idaho Department of Commerce & Labor

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Application Rating Process

- Applicants completion of similar projects
- Potential of new subscribers
- Cost/new subscriber
- Affordability of services
- Free public use
- Start-up costs
- Matching funds
- Community support

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Selection Criteria

- 1) Criteria and evaluation process developed
- 2) Applications circulated – June 8, 2006
- 3) Proposals due - June 29, 2006
- 4) Scored and ranked by staff
- 5) Reviewed/approved by Economic Advisory Council
- 6) 4 Entitles with 79 Projects funded July 14, 2006

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Project Review / Awards

- \$4.9 million awarded
- Increase Broadband Service in rural areas
- 79 rural Idaho communities received expansions
- 50,000 potential new subscribers
- Contractors / matching funds over \$10 million
 - Verizon, Quest, First Step Internet, Speedy Quick

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Questions