

**ConnectSD Broadband Development Program**

Applicants requesting a grant under the **ConnectSD Broadband Development Program** are required to submit this application that will enable the Governor’s Office of Economic Development (GOED) to analyze six separate evaluation criteria to score the application. A total of 80 points are possible. We are proceeding with the hope of total funding, but conditions could change. This program will reimburse successful applicants up to their maximum awarded amount, but reimbursements are based on actual receipts and costs incurred.

Areas qualifying for grant projects are those lacking access to terrestrial broadband speeds of 100 megabits per second download and 10 megabits per second upload. The State has built a map based on December 2019 broadband data submitted to the Federal Communications Commission on Form 477. Areas where companies have been awarded public funds, but not yet constructed high-speed broadband, and has minimal history of successful high-speed, program-standard broadband deployments, may be considered underserved.   
  
<https://sdbit.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ccd16c24bf804c1fa67d50373d100464>  
  
This site will be used to evaluate applications and the availability of broadband in a proposed project area. The State cannot 100% verify the accuracy of the Form 477 data as we understand the accuracy of Form 477 data varies.

The program does not intend to overbuild areas that are currently being served by 100 / 10 terrestrial broadband. We invite all providers across the state to share their near-term and long-term broadband expansion plans and timelines to bolster the accuracy of our review.

Sustainable, future-proof broadband services is the goal of the program.

### Important Details and Considerations:

* Applications may be submitted for projects that can be completed in 2021 as well as projects that will be completed after January 1, 2022.
* Applications for projects to be completed in 2021 are due 4:00 pm CT, Friday, March 5, 2021.
  + Applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as possible as proposals are reviewed upon receipt.
  + 2021 project applicants unable to meet the March 5 deadline should provide documentation explaining the extenuating circumstances for a late application.
  + All 2021 project applicants must have construction completed and provide service to customers by December 31, 2021.
  + Awards for 2021 projects will be announced on or before March 19, 2021.
  + All 2021 project reimbursements must be submitted by 4:00 pm CT on December 30, 2021.
* Applications for projects to be completed after January 1, 2022 are due 4:00 pm CT on May 6, 2021.
  + Awards for projects to be completed after January 1, 2022 will be announced by June 10, 2021.
  + The mandatory completion date for this category of projects is October 31, 2023.
* The State will offer additional application periods in the future.
* Applications, questions, related documents, and application deadline documentation must be submitted to Mary Lehecka-Nelson at [Mary.LeheckaNelson@state.sd.us](mailto:Mary.LeheckaNelson@state.sd.us)
* Funding is strictly for capital expenditures of building out broadband networks for consumers, businesses, and community facilities.
* Providers may submit multiple applications for consideration of different projects.
* Providers may submit projects with multiple phases, but the initial phase must be capable of standing on its’ own.
* With limited funding available and the high cost of broadband deployment, the State is seeking applications for deployments within varying levels of rurality measured by the households & businesses of the proposed funded service area per square mile. Applicants must submit the number of households & businesses to be served and the square miles to be served as part of their application. Projects serving sparsely populated areas should be submitted for review.
* If the proposed service area is being funded by any federal sources (ReConnect, Connect America Fund, Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, etc.) – please identify to the extent possible the area impacted and funds. Federal funding of a project area does not exclude that area from potential ConnectSD funding. Areas where companies have been awarded public funds but not yet constructed high-speed broadband, and have minimal history of successful high-speed, program-standard broadband deployments, may be considered underserved.
* Technologies utilized must deliver 100 Mbps download and 10 Mbps upload service upon project completion. Technologies utilized must be able to deliver 250 Mbps download service by January 1, 2024 and 500 Mbps download service by January 1, 2027.
* Any subscriber of broadband funded under ConnectSD should be able to receive no less than 100 Mbps download and 10 Mbps upload during peak hours, accounting for expected usage of other customers on the network.
* Broadband speeds must be certified by a professional engineer within the application.
* Project descriptions must detail your company’s experience delivering high-speed broadband.
* If federal or tribal permits are required for your project, please indicate which permits and the expected times to receive approval. If any approvals from the State are required, this should also be noted.
* Applicants must summarize deployment plan and provide quarterly updates to the State if awarded.
* Applicants must disclose any known potential delay-causing issues along with their potential impact and the applicant’s proposed workarounds.
* The State is expecting all residences and businesses within an awarded census block to be served at the ConnectSD program standards. If any portion of an awarded census block is not going to be served after project completion, the provider must document that in their proposal.
* Applicant must identify any non-applicant broadband services (if any) are currently available in the proposed service area, the names of providers delivering the service, available speeds, and technologies.
* The application must include details of your company’s broadband investments in South Dakota meeting ConnectSD program requirements from 2017 – 2020. Including the costs, speeds, and services provided.
* Applicants agree to provide the proposed service area to the State in .kmz file format.
* Applicants agree to provide the completed broadband deployment to the State in .kmz file format upon project completion.
* If different from the below address, applicants should provide the address and contact information for their in-state South Dakota representatives.

Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Application Primary Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

### General Timeframe for Grant Project:

Construction Start Date Project End Date

**One Paragraph Summary Description of your project**

*(This will be used in promotional materials for the grant program in the event your application is accepted.)*

### Project Summary Paragraph:

Company/Organization Name

This will serve un/underserved household and un/underserved business in the

area. In a funding partnership with the State of South Dakota.

City/Township/County

will improve un/underserved level to megabits per second

Company/Organization Name

download and megabits per second upload. ***Write your own paragraph below describing the***

***unique need.***

Total eligible project cost is $ . Local match is $ or %.

**Scoring**

1. **Performance of the Offered Service (20 points maximum)**

All applicants must guarantee a minimum 100 Mbps download and 10 Mbps upload broadband speeds. Points will be awarded for speeds beyond the minimum. The provider may offer consumer services below this threshold, but the broadband must be capable of 100/10 upon project completion for similar market rates. Additionally, the installed technology must be able to deliver 250 Mbps downstream service on January 1, 2024 and 500 Mbps downstream service on January 1, 2027. The technology installed must be expandable into the future. A certification from a licensed Professional Engineer must declare that the proposed system will deliver these speeds to every premise in the proposed funded service area. ***The certification form on page 8 must be signed by a Professional Engineer.***

Points are assigned as follows for services available upon project completion:

100 Mbps Download x 10 Mbps Upload = 0 points, application qualifies for the program

100 Mbps Download x 100 Mbps Upload = 5 points

250 Mbps Download x 250 Mbps Upload = 10 points

500 Mbps Download x 500 Mbps Upload = 15 points

1,000 Mbps Download x 1,000 Mbps Upload = 20 points

Maximum Service

1. **Financial Support (25 points maximum).**

Applicants are encouraged to provide a minimum of 50 percent funding. Applicants will receive 1 point for every percentage point beyond 50%. ***All applicants must attach a summary of audited financials to demonstrate ability to fund at the above levels. Any project proposing less than a 50% applicant match must clearly explain the extenuating circumstances for consideration. Projects with extenuating circumstances will not be penalized on the scoring system.***

Points are assigned as follows:

Applicant with greater than 50% funding will receive 1 point for every percentage point beyond 50%, up to 25 points.

% of funding by provider

1. **Farms/Business/Home Employment Served (10 points maximum).**

Applicants will receive half a point for each farm/business/home employment that pre-subscribes for broadband service, up to a maximum of 10 points. Applicant needs to include number of pre-subscribers and be prepared to share names if asked.

Points are assigned as follows:

Example: .5 x 20 pre-subscribed farms = 10 points

Enter the number of farms/business/home employment that have pre-subscribed to your service.

# of pre-subscribed

1. **Critical Community Facilities (5 points maximum).**

For every critical community facility served (defined as law enforcement, fire stations, emergency operations centers, healthcare, military, state, or local government), one point will be awarded up to a maximum of 5 points. Applicants must have the decision maker of the Critical Community Facility sign the pre-subscription form and submit the pre-subscription forms as part of the application.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Critical Community Facilities** |  | | | |
| *Critical Facility and Address* |  | *Contact Name and phone number* |  | *City* |
| *Critical Facility and Address* |  | *Contact Name and phone number* |  | *City* |
| *Critical Facility and Address* |  | *Contact Name and phone number* |  | *City* |
| *Critical Facility and Address* |  | *Contact Name and phone number* |  | *City* |
| *Critical Facility and Address* |  | *Contact Name and phone number* |  | *City* |

Points are assigned as follows:

Example: 1 x 5 critical community facilities = 5 points

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# of critical facilities

1. **Reservation Lands (5 points)**

For applications where, at a minimum, 50 percent (%) of the geographical area of the proposed funded service area(s) is to provide service on a South Dakota Reservation, five points shall be awarded.

Points are assigned as follows:

50% geographical area is reservation lands = 5 points

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

% of geographical area

1. **Project Timelines (15 points)**

For applications where the project will be completed by December 31, 2021, 15 points will be awarded. Projects that will be completed by December 31, 2022 will be awarded 5 points. The mandatory completion date for other projects is October 31, 2023.

Points are assigned as follows:

Project completed by December 31, 2021 = 15 points   
Project completed by December 31, 2022 = 5 points

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Project Timeline



South Dakota Broadband Development Program Network Design Certification

We the undersigned, certify that the proposed network will be designed and constructed to deliver broadband services to all the premises in can provide the desired performance during normal and peak usage times.

1. Describe your upload and download speeds or packages to be offered to consumers or businesses.
2. Describe the proposed broadband technology. Including a description of the overall network design insuring performance levels during peak usage at a given location. Include in your description the degree of network oversubscription, if any. Additionally, include the provider’s upstream network speeds to the Internet.

1. What is the average expected performance level during peak usage at each location, given the total network design?

Moreover, the network, as designed, can meet the proposed build-out timeline, milestones and construction schedule within the costs specified in the application.

(Date) Certified Engineer’s Signature

Certified Engineer’s Name (Printed)

Registration Number

State of Registration

**ENGINEERING COMPANY (If applicable):**

(Date) Certified Engineer’s Signature

Certified Engineer’s Name (Printed)

Name of Engineering Company

# ConnectSD Pre-subscription Form (Electronic copies of this form may be submitted)

is applying for funding from the South Dakota Broadband Development Program. If

COMPANY NAME

successful, this funding will allow

COMPANY NAME

to bring broadband service to your location.

If you are interested in receiving broadband service, please share your responses to the questions below.

**Category:**

HomeFarm Other Business Home Employment Critical Facility

**What communications services are you currently using? Select all that apply.**

Internet Landline Phone Cell Phone Video Other (Specify)

## Approximately how much do you pay per month for each service that you use?

## Internet $ Landline Phone $ Cell Phone $ Video $ Other (Specify) $

## What is the broadband speed that you currently are receiving with your internet service?

None, we are not served by broadband

< 25 Mbps download, but at least 10 Mbps download

< 100 Mbps download, but at least 25 Mbps download

100 Mbps download or above

I don’t know

## What is the broadband speed would you need to meet your needs?

100 Mbps download, but at least 10 Mbps download

100 Mbps – 500 Mbps download

500+ Mbps download

I don’t know

## Are you interested in receiving broadband services from the above-named company?

Yes No

(Checking yes does not obligate you to purchase.)

## How would you like us to let you know when service will be available?

E-mail Phone call  Mailer

**Respondent Contact Information**

Contact Name:

Name of Business or Facility:

Address:

City: Zip Code:

Phone Number: E-mail:

Respondent Signature: Date:



# Exhibit A, Summary of Applicant’s Financials (2020)



Exhibit B, Proposed Funding Service Area Map

*Additionally, please provide in KMZ compatible format with the application.*



# Exhibit C, Proposed Timeline and/or Map Timeline



# Exhibit D, Proposed Cost Breakdown

*Please provide to the greatest detail possible.*



# Exhibit E, About Applicant