**Representative Suzan K. DelBene (WA-01)**

**FY 2023 Community Project Funding Requests**

**Department of Agriculture ReConnect Program**

Submit this form to [CPFs.DelBene@mail.house.gov](mailto:CPFs.DelBene@mail.house.gov) no later than **April 13, 2022,** and please specify the account name in the email subject line.

**Submission Guidelines:**

Please read the eligibility criteria and selection guidance carefully before submitting a request. Submission of this information does not create a binding commitment on any party nor a guarantee that any organization or program will be awarded funding from any federal agency. Once submitted, this request may be made publicly available.

For-profit entities are not eligible to apply for Community Project Funding. Only the following entities may apply:

* State, local and tribal governments
* Publicly owned entities (e.g. ports, universities, PUDs, etc.)
* Certain non-profit entities with a quasi-government purpose (e.g. Special Districts)
* Non-profit organizations

Please note that each Appropriations Subcommittee has account specific questions that must accompany each request. The first section of this form is information required by our office for all requests. The second section of this form includes questions that are required by each subcommittee for each account. Please be sure to answer all questions. Please provide any attachments (i.e. letters of support) as separate documents.

**Department of Agriculture ReConnect Program:**

ReConnect broadband pilot grants facilitate broadband deployment in rural areas. Grants funds can be used for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service to rural areas without sufficient broadband access.

The area must be rural and lack sufficient access to broadband service. A rural area is any area which is not located within a city, town, or incorporated area that has a population of greater than 20,000 inhabitants. Sufficient access to broadband is defined as greater than 90% of any rural area in which households have fixed, terrestrial broadband service delivering at least 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream. Mobile and satellite services will not be considered in making the determination of sufficient access to broadband.

Stand-alone middle-mile projects are not eligible under the ReConnect Program. However, middle-mile facilities are eligible if they are needed to bring sufficient broadband service to all premises in the area.

Members are strongly encouraged to include information in their requests, such as the number of households, businesses, or farms will be served in the area, what the performance of the service to be offered will be, and whether healthcare or educational facilities will be served.

USDA’s Rural Development is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility.

For fiscal year 2022, the average ReConnect CPF award was nearly $2 million. Please note the subcommittee will consider higher project requests for fiscal year 2023. However, projects requesting significantly more than that average may be more difficult to fund and funding will depend on program demand and other variables. Any future potential project caps will be determined by the Chair after reviewing the full universe of requests.

Additionally, when submitting a request, Members are reminded that all policies and procedures apply, including environmental and related reviews and the cost share requirement of 25% of the overall project cost. Policies and procedures can be found at <https://go.usa.gov/xexPT>.

Additional guidance with specific information about these accounts is [attached](https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/democrats.appropriations.house.gov/files/FY23%20Ag-Rural%20Development-FDA%20Request%20Guidance.pdf).

Staff Contact: Cecily Hahn ([Cecily.Hahn@mail.house.gov](mailto:Cecily.Hahn@mail.house.gov))

**Questionnaire:**

Requesting Organization:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| --- | --- |
| **D.C. Contact (if applicable)** | **Local Contact** |
| Name  Mailing Address  City, State Zip  Phone Number  Fax Number  E-Mail Address | Name  Mailing Address  City, State Zip  Phone Number  Fax Number  E-Mail Address |

**All Requests**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Agency** | **Account** |

1. Briefly describe your request in 5 sentences or less.
2. This is request **x of x** submitted to this office.
   1. If you are submitting more than one request, please rank this request in order of priority.
3. Are you making this request to other offices?
4. If yes, please list other offices receiving this request:
5. Did you submit this project as a Community Project Funding request or Transportation & Infrastructure Member Designated Project request during the 2022 process?
6. Briefly but specifically, how does this project or program impact the 1st Congressional District of WA?
7. Eligibility of requesting entity or organization (please highlight the one applicable to your organization)
   1. State, local, or tribal government
   2. Publicly owned entity (e.g. port, university, PUD, etc.)
   3. Non-profit entity with a quasi-governmental purpose (e.g. Special District)
   4. Non-profit organization
8. Name of the project or program to be funded
9. Physical location of the project or program (including street name, city, and zip code)
10. Amount requested
11. Detailed breakdown of the total cost of the project or program that includes all prior sources (both public and private) and any amounts that remain unfunded
12. Have you previously applied for federal funds for this project or program? If yes, to which programs have you applied and what and what has been the outcomes of those applications.
13. If this project or program has previously been awarded federal funds, please list the total amount of federal funds previously awarded
14. Detailed breakdown of how the requested funds would be spent
15. Once completed, will the project or program require continued funding to maintain operation? If so, where will that funding come from?
16. Provide a detailed description of the project or program to be funded including data and/or evidence that demonstrates the public benefit.
17. Justification for why this project represents a good use of taxpayer dollars.
18. Describe any long-term job creation that will result from this project.
19. Will this project have a revenue-generating component that would have community and state economic benefit? If so, please describe and quantify.
20. Detailed timeline and anticipated start date and completion date for the project or program.
21. Federal agency that would administer this funding.
22. List any public or private entities that have been identified as project sponsors in prior funding requests and/or that will help determine how the requested funds will be spent.
23. List any stakeholders that support this request.
24. Please list below and provide as **separate attachments** any letters of support from local stakeholders, press articles and editorials, project listed on state use or planning documents, local resolutions passed in support, or other documents that demonstrate community support and commitment to this request.
25. Are there any known or anticipated community concerns associated with this project or program (e.g. conflict with land use, neighborhood concerns, etc.) that could prevent it from moving forward?

**Subcommittee/Account Specific Questions:**

**Department of Agriculture ReConnect Program:**

1. The website address of the proposed recipient.
2. If there are additional costs necessary to complete the project, have those been secured?
3. Does the entity plan to make grants to other entities from the funds provided and if so, to whom?
4. Why is the project a priority for the district? Briefly explain the community benefits.
5. Has any funding for the project been included in any presidential budget and if so, how much, in which fiscal year, and in which agency or agencies and program(s)?
6. Has the project received federal funding before and if so, how much, when, and from which agency or agencies and program(s)?
7. Please provide relevant information, such as the number of households, businesses, or farms that would be served, what the performance of the service to be offered will be, and whether healthcare or educational facilities will be served.