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

**FY 2024 Community Project Funding Requests**

**U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, ReConnect Program**

Submit this form to [CPFs.DelBene@mail.house.gov](mailto:CPFs.DelBene@mail.house.gov) no later than **March 12, 2023** 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, Rural Development, ReConnect Program**

ReConnect broadband pilot grants facilitate broadband deployment in rural areas. Grant 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, defined as 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream.

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.

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

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

For fiscal year 2023, the average ReConnect CPF award was nearly $1.2 million.

Additional guidance with specific information about these accounts is [attached](https://appropriations.house.gov/sites/republicans.appropriations.house.gov/files/FY24%20Agriculture,%20Rural%20Development,%20Food%20and%20Drug%20Administration%20and%20Related%20Agencies%20Guidance.docx.pdf).

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

**Questionnaire:**

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

Please provide the best contacts for this application who can answer any questions, provide additional information, and will serve as the primary point of contact. This individual must be responsive to calls and emails throughout the application process, as well as for the duration of the project if the project is selected for funding.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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**

1. Briefly describe your request in 1-2 sentences that we can publicly post and share.
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? We strongly encourage you to submit all of your requests to the Senators offices as well.
4. If yes, please list other offices receiving this request:
5. Did you submit this project as a Community Project Funding request during the FY 2023 or FY 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. If there are portions still unfunded, please also outline potential sources of funding that will be targeted to fill the funding gap.
12. Have you previously applied for federal funds for this project or program? If yes, to which programs have you applied and what has been the outcomes of those applications?
13. Please list any other FY24 Community Project Funding accounts your project might be eligible under.
14. If this project or program has previously been awarded federal funds, please list the total amount of federal funds previously awarded.
15. Detailed breakdown of how the requested funds would be spent.
16. Once completed, will the project or program require continued funding to maintain operation? If so, where will that funding come from?
17. Please provide information on the scalability of this project.
    1. If more funds than the amount requested above were to be available, detail whether the project be able to use those funds and how those funds could be used.
    2. If the requested amount was cut due to account caps, please detail the amounts at which discrete portions of the project could still be completed.
18. Provide a detailed description of the project or program to be funded including data and/or evidence that demonstrates the public benefit.
19. Justification for why this project represents a good use of taxpayer dollars.
20. In order to ensure a federal nexus exists for each funded project, the Committee will only fund projects that are tied to a federal authorization law. Please provide a written statement describing the federal nexus for this request. Subcommittee guidance will include example language Members can use to make the required statement. Provide a one sentence description of the federal nexus for this project.

*An example of a federal nexus statement provided by the Committee is “This project has a Federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized in Section 2331 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, 7 U.S. Code section 950aaa.”*

1. Describe any long-term job creation that will result from this project.
2. Will this project have a revenue-generating component that would have community and state economic benefit? If so, please describe and quantify.
3. Detailed timeline and anticipated start date and completion date for the project or program.
4. Federal agency that would administer this funding.
5. 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.
6. List all stakeholders that support this request.
7. 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. These documents demonstrating community support are **required** **for all projects** and are heavily weighed by our office and the Appropriations Committee in evaluating your project.
8. 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, Rural Development, ReConnect Program:**

1. If there are additional costs necessary to complete the project, have those been secured?
2. Is the project for an eligible purpose and does it meet all eligibility requirements under current law?
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. Have you contacted the State Rural Development Office/State Conservation Office to discuss the project and confirm eligibility?
8. 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.