IDAHO CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND BROADBAND PROGRAM

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

Expanding Opportunity through Broadband Access

IDAHO COMMERCE OFFICE OF BROADBAND
IDAHO COMMISSION FOR LIBRARIES

FY 2026

REPORTING PERIOD

JULY 1, 2025– JUNE 30, 2026

Capital Projects Fund

State Fiscal Year 2026

July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

Program Plan Number: CPF_GP-00258
Program Start Date: February 4, 2022
Program End Date: December 31, 2026
Funds Allocated to the Program: $125,000,000
Program: Capital Projects Fund
Federal Award Identification Number (FAIN): CPFFN017

Combined Annual Performance Reports For:
Idaho Department of Commerce & Idaho Office of Broadband
Idaho Commission for the Libraries

All images are courtesy of Idaho Commerce and
Idaho CPF projects unless otherwise noted.

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Executive Summary

Idaho's Capital Projects Fund (CPF) Broadband Infrastructure Program continues to demonstrate meaningful progress toward closing the digital divide by expanding reliable, high-speed broadband access to rural and underserved communities across the state. As projects have advanced from planning and design into active construction and network activation, the portfolio has evolved beyond infrastructure deployment to deliver measurable community benefits. Collectively, recipients have expanded broadband availability to thousands of homes, businesses, farms, and community anchor institutions while laying the foundation for long-term improvements in education, healthcare, workforce participation, public safety, economic development, and overall quality of life.

Throughout the reporting period, recipients successfully navigated the complex realities of constructing broadband infrastructure in some of Idaho's most geographically challenging areas. Projects addressed permitting delays, environmental reviews, utility coordination, railroad crossings, severe weather, and other implementation challenges through adaptive project management, strong partnerships, and ongoing coordination with local, state, Tribal, and federal stakeholders. Despite these challenges, projects continued to achieve significant construction milestones, activate new service areas, and remain focused on successful completion.

> *"Building more networks. Building opportunity for Idaho communities."*

The program also demonstrated a strong commitment to responsible stewardship of public resources through comprehensive project oversight, regulatory compliance, and performance monitoring. Recipients implemented robust processes to verify construction progress, monitor expenditures, maintain labor and civil rights compliance, review certified payrolls, document milestone completion, respond to community feedback, and resolve construction concerns. Rather than relying solely on infrastructure metrics, projects increasingly evaluated success through a combination of quantitative measures, including broadband serviceable locations (BSLs) passed, miles of fiber constructed, active subscriber counts, service activations, and adoption rates. Qualitative measures such as stakeholder engagement, customer feedback, outreach effectiveness, and strengthened community partnerships.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

INVESTMENT
Strategic public investment leveraging significant local match.

IMPACT
Expanding reliable high-speed internet access across Idaho communities.

PROGRESS
Continued expansion of fiber infrastructure and broadband availability.

COMPLETION
Projects advancing toward completion with strong oversight and support.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 18 active broadband projects across the state.
- Continued expansion of fiber infrastructure and middle-mile networks.
- Ongoing permitting, utility, and environmental coordination.
- Community engagement across multiple regions and partners.
- Progress toward universal access and digital equity goals.

Affordability remained a central component of the program's strategy for addressing Idaho's critical broadband needs. Many recipients combined infrastructure investments with subsidized service offerings, participation in federal affordability programs, open-access network models, and consumer education to reduce financial barriers for qualifying households. These efforts help ensure that broadband investments result not only in expanded availability but also in meaningful, sustained adoption among the residents and businesses the program was designed to serve.

A defining characteristic of Idaho's CPF portfolio is the recipient's recognition that broadband infrastructure alone does not close the digital divide. Recipients consistently paired network deployment with community engagement, affordability initiatives, customer outreach, and digital inclusion efforts designed to ensure residents could understand, access, and adopt newly available services. Public meetings, community events, county fairs, direct mail campaigns, local advertising, door-to-door outreach, bilingual communications, customer education, and partnerships with schools, libraries, healthcare providers, local governments, economic development organizations, and community-based partners helped prepare communities for service activation while strengthening public trust and encouraging broadband adoption.

Across the portfolio, recipients consistently prioritized local economic participation by utilizing Idaho-based contractors, regional suppliers, and local workforce resources whenever practical while maintaining compliance with applicable federal labor standards, civil rights requirements, and workplace safety regulations. Several projects further strengthened community benefits through workforce development commitments, local hiring priorities, and partnerships designed to build long-term broadband expertise within Idaho's rural communities.

The Big Picture

> Idaho's Capital Projects Fund Broadband Program is no longer measured solely by miles of fiber or construction milestones. Its success is increasingly reflected in connected households, thriving businesses, stronger community institutions, and expanded opportunities for Idahoans to learn, work, access healthcare, and participate fully in the digital economy.

Perhaps most notably, the program has matured beyond measuring success solely by infrastructure constructed. As networks become operational, recipients are increasingly focused on expanding adoption, sustaining community engagement, strengthening local partnerships, and leveraging broadband infrastructure to improve educational opportunities, healthcare access, economic resilience, public safety, and digital inclusion. Community engagement has transitioned from supporting construction to fostering long-term relationships that will continue guiding broadband adoption and future expansion efforts well beyond the completion of individual projects.

Together, these efforts demonstrate that Idaho's Capital Projects Fund Broadband Infrastructure Program is building more than broadband networks. It is strengthening the capacity of rural communities, expanding access to essential services, supporting local economies, and creating the foundation for lasting digital opportunity across Idaho. While work remains to achieve universal broadband availability, the progress realized during this reporting period reflects a mature, collaborative, and outcomes-focused program that is delivering meaningful benefits to Idaho residents today while positioning communities for continued success in the years ahead.

Building Capacity. Strengthening Communities.

Broadband infrastructure is more than connectivity. It's the foundation that enables community organizations to deliver critical services and create lasting opportunities.






EDUCATION

Reliable broadband supports digital learning, student success, and stronger schools.

HEALTHCARE

Telehealth patient services and information are more accessible for rural residents.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Improved communications and data access enhance emergency response and community safety.

GOVERNMENT

Digital services, permits, and communications improve efficiency and transparency.

BUSINESSES

Broadband fuels innovation, access to markets, and economic resilience.

COMMUNITY HUBS

Public access points help everyone connect, learn, and thrive.

Every completed connection represents new opportunities for learning, healthcare, employment, business growth, and civic participation.

PORTFOLIO AT A GLANCE

18

PROJECTS UNDERWAY

Across Idaho's rural and underserved communities

30,000+

BROADBAND SERVICEABLE LOCATIONS

Passed or able to subscribe to service

1,500+

MILES OF FIBER

Installed statewide including middle-mile and last-mile

80+

COMMUNITIES SERVED

Rural cities, counties, and unincorporated areas

4,000+

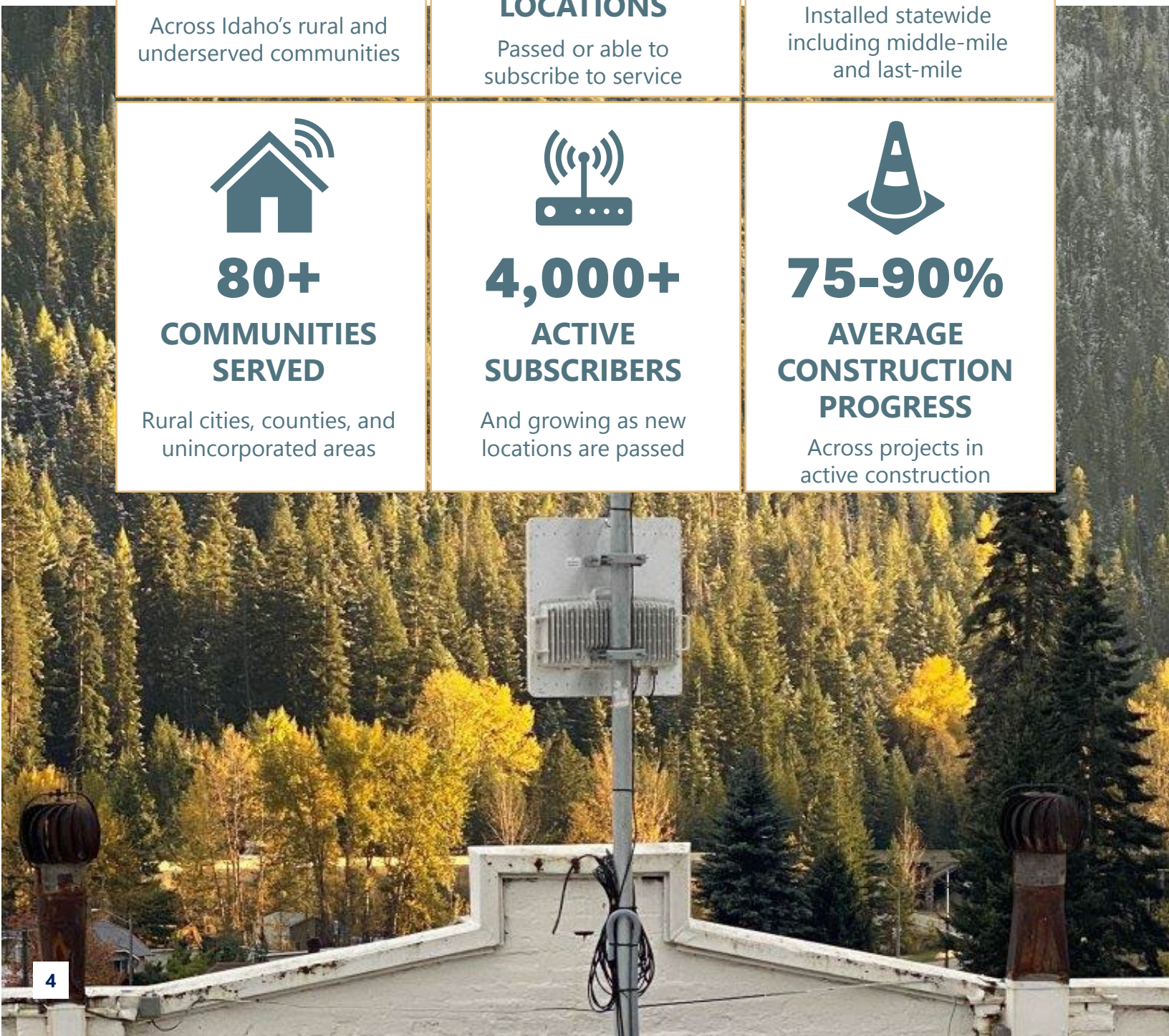
ACTIVE SUBSCRIBERS

And growing as new locations are passed

75-90%

AVERAGE CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

Across projects in active construction



Edited 3/9/26

Link Up Idaho

OFFICE of information technology services

Capital Projects Awarded by the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board

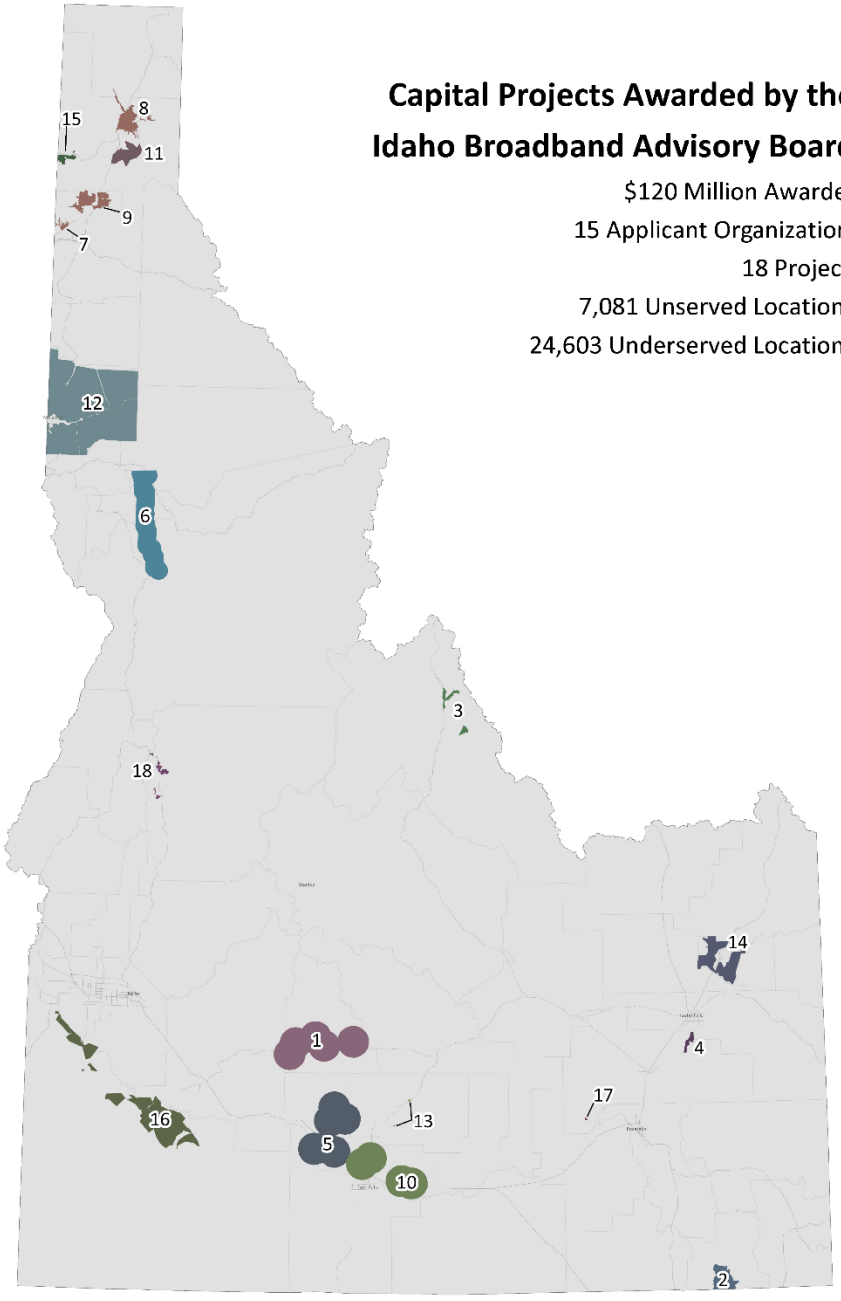
$120 Million Awarded

15 Applicant Organizations

18 Projects

7,081 Unserved Locations

24,603 Underserved Locations



9 - Hauser Lake Area Project
Intermax Networks

APP-005976

Unserved Locations	25
Underserved Locations	620
Awarded Amount	$ 1,585,130.00

15 - Project Last Mile Priest River & Oldtown
MiFiber

APP-005947

Unserved Locations	790
Underserved Locations	116
Awarded Amount	$ 6,259,109.70

8 - Selle Valley Project
Intermax Networks

APP-005952

Unserved Locations	611
Underserved Locations	1,876
Awarded Amount	$ 6,315,211.28

11 - Bonner County- Sagle Fiber (FTTX) for speeds up to 2.5Gbps
Kaniksu

APP-006030

Unserved Locations	1,372
Underserved Locations	544
Awarded Amount	$ 2,527,975.69

7 - State Hwy 54 Corridor Broadband Project
Intermax Networks

APP-005938

Unserved Locations	1,411
Underserved Locations	1,818
Awarded Amount	$ 5,889,174.99

3 - Salmon Idaho Hwys 93 North Fiber and Hwy 28 South Project
Custer Telephone Cooperative Inc

APP-005883

Unserved Locations	22
Underserved Locations	337
Awarded Amount	$ 3,399,900.00

12 - Latah County Dark Fiber Network
Latah County/Inland Cellular/FSI

APP-005924

Unserved Locations	
Underserved Locations	1,155
Awarded Amount	$ 15,000,000.00

14 - Madison County & Fybercom Fiber Initiative- Rural Broadband Proposal
Madison County/Fybercom

APP-005958

Unserved Locations	4
Underserved Locations	2,988
Awarded Amount	$ 13,673,938.79

6 - Orofino to Grangeville Fiber Optic Conduit Project
Idaho County/TBD

APP-005896

Unserved Locations	112
Underserved Locations	3,402
Awarded Amount	$ 11,589,881.00

4 - Taylor/Basalt Fiber Project
FyberCom

APP-006037

Unserved Locations	0
Underserved Locations	651
Awarded Amount	$ 716,947.54

18 - Valley County Broadband Project
Ziply Fiber

APP-005923

Unserved Locations	1,315
Underserved Locations	302
Awarded Amount	$ 9,027,501.00

17 - Aberdeen Fiber to the Premise
Ziply Fiber

APP-005932

Unserved Locations	3
Underserved Locations	736
Awarded Amount	$ 2,306,353.00

16 - Owyhee County Broadband Project
Whitecloud Communications

APP-005904

Unserved Locations	1,173
Underserved Locations	424
warded Amount	$ 4,357,749.00

1 - Camas County Wireless Fiber and Fiber to the Premises
Camas County /ETS

APP-005921

Unserved Locations	77
Underserved Locations	786
Awarded Amount	$ 5,090,020.50

5 - Gooding County Wireless Fiber and Middle Mile Fiber
Gooding County/ETS

APP-005949

Unserved Locations	34
Underserved Locations	2,542
Awarded Amount	$ 7,509,334.00

10 - Jerome County Fiber to the Premises & Fiber Fed Fixed Wireless
Jerome County/ETS

APP-005989

Unserved Locations	61
Underserved Locations	2,928
Awarded Amount	$ 10,838,021.50

13 - Lincoln County, ID Broadband Initiative- Phase 2- Fiber to the Premises
Lincoln County/ETS

APP-005918

Unserved Locations	11
Underserved Locations	292
Awarded Amount	$ 4,039,860.01

2 - City of Preston, City of Franklin and Surrounding Area Partnership
Comcast Cable Communications LLC

APP-005889

Unserved Locations	60
Underserved Locations	3,086
Awarded Amount	$ 9,873,892.00

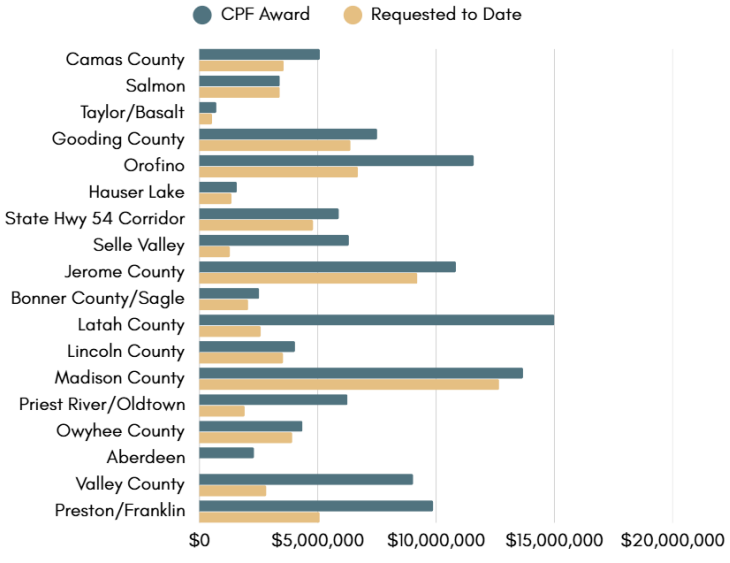
Idaho's 18-project Capital Projects Fund Broadband Infrastructure portfolio, representing a $120 million federal investment supported by more than $58.8 million in recipient matching funds, continued advancing broadband infrastructure designed to expand reliable, high-speed internet service to eligible unserved and underserved communities throughout Idaho.

+$178M INVESTED

$120M Awarded
$58M in Match

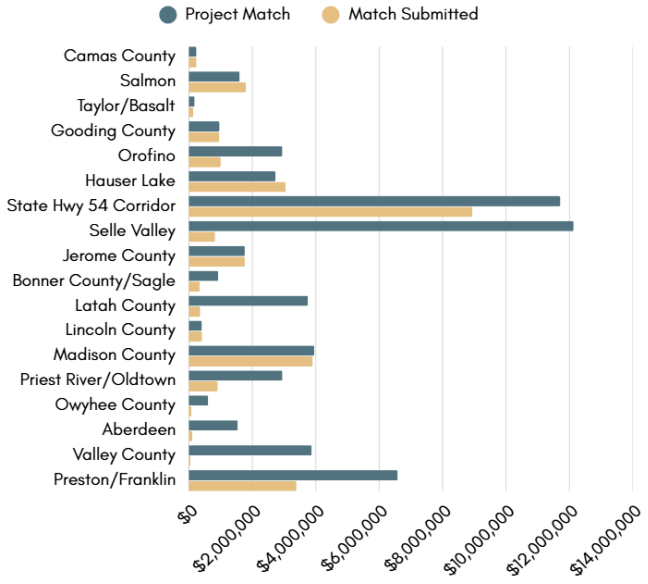
$72.6M

of the $120M awarded funds requested to date



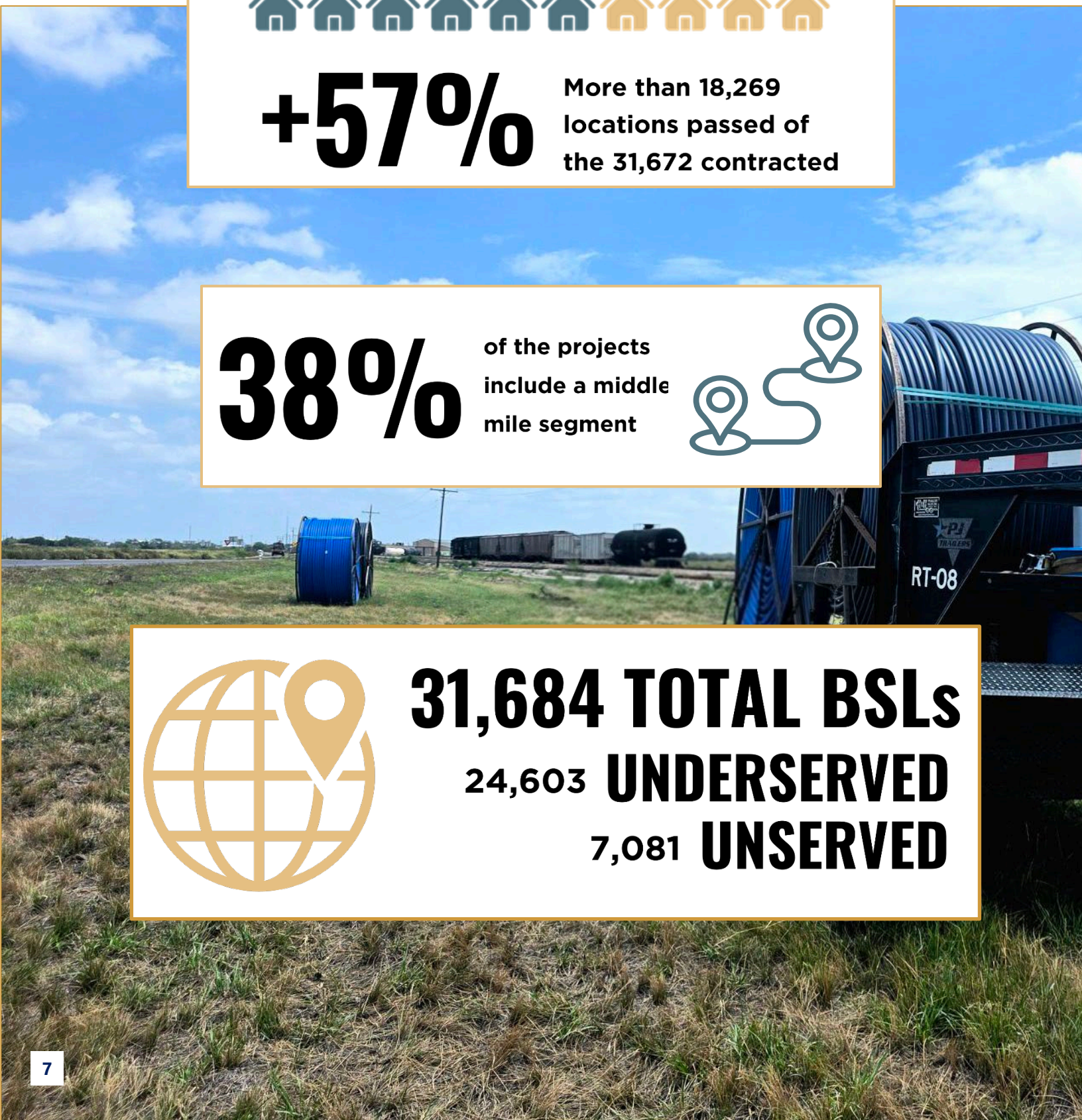
$28.2M

of the $58.8M project match funds submitted to date



DELIVERING BROADBAND ACROSS IDAHO

During the reporting period, projects across Idaho continued transforming public investment into reliable broadband infrastructure that connect communities, expands opportunities, and strengthens the state's long-term resilience.



+57% More than 18,269 locations passed of the 31,672 contracted

38% of the projects include a middle mile segment

31,684 TOTAL BSLs

24,603 **UNDERSERVED**

7,081 **UNSERVED**

Use of Funds

IMPLEMENTING IDAHO'S BROADBAND INVESTMENT

This reporting period demonstrates a wide range of coordinated activities occurring simultaneously across multiple projects. Recipient performance reports, reimbursement documentation, project monitoring, and compliance reviews collectively indicate that engineering, permitting, procurement, construction, community engagement, reimbursement, and project administration progressed concurrently, reflecting the complexity of delivering broadband infrastructure across diverse geographic and operational environments.

Implementation activities varied across the portfolio as projects progressed according to their approved scopes of work, construction schedules, and local conditions. During the reporting period, some recipients concentrated on engineering, environmental review, permitting, and procurement activities, while others advanced active construction, network testing, customer readiness, or initial service activation. These differences reflect the natural progression of complex infrastructure projects rather than differences in program objectives, demonstrating that implementation advanced continuously across the portfolio despite projects being at different stages of development.

Rather than progressing through a single sequence of activities, recipient documentation consistently demonstrates that multiple implementation components frequently occurred simultaneously. Engineering often continued while permitting activities were finalized, construction advanced as reimbursement requests were processed, and community engagement occurred alongside project monitoring and compliance oversight. This overlapping approach enabled recipients to maintain project momentum while adapting to local conditions, seasonal construction windows, utility coordination, and other implementation considerations documented throughout the reporting period.

Project activities further demonstrate continued portfolio advancement. Recipient performance reports, reimbursement reviews, project monitoring activities, milestone verification, and independent compliance reviews collectively provided a comprehensive view of implementation progress across all funded projects. Reviewing these sources together allows the Department to identify portfolio-wide trends and common implementation themes that would not be apparent from individual project reports alone.

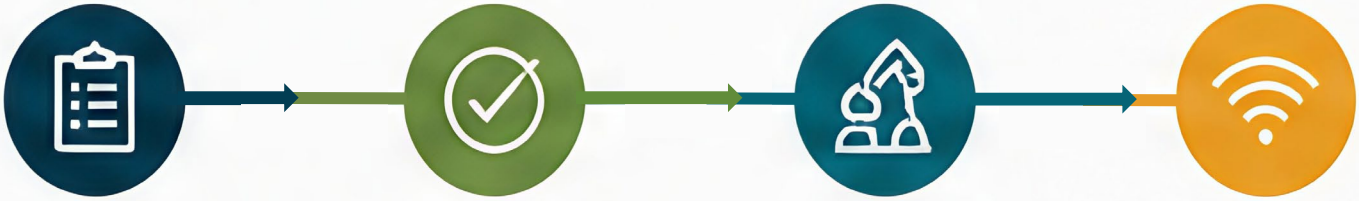
Recipients incorporated affordability and digital equity commitments through Community Benefit Agreements, subsidized broadband offerings for income-qualified households, participation in federal low-income assistance programs, open-access network models that increase provider choice, and targeted outreach efforts including community meetings, direct mail campaigns, public events, door-to-door engagement, educational activities, and marketing to encourage broadband adoption. The activities were designed to inform communities of improved access to remote work, telehealth, distance learning, public safety communications, economic development, agricultural operations, and government services while strengthening long-term network resiliency and scalability.

Although projects encountered routine implementation challenges, including permitting delays, utility coordination, railroad crossings, environmental and wetland reviews, right-of-way acquisition, private road permissions, weather impacts, material procurement, engineering complexity, contractor coordination, and regulatory approvals, recipients generally mitigated these issues through alternative engineering solutions, revised construction sequencing, stakeholder coordination, ongoing project management, and schedule adjustments.

Portfolio Perspective

Implementation occurred across multiple project phases simultaneously.

A defining characteristic of Idaho's Capital Projects Fund Broadband Infrastructure portfolio is that implementation was not linear. Throughout the reporting period, projects collectively represented every major phase of broadband deployment—from engineering and permitting through construction, customer readiness, and initial service activation. This diversity reflects the maturity of individual projects while demonstrating continued statewide progress toward expanding reliable broadband infrastructure in eligible unserved and underserved communities.



PLANNING & DESIGN	PERMITTING & APPROVALS	CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY	CONNECTING COMMUNITIES
Projects engineered and designed	Environmental and regulatory approvals secured	Fiber construction and network build in progress across the state	Networks activating and residents connecting
COMPLETE	SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS	79% OF PROJECTS	ON TRACK

As the reporting period concluded, documentation indicates that the portfolio continued transitioning toward later stages of implementation. Projects completing engineering and permitting activities advanced into construction, while more mature projects increasingly reported preparation for network testing, customer activations, operational readiness, and preparations for project closeout. This progression reflects the portfolio's continued movement toward the December 31, 2026, program completion deadline and the transition from infrastructure deployment to long-term community service.

Overall, recipients demonstrated continued progress towards completion of major construction milestones, compliance reporting, reimbursement documentation, community engagement activities, and implementation of sustainable broadband infrastructure that will provide long-term connectivity benefits to Idaho's rural and underserved communities.

Evidence Spotlight

Comcast – Transitioning from Construction to Community Service

Comcast reached approximately 96 percent construction completion, with 2,816 broadband service locations passed, 139.7 miles of fiber installed, and 522 active customer connections established during the reporting period. As construction activities neared completion, project implementation increasingly shifted toward customer activation, operational readiness, and service delivery. This progression illustrates how projects naturally evolve from infrastructure deployment to providing reliable broadband service within the communities they were designed to serve.

Portfolio Perspective

ADVANCING BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGH COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION

A defining characteristic of Idaho's Capital Projects Fund Broadband Infrastructure portfolio is that implementation was not linear. Throughout the reporting period, projects collectively represented every major phase of broadband deployment, from engineering and permitting through construction, customer readiness, and initial service activation. This diversity reflects the maturity of individual projects while demonstrating continued statewide progress toward expanding reliable broadband infrastructure in eligible unserved and underserved communities.

CONNECTING IDAHO ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME

Across the state, projects are delivering fiber and fixed wireless infrastructure to rural communities where reliable high-speed internet was previously unavailable or inadequate, expanding access for households, businesses, farms, schools, healthcare providers, and public safety agencies.

THOUSANDS OF IDAHOANS NOW HAVE ACCESS

Several projects have already completed construction or are nearing completion, and preparing for project close-outs, with thousands of BSLs now able to subscribe to gigabit-capable internet service and hundreds of customers already connected.

ADOPTION IS FOLLOWING INFRASTRUCTURE

As networks become operational, recipients are reporting growing customer subscriptions, strong take rates, and increasing community interest through direct outreach, demonstrating that new infrastructure is translating into real-world adoption.

Tools That Drive Success

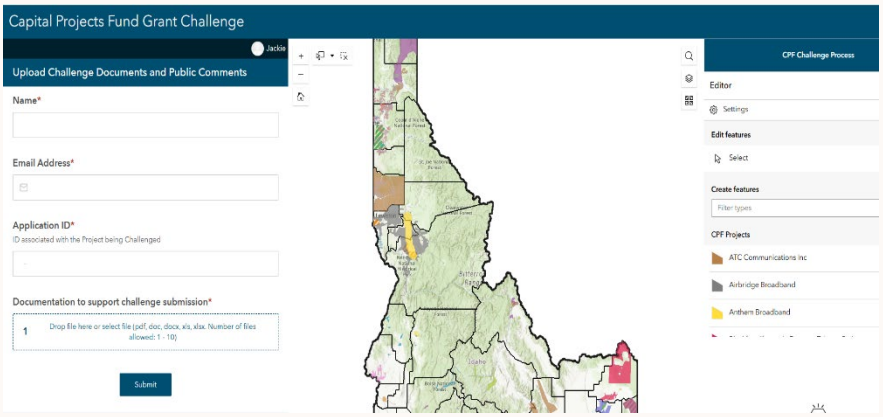
IDAHO'S IN-HOUSE GIS PLATFORM: A HOMEGROWN ADVANTAGE

To support the Idaho CPF program, the Office of Information Technology Services, in partnership with the Idaho Office of Broadband (IOB), designed and built a full suite of GIS tools entirely in-house. Most other states outsourced comparable platforms to outside vendors, purchasing expensive commercial software to meet program requirements such as the challenge process. Idaho instead used software and infrastructure the state already owned, built by Idahoans who understood the state's data, geography, and program needs firsthand. The result is a more accurate, more current, and more adaptable set of tools delivered at a fraction of the cost of the vendor-built systems adopted elsewhere.

CHALLENGE PROCESS TOOL

Allows entities to formally challenge CPF applications, a core program requirement, that would be difficult, if not impossible, to administer without a dedicated online tool.

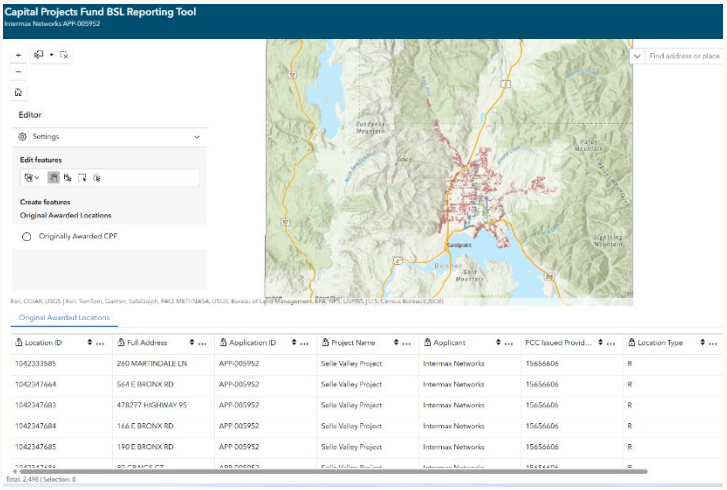
- Helps prevent overbuilding of existing service areas.
- Ensures grant funds are directed where impact is greatest.



PROJECT REPORTING TOOL

Each CPF project has its own reporting tool, tailored to its specific project area, so recipients can report progress by map or by table.

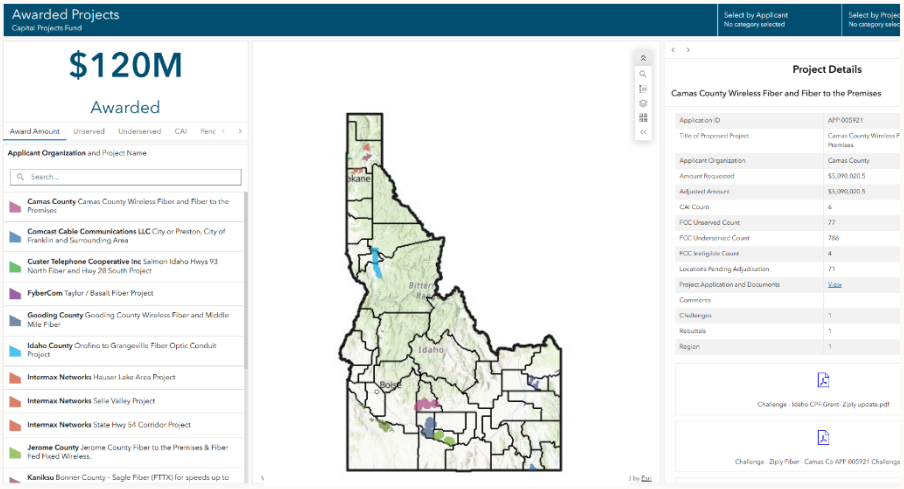
- Edit locations by location ID, or bulk-edit multiple map selections.
- Log implementation issues and upload evidence for non-BSLs.
- Report actual speeds once a location goes live.



PROGRAM DASHBOARD

A statewide view of program awards and progress, built for at-a-glance oversight.

- Summary indicator: award totals, unserved/underserved counts, CAIs.
- Filter or select by project, applicant, or project name.
- Details pane updates with project info and attachments.



Milestones, Outputs, and Outcomes

MEASURING MEANINGFUL PROGRESS

Viewed individually, project milestones describe the progress of a single infrastructure investment. Viewed collectively, they provide a broader picture of statewide implementation and illustrate how projects mature over time. Documentation reviewed during the reporting period demonstrates that Idaho's broadband portfolio is progressing beyond planning and construction toward the delivery of broadband service, with early customer activations providing evidence that infrastructure investments are beginning to translate into measurable community benefit.

Broadband infrastructure does more than connect homes to the internet, it connects people to opportunity. Across Idaho, the Capital Projects Fund Broadband Program is expanding reliable, high-speed internet access to rural and underserved communities where limited connectivity has long restricted access to education, healthcare, employment, public safety, government services, and economic opportunity. The individuals and households benefiting from these investments represent a diverse cross-section of Idahoans, including students participating in online learning, remote workers, agricultural producers, small business owners, seniors utilizing telehealth services, and families accessing essential digital resources for everyday life. As projects progress from construction to service activation, these investments are improving quality of life by creating new opportunities for residents to learn, work, access care, operate businesses, and remain connected within an increasingly digital world.

Milestones document implementation. Outputs demonstrate progress. Outcomes reflect communities beginning to benefit.

INFRASTRUCTURE → DEVELOPMENT → SERVICE DELIVERY

Idaho's broadband expansion portfolio continues to advance from infrastructure development toward service delivery, with this reporting period marking a clear transition point across projects statewide.

Milestones

The portfolio has moved beyond the planning-heavy activities (engineering, environmental review, permitting) that characterized earlier reporting periods. Recipients are now increasingly reporting construction completion, network testing, and initial service activation. Projects remain on track toward the program's December 31, 2026 completion deadline, with more mature projects entering closeout preparation.

Outputs

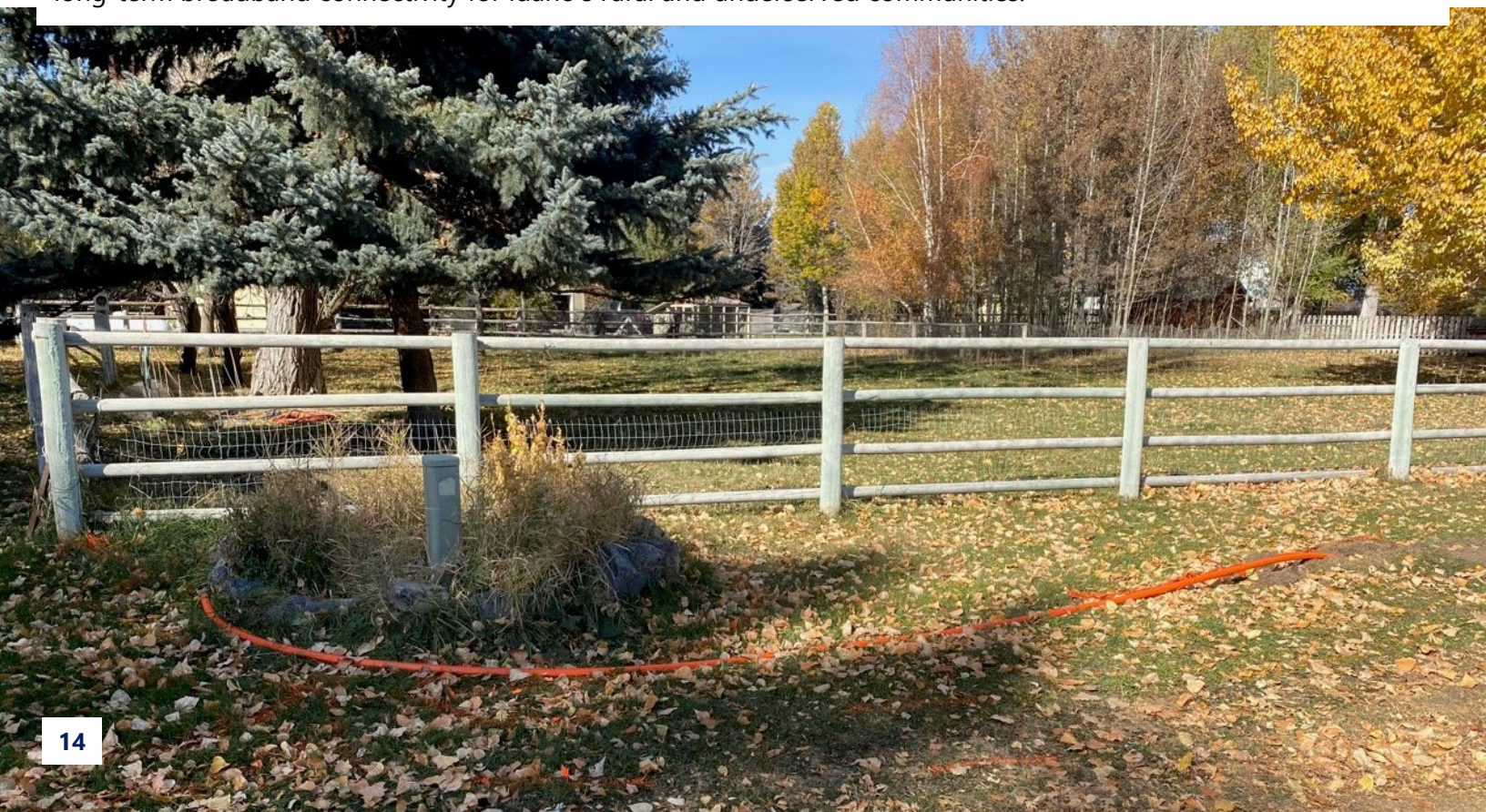
Across the portfolio, recipients have delivered coordinated progress on engineering, permitting, construction, and reimbursement documentation, often advancing several of these components in parallel rather than sequentially. This overlapping approach has enabled recipients to sustain output despite regional differences in terrain, seasonal construction windows, and utility coordination requirements. Independent compliance reviews and milestone verification confirm that outputs are consistent with approved project scopes.

Outcomes

The portfolio's outcomes are increasingly visible at the community level. Individuals and households in unserved and underserved areas are beginning to gain access to reliable broadband service allowing access for participation in telehealth, remote work, distance learning, public safety communications, and local economic activity, including agricultural operations. Recipients have also embedded affordability and access measures directly into implementation, including Community Benefit Agreements, subsidized service for income-qualified households, participation in federal low-income assistance programs, and open-access models designed to expand provider choice.

Portfolio Outlook

Notwithstanding routine implementation challenges such as permitting delays, right-of-way acquisition, weather, and material procurement, recipients have maintained continuous progress through adaptive project management. Taken as a whole, the portfolio demonstrates steady, well-managed advancement toward its central goal: durable, long-term broadband connectivity for Idaho's rural and underserved communities.



MEASURING SUCCESS

Project performance is evaluated through ongoing project oversight, milestone verification, engineering and contractor documentation, and compliance reviews. Project success is primarily measured through objective implementation and adoption metrics reported to the IOB as part of reimbursement requests, project monitoring, quarterly performance reports, and annual reporting. Many recipients also tracked customer inquiries, subscription rates, service activations, and participation in outreach efforts to better understand broadband adoption after service became available.

Together, these activities provided reliable quantitative measures of implementation and demonstrated continued progress toward project completion and long-term connectivity goals. While most recipients did not conduct formal beneficiary surveys or outcome evaluations, construction milestones, service activation data, and adoption metrics collectively provided a practical and measurable framework for evaluating each project's success in expanding reliable broadband access to Idaho's underserved communities.

COMMON METHODS USED TO MEASURE SUCCESS

- Broadband serviceable locations passed or enabled
- Active customer connections and subscriber counts
- Customer adoption or take rates
- Miles of fiber constructed
- Service activations following network completion
- Customer inquiries generated through outreach campaigns
- Construction milestone completion and reimbursement reporting
- Quarterly performance reporting documenting deployment progress and service availability

Evidence Spotlight

Several recipients provided concrete examples that illustrate how individuals and households are already benefiting from these investments. Rather than speaking generally about improved connectivity, these examples demonstrate measurable adoption, affordability, and community impacts.

COMCAST – PRESTON/FRANKLIN

By the close of the reporting period, 2,816 broadband service locations had been connected, bringing gigabit-capable service to households, businesses, farms, and community anchor institutions that previously lacked reliable high-speed broadband. The project also offers a $14.95 per month low-income plan, helping ensure affordability for income-qualified households. Success is measured through connected locations, construction milestones, expenditure reporting, and quarterly performance reporting.

LINCOLN COUNTY

Construction is complete, with more than 294 locations passed and 185 active customer connections, representing approximately a 63% adoption rate. The project also reported an open-access signup rate of approximately 70% during earlier milestone reporting. Community engagement included door-to-door outreach, community dinners, participation in the county fair, and local parades to encourage broadband adoption.

MIFIBER – PRIEST RIVER AND OLDTOWN

The project has passed 668 locations, activated 270 customer subscriptions, and achieved a 35% take rate in completed service areas. The recipient attributes adoption to local hiring, plain-language communications, and grassroots outreach, while measuring success through subscriber activations, locations passed, milestone reporting, and reimbursement documentation.

CAMAS COUNTY

The completed Fairfield tower is already providing broadband service to 226 active customer connections, while the project has passed more than 723 locations. Residents also benefit from an open-access network that expands provider choice and a $35 per month subsidized broadband offering for qualifying low-income households.

JEROME COUNTY

The project has passed 2,927 locations and established 190 active customer connections while construction continues. Recognizing that broadband adoption often lags behind infrastructure deployment, the recipient is conducting targeted community outreach to encourage enrollment and track increasing service uptake as additional areas come online.

INTERMAX PROJECTS

Across multiple North Idaho projects, Intermax reported strong customer adoption despite construction challenges. The Highway 54 project serves 1,445 customers, the Hauser project serves 166 customers, and the Selle Valley project serves 92 customers, illustrating that residents are subscribing as service becomes available even while construction continues.

ZIPLY PROJECTS

The completed Aberdeen project now makes symmetrical fiber service available to 734 end-user locations, with qualifying households eligible for Lifeline assistance. In Valley County, 672 end users are already active subscribers while 82% of BSLs have been enabled, demonstrating continued household adoption as construction advances.

Challenge Considerations and Status

NAVIGATING COMPLEX INFRASTRUCTURE IMPLEMENTATIONS

The broadband infrastructure projects required recipients to coordinate complex technical, regulatory, environmental, and operational activities while maintaining steady implementation progress. Across the portfolio, common considerations included permitting, utility coordination, environmental review, seasonal construction constraints, and the sequencing of project activities, although each project experienced unique local conditions. These factors represented expected aspects of deploying broadband infrastructure across Idaho's diverse geographic landscape rather than barriers to implementation. Recipient documentation demonstrates that projects continued advancing through adaptive scheduling, partner coordination, and strategic sequencing of work to address project-specific conditions.

Across the CPF broadband portfolio, recipients encountered a range of implementation challenges typical of large-scale infrastructure projects, most of which centered on permitting, utility coordination, environmental review, right-of-way acquisition, and construction logistics. Despite these obstacles, recipients consistently adapted project schedules, coordinated with local, state, and utility partners, and implemented alternative engineering or construction strategies to maintain progress toward contractual completion. As of the close of the reporting period, all projects remain actively advancing, with the majority on track to satisfy their grant obligations within their approved performance periods.

Several projects experienced extended permitting and regulatory review timelines. Camas County's Steve Miller wireless tower required approximately sixteen months to secure a Conditional Use Permit and is currently subject to an appeal by an adjacent landowner; however, the recipient developed a permit-exempt alternative tower design that allows construction to proceed while the appeal is resolved. Gooding County continues to face a Special Use Permit dispute for the Wendell Tower following denial by the city, with reconsideration pending. To mitigate potential schedule impacts, the County identified alternative construction options and has requested a six-month extension to its period of performance.

Jerome County also encountered permitting conflicts for its Annex Tower location but identified an existing tower for co-location and is finalizing agreements to complete the remaining network redundancy infrastructure. White Cloud Communications experienced permitting and regulatory delays associated with the Oreana tower site, including lease execution and local planning approvals, but continues to advance site development while maintaining overall project progress.

Utility coordination and right-of-way acquisition represented another common challenge across the portfolio. MiFiber reported extended make-ready timelines with electric utility providers, particularly Inland Power, requiring updates to the construction schedule while remaining on track for completion. Idaho County encountered lengthy utility pole licensing negotiations, multiple jurisdictional right-of-way requirements, rail crossing permits, and coordination across counties, cities, highway districts, and Tribal lands. Gooding County continues to address railroad crossing logistics and transportation coordination, while Kaniksu identified railroad crossings as a significant milestone that has since been successfully completed. Overall, recipients continue working collaboratively with utilities and transportation agencies to resolve remaining issues and complete construction.

Several projects also faced environmental, geographic, and property access challenges. Intermax projects in the Hauser, Highway 54, and Selle Valley service areas continue to experience substantial limitations caused by private road access restrictions, preventing construction to every originally planned location. The Selle Valley project additionally required an extensive eighteen-month wetland review and delineation before construction could begin. Idaho County experienced severe weather events—including high winds, flooding, landslides, and federally declared disasters—that temporarily delayed construction activities, while also requiring additional environmental and cultural reviews, including coordination with the Nez Perce Tribe. Although these factors extended implementation timelines, recipients successfully resumed construction and incorporated necessary adjustments into project execution.

Routine construction and project management challenges, including contractor coordination, engineering, material availability, field conditions, and construction sequencing, were reported by several recipients, including FyberCom and Madison County, but were effectively managed through regular project oversight, vendor coordination, engineering reviews, and progress monitoring. Lincoln County reported no significant implementation barriers during the reporting period and is awaiting final state testing guidance before project closeout, while CusterTel reported no noteworthy challenges during implementation. Across the portfolio, recipients continue to meet reporting, compliance, and reimbursement requirements while actively managing remaining risks, demonstrating that identified challenges have generally been mitigated or are being addressed without jeopardizing the successful completion of the funded projects.

> *"The measure of a successful Infrastructure program is not whether challenges occur, it is whether challenges are effectively managed."*

Portfolio Perspective

ADAPTIVE PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The recipient's proactive risk management, collaborative problem-solving, disciplined project oversight, schedule adjustments, engineering modifications, and coordinated stakeholder engagement enabled construction to continue while facing challenges.

Evidence Spotlight

Rather than delaying progress, recipients demonstrated flexibility, adaptative management, and forward momentum. As a result, every project remained active during the reporting period, with the majority nearing construction completion and preparing for project close out.

LOCAL PERMITTING AND LAND USE APPROVALS

Several projects experienced significant delays obtaining local land use approvals for wireless infrastructure. Camas County's Steve Miller tower required approximately sixteen months to receive a Conditional Use Permit and subsequently became the subject of a landowner appeal. Rather than delaying construction, the recipient implemented an alternative permit-exempt tower design that allowed work to continue while the appeal proceeds. Similarly, Gooding County's Wendell tower remains subject to a Special Use Permit dispute, and Jerome County resolved a permitting conflict by identifying an existing tower for co-location. These adaptive approaches have minimized impacts to overall project schedules while preserving project objectives.

PROPERTY ACCESS CONSTRAINTS

Several projects encountered challenges obtaining permission to construct infrastructure along privately owned roads. Intermax reported that hundreds of planned broadband locations across its Hauser, Highway 54, and Selle Valley projects remain inaccessible due to unresolved private road permissions. Construction continues where access has been granted, but these locations may ultimately remain outside the final build if property owner authorization cannot be obtained.

TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR CROSSINGS

Railroad crossings and transportation infrastructure created additional construction complexity for several recipients. Gooding County experienced delays associated with railroad crossing logistics and contractor scheduling, Idaho County described railroad permitting as time-consuming and costly, and Kaniksu successfully completed a major railroad crossing that represented one of its most significant construction milestones.

SEVERE WEATHER AND NATURAL EVENTS

Idaho County experienced destructive windstorms, flooding, landslides, and federally declared disaster events that temporarily slowed construction activities. The recipient adjusted construction sequencing, secured replacement subcontractors where necessary, and resumed project implementation while maintaining progress toward project completion.

UTILITY COORDINATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE ACCESS

Utility coordination represented one of the most common implementation challenges across the portfolio. MiFiber experienced extended make-ready timelines with utility providers, particularly pole attachment coordination with Inland Power, while Idaho County reported lengthy negotiations for utility pole licensing agreements and rights-of-way across multiple jurisdictions. These activities required ongoing collaboration with utility providers and transportation agencies but have largely been incorporated into revised project schedules without jeopardizing overall completion.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

Projects crossing environmentally sensitive areas or Tribal lands required additional review before construction could proceed. Intermax's Selle Valley project underwent approximately eighteen months of wetland analysis and delineation before construction began, while Idaho County completed extensive cultural and historical surveys in coordination with the Nez Perce Tribe. Although these reviews extended project timelines, they ensured compliance with environmental and cultural resource requirements while allowing construction to move forward.

> *Rather than preventing implementation, challenges represent expected components of delivering complex broadband infrastructure across Idaho's geographically diverse communities and the recipient's resiliency to continue advancing projects while adapting.*

Portfolio Perspective

NOTABLE CHALLENGES

Throughout implementation, recipients encountered several complex challenges common to rural broadband infrastructure deployment. While these issues required schedule adjustments, additional coordination, and alternative engineering approaches, the projects continued to make substantial progress towards completion.

LOCAL PERMITTING & LAND USE

Tower approvals required extended review and/or appeals or permit revisions.

Developed alternative tower designs, perused co-location opportunities and coordinated with local agencies.

- Camas County
- Gooding County
- Whitecloud

UTILITY COORDINATION

Pole attachments, make-ready work, and utility licensing extended schedules.

Worked collaboratively with utilizes and transportation agencies and revised sequencing.

- MiFiber
- Idaho County
- Gooding County
- Kaniksu

ENVIRONMENTAL & CULTURAL REVIEW

Wetland delineation, cultural resource surveys, and Tribal coordination required additional review.

Completed studies, coordinated with the Nez Perce Tribe, and integrated regulatory requirements.

- MiFiber
- Idaho County
- Intermax

PROPERTY ACCESS

Private road permission limited access to some planned construction areas.

Continued where access was available while pursuing alternative options with program eligibility.

- Intermax

TRANSPORTATION CORRIDORS

Railroad crossing and transportation corridors created additional engineering complexity.

Coordinated with railroad and transportation agencies to complete crossings.

- Idaho County
- Gooding County
- Kaniksu

WEATHER & FIELD CONDITIONS

Flooding, landslides, severe winds, and federal declared disasters temporarily interrupted construction.

Adjusted resequencing and reassigned contractors.

- Intermax
- Idaho County

Outputs and Outcomes

MAXIMIZING LONG-TERM ADOPTION, ACCESSIBILITY, AND SUSTAINABILITY

Recipients generally invested in broadband adoption and affordability activities rather than traditional digital literacy or device loan programs. Ancillary costs were primarily directed toward community outreach, customer education, affordability initiatives, stakeholder engagement, operations planning, and enrollment efforts that helped ensure newly constructed broadband infrastructure translated into active subscriptions and long-term community benefit.

In addition to constructing broadband infrastructure, recipients invested in a variety of supporting activities designed to maximize long-term adoption, accessibility, and sustainability of the networks. Eligible grant expenditures extended beyond physical construction to include engineering, project management, permitting, inspections, network equipment, customer premise equipment, and implementation activities that ensured the completed infrastructure could be effectively deployed and operated. Several projects also dedicated resources to community engagement, customer outreach, and education efforts intended to inform residents about service availability, promote broadband adoption, and reduce barriers to participation.

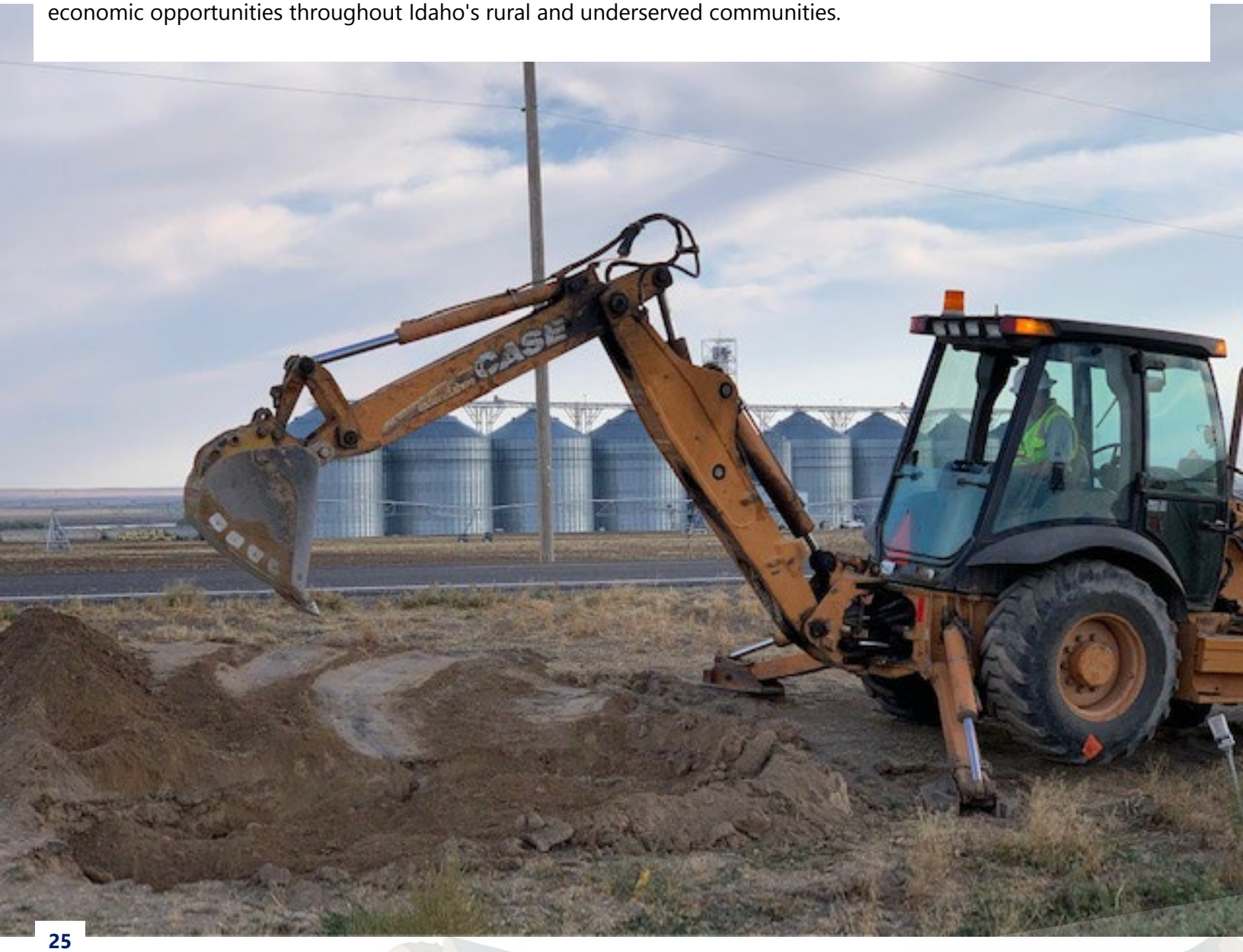
Community outreach and advertising activities were among the most common implementation supports reported by recipients. Projects utilized direct mail campaigns, roadway signage, community meetings, local events, county fairs, parades, door-to-door engagement, public information sessions, and customer education initiatives to raise awareness of newly available broadband services and encourage enrollment. White Cloud Communication, for example, reported generating customer inquiries and new subscriptions shortly after service activation through targeted marketing and community outreach, while several other recipients indicated that outreach efforts would continue as additional service areas become operational. Open-access projects also educated residents about provider choice through Idaho's service provider portal, helping consumers better understand available broadband options.

Many recipients incorporated affordability and digital inclusion initiatives to support successful broadband adoption. Community Benefit Agreements commonly included commitments to provide subsidized internet service for qualifying low-income households, while several providers participated in federal affordability programs or Lifeline subsidies to reduce the financial barriers to broadband access. These affordability commitments were complemented by outreach designed to connect eligible households with available assistance programs and

encourage enrollment once service became available. Several projects also emphasized equitable access by ensuring outreach, education, and enrollment information was provided consistently to all residents regardless of income or other protected characteristics.

Recipients also invested in activities supporting long-term network operations and community sustainability. These efforts included engineering design, utility coordination, environmental compliance, permitting, operations and maintenance planning, project oversight, contractor coordination, and development of service agreements with internet service providers. Idaho County reported advancing operations and maintenance procurement and negotiating future service agreements to ensure sustainable network management, while multiple recipients coordinated extensively with utilities and transportation agencies to complete make-ready activities and maintain construction schedules. These implementation activities strengthened project readiness and positioned the networks for successful long-term operation beyond the grant period.

While recipients reported significant investments in outreach, affordability initiatives, and community engagement, relatively few described activities specifically related to digital literacy training, technical support programs, or device loan initiatives. Instead, project strategies primarily focused on expanding access to affordable high-speed broadband, increasing community awareness of available services, supporting customer enrollment, and building sustainable infrastructure capable of improving access to education, healthcare, employment, public safety, and economic opportunities throughout Idaho's rural and underserved communities.



Evidence Spotlight

Rather than delaying progress, recipients demonstrated flexibility, adaptative management, and forward momentum. As a result, every project remained active during the reporting period, with the majority nearing construction completion and preparing for project close out.

White Cloud Communications (Owyhee County) implemented a comprehensive community outreach strategy that included direct mail campaigns, roadway signage, participation in community events, customer outreach, and public education regarding broadband availability. Following service activation in Murphy, these efforts generated more than 15 customer inquiries and multiple new broadband subscriptions, with similar campaigns planned for Bruneau, Grand View, Oreana, and Given Springs as construction progresses.

Lincoln County paired infrastructure deployment with extensive community engagement activities, including door-to-door outreach, a community dinner, participation in the Lincoln County Fair and local parade, and quarterly community meetings. These efforts contributed to an approximately 70% signup rate during earlier project phases and more than 185 active customer connections following network deployment.

Camas County incorporated digital inclusion into project implementation through a Community Benefit Agreement that provides subsidized broadband service for qualifying low-income households, maintains a $35-per-month affordable service plan, and gives residents access to Idaho's open-access service provider portal, expanding consumer choice. Community education and enrollment activities were conducted on an equal-opportunity basis to ensure all residents had access to information about available services.

Gooding County adopted a similar approach by combining affordable broadband commitments with access to Idaho's open-access provider portal. While construction remained the priority during the reporting period, the recipient indicated that community signup and adoption campaigns would intensify as additional service areas become operational, positioning the project for increased utilization upon completion.

MiFiber invested in community engagement, plain-language outreach, and local hiring alongside engineering and construction activities. These efforts supported customer adoption, resulting in a take rate exceeding 35% in completed service areas while construction continued elsewhere in the project.

Idaho County supported long-term project sustainability by providing regular progress updates to local funding partners and participating public entities, maintaining community visibility and stakeholder engagement throughout implementation. The County also advanced procurement of operations and maintenance services and development of master service agreements with internet service providers, ensuring the network would be operational and sustainable after construction.

Several recipients, including **Comcast, Ziply Fiber, Camas County, Gooding County, Jerome County, and Lincoln County,** incorporated affordability initiatives as part of project implementation through subsidized service plans, Lifeline participation, or other low-income broadband assistance programs. These activities were intended to ensure that infrastructure investments translated into meaningful adoption by reducing financial barriers for eligible households.

Portfolio Perspective

INVESTING IN ADOPTION AND AFFORDABILITY

Recipients invested in a wide range of supporting activities that ensure networks are accessible, adopted, and sustainable for the long term.

- **Community outreach and marketing**
- **Stakeholder engagement and public meetings**
- **Operations planning and service agreements**
- **Ensuring infrastructure translates into active subscriptions**
- **Affordability initiatives and assistance programs**
- **Customer education and enrollment support**

Addressing Critical Needs

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES THAT LAST

Idaho's Capital Projects Fund Broadband Infrastructure Program prioritized investments in rural and underserved communities where the lack of reliable, affordable broadband limited access to essential services and economic opportunity. These communities experienced significant barriers to participating in remote education, telehealth, workforce opportunities, public safety communications, government services, and digital commerce. By extending high-speed broadband infrastructure into these areas, projects addressed longstanding connectivity gaps while improving access to critical services, supporting local businesses and agricultural operations, strengthening community resilience, and expanding opportunities for households, community anchor institutions, and employers throughout rural Idaho.

Idaho's Capital Projects Fund Broadband Infrastructure Program was designed to address critical broadband needs in rural, underserved, and geographically isolated communities where limited access to reliable high-speed internet has historically constrained educational opportunities, healthcare access, economic development, workforce participation, and public safety. Many funded projects serve small agricultural communities, remote counties, and sparsely populated regions where private investment alone has not been sufficient to deliver modern broadband infrastructure. These investments prioritize communities with significant numbers of unserved and underserved BSLs, while also supporting community anchor institutions, local businesses, farms, Tribal-eligible households, and low-income residents through affordable service offerings and digital inclusion commitments.

IDAHO CPF BENEFICIARIES

- Rural households lacking reliable broadband access.
- Students participating in distance learning.
- Individuals utilizing telehealth services, including seniors and residents with limited access to healthcare.
- Remote workers and job seekers.
- Small businesses and entrepreneurs.
- Agricultural producers and ranching operations.
- Community anchor institutions, including schools, libraries, local governments, and public safety organizations.
- Low-income households eligible for subsidized broadband programs.
- Residents living in geographically isolated areas where terrain, distance, or limited market incentives have delayed broadband deployment.

The projects collectively target communities throughout rural Idaho, including areas such as Camas County, Gooding County, Jerome County, Lincoln County, Owyhee County, Idaho County, Bonner County, Franklin County, Valley County, and numerous small communities including Fairfield, Hill City, Gooding, Hagerman, Wendell, Bliss, Dietrich, Richfield, Murphy, Bruneau, Grand View, Oreana, Priest River, Oldtown, Aberdeen, Preston, Franklin, Potlatch, Deary, Bovill, Princeton, Viola, Helmer, Genesee, and Sagle. These communities generally share characteristics such as low population density, long travel distances to services, limited broadband competition, and historical underinvestment in telecommunications infrastructure.

High-poverty communities were not the sole focus of Idaho's CPF Broadband Infrastructure Program. Unlike some federal programs that explicitly target census tracts based on poverty metrics, Idaho's program prioritized rurality, lack of broadband infrastructure, and unserved or underserved status. Poverty was addressed primarily through affordability measures, such as subsidized service plans, Lifeline participation, and Community Benefit Agreements, rather than serving as the principal criterion for project selection. The program's overarching objective was to close the digital divide by investing in communities where inadequate broadband access had become a barrier to economic opportunity, education, healthcare, and quality of life, regardless of whether those communities met a specific poverty threshold.

AFFORDABILITY

Affordability is a central strategy for addressing Idaho's critical broadband needs by ensuring that newly constructed infrastructure translated into meaningful, long-term broadband adoption among rural and underserved communities. Across the portfolio, recipients recognized that expanding broadband availability alone would not eliminate the digital divide without service options that were financially accessible to low-income households and other populations facing economic barriers. As a result, many projects paired infrastructure investments with affordability commitments through Community Benefit Agreements, competitively priced service tiers, participation in federal assistance programs, and open-access network models designed to increase consumer choice and encourage competition. These efforts directly support access to essential services such as education, telehealth, workforce participation, government resources, public safety communications, and economic opportunity for residents who have historically lacked reliable broadband access.

Several recipients, including Camas County, Gooding County, Jerome County, and Lincoln County, committed to providing subsidized broadband service for qualifying low-income households through Community Benefit Agreements, offering entry-level service beginning at $35 per month while maintaining access to Idaho's open-access service provider portal to increase competition and expand consumer choice. Other providers supported affordability through participation in the FCC Lifeline Program, Idaho Telephone Assistance Program, Tribal Link Up, E-Rate, or by committing to participate in future affordability programs should additional federal funding become available. Comcast's Internet Essentials program offers qualifying households service for $14.95 per month, while providers including CusterTel, Ziply Fiber, Intermax, Kaniksu, and White Cloud Communication emphasized competitively priced service offerings, flexible pricing options, or assistance with equipment and installation costs to reduce barriers to adoption.

Projects also linked affordability to long-term market sustainability. Idaho County's open-access public-private partnership established affordability as a core operating principle by encouraging competition among internet service providers while setting expectations for reasonable entry-level pricing and maintaining minimum service quality standards. White Cloud Communication emphasized balancing affordability with long-term sustainability in rural areas where deployment and operating costs are significantly higher than in urban markets, while MiFiber and FyberCom committed

to maintaining competitively priced service offerings consistent with their broader service territories. Collectively, these approaches recognize that sustainable broadband adoption requires both affordable pricing and reliable, high-quality service.

Overall, recipients consistently viewed affordability as an essential component of addressing critical community needs rather than a standalone program requirement. By combining infrastructure deployment with low-cost service options, affordability assistance programs, consumer choice, and competitive pricing, the portfolio seeks to ensure that rural households, businesses, schools, libraries, healthcare providers, agricultural operations, and other community institutions can fully benefit from expanded broadband access. While affordability strategies varied among recipients, the overarching objective remained consistent: reducing financial barriers so that broadband investments improve educational outcomes, healthcare access, workforce participation, economic development, and quality of life throughout Idaho's rural and underserved communities.

Affordability in Action

Recipients are using a range of strategies to make broadband service more affordable and accessible for rural and underserved Idaho communities.

SUBSIDIZED SERVICE PLANS

Many projects committed to low-cost plans for qualifying low-income households through Community Benefit Agreements.

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Providers participate in Lifeline, Idaho Telephone Assistance Program, Tribal Link Up, E-Rate, and other programs.

COMPETITIVELY PRICED OPTIONS

Affordable entry-level plans and flexible pricing help reduce barriers to broadband adoption.

OPEN-ACCESS NETWORKS

Open-access models increase competition, provide more provider choice, and encourage reasonable pricing.

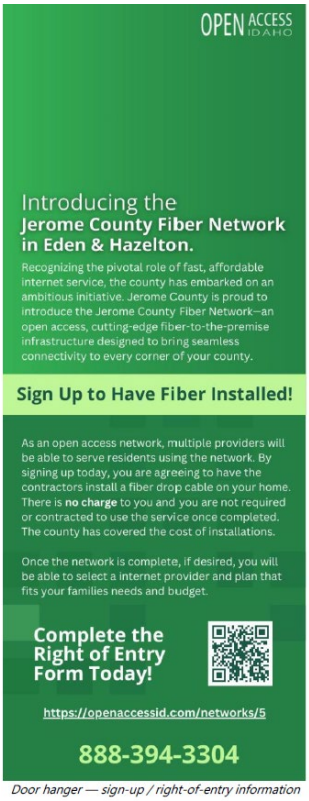
SUPPORT WITH EQUIPMENT & INSTALLATION

Several recipients provide assistance to help offset equipment and installation costs for eligible households.

AWARENESS

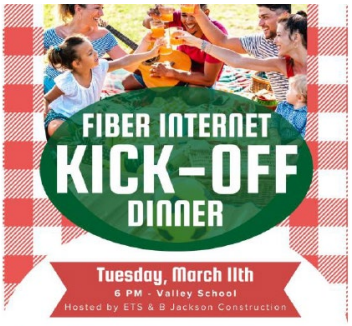
Based on the information provided by recipients, members of the communities served by Idaho's Capital Projects Fund (CPF) broadband projects generally have convenient and accessible opportunities to become aware of newly available broadband services throughout project implementation. Recipients recognized that infrastructure deployment alone would not ensure broadband adoption and, as a result, implemented comprehensive outreach strategies designed to reach households, businesses, community organizations, and local leaders through multiple communication channels before, during, and after construction. Outreach activities commonly included direct mail campaigns, door-to-door engagement, public meetings, community events, local fairs and parades, construction notices, customer information sheets, social media, websites, email communications, newspaper and radio advertising, roadside signage, and dedicated customer service contacts. Several providers also maintained local business offices or locally based staff who served as ongoing points of contact for residents seeking information or assistance. Together, these efforts created multiple opportunities for community members to learn about project progress, service availability, pricing, installation procedures, and enrollment options.

Recipients also tailored outreach to reflect the needs of the communities they served. Projects in Camas, Gooding, Jerome, and Lincoln Counties combined public meetings, signup campaigns, and direct neighborhood outreach with access to Idaho's open-access provider portal, helping residents understand both service availability and provider choice. White Cloud Communication expanded awareness through community events such as Outpost Days, direct engagement with residents and businesses, customer education campaigns, and continued outreach as additional communities became service-ready. MiFiber complemented digital advertising with door-to-door outreach and locally hired staff who assisted customers throughout the enrollment process, while CusterTel maintained a permanent local office and promoted services through direct mail, newspaper, radio, and social media campaigns. These approaches allowed recipients to reach residents through both traditional and digital communication methods, increasing awareness across diverse rural communities.

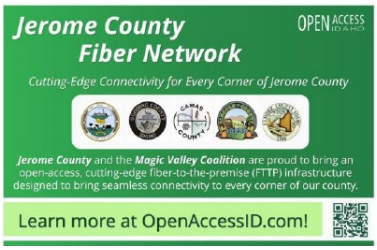


Door hanger — sign-up / right-of-entry information

Door hanger — construction and provider contact information



Fiber Internet Kick-Off Dinner invitation — Eden & Hazelton, March 11



Jerome County combined public meetings, signup campaigns, and direct neighborhood outreach with access to Idaho's open-access provider portal, helping residents understand both service availability and provider choice.

Projects also demonstrated an intentional effort to make outreach accessible to underserved populations. Several recipients produced outreach materials in both English and Spanish, employed Spanish-speaking staff, provided translated or digitally accessible materials upon request, and used plain-language communications to simplify technical information. Affordability messaging was frequently incorporated into outreach efforts by informing eligible households about subsidized broadband plans, Lifeline participation, open-access provider options, and other available assistance programs. Community engagement further extended through partnerships with local governments, schools, libraries, economic development organizations, healthcare providers, and community anchor institutions, which helped amplify project information through trusted local organizations and existing community networks.

Evidence of these efforts is reflected in recipient-reported outcomes. Several projects reported strong preregistration or customer adoption following outreach activities, including open-access signup rates approaching 80 percent in Camas County, approximately 70 percent participation during earlier phases in Lincoln County, a take rate exceeding 35 percent in completed MiFiber service areas, approximately 200 preregistrations reported by Kaniksu, and more than fifteen customer inquiries with multiple new subscriptions shortly after service activation in Murphy. While the scale and sophistication of outreach varied among recipients the portfolio as a whole demonstrates that Idaho's CPF projects generally made it convenient for households, businesses, and community organizations to become aware of funded broadband services by providing multiple, locally focused, and accessible pathways for receiving information and engaging with project representatives.

Affordable, reliable broadband is the foundation for modern life and economic participation, opening doors to opportunity.

Portfolio Perspective

TRACKING TANGIBLE PROGRESS

Success is tracked through both hard numbers and on-the-ground feedback. Quantitative measures include fiber miles installed, construction completion rates, locations passed or enabled, subscriber counts, take rates, and progress against contractual milestones and deadlines. Adoption figures illustrate strong early demand: Camas County's open-access signup rate is nearing 80%, Lincoln County saw roughly 70% signup in earlier phases, MiFiber's take rate has topped 35% in completed areas, Kaniksu has logged around 200 preregistrations, and White Cloud Communications is seeing steady inquiries and subscriptions following its Murphy service launch.

Program oversight also relies on formal documentation and verification processes. Recipients submit quarterly reports, milestone documentation, expenditure records, broadband serviceable location data, reimbursement support, construction photographs, engineering inspections, and compliance materials. Project teams cross-check this progress through contractor coordination, onsite visits, utility and permitting records, and public meeting documentation. Idaho County, for instance, relied on engineering oversight and close coordination with contractors and local agencies to manage construction quality and restoration issues, while Kaniksu used a ticketing system to log complaints, assign corrective action, and confirm resolution directly with the reporting party.

Qualitative outcomes are gauged through direct engagement: community meetings, stakeholder feedback, customer interactions, local government briefings, community events, and updates from project staff and partners. This input reveals whether residents understand what services are available, whether outreach efforts are landing, what barriers still stand in the way, and how broadband access is affecting education, healthcare, employment, public services, and economic opportunity locally. Recipients use that feedback to adjust construction schedules, refine customer messaging, and reprioritize deployment and outreach as needed. The combination of infrastructure metrics, adoption data, compliance monitoring, and stakeholder feedback together offers a credible basis for evaluating whether Idaho's CPF investments are closing access gaps and delivering real community benefit.

OUTCOMES

Idaho's Capital Projects Fund Broadband Program has matured from building broadband infrastructure to building digitally connected communities. While construction remains an important measure of progress, recipients increasingly define success through broadband adoption, affordability, community engagement, and the ability of residents, businesses, schools, healthcare providers, and local governments to fully participate in the digital economy. Collectively, these projects demonstrate that closing the digital divide requires more than expanding infrastructure—it requires ensuring that communities can access, afford, and meaningfully use the services being delivered.

The program is also closing broadband access gaps by directing investment to communities where rural geography, low population density, difficult terrain, limited market incentives, and high construction costs had delayed or prevented private-sector deployment. Projects in Camas, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Owyhee, Idaho, Bonner, Franklin, Valley, and other counties are extending service into small towns, agricultural areas, remote residences, and geographically isolated communities. Open-access projects in particular are improving both availability and provider choice by creating shared infrastructure that multiple internet service providers can use. Idaho County's public-private model, for example, is building a regional middle-mile system intended to connect communities, public safety facilities, local governments, and future last-mile providers, while Camas, Gooding, Jerome, and Lincoln Counties are using open-access models to expand service and strengthen competition.

Improved connectivity is facilitating work, education, and remote health options throughout the project areas. Recipients consistently identified remote work, online learning, telehealth, business operations, agricultural activities, access to government services, and public safety communications as core community benefits. Projects in Owyhee County, Idaho County, Madison County, MiFiber's Priest River–Oldtown area, and other rural regions are expanding access where residents previously had limited or unreliable connectivity. The infrastructure also strengthens the capacity of schools, libraries, healthcare providers, local governments, emergency response organizations, and other community institutions to deliver services digitally. In this way, the program is addressing critical needs not only at the household level, but also by improving the effectiveness and reach of organizations that serve rural communities.

Labor Practices

THE WORKFORCE BEHIND THE INFRASTRUCTURE

Reliable broadband infrastructure ultimately depends on the skilled workforce delivering it. Across the portfolio, recipients relied on multidisciplinary teams such as engineers, environmental specialists, project managers, contractors, fiber technicians, inspectors, and compliance staff. Roles evolved as projects moved through engineering, construction, and operational readiness. Workforce approaches varied by project size, complexity, and geography, with some recipients favoring local and regional contractors and others turning to specialized or nationally recognized firms, though all shared a commitment to qualified, capable personnel. Reporting also reflected the accountability expected of federally funded work, including prevailing wage compliance, certified payroll, safety practices, and quality assurance, all supporting the long-term reliability of completed networks.

Every successful broadband project depends on more than quality materials and sound engineering, it depends on the experience, skill, and expertise of the people delivering it. Across Idaho's Capital Projects Fund Broadband Infrastructure portfolio, recipients consistently relied on multidisciplinary teams. Engineers, project managers, construction contractors, inspectors, fiber technicians, and other technical specialists worked together to plan, construct, and prepare networks for long-term operation.

Expertise was required at every stage of implementation. Recipient reports describe network design, environmental coordination, utility engineering, directional boring, aerial construction, fiber splicing, network testing, quality assurance, and final system commissioning each demanding experienced professionals capable of meeting technical specifications while adapting to Idaho's varied terrain, weather conditions, and regulatory requirements. This technical demand shaped how recipients approached procurement and contractor selection: rather than choosing partners on cost alone, several projects evaluated engineering and construction firms based on their demonstrated broadband deployment experience, licensing, safety practices, and proven ability to perform specialized work. This emphasis on qualifications, not just price, positioned projects for more efficient implementation and stronger long-term reliability, workforce quality functioning, in effect, as a component of project quality itself.

Technical delivery was matched by consistent oversight, built into routine project management rather than treated as a separate administrative function. Certified payroll reviews, prevailing wage verification where applicable, contractor documentation, construction inspections, field observations, and ongoing project monitoring occurred alongside engineering, construction, and quality assurance activities throughout implementation.

Project managers, engineering consultants, construction inspectors, and compliance personnel coordinated closely to verify that work was completed in accordance with project specifications and applicable labor standards. This combination of technical oversight and workforce monitoring reinforced

regulatory accountability, reduced implementation risk, and strengthened confidence that public investments were being delivered to established standards.

Because broadband infrastructure is built within communities, local knowledge and regional expertise proved valuable throughout implementation. Many recipients worked with Idaho-based contractors, regional engineering firms, local suppliers, and community partners, drawing on their familiarity with regional permitting processes, utility coordination, terrain, and construction practices. Depending on project size, location, and procurement requirements, this took different forms, such as engaging local construction firms and equipment suppliers in some cases, or regional engineering consultants and subcontractors in others. Recipients worked to consistently strengthen communication with local stakeholders while supporting efficient delivery. Several recipients also encouraged local workforce participation through contractor selection, subcontracting opportunities, or project-specific hiring practices where feasible, and a limited number formalized these commitments through Community Benefit Agreements or similar arrangements. Beyond supporting construction itself, this local and regional participation helped strengthen the connection between infrastructure investments and the communities they were built to serve, contributing to local economic activity and durable community relationships.

As the program moves toward completion, the role of this workforce will continue to evolve. Engineering and major construction activity will gradually give way to network testing, system commissioning, quality verification, documentation, and final inspections. These steps determine whether networks are not just built, but ready to reliably serve communities. Recipients are increasingly shifting attention accordingly: completing final construction, verifying network performance, preparing operational documentation, and supporting customer service activation are now central tasks for many projects. Recipients will continue applying the same workforce practices supporting quality, accountability, and responsible delivery, through this transition, while the Department maintains its own oversight through reimbursement reviews, project monitoring, compliance activities, and closeout processes, helping ensure completed infrastructure reflects the same standards demonstrated throughout implementation.

Ultimately, the work of the engineers, technicians, construction professionals, inspectors, and project managers across this portfolio will become the foundation Idaho communities rely on for years to come. Their expertise has not only supported successful project delivery, it has helped build infrastructure designed to serve future generations.

Portfolio Perspective

FIVE KEY LABOR FINDINGS

Across the portfolio, projects emphasized employing Idaho workers and contractors whenever practical, supporting fair wages, investing in workforce training, and ensuring broadband investments generated lasting economic benefits within the communities where construction occurred.

LOCAL HIRING WAS THE DOMINANT LABOR PRATICE

Nearly every recipient prioritized Idaho-based contractors, regional subcontractors, or local employees whenever practical. This supported local economies, leveraged local knowledge, and strengthened community relationships.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT AGREEMENTS EXPANDED BENEFITS

CBAs included commitments to affordable broadband, workforce development, local hiring, prevailing wages, local purchasing, transparency, community meetings, environmental stewardship, and dispute resolution.

PREVAILING WAGE COMPLIANCE WAS CONSISTENTLY IMPLEMENTED

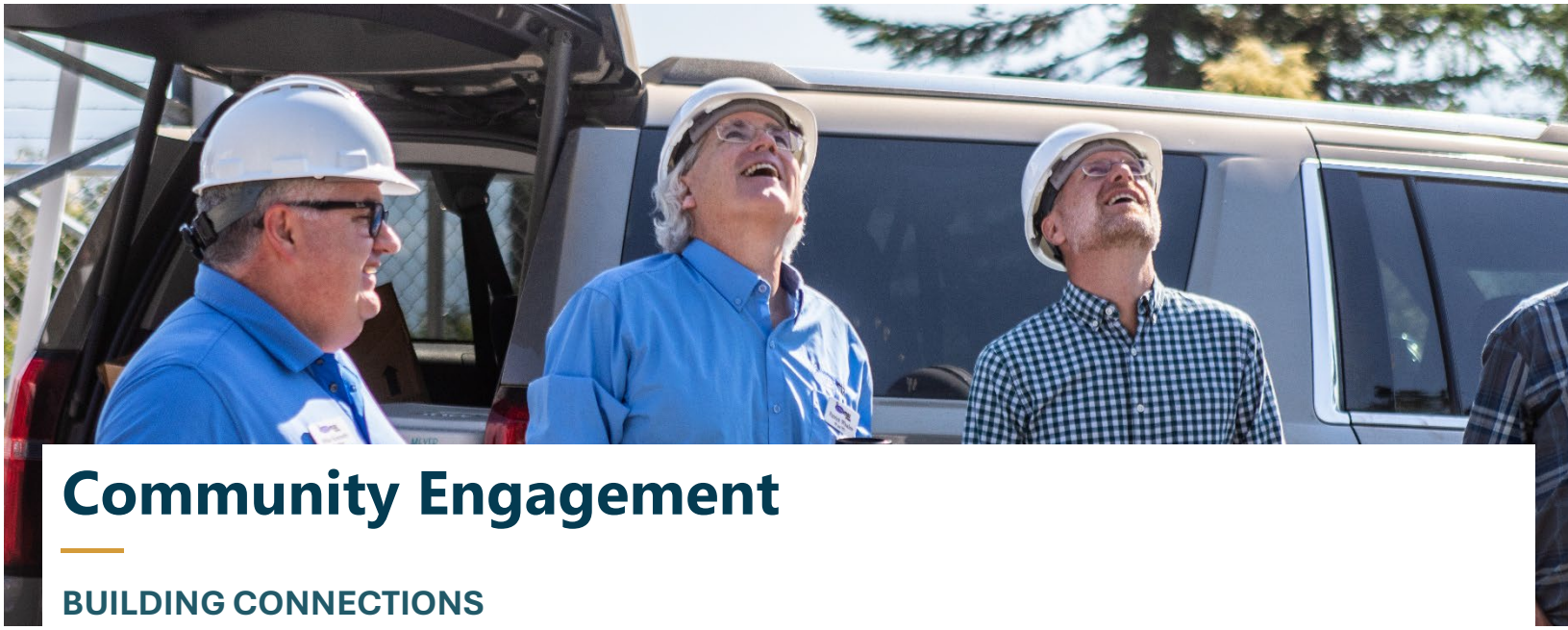
Recipients referenced Davis-Bacon or prevailing wage compliance, supporting fair compensation, skilled workforce retention, higher-quality construction, and regulatory compliance.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT WAS BUILT INTO MULTIPLE PROJECTS

Projects committed to broadband installation training, maintenance training, partnerships with workforce agencies, vocational training centers, trade unions, and long-term workforce development.

COMPLIANCE SYSTEMS WERE ROBUST

Projects like Idaho County implemented payroll verification, daily construction monitoring, procurement oversight, federal compliance reviews, and Tribal workforce participation.



Community Engagement

BUILDING CONNECTIONS

Idaho's CPF broadband recipients approached community engagement throughout implementation by partnering with local governments, schools, tribes, and community organizations; using varied outreach methods tailored to each community, such as including bilingual materials and building responsive feedback systems to resolve construction concerns quickly. Strong outreach translated into measurable adoption, with signup rates reaching nearly 80 percent in some areas. Looking forward, recipients plan to shift engagement from construction updates toward promoting adoption, digital inclusion, and continued collaboration with trusted local partners as networks become fully operational.

Community engagement is a fundamental component of implementation across Idaho's CPF broadband portfolio. Recipients conducted outreach before, during, and after construction, not as one-time informational campaigns, but as ongoing communication channels that kept residents informed of construction progress, service availability, affordability programs, and enrollment opportunities while building local support for broadband expansion. The strongest projects did more than build networks: they built confidence, encouraged participation, and helped ensure investments were developed *with* communities, not just delivered *for* them.

Partners Across the Portfolio

Recipients worked alongside local governments, county commissioners, city councils, planning and zoning departments, as well as schools, libraries, healthcare providers, chambers of commerce, utility providers, and community anchor institutions. These trusted local organizations served as connective tissue between project teams and residents, helping communicate updates, coordinate construction, identify local priorities, and prepare households and businesses for future service.

Idaho County's implementation illustrates the depth these partnerships could reach: the county collaborated with the Clearwater Economic Development Association, the District II Interoperability Governance Board, the Local Emergency Planning Committee, commissioners across five north-central Idaho counties, city councils in Grangeville and Nezperce, and the IOB. It also coordinated closely with the Nez Perce Tribal Council, the Nez Perce Tribal Broadband Enterprise, and the Tribe's Cultural Resource Program on planning and cultural resource reviews. Public schools also served as gathering points for outreach. Jerome County, for example, hosted a Fiber Internet Kick-Off Dinner at Valley School for residents of Eden and Hazelton.

> *"Communicating early, listening often, and working together to find solutions is a proactive approach that helps projects stay on track and communities connected."*

REACHING COMMUNITIES

Recipients combined multiple outreach methods rather than relying on any single channel: public meetings, direct mail, door-to-door engagement, informational flyers and door hangers, roadway signage, newspaper and radio advertising, sponsored social media, project websites, email updates, project maps, construction notices, dedicated project phone lines, and community events including county fairs, parades, festivals, and dinners. Camas County Fair, Lincoln County Fair, Outpost Days in Murphy, the Salmon Rodeo, and Salmon Valley Speedway were among the well-attended events where residents could ask questions and learn about service options directly from project staff. Idaho County additionally published project maps, photographs, videos, and progress reports online and through local newspapers to maintain transparency.

Materials were primarily provided in English, though Gooding County and Lincoln County, among others, produced Spanish-language materials and made bilingual staff available. Plain-language content, community-specific branding, and interactions with locally hired staff further improved accessibility. Outreach extended across much of rural Idaho, such as Camas County, Gooding, Hagerman, Wendell, Bliss, Jerome, Eden, Hazelton, Lincoln County, Priest River, Oldtown, Murphy, Bruneau, Grand View, Oreana, Given Springs, Nampa Highway, Aberdeen, Valley County, Salmon, Grangeville, Nezperce, and communities throughout north-central Idaho's District II.

Outreach also evolved with each project's phase: early engagement focused on listening to communities and explaining project goals, while communication shifted toward construction updates, service availability, and customer readiness as work progressed and continuing well past the start of construction rather than ending there.

Investing in Engagement

> Broadband projects become stronger when communities help shape their success. partnerships strengthened implementation while creating a pathway for long-term awareness, adoption, and community benefit.

80%	**70%**	**35%+**	**~200**
Open-access signup rate in Camas County areas with outreach	Early phase signup rate in Lincoln County	Take rate in completed MiFiber service areas	Pre-registration in Kaniksu service area

Evidence Spotlight

Idaho County – Bringing Partners Together to Support Progress

> Idaho County reported sustained collaboration with county commissioners, city councils, community stakeholders, and local partners throughout implementation. Public meetings, project websites, interactive mapping resources, and community presentations helped keep residents informed while creating opportunities for dialogue as the project advanced. This collaborative approach demonstrates how strong local partnerships can improve communication, strengthen coordination, and build confidence throughout the life of a project.

LISTENING AND RESPONDING

Communication ran in both directions. Recipients maintained customer service offices, project phone lines, email support, websites, social media, and designated points of contact for construction-related questions, giving residents, property owners, and local officials direct access to project representatives. Several recipients held regularly scheduled meetings with county commissioners and city leaders specifically to surface and resolve concerns before they escalated.

Rather than formal grievances, most feedback centered on routine matters like project schedules, broadband availability, construction progress, and property restoration. Recipients generally described public response to construction as positive. Where concerns did arise, several recipients built structured resolution processes: Kaniksu, Latah County, Intermax, MiFiber, White Cloud Communication, FyberCom, and Madison County documented concerns, conducted onsite reviews when needed, developed corrective action plans, and followed up to confirm resolution. Kaniksu's ticketing system tracked each complaint from initial receipt through onsite evaluation to customer confirmation; Latah County reported that every grievance received to date had been resolved.

Idaho County's experience illustrates this responsiveness in practice: when a contractor damaged an out-of-compliance sewer line, the contractor covered repairs and placed additional gravel to restore road shoulders beyond what was required, building goodwill with homeowners. In a separate case, the county met onsite with a landowner concerned about conduit placement on agricultural property to walk through right-of-way requirements, acknowledging the landowner remained dissatisfied, but committing to continued communication. Camas County and Gooding County used Idaho's statutory public hearing and appeal processes to respond in writing to formal comments on wireless tower permitting.

Some recipients built formal dispute resolution directly into their agreements. Jerome County and Lincoln County included mediation provisions in their Community Benefit Agreements, requiring independent third-party mediation before other remedies. Camas County and Gooding County relied on statutory appeal processes for land-use decisions, Comcast used established customer service and construction escalation procedures, and Ziply Fiber distributed door hangers and signage before construction began, complete with contact information and an online feedback portal. As with general outreach, several recipients, including Camas, Gooding, and Lincoln counties, extended these feedback channels through Spanish-language materials and bilingual staff, while most others communicated primarily in English to match their service areas resident's needs.

LOOKING AHEAD

As the program shifts from construction to long-term service, recipients expect engagement to shift from explaining projects and construction impacts toward helping residents, businesses, and institutions adopt and benefit from newly available service. Some recipients described longer-term strategies extending well beyond outreach. Planned activities include continued outreach through websites, social media, customer service, community events, and local partnerships, with particular emphasis on promoting affordable service options and supporting sign-up and activation. Camas County, Gooding County, Jerome County, Lincoln County, MiFiber, White Cloud Communication, and CusterTel all named continued customer education and signup assistance as priorities, and several recipients plan to maintain local staff or office presence to sustain these relationships.

Camas, Gooding, Jerome, and Lincoln counties will continue participating in the regional Idaho Broadband Coalition (formerly the Magic Valley Coalition/Open Access Idaho) to support data validation, compliance, digital inclusion, and future broadband funding opportunities, while also positioning to participate in future affordability and adoption programs. Idaho County plans to carry out its Broadband Strategic Plan through continued collaboration among local governments, volunteers, and participating providers, with future system revenues supporting further expansion. White Cloud Communication intends to deepen collaboration with local governments, schools, healthcare providers, and agricultural producers, using customer feedback and adoption data to guide future outreach. CusterTel plans similar coordination with local governments, economic development organizations, and healthcare providers, and Kaniksu and MiFiber both anticipate expanding partnerships with community organizations as their networks grow.

Planning detail varied; some recipients described specific, structured strategies, while others offered more general intentions, but the portfolio as a whole reflects a shared expectation: community engagement is an ongoing operational function, not a construction-phase activity, and will continue to support adoption, digital inclusion, and community partnership well beyond project closeout.

Portfolio Perspective

Community engagement is viewed as a long-term operational strategy rather than a construction requirement.

Across the portfolio, engagement plans extend well beyond project completion and shift from informing residents about construction to driving broadband adoption, strengthening community partnerships, supporting digital inclusion, and identifying future funding opportunities. Rather than ending when the infrastructure is built, recipients intend to use ongoing outreach, local partnerships, and customer feedback to maximize the long-term value of the broadband investments and support continued community and economic development.

Civil Rights Compliance

Across Idaho's Capital Projects Fund (CPF) broadband portfolio, recipients reported strong compliance with applicable federal civil rights, labor, and workplace standards through a combination of contractual requirements, contractor oversight, payroll verification, equal employment policies, and ongoing project monitoring. Although implementation approaches varied by recipient and project size, recipients consistently incorporated nondiscrimination requirements, labor compliance provisions, and workplace safety expectations into construction contracts and project management processes to ensure compliance with applicable federal and state regulations.

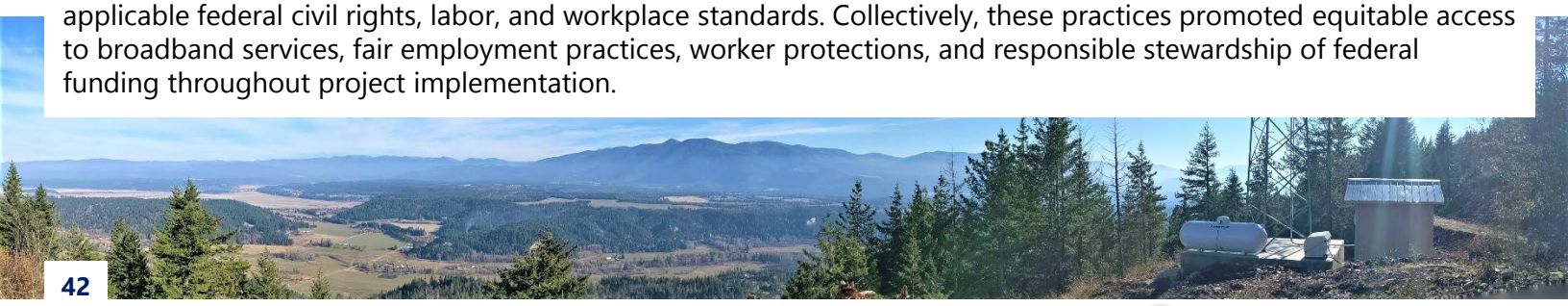
Davis-Bacon Act and prevailing wage compliance represented one of the most consistently implemented compliance measures. Projects exceeding the $5 million CPF funding threshold certified compliance with Davis-Bacon requirements and maintained supporting documentation such as certified payroll records, wage determinations, payroll reviews, field interviews, and contractor certifications. Several recipients below the statutory threshold voluntarily applied prevailing wage standards or maintained comparable labor oversight practices. Recipients consistently reported that contractor payroll documentation was reviewed and retained as part of routine grant oversight and compliance monitoring.

Recipients also demonstrated broad compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by implementing equal employment opportunity (EEO) policies, incorporating nondiscrimination provisions into contracts, and ensuring broadband services, outreach activities, and project benefits were made available without regard to race, color, or national origin. Several county-led projects specifically noted that no resident, household, or business was excluded from project participation or broadband service based on protected characteristics, while providers such as Comcast, MiFiber, White Cloud Communication, and Idaho County described company-wide policies, employee training, contractual requirements, and oversight mechanisms supporting ongoing civil rights compliance.

Although Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 was generally not directly applicable because the projects involved broadband infrastructure rather than educational programs, recipients consistently affirmed adherence to federal nondiscrimination principles. Several projects reported that employment practices, contractor relationships, community outreach, and service delivery were administered on an equal-opportunity basis regardless of sex or other protected characteristics, ensuring equitable access to project information, enrollment opportunities, and broadband services.

Compliance with the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (CWHSSA) was achieved primarily through contractual labor requirements, certified payroll reviews, contractor oversight, and ongoing monitoring of work hours, overtime, and workplace safety. Recipients reported requiring contractors and subcontractors to comply with applicable overtime provisions, maintain safe working conditions, utilize appropriate safety equipment, and adhere to federal and state safety regulations. Several projects supplemented contractual requirements with regular field inspections, project management oversight, contractor coordination, payroll verification, and documentation reviews to ensure continued compliance throughout construction.

Overall, the portfolio demonstrates a comprehensive compliance framework built on contractor accountability, documentation, oversight, and nondiscrimination. Rather than relying solely on policy statements, recipients reported implementing practical compliance measures, including certified payroll submissions, equal employment opportunity policies, contractual civil rights provisions, contractor certifications, safety monitoring, field interviews, payroll verification, and routine project oversight,to ensure CPF-funded projects were delivered in accordance with applicable federal civil rights, labor, and workplace standards. Collectively, these practices promoted equitable access to broadband services, fair employment practices, worker protections, and responsible stewardship of federal funding throughout project implementation.



2026

Idaho Commission for Libraries
Capital Projects Funds Performance Report

State Fiscal Year 2026
July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

Program Plan Number: CPF_GP-000322
Program Start Date: March 2023
Program End Date: December 31, 2026
Funds Allocated to this Program: $3,518,323
Program: Capital Projects Fund 1C Multipurpose Community Facilities
Federal Award Identification Number (FAIN): CPFFN0170

125 years ICfL Idaho Commission for Libraries

Program Overview

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) administers Idaho's 1C Multipurpose Community Facility Program under the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (CPF) program. The CPF program aims to carry out critical capital projects directly enabling work, education, and health monitoring, including remote options. Within the CPF program, funds provided to libraries are part of the Multi-Purpose Community Facility Project tier of awards. The CPF program was authorized by section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, enacted on March 11, 2021.

Executive Summary

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) is increasing the capacity of community facilities by using CPF resources to provide grants to libraries for expansions, remodels, and construction projects. These funds will help libraries better serve their communities by jointly and directly supporting activities that enable work, education, and health monitoring. The ICfL issued 15 awards in August 2023 and eight awards in April 2025. During the reporting period, July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, four libraries finished their projects, and a total of 17 of the 23 projects are now complete and available to the public.

Use of Funds

Grants and technical assistance provided to libraries as part of Idaho's 1C program will enable physical improvements and new spaces benefiting 15 communities serving 6.7% of Idaho's population. In a state with a mix of urban, rural, and geographically remote communities, libraries provide critical public spaces and services that are available to all.

The investment in physical library spaces has increased accessibility and safe access for seniors, families, and those with mobility impairments. The new meeting and study rooms benefit students, job seekers, remote workers, and formal and informal community groups. A new library creates a physical space and all the associated services in a growing community with no existing library. These improvements demonstrate a commitment at the local, state, and national level to ensuring Idaho's residents have access to spaces and services to improve education, employment, and health outcomes.

The total budget allocated to Idaho's 1C Multi-Purpose Community Facility program includes $3,518,323. The bulk of the funds (97%) were directed to libraries through subgrants to carry out construction projects; these expenses are designated as *project* expenditures.

	State FY24 7.01.2023-6.30.2024	State FY25 7.01.2024-6.30.2025	State FY26 7.01.2025-6.30.2026	Total	Remaining
Administrative Expenses (Technical Assistance to subrecipients)	$71,841.23	$10,788.75	$0.00	$82,629.98	$0
Project Costs (Grants to Subrecipients)	$1,742,925.00	$1,148,643.90	$544,101.12	$3,435,670.02	$23.00
Total	**$1,814,766.23**	**$1,159,432.65**	**$544,101.12**	**$3,518,300.00**	**$23.00**

Project spending involved disbursements to library subrecipients carrying out construction projects. During the reporting period, *project* spending totaled $544,101.12. The ICfL monitored the subrecipients that received awards in 2023 and 2025 and, by the end of the reporting period, 17 projects were complete. The completed projects are now serving over 112,655 people in 13 communities. When all the projects are complete, they will serve approximately 6.7% of Idaho's population in 15 communities.

Administrative funds were also used during the first two years to administer the 1C program. A technical assistance series totaling $82,629.98 included office hours, webinars, and in-person training. These technical assistance sessions were also free and available to the wider library community, in addition to subrecipients, so they might benefit from the information. During the current reporting period, July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, no funds were used on *administrative* expenses.

All 1C funds are now expended for the Idaho CPF program. A sum of $23.00 was not drawn from the U.S. Department of the Treasury for the 1C program, with no plans to use the remaining funds.

Project Number	Library	Project Status	Award Amount
FACI2401	Bear Lake County Library	Completed	$4,800.00
FACI2402	Benewah County Free Library District - Fernwood Branch	More than 50% complete	$500,000.00
FACI2403	Burley Public Library	Completed	$500,000.00
FACI2404	Cascade Public Library	Completed	$500,000.00
FACI2405	Clearwater Co Free Library District Weippe Public Library	Completed	$107,000.00
FACI2406	Eagle Public Library	Completed	$15,000.00
FACI2408	Emmett Public Library	Completed	$53,000.00
FACI2409	Garden City Public Library	Completed	$92,000.00
FACI2410	Hailey Public Library	More than 50% complete	$50,000.00
FACI2411	Homedale Library District	Completed	$19,000.00
FACI2412	Prairie River Library District - Lapwai Branch	More than 50% complete	$200,000.00
FACI2413	South Bannock Library District - Inkom Branch	Completed	$500,000.00
FACI2414	St Maries Public Library	Completed	$500,000.00
FACI2415	Wilder Public Library District	Completed	$175,000.00
FACI2407	Elk River Free Library District	Completed	$43,000.00
FACI2501	Benewah County Free Library District - Fernwood Branch - Grant 2	More than 50% complete	$46,575.02
FACI2502	Clearwater Co Free Library District Weippe Public Library - Grant 2	Completed	$5,000.00
FACI2503	Elk River Free Library District - Grant 2	More than 50% complete	$6,000.00
FACI2504	Hailey Public Library - Grant 2	Completed	$16,995.00
FACI2505	Homedale Library District - Grant 2	Completed	$10,000.00
FACI2506	Prairie River Library District - Lapwai Branch - Grant 2	Less than 50% complete	$50,000.00
FACI2507	South Bannock Library District - Inkom Branch - Grant 2	Completed	$37,300.00
FACI2508	Wilder Public Library District - Grant 2	Completed	$5,000.00

2026 Reporting Period Completed Projects

Burley Public Library

FACI 24-03

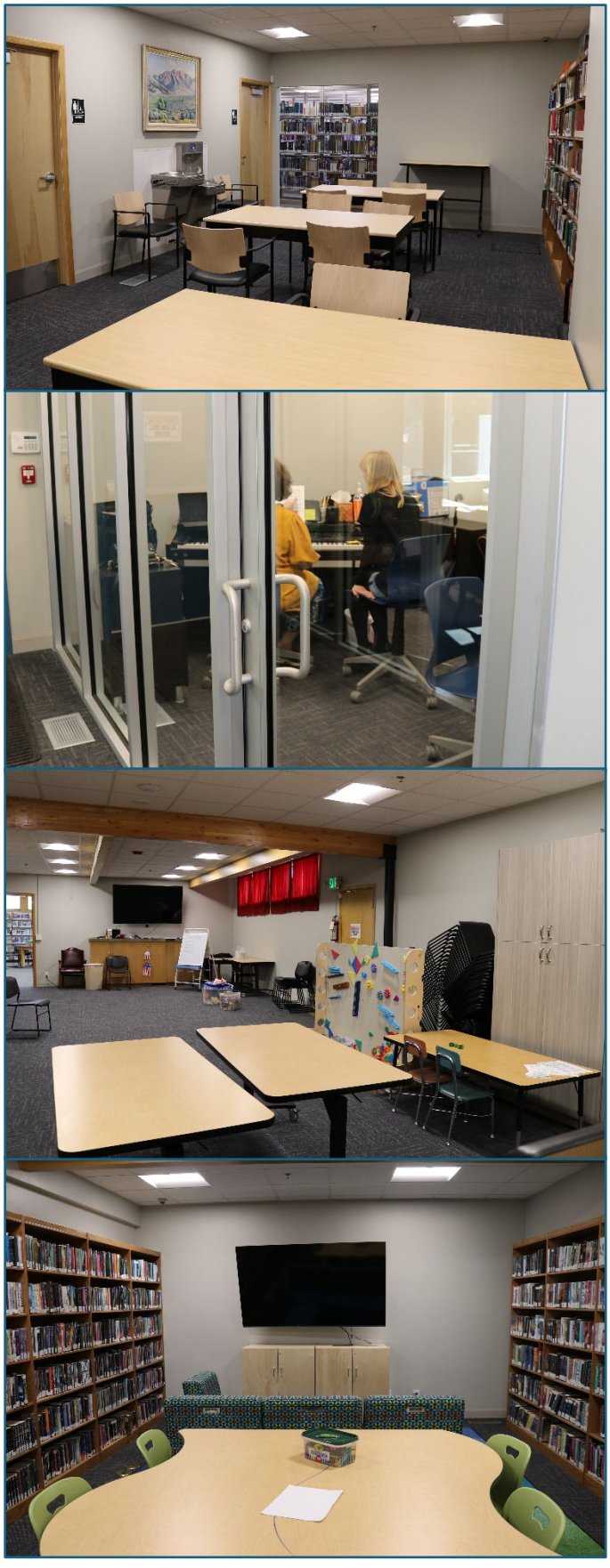
The library constructed a new 1,900 square feet addition, which includes a large conference/programming room, two small study/telehealth spaces, two bathrooms, two staff offices, and an Idaho history area. The addition also expanded the community room. The library remodeled 800 square feet of existing space to create a new teen space, new staff office, and a staff break room.

These changes make the library more useable, flexible, and responsive to the needs and requests they were consistently hearing from the community. Through their strategic planning process, they identified clear gaps, particularly around access to quiet spaces, technology, and areas that support education, workforce development, and health-related needs. The project allowed the library to reconfigure and upgrade existing space to better serve those needs, including the addition of private and semi-private areas for telehealth, virtual learning, and job-related work, along with improvements to computer access and flexible programming/meeting space.

The library is now able to better support students, job seekers, and families who need reliable access to technology and a place to focus. The spaces also allow the library to work more effectively with community partners and expand programs in ways that feel welcoming and accessible.

Success Story:

“We are seeing increased use of the space by job seekers, families, and individuals accessing online services, including telehealth. The flexibility of the updated layout allows us to support multiple needs at once, from small group instruction to one-on-one assistance. An important takeaway from this project is just how essential it is to have adaptable, purpose-driven spaces in a rural library. When barriers like distance, limited internet access, or lack of private space exist, even small improvements can have a significant impact. This project reinforced that the library is not just a place for materials, but a critical access point for opportunity, connection, and support in our community.”



BURLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY ADDITION AND RENOVATION

South Bannock Library District, Inkom Branch

Grants FACI 24-13 and FACI 25-07

The library district constructed a new building with 3,190 square feet of interior space, which includes the open shelving and seating areas, a vestibule entrance, an office, a programming/meeting room with a kitchen area, a study room, two storage rooms, and a mechanical room. The library opened to the public in January 2026.

The library is a culmination of years of planning. The community of Inkom did not previously have a library, so this facility greatly expands access to resources to improve work, education, and health monitoring activities. The library district was able to use the architectural plans from another branch within their system as a starting point for the Inkom Library. They successfully passed a plant facilities levy in the local May 2024 election to provide the remainder of the funds for the facility and collections.

Several projects were required to build on the previously undeveloped site, including bringing in additional dirt and compacting the ground under the building and parking lot; installing new sidewalks; and grading and landscaping the property around the building.

Success Story:

“I have received so many kind words on how beautiful the new building is and how excited they are to have a library in their town. We are very excited to bring programing as well as books to the Inkom Library. These will include storytimes for young children and game days and Friday fun labs for older kids. We will have our Forever Friends group that has presentations for technology education, healthcare related sessions and other presentations for our adult patrons.”

NEW INKOM LIBRARY

Clearwater County Free Library District, Weippe Library

Grant FACI 25-02

The old front door required patrons to push a button in and then pull the door open. It was very challenging for children, older patrons, and those with mobility challenges. The button was removed and the mechanism changed. Patrons can now pull the door open in one motion. The library also installed a door sensor to notify staff when someone enters the building, which can be heard both upstairs and downstairs.

The library replaced the water fountain with a new fountain and bottle filler. After receiving a report of lead detected in the water fountain, the library changed the project scope to install a new drinking fountain. The new fountain will provide safe drinking water for the library patrons and staff.

WEIPPE LIBRARY FRONT ENTRANCE

Wilder Public Library

Grant FACI 25-08

The meeting/programming room, with a kitchen, was updated. The microwave was installed on the wall to appear like it was built-in above the stove. The old vent hood above the stove was no longer functional and was removed before the microwave installation. There is now more counter space available in the kitchen area for programming and groups using the area. Several storage units were set up in the meeting room also. New mobile chairs create additional seating for programs.

Success Story:

“There have been many success stories already. Patrons have all been incredibly happy and excited about the newly renovated space. Before the renovation, the library was limited to how many programs it was able to do. We are now able to do programs and classes in the remodeled program / meeting room. The new push button handicap door has helped our disabled patrons and those who have trouble with mobility. With the renovated spaces, the library will be able to give the community access to work, education, and health monitoring services. There is so much to look forward to in using this newly renovated space."

WILDER PUBLIC LIBRARY REMODEL

St. Maries Public Library

Grant FACI 24-14

The St. Maries Public Library was awarded $500,000 to enclose a 1,300-square foot open-air daylight basement that will be used as meeting space and includes an ADA-compliant restroom and teaching kitchen. The construction for the project was concluded during the 2025 reporting period and after the final payment to the contractor was made, the project was officially completed during this reporting period. The space was available to the public and was receiving use at the time of the submission of the last annual report.

Success Story:

“The new conference room is a hit in our town since the library is centrally located and provides easy access for the community. Because the community can use this space for free, it is an ideal spot for clubs and organizations, and it has been fully reserved every month.”

ST. MARIES PUBLIC LIBRARY ADDITION

Prior Year Completed Projects

Bear Lake County Library

Grant FACI 24-01

Bear Lake County Library was losing their main parking lot as the adjacent owner was selling the land. Additionally, their patrons could not access the library safely in the winter due to ice and snow buildup resulting from roof runoff. With a lack of safe and reliable access to the building during the long winter months, the library applied for one of the Capital Project Fund Facilities Improvement Grants. With their award of $4,800, the roof was modified to redirect runoff from snow and ice melting. The buildup is no longer on the main sidewalk and is maintainable with ice melt. Signage was installed to indicate ADA parking as well as library use parking.

Cascade Public Library

Grant FACI 24-04

The Cascade Public Library added a 1,000 square-foot addition and remodeled a portion of the building to hold a large classroom/meeting room, children's area, two ADA-accessible bathrooms, a storage space, and a new kitchen. With their award of $500,000, they also updated a 1,500 square-foot outdoor space for outdoor programming. They completed their project at the end of January 2025.

Clearwater County Free Library District, Weippe Library

Grant FACI 24-05

The library used their $107,000 award to complete several projects that enhance the accessibility and usability of the library and resources available for work, education, and health monitoring. With an unpaved parking area outside the lower level, getting to the building was a challenge, especially during the long winter months. The library paved the lower parking and access area with asphalt so that patrons can now more easily access the building. The interior and exterior Wi-Fi service was improved by installing a new access point on the lower level, as well as a direct network port. The library created two new exterior Wi-Fi hotspot bars on each end of the building under the covered roof on the wraparound deck. The library also upgraded the current railing system for safety and installed a 22kw generator to use during power outages.

CASCADE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADDITION

Eagle Public Library

Grant FACI 24-06

The Eagle Public Library installed ADA-compliant automatically opening doors for their restrooms and purchased additional seating to allow for full usage of existing spaces. They completed their $15,000 grant project during the 2024 reporting period.

CASCADE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADDITION

Elk River Free Library District

Grant FACI 24-07

The completed $43,000 project included the installation of 18-inch culverts and catch basins to create safe and dry access to the library during the winter and spring. This will prevent patrons from having to navigate ice and significant pooled water. It will also keep the interior of the library dry, which was previously an issue due to the pooling and high water table. A concrete, ADA-accessible pathway was installed from the back porch to the parking lot and gazebo. A concrete pad was poured, and a gazebo was installed to make a useable outdoor meeting and workspace.

Emmett Public Library

Grant FACI 24-08

The Emmett Public Library was awarded a $53,000 grant to improve building access by removing the old entry door and installing a new electronic, ADA-accessible front door and a gazebo to cover the holds locker and an outdoor seating area. The project was completed during the 2024 reporting period.

Garden City Public Library

Grant FACI 24-09

The Garden City Public Library's award of $92,000 was used to remodel an existing space to create two ADA-compliant private study/telehealth meeting spaces. While the library serves a city population of around 13,000 people, private rooms were never available to the community. With the grant funds, the library enclosed two study/work rooms with glass walls and doors. The rooms will be separated with an opaque wall. The rooms will include heating and cooling, along with a connection to the building's fire detection and suppression system.

Hailey Public Library

Grant FACI 25-04

The Hailey Public Library used their $16,995 award to build a four-person soundproof pod, creating a private space for meetings. The project repurposes underutilized areas to host educational, workforce development, and health-related meetings for the community. The project was completed in the 2025 reporting period.

Homedale Library District

Grant FACI 24-11

The Homedale Library District used their $19,000 grant award to upgrade several spaces in their library complex. They upgraded the electrical system in two of the library's buildings (the meeting/programming building and original 1921 building) to allow for better and safer use and accommodate future technology. A new floor was installed in the meeting/programming building. They installed a free-standing storage shed for programming materials. Three units of new shelving were installed to increase public access to the collection. These upgrades

allow for increased patron access to educational reading materials and make more meeting and programming space available to the public.

Homedale Library District Grant FACI 25-05

The library used their $10,000 award to improve accessibility and safety by sanding, refinishing, and restoring the floor in one of the library's buildings; professionally painting the interior; and installing a mini-split heat pump to enhance usability of library meeting spaces during extreme weather. This will transform the space into another public-use meeting/community use space. The project was completed during the 2025 reporting period.

GARDEN CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY RENOVATION

Wilder Public Library District Grant FACI 24-15

The Wilder Public Library completed their $175,000 grant project. It consisted of updating an old meeting/program room, new framing for the cinder block walls, drywall, electrical, wiring, and cables. The restroom was brought into ADA compliance with a wider doorway, and new walls, paint, floor, toilet, and sink. An old furnace was replaced with a new energy-efficient unit. A foyer entrance to the building was constructed to allow easier access to the program/meeting room. A push-button door was installed in the new foyer to allow for better accessibility. A new outside meeting/program area was also constructed.

HAILEY PUBLIC LIBRARY RENOVATION

Addressing Critical Needs

The ICfL is addressing critical needs through the Facilities Improvement Grant subaward program. Applicants to the program were asked to demonstrate that there was a critical need in their community and that their projects would address that need. The program application defined a critical need in the following way:

> Communities with a critical need for the project include those that do not currently have access to the resources or services that would be provided by the proposed project, whether because of the physical absence or insufficiency within the community, or because access to the resources/services are not affordable, resulting in impediments to participation in work, education, and health monitoring.

The funded grant projects will improve access for people in Idaho. Libraries receiving the grant demonstrated through their applications that their communities had (1) needs brought about by, exacerbated by, or made apparent by the COVID pandemic and (2) a lack of resources in the community related to work, education, health, or related services. They also described how their library facilities were not currently able to meet those critical needs due to facilities that are limited in size, scope, or functionality. Additionally, they successfully demonstrated that their proposed projects would help meet the stated needs of their communities.

While many projects are still currently underway, we anticipate positive outcomes for Idaho's communities when the new library facilities become available to the public. Completed grant projects are now serving over 112,655 people in rural Idaho communities. Libraries publicized their projects through a variety of means including groundbreaking and grand opening ceremonies, sharing on their social media platforms, and local press coverage.

1C Project Results

- 2 new buildings
- 3 additions
- 10 meeting rooms
- 8 study rooms
- 11 ADA improvements
- 6 safety improvements
- 5 outdoor seating areas

Labor

Multipurpose community facility projects in Idaho are following the U.S. Department of the Treasury's guidance by hiring local labor. Most of the projects are small enough in scale that local labor and contractors are the most practical and cost-effective sources for completing projects.

The ICfL grant agreement signed by subrecipients included the following text communicating the U.S. Department of the Treasury's preferences for labor practices:

> Strong Labor Practices in Construction - Guidance from U.S. Department of the Treasury. It is important that investments in capital projects be carried out in ways that produce high quality infrastructure, avert disruptive and costly delays, and promote efficiency. Projects funded by the Capital Projects Fund must comply with all applicable federal laws and regulations, and with all requirements for state, local, and Tribal laws and ordinances to the extent that such requirements do not conflict with federal laws.
>
> While the federal Davis-Bacon Act prevailing wage rate requirements do not apply to projects funded solely by the Capital Projects Fund program, except for Capital Projects Fund-funded construction projects undertaken by the District of Columbia, the U.S. Department of the Treasury encourages recipients to ensure that capital projects incorporate strong labor standards, including project labor agreements and community benefits agreements that offer wages at or above the prevailing rate and include local hire provisions, not only to promote effective and efficient delivery of high-quality infrastructure projects but also to support the economic recovery through strong employment opportunities for workers. Using these

practices in construction projects may help to ensure a reliable supply of skilled labor that would minimize disruptions, such as those associated with labor disputes or workplace injuries. Treasury further encourages recipients to prioritize employers (including contractors and subcontractors) without recent violations of federal and state labor and employment laws as a further measure that may minimize project disruptions and delays.

Among other requirements contained in 2 C.F.R. 200, Appendix II, all contracts made by a subrecipient in excess of $100,000 that involve employment of mechanics or laborers must include a provision for compliance with certain provisions of the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, 40 U.S.C. 3702 and 3704, as supplemented by Department of Labor regulations (29 C.F.R. Part 5).

Further, the U.S. Department of the Treasury encourages recipients to prioritize in their procurement decisions employers who can demonstrate:

- Their workforce meets high safety and training standards, including professional certification, licensure and/or robust in-house training;
- Prioritization in hiring of local workers and/or workers from historically disadvantaged communities;
- Direct employment of their workforce, or policies and practices in place to ensure contractors and subcontractors meet high labor standards; and
- No recent violations of federal and state labor and employment laws.

Community Engagement

The ICfL has regular contact with public library directors, boards, and staff and continuously monitor needs in the community. Additionally, library statistics are collected every year from Idaho's public and school libraries, giving a snapshot of the library landscape and the communities served across the state.

When the ICfL Facilities Improvement Grant application opened as part of this program, the initial requests totaled over $16 million. With less than $3.5 awarded in 2023 and just over $175,000 awarded in 2025, there is still an unmet need within the state for increased and improved spaces and services.

The ICfL asked Idaho library staff, trustees, and volunteers to respond to a library needs assessment survey early in 2026. Of the 349 responses, 89% indicated their physical buildings including interior and exterior spaces were very important to their library users. An additional 8% indicated their physical buildings were important. When asked if their library needs additional funding, 135 respondents selected facilities as their first or second need ahead of collections, personnel, programs, and technology. Both the importance of physical spaces and the need for funding was clearly demonstrated through the survey. The Capital Projects Fund 1C program provided a needed infusion of funds for many of these communities. For other communities, more work at the local level will be needed to make facility improvements in the future.

Current Impacts

$3.5 million for community facilities
23 awards > 17 complete
112,655 people or 6.7% of Idahoans
13 towns and cities

Civil Rights Compliance

The ICfL complies with the legal requirements relating to nondiscrimination and nondiscriminatory use of federal funds.

Subrecipients receiving Capital Projects Funds were required to agree that they were also in compliance with the civil rights laws listed by the U.S. Department of the Treasury as part of the CPF program documentation.

Link Up Idaho

IDAHO COMMERCE

ICfL Idaho Commission for Libraries