

Idaho Broadband Data and Development

*LinkAMERICA/Puget Sound Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology
Designated entity on behalf of the State of Idaho*

Budget Summary:

LinkAMERICA/PSCTLT’s proposal called for a two-year total federal grant of \$1,832,357, of which \$1,339,773 is allocated for mapping and \$492,584 for broadband planning purposes. The State of Idaho and LinkAmerica/PSCTLT have committed matching funds and in-kind services valued at more than \$366,471.

Mapping Summary

The LinkAMERICA/Puget Sound Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology (PSCTLT) team is the designated mapping entity representing the State of Idaho. This project is designed to provide targeted, timely and useful information that will enable local solutions to address local broadband priorities. Idaho is ultimately concerned with how the deployment of broadband infrastructure will advance economic opportunity, business development and improve quality of life throughout the state. The mapping and deployment of broadband infrastructure is an important step to achieve goals such as these; however, broadband is only a tool, not a solution in and of itself. The LinkAMERICA/PSCTLT team will implement a comprehensive, inclusive and transparent planning and collaboration approach to ensure that deployed broadband infrastructure and services will be adopted and utilized to advance economic opportunities.

This project seeks funding to solve four problem areas that inhibit Idaho from expanding broadband adoption and utilization. The four tasks presented in the table below comprise the scope of work in Idaho.

Problem Areas	Proposed Solution	Anticipated Outcomes
1. Limited information exchange and lack of needed collaboration to expand broadband adoption and use to advance Idaho’s priority social and economic development goals in all regions of the state.	Task 1 – Assess and inventory key Idaho assets that can enable greater use of broadband to achieve social and economic objectives. Establish process to facilitate collaboration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Inventory of data, studies, people and other assets to enhance the use of broadband to achieve priority objectives. ● Formalized process of knowledge exchange and collaboration.
2. Lack of valid and reliable data regarding Idaho broadband service needs and barriers preventing expanded adoption.	Task 2 – Conduct personal interviews, surveys and public meetings to assess broadband services needs and identify barriers to adoption.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Accurate data to inform decisions on actions to address barriers to broadband adoption. ● Clarity on desired business and household broadband service needs.
3. Inability to accurately articulate levels of current and future demand for broadband services for businesses, households and community anchor institutions.	Task 3 – Collect and analyze market data to profile demand for broadband by Idaho businesses, households and community anchor institutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● County-specific information on broadband service demands. ● Geographic analysis of broadband service demand relative to available infrastructure.
4. Absence of coordinated regional leadership to plan and implement local sustainable adoption efforts.	Task 4 – Facilitate regional technology planning teams to develop effective local action strategies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Regional broadband development plans. ● All Idaho counties will be better positioned to benefit from initiatives funded through BTOP and BIP.

Planning Summary

The planning work for Idaho includes the design and implementation of a statewide collection and analysis of relevant planning data, development and implementation of regional planning teams, on-going coordination

with broadband mapping project components. Data collection activities include a series of structured site visits, regional forums, and workgroup meetings. Planning activities will include 1) assessment and integration of available planning data, 2) development support of demand side data for anchor institutions, 3) facilitation of regional actions, and 4) on-going support of the Idaho broadband planning teams.

About LinkAMERICA/PSCTLT

LinkAMERICA/PSCTLT was chosen to manage and execute this project because of their experience and technical expertise in broadband mapping and experience in managing federal and state contracts. The PSCTLT is a nationally-recognized, private, non-profit organization supported by federal and state governments, private foundations, corporations, and individuals. LinkAMERICA is a partnership of experts in geospatial, economic and network modeling; developing demand-side strategy formation in telecommunications and telehealth sectors; engineering and GIS mapping conversion; and business development strategies (<http://www.linkamericaalliance.com>). The PSCTLT serves as LinkAMERICA's fiscal sponsor and is a national leader in innovative technology adoption solutions for education, workforce and community development.