Wyoming Broadband Data and Development Grant Program

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

LinkAMERICA/PSCTLT is the designated entity for the State of Wyoming to apply for grant funding through the NTIA's State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program. CostQuest Associates, the lead mapping entity for LinkAMERICA/PSCTLT, conducted a successful previous mapping project for the State of Wyoming. The State of Wyoming's previous broadband mapping initiative was a landmark study that helped shape the federal broadband mapping program and other federal broadband analysis initiatives. LinkAMERICA/PSCTLT and the State of Wyoming will build on previous efforts and conduct broadband mapping and develop a sustainable plan for increasing access to, and use of broadband across Wyoming.

Budget Summary:

The proposal called for a two-year total federal grant of $1,792,805, of which $1,293,968 is allocated for mapping and $498,837 for broadband planning purposes. Wyoming and the LinkAmerica/PSCTLT have committed matching funds and in-kind services valued at more than $358,561. Items contributed to meet this requirement included existing statewide maps and GIS data, as well as salaries and benefits for state employees working on the project.

Mapping Summary:

Previous projects conducted by LinkAMERICA and the State of Wyoming resulted in initial maps of broadband access throughout Wyoming, including an economic model showing costs to deploy services in unserved areas. With the maps and prior studies serving as a foundation, the LinkAmerica/PSCTLT team will work to develop a new interactive map with more complete and current information obtained from multiple sources. Sources will include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Broadband provider surveys and data requests
- Objective third party data sources
- End-user surveys and web research

Final output of the project will be a online statewide interactive map showing served and unserved (or underserved) areas throughout the state, transmission speeds in each area, and the type of access provided (i.e. wireless, cable, DSL). Maps will be made available to the general public, broadband providers, policy makers, and the NTIA via a public website. Additional programs included in the Mapping budget will also help broadband providers apply for future infrastructure grant funding, leading to a more rapid build-out of broadband capacity across the state.

Planning Summary:

The planning portion of the project is designed to identify key factors that will drive the adoption and sustainable use for broadband in Wyoming. The planning work for Wyoming 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 broadband planning teams.

About LinkAMERICA/PSCTLT

LinkAMERICA/PSCTLT was chosen to manage and execute this project because of their successful deployment of prior mapping efforts for the State of Wyoming, for 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.