



New Hampshire Department of
BUSINESS AND
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS



August 19, 2026

The Honorable Ken Weyler, Chairman
Fiscal Committee of the General Court and

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a VI, authorize the Department of Business and Economic Affairs (BEA) to accept and expend \$1,500,000 of Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) State Broadband Capacity Program funds to further develop and implement statewide broadband capacity initiatives consistent with the NBRC State Broadband Capacity Program's objectives effective upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2027. **100% Federal Funds**

Funds are to be budgeted in FY2027 as follows:

03-22-22-221510-XXXX0000 – State Broadband Capacity Program

Class	Description	FY27 Current Adjusted Authorized	Requested Action	FY27 Revised Adjusted Authorized
000-400338-16	FEDERAL FUNDS	-	1,500,000	1,500,000
	Total Revenue	-	1,500,000	1,500,000
020 - 500200	CURRENT EXPENSES	-	40,000	40,000
041 - 500801	AUDIT FUND SET ASIDE	-	1,500	1,500
069 - 500567	PROMOTIONAL MARKETING EXP	-	575,000	575,000
070 - 500706	IN STATE TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT	-	10,000	10,000
072 - 509073	GRANTS FEDERAL - CONTRACTS	-	873,500	873,500
	Total Expenditures	-	1,500,000	1,500,000

EXPLANATION

The Department of Business and Economic Affairs (BEA) respectfully requests authorization to accept and expend \$1,500,000 in federal funds awarded to the State of New Hampshire under the NBRC State Broadband Capacity Program. This amount is part of a federal allocation of \$1,500,000 made available to the State through NBRC, a federal-state partnership for economic and community development in New Hampshire, Maine, Vermont, and New York, was created by federal legislation in 2008.

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This request seeks authorization to accept and expend \$1,500,000 in State Broadband Capacity Program funds based on the following accepted award proposal:

- **A statewide Broadband and Technology Summit:** This event will bring together government leaders, broadband providers, technology innovators, economic development organizations, educators, healthcare professionals. The summit will highlight broadband expansion projects and discuss emerging technologies requiring broadband infrastructure. Participants will gain insights into how expanded broadband infrastructure and technology adoption can improve quality of life for residents, support business growth, strengthen tourism, enhance public services, and position the state for long-term success in an increasingly digital economy with anticipated costs of \$75,000. In accordance with MOP 150, the agency shall submit a request to Governor and Executive Council for approval of specific Organized Meeting costs prior to hosting the Summit.
- **RFP Statewide Cellular and Wireless Study:** This effort will assess current needs, identify areas with significant unmet demand, and gather stakeholder insights to guide future cellular network expansion and bandwidth planning. It will also include a technical analysis of existing infrastructure to pinpoint coverage gaps, network limitations, and backhaul capacity, with anticipated costs of \$800,000.
- **A comprehensive broadband advertising campaign:** This effort emphasizes how expanded highspeed internet access is strengthening communities across New Hampshire and delivering benefits across multiple sectors.
 - **Existing residents** – By extending reliable highspeed internet to rural and underserved areas, the state is improving quality of life through better access to education, healthcare, remote work, and digital services.
 - **Attracting new residents** – Highspeed broadband helps attract people seeking New Hampshire's lifestyle benefits without sacrificing the connectivity needed for remote work, entrepreneurship, and modern living.
 - **Travel & Tourism** – Expanded connectivity strengthens tourism by enabling travelers to stay connected while exploring mountains, lakes, and coastal destinations, supporting hospitality businesses and encouraging longer stays.
 - **Business Recruitment** – Broadband infrastructure positions New Hampshire as an attractive destination for entrepreneurs, remote workers, and companies seeking a connected, innovation-friendly environment. The anticipated cost for this comprehensive campaign is \$500,000.
- **Administration of the program** with anticipated costs of \$125,000.

Program Overview

The State of New Hampshire proposes using the grant program year FY21 and FY22 State Broadband-Capacity Grants administrative funding to support broadband non-infrastructure activities that build on the success of broadband infrastructure projects funded through the ARPA Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (CPF) and future Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) programs.

This funding is essential to sustain New Hampshire's momentum in expanding broadband access and ensuring the state remains competitive in an increasingly digital economy. With federal NBRC State Broadband Capacity Program support, the state can continue advancing non-infrastructure initiatives that complement and strengthen past and future broadband investments, including ARPA CPF and BEAD-funded projects. These dollars make it

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possible to convene statewide leaders, assess cellular and wireless needs, and execute a comprehensive public awareness campaign, all of which aid to close the digital divide, enhance quality of life for residents, support business and workforce growth, and reinforce New Hampshire's ability to attract visitors, entrepreneurs, and new residents. Without this funding, the state would lose critical capacity-building tools needed to plan effectively, engage stakeholders, and maintain transparent and prudent stewardship of its broadband expansion efforts.

Funds are budgeted in the expense classes listed as follows:

Class 020 – Current Expenses – general office supplies for administration of the program, promotional materials for a broadband advertising campaign, supplies and consumables for a Broadband and Technology Summit

Class 041 – Audit Fund Set-Aside at a rate of 0.1 % – to comply with RSA 124:16, which requires all agencies which receive federal funds set aside a percentage (0.1%) of federal revenue amount received to pay for financial and compliance audits.

Class 069 – Promotional Marketing Exp – to conduct a broadband advertising campaign and a Broadband and Technology Summit

Class 070 – In State Travel Reimbursement – for travel within the state of New Hampshire for a Broadband and Technology Summit and advertising campaign

Class 072 – Grants Federal – to fund an RFP contract for a Statewide Cellular and Wireless Study and contracts with vendors for promotional services for a broadband advertising campaign.

In the event that Federal Funds no longer become available, General Funds will not be requested to support this program.

Respectfully submitted,



Lucy Lange
Commissioner



**Northern Border
Regional Commission**

Grant Agreement
Between
Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC)
And
State of New Hampshire, BEA
6/29/2026

NBRC Grant Agreement Number: NBRC26GBNH01

Grantee/Recipient:	Grantor:
State of New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs	Northern Border Regional Commission
Authorized Official: Kathleen Fredericksen	Contact: Andrea K. Smith, Director of Programs and Partnerships
Address: 100 N. Main Street Suite 100 Concord, NH, 03301	53 Pleasant Street, Suite 1501, Concord, NH 03301
Phone: [REDACTED]	603-369-3001
Email: Kathleen.c.fredericksen@livefree.nh.gov	admin@nbrc.gov www.nbrc.gov
LDD Contact: NA	
State Program Manager: Aarron Dupuis	Phone: [REDACTED] Email: Aarron.R.Dupuis@livefree.nh.gov

Grantee's Employer Identification Number (EIN):	[REDACTED]
Grantee's UEI Number:	[REDACTED]
Date of Award:	6/29/2026
Date of Amendment:	
Amendment Description:	
Total Project Amount:	\$ 1,500,000
Amount of Federal NBRC Funds Awarded:	\$ 1,500,000
Match/Cost Share:	\$0
Reimbursement Rate:	100%
NBRC CFDA Number:	#90.601
Project Description:	The State of NH proposes utilizing a FY21 and FY22 State Broadband-Capacity Grant to fund Broadband non- infrastructure activities that builds on the successes of the broadband infrastructure projects funded by ARPA Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (CPF) and future Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD).
Approved Indirect Cost Rate:	NA
Period of Performance:	7/28/2026-9/30/2029
Project Scope:	As provided with the NBRC program application for federal financial assistance submitted on or before 6/29/2026

Fiscal Situation
FY 2027
03-22-22-221510-XXXX0000, State Broadband Capacity Program

Total Federal Authorization	\$	1,500,000.00
Less Expenditures thru 6/30/26	\$	-
Remaining Authorization to Budget	\$	1,500,000.00
Less Current FY27 Budget Authorization	\$	-
Total Available for Budgeting	\$	1,500,000.00
Available to Budget at a Later Date	\$	-
REQUESTED ACTION	\$	1,500,000.00

Grant Award Number	Award Amount	Expenses to 6/30/26	Balance
NBRC26GBNH01	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500,000.00