



**NEVADA  
COUNTY**  
CALIFORNIA

**INFORMATION & GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

Information Systems  
Geographic Information Systems  
Cable Television  
Central Services

Facilities Management  
Purchasing  
Emergency Services  
Public Library

**NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
Board Agenda Memo**

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**MEETING DATE:** January 14, 2025

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Craig Griesbach, Director of Information and General Services

**SUBJECT:** Resolution approving the Grant Award Agreements for Last-Mile Broadband Grant Program – Final Round between the County of Nevada and Exwire, Inc. (dba: Oasis Broadband) and AT&T in the amount of \$1,167,624, and authorizing the Director of Information and General Services or designee to execute the Grant Award Agreements and any related documents required to finalize the projects and directing the Auditor- Controller to amend the Information and General Services Administration Fiscal Year 2024/25 budget (4/5 affirmative vote required)

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the Last-Mile Broadband Grant Program Award Recommendations for FY 24/25 and direct staff to prepare contracts with the following internet service providers, listed below, in the amount of \$1,167,624:

- Oasis Broadband- Harmony Ridge, Blue Tent and Nevada City, in the amount of \$221,989
- Oasis Broadband- Donner Summit, in the amount of \$156,437
- AT&T- Alta Sierra, in the amount of \$389,198
- AT&T- Wolf/Higgins Corner, in the amount of \$400,000

**FUNDING:**

At the January 2024 Board Workshop, the Nevada County Board of Supervisors received a presentation regarding the final funding round of \$1,000,000 for the Last-Mile Broadband Grants Program. That \$1,000,000 is to be funded by the following sources:

- \$250,000 from the Board Priorities Assignment in the General Fund
- \$750,000 from previously approved American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for Broadband (in the Special Project Continuation Assignment in the General Fund)

The additional \$167,624 will be funded from the balance of funds previously allocated for projects in round two, which have subsequently been terminated.

**BACKGROUND:**

Expediting access to the internet for all residents continues to be a goal of the County's "Last-Mile

Broadband Grant Program.” The Board established the program in 2019 with Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) dollars intended to promote economic development. In 2020, the Board awarded \$177,109, in the grant’s initial round, and \$500,000 in 2022 for the second round of funding. This year (2024), the Board approved a final funding round of \$1,000,000.

The County’s Broadband Work Group, working with the Sierra Business Council (SBC), the County’s designated partner to provide comprehensive economic development services and promote the expansion of rural broadband, sought applications from internet service providers (ISP) who were awarded to the County’s Qualified List to support distance learning, remote working, and telemedicine. SBC and County staff conducted a competitive application process, which included the development of the Request for Application (RFA) guidelines and application, solicitation for grant submissions, facilitation of pre-application Q & A conference, interviewing of final applicants and scoring of all applicant submissions.

A total of six applications were received from Nevada County Fiber, Inc., Exwire, Inc. dba Oasis Broadband (2 projects), Smarter Broadband, and AT&T (2 projects).

Each of the submissions offer a unique and innovative approach to expanding broadband in areas challenged by both the geographic infrastructure and the low population density. These grants encourage affordable services and a community serving approach.

Upon reviewing and scoring the submissions, SBC and the Workgroup is pleased to request Board approval for the award four Broadband Grant applications for FY24/25 as outlined below.

**Exwire, Inc. dba Oasis Broadband (Project No.1)**

- Project Name: Harmony Ridge, Blue Tent and Nevada City
- Funding: The applicant project funding request is \$221,989

**Exwire, Inc. dba Oasis Broadband (Project No.2)**

- Project Name: Donner Summit
- Funding: The applicant project funding request is \$156,437

**AT&T (Project No.1)**

- Project Name: Wolf/Higgins Corner
- Funding: The applicant project funding request is \$400,000

**AT&T (Project No.2)**

- Project Name: Alta Sierra
- Funding: The applicant project funding request is \$389,198

The grant program will fund four projects at a total county investment of \$1,167,624. These awards will build out a total of 1,471 connections, representing a more than doubling of the County’s investment to \$2,851,979 when ISP contributions are included. Specific project breakout is shown in the table below:

Project	Number of connections	Project cost to County	ISP match	Total County benefit	Connection cost to County
Oasis #1	420	\$ 221,989	\$ 61,840	\$ 283,829	\$ 529
Oasis #2	274	\$ 156,437	\$ 156,437	\$ 312,874	\$ 571
ATT #1	248	\$ 400,000	\$ 557,949	\$ 957,949	\$ 1,613
ATT #2	529	\$ 389,198	\$ 908,129	\$ 1,297,327	\$ 736
	<b>1,471</b>	<b>\$ 1,167,624</b>	<b>\$ 1,684,355</b>	<b>\$ 2,851,979</b>	<b>\$ 794</b>

Purchasing Policy section 7.1 (B) requires Board approval to award funds above \$50,000. The resolution will approve the above-mentioned grant awards and staff are directed to prepare contracts for each provider in alignment with each specific project.

**Item Initiated by:** Desiree Belding, Deputy Purchasing Agent

**Approved by:** Craig Griesbach, Director of Information and General Services