



**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**

MEETING DATE: August 12, 2025

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Craig Griesbach, Director of Information and General Services

SUBJECT: Resolution approving the Grant Award Agreement for Last-Mile Broadband Grant Program – Final Round between the County of Nevada and AT&T in the amount of \$389,000, and authorizing the Director of Information and General Services or designee to execute the Grant Award Agreement and any related documents required to finalize the projects, and directing the Auditor-Controller to amend the Information and General Services Administration Fiscal Year 2025/26 budget and to release \$221,574 from the Board Priorities Assignment in the General Fund and \$167,426 in Unassigned fund balance in the General Fund (4/5 affirmative vote required)

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Last-Mile Broadband Grant Program Award Recommendation and direct staff to prepare contracts with AT&T for the Wolf Mountain Fiber Project in the amount of \$389,000.

FUNDING:

Funding for this contract will be released from the Board Priorities Assignment in the General Fund and from the balance of funds previously allocated for projects in round two, which have subsequently been terminated.

At the January 2024 Board Workshop, and again in Resolution 25-063, the Nevada County Board of Supervisors received a presentation regarding the Last-Mile Broadband Grants Program Final Round in the amount of \$1,167,426, 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)
- \$167,426 from the balance of funds previously allocated for terminated projects in round two (in Unassigned fund balance in the General Fund).

Resolution 25-063 released \$750,000 from the Special Project Continuation Assignment in the General Fund, and \$28,426 from the Board Priorities Assignment in the General Fund. This ATT Wolf Mountain Fiber Project in the amount of \$389,000 is the final project approved in the Last-Mile

Broadband Grant Program Final Round and is proposed to be funded by the remaining \$221,574 in Board Priorities Assignment funds and \$167,426 in Unassigned fund balance in the General Fund.

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. Last 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 requested Board approval for the award three Broadband Grant applications through Resolution 25-063 on February 11, 2025 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

The resolution before you today approves the fourth and final award of this funding to **AT&T** (Project No.2)

- Project Name: Wolf Mountain Fiber Project
- Funding: The applicant project funding request is \$389,000

With the inclusion of this final award to AT&T the grant program will fund four projects at a total

county investment of \$1,167,426. These awards will build out a total of 936 connections, representing a more than doubling of the County's investment to \$2,494,801 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	403	\$ 221,989	\$ 221,989	\$ 283,829	\$ 551
Oasis #2	130	\$ 156,437	\$ 156,437	\$ 312,874	\$ 571
ATT #1	248	\$ 400,000	\$ 557,949	\$ 957,949	\$ 1,613
ATT #2	155	\$ 389,000	\$ 391,000	\$ 780,000	\$ 2,510
	936	\$ 1,167,335	\$ 1,327,375	\$ 2,494,801	\$ 1,418

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: Elise Strickler, IGS Chief Fiscal Administrative Officer

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