

# CONNECTING CITIZENS GRANT PROGRAM ROUND TWO

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- 1. What is the purpose of the Connecting Citizens Grant Program?**

The high cost of last mile infrastructure has been identified by communities, regional Internet service providers and broadband advocates as one of the key barriers to expanding service to citizens in and around rural and remote communities in British Columbia. This program helps to pay for infrastructure required to deliver Internet connectivity to homes and businesses in rural and remote locales of British Columbia.
- 2. Who is eligible to apply?**

Local and regional Internet service providers, community broadband organizations, Aboriginal organizations, local governments such as regional districts, economic development organizations, and registered societies and associations are eligible to apply. All applicants must be a legally registered entity.

National Internet service providers and single end users (where a single customer or business is the only user of the network) are not eligible.
- 3. How much money is available?**

Network BC will grant up to \$50,000 per application to organizations and/or businesses that can demonstrate the ability to expand Internet service to British Columbians in unconnected locales.
- 4. When is the application deadline?**

Applications must be received no later than 16:30 PST (4:30pm PST), November 23, 2009.
- 5. When will grants be made available to successful applicants?**

Grants to successful applicants will be made available no later than March 31, 2010.
- 6. Can I apply for Internet projects already completed or in progress?**

Funding cannot be applied to projects already completed. Funding can only be applied to new projects going forward.
- 7. I applied to Round 1. Can I apply again to Round Two?**

Yes, but only for new locales. Both awarded and un-awarded applicants from Round One may apply to Round Two. A locale will only be funded once through this program.

- 8. Are there changes to Round Two?**  
Yes. Changes include a revised electronic application package and template attachments. There is also enhanced Assessment Criteria in the Program Guide.
- 9. What is the adjudication process once applications are received by Network BC?**  
All applicants will be independently adjudicated. Evaluation will be based on the Assessment Criteria and all applicants will be notified of results via letter.
- 10. If I have already applied for funding under a federal infrastructure program, will my proposal be eligible for the Connecting Citizens Grant Program Round Two?**  
Yes, if your proposal meets the criteria of the Connecting Citizens Grant Program then your proposal will be eligible for Round Two. Your Program Budget must indicate the federal program you are applying to and the amount you are requesting.
- 11. Can I submit one application for multiple projects?**  
You should submit one completed application and associated supporting materials per project. Please refer to Program Guide for details.
- 12. Can a project provide connectivity to multiple locales?**  
Yes, however the maximum grant available per project is \$50,000.
- 13. Are EVDO flash drives considered Customer Premise Equipment?**  
Yes, EVDO flash drives are considered Customer Premise Equipment. However, for the purposes of the Connecting Citizens Grant Program, EVDO flash drives are considered an eligible expense only if the local service provider in B.C. owns the infrastructure used to supply the EVDO service.
- 14. Are satellite dishes considered Customer Premise Equipment?**  
Yes, satellite dishes are considered Customer Premise Equipment. However, for the purposes of the Connecting Citizens Grant Program, satellite dishes are considered an eligible expense only if the local service provider in B.C. owns the infrastructure to supply the satellite service.

**15. Can I partner with a U.S. firm to deliver broadband connectivity and still be eligible for funding?**

To be an eligible recipient, the applicant must be a legally registered entity in B.C. The project must conform to existing Canadian foreign ownership regulatory restrictions.

*Foreign Ownership*

Applicants must comply with the Canadian ownership and control requirements set out in the *Telecommunications Act* and section 10 of the *Radiocommunications Regulations* and in the *Radiocommunication Act*.

The ownership and control requirements under the *Telecommunications Act* and *Radiocommunication Act* are similar. The *Telecommunications Act* would apply to all applicants, including those proposing to build wireline, unlicensed wireless and licensed wireless networks as a part of their technological solution. For those applicants who propose a solution that includes a licensed wireless network, the ownership and control requirements of the *Radiocommunication Act* would also apply.

For operators of wireless networks using licensed wireless spectrum, a licensee must be eligible to become a radiocommunication carrier and as such, must comply on an ongoing basis with the eligibility criteria in section 10(2) of the *Radiocommunication Regulations*. For more information, refer to Industry Canada's Client Procedures Circular 2-0-15, *Canadian Ownership and Control (CPC-2-0-15)*, as amended from time to time.

**16. Is road access (e.g., building a road to access a site) considered an eligible expense for the purposes of the Connecting Citizens Grant Program?**

Road access (e.g., building a road to access a site) would not be considered an eligible expense under the Connecting Citizens Grant Program.