

FCC Rural Broadband Experiment – Expressions of Interest from Nevada April 1, 2014

On January 30, 2014, the [Federal Communications Commission](#) voted to create a [Rural Broadband Experiment](#) program. The FCC hopes that this experiment will help it shape and adjust its Connect America Fund broadband subsidy program by including an application-based, competitive bidding framework. One purpose is to see whether available subsidies could provide higher levels of service, including expanded service to community anchor institutions, that exceed the current 4 Mbps download/1 Mbps upload standard for the Connect America Fund. In addition, these rural broadband experiments mark the first opportunity for providers that are not the incumbent local telephone company in a particular area to receive Connect America Fund subsidies to build and operate fixed broadband networks in those areas.

The FCC actively and openly solicited “expressions of interest” from providers, communities, institutions, and public-private partnerships regarding their ideas and proposals as to how they would utilize Connect America Fund subsidies to support broadband infrastructure build-out in currently unserved areas. These initial, non-binding “expressions of interest” were due at the FCC on March 7, 2014. To date, the FCC has received almost 1,000 expressions of interest from applicants across the country, which can be found at [List of Expressions of Interest](#). The FCC is currently evaluating these submissions and is expected to release an Order defining how to move forward with this program. Such Order will include details regarding available funds for the program, a clear definition of areas eligible for funding, project rules and rules for evaluating formal applicants for funding. There is no clear timeline for when these decisions will take place at this time.

For more information on these Rural Broadband Experiments, please see a previous Connected Nation [Policy Brief](#) from February 7, 2014.

Below is a list of the “expressions of interest” filed by applicants in Nevada as well as key takeaways from these submissions.

Nevada Expressions of Interest Summaries

- A total of 13 expressions of interest were submitted by applicants from Nevada.
- In line with the FCC objective for this experiment of better understanding what solutions different industry stakeholders could offer, submissions were received from a wide variety of applicants including – rural ILECS and telecommunications providers, wireless providers, a licensed frequency broadband provider, a statewide organization for helping startup businesses, and an electric utility company.
- The applications cover areas throughout Nevada – proposed projects include service in 41 counties (multiple proposals across many counties exist).
- The technology solutions proposed overwhelmingly include the use of two platforms – fiber to the premise and fixed wireless.
- Proposed project scopes range from projects narrowly focusing on county-level deployment challenges to proposals to serve existing broadband gaps across the state of Nevada. Project funding requests range from just \$1.229 million to as much as \$20 million in subsidies. The overall budget for all 13 proposed projects is upwards of \$62 million.
- Of the Expressions of Interest filed, several submissions mention the Connect Nevada program in support of their Expressions. For example, CC Communications mentions they were recently awarded Connected Certification by Connect Nevada. Arizona Nevada Tower Corp remarks that they have leveraged USDA Technical Assistance Grants through collaboration with Connect Nevada to complete models for the implementation of programs in 11 rural counties in Nevada.

Nevada Expressions of Interest Submitted (As of April 1, 2014)



Name of Filer

ARIZONA NEVADA TOWER CORP.
Beehive Telephone Company, Inc., Nevada
Commnet Wireless, LLC
Filer Mutual Telephone
Fiwi communications
JAB Wireless, Inc.
Jay Maharjan
LV.Net
Mark Feest
Northern Nevada High Speed, LLC
Oasis Online
Oregon-Idaho Utilities, Inc.
Valley Electric Association

Expressions Filed

[\(4 pages\)](#)
[Letter of Interest \(2 pages\)](#)
[\(7 pages\)](#)
[\(2 pages\)](#)
[\(4 pages\)](#)
[Expression of Interest \(22 pages\)](#)
[\(3 pages\)](#)
[LV Net Expression of Int. \(3 pages\); County of Inyo Letter of Support](#)
[\(2 pages\)](#)
[Letter of Interest \(2 pages\)](#)
[WC 10 90 EOI \(3 pages\)](#)
[\(5 pages\)](#)
[\(3 pages\)](#)