



Broadband Program Policy Manual

Updated: 04/03/2017

Broadband Infrastructure Improvement Grant Overview

Introduction

The FCC adopted rules providing additional Category One funding to match state funding for special construction projects to deploy new fiber (or fiber-equivalent) for high-speed broadband. These projects must result in scalable infrastructure capable of meeting the FCC’s long-term broadband capacity targets.

[Idaho Code §33-910\(1\)](#) created the Broadband Infrastructure Improvement Grant (BIIG) Fund. Monies from this fund are available to be distributed by the State Department of Education (SDE) to provide state matching funds for eligible special construction projects.

The E-rate program will increase an entity’s discount rate for special construction charges up to an additional 10% to match state funding on a one-to-one dollar basis. This means an entity with an 80% or 90% E-rate discount could have the non-recurring costs of an approved special construction project completely funded between E-rate and SDE.

Special Construction Projects

Special construction projects can be for internet access or wide-area network (WAN) connections. These projects must follow specific E-rate program guidelines. For more information on these guidelines, visit USAC’s [Fiber Page](#).

USAC’s [Dark and Lit Fiber FAQs](#) are also an excellent source of information regarding special construction.

Long-Term Capacity Targets

Special construction projects must result in an entity’s ability to achieve the target numbers in the table below. The entity is not required to purchase full capacity upon project completion.

	Component	Long-Term Capacity Target
School	Internet Access	Scalable to 1 Gbps (1,000 Mbps) per 1,000 users
	WAN	Scalable to 10 Gbps per 1,000 users
Library (Small, < 50,000 patrons)	Internet Access	100 Mbps
	WAN	Scalable to 10 Gbps until further data is developed.
Library (Large, > 50,000 patrons)	Internet Access	1 Gbps
	WAN	Scalable to 10 Gbps until further data is developed

BIIG Application Process

Entities applying for BIIG funds must:

1. Contact Chris Campbell to discuss special construction project
2. File FCC Form 470 (RFP also required for dark or self-provisioned fiber)
3. Evaluate bid response(s) and award contract
4. Submit completed BIIG Application Form and applicable documents to SDE by deadline

SDE will then review the application and notify the entity of its decision in writing.

If the BIIG Application Form is approved by SDE, entities must file their FCC Form 471 before the filing window closes and ensure the “state matching funds” box is checked on the form.