ReConnect Program Workshop – Round 5

The Row – Silver Legacy - 407 N. Virgina Street, Reno, NV

Workshop Agenda

*Note: Topics are subject to change.

Day 1	Tuesday, February 27, 2024
1:00-5:00 p.m.	Office Hours
8:30-8:45 a.m.	Opening Remarks

Main Sessions	
Time	**Topic**
8:45-10:15 a.m.	ReConnect Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Overview
10:15-10:30 a.m.	Break
10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Application System Overview and Key Application System Updates
12:00-1:30 p.m.	Lunch Break
1:30-2:30 p.m.	Service Areas and Mapping
2:30-3:30 p.m.	Service Area Eligibility
3:30-3:45 p.m.	Break
3:45-5:15 p.m.	Network Requirements Overview and Live Demo
5:15pm-5:30 p.m.	Open Q&A
5:30-5:35 pm	Day 1 Closing Remarks

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USDA Rural Development
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Day 2 | Wednesday, February 28, 2024

| 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. | Office Hours |
| 8:30-8:45 a.m. | Opening Remarks |

Main Sessions

Time	Topic
8:45-10:15 a.m.	Financial Requirements Overview and Live Demo
10:15-10:30 a.m.	Break
10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Environmental Requirements Overview and Live Demo
12:00-1:15 p.m.	Lunch Break
1:15-2:15 p.m.	Grant Accounting
2:15-3:15 p.m.	Evaluation Criteria and Application Submission
3:15-3:30 p.m.	Break
3:30-4:30 p.m.	Key Considerations for Projects Serving Tribal Lands
4:30-4:45 p.m.	Open Q&A
4:45-5:00 p.m.	Day 2 Closing Remarks

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Day 3 | Thursday, February 29, 2024

8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Office Hours
8:30-8:45 a.m.	Opening Remarks

Main Sessions

Time	Topic
8:45-9:15 a.m.	Public Notice Process
9:15-10:15 a.m.	Legal Agreements
10:15-10:30 a.m.	Break
10:30-11:30 a.m.	Application Assistance, Best Practices, and Lessons Learned
11:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Open Q&A
12:00-12:05 p.m.	Day 3 Closing Remarks

The USDA Rural Development Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is providing a three-day workshop on applying for ReConnect Funds. The workshop will provide in-depth sessions on all aspects of the Application Intake System including live demonstrations of the Application System functionality. Below you can find a list of content covered in the workshop, and a short description of each topic. Please note: these topics are subject to change.

ReConnect Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Overview

This session will provide an overview of the ReConnect Round 5 NOFO. Key topics covered will include eligibility requirements, new program definitions, funding categories, funding amounts available, funding parameters, submission requirements, and evaluation criteria.

Application System Over and Key Application System Updates

This session will cover how to create an account and add account information, how to create an application, how to complete the project, licenses and agreements, and certification tabs, and how to manage documents uploaded to your application. This session will also cover key application system updates that have been made since ReConnect Round 4.

Service Areas and Mapping

This session will focus on the Service Area map found within the ReConnect application portal. Attendees will learn how to add their Proposed Funded Service Areas (PFSAs) and Non-Funded Service Areas (NFSAs) to their application through a live demo.

Service Area Eligibility

The ReConnect Round 5 NOFO includes important service area eligibility criteria for applicants. This session will assist applicants in understanding how to determine eligibility of their service areas as it pertains to the NOFO and other programmatic requirements.

Network Requirements Overview and Live Demonstration

This session includes a live demo of the Network tab in the ReConnect application system. Attendees will learn how to navigate the Network tab and which sections of the application are impacted by the Network section. A deep dive webinar of the program's network requirements will be hosted at a later date. Review the ReConnect website at https://www.usda.gov/reconnect to register for upcoming events.

Financial Requirements Overview and Live Demonstration

This session will provide an overview of important financial requirements applicants should consider when compiling a ReConnect application. Additionally, this session will include a live demo of the Financial section in the ReConnect application system. A deep dive webinar of the program's financial requirements will be hosted at a later date. Review the ReConnect website at https://www.usda.gov/reconnect to register for upcoming events.

Environmental Requirements Overview and Live Demonstration

This session will cover an overview of ReConnect Program environmental requirements as well as a live demo of the construction map, how to add sites and routes, and new functionality added to the environmental tab within the application system. A deep dive webinar of the program's environmental requirements will be hosted at a later date. Review the ReConnect website at https://www.usda.gov/reconnect to register for upcoming events.

Grant Accounting

The Grant Accounting presentation will cover a high-level overview of the purpose of Grant Accounting as it relates to ReConnect applications for Round 5. It will also cover what each of the different entities should reflect on their ReConnect application based on their entity type, and how applicants should complete entries when submitting their ReConnect application.

Evaluation Criteria and Application Submission

This session will demo how to answer questions associated with the program's evaluation criteria, upload necessary documents, and how to view and interpret your evaluation criteria summary. This session will also cover the Summary/Submit tab of the application, how to validate your application, reviewing errors and warnings in your application, and how to submit a completed application.

Key Considerations for Projects Serving Tribal Lands

This session will provide an overview of key considerations for Tribal and non-Tribal applicants interested in serving Tribal Lands. Topics covered will include the importance of early coordination and sections of the NOFO designed to promote broadband deployment on Tribal Lands.

Public Notice Process

This session will cover the Public Notice Filing (PNF) and Public Notice Response (PNR) process. A public notice of each application requesting assistance under the ReConnect Program will be published after application submission and will remain available for 45 calendar days. During this period, existing service providers may submit information supporting that the application in question is proposing to serve areas with sufficient access to broadband service.

Legal Agreements

This session will provide an overview of the various types of award documents pertaining to the ReConnect Program. Topics covered will include what is in the typical set of award documents sent to an awardee, the possible types of agreements, major parts of the grant, combination loan/grant, and loan agreements, and the possible ancillary documents issued in particular awardee situations

Application Assistance, Best Practices, and Lessons Learned

This session will cover resources developed and made available to all ReConnect Program applicants. This session will also include best practices and lessons learned from a Telecom Program General Field Representative.