Governor's Office of Planning & Budget

State of Utah Performance Report:

Capital Project Funds

2025 Report

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
PLANNING & BUDGET

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The state of Utah is strategically deploying $137.9 million in Capital Projects Funds (CPF) to address critical infrastructure gaps and enable essential digital connectivity across disproportionately impacted and isolated communities. The primary goal is to provide reliable, high-speed broadband access to support remote work, education, and health monitoring, thereby bridging the digital divide exposed by the public health emergency.

The Governor's Office and the legislature have collaborated closely with area experts to identify critical needs, ensuring that CPF-funded capital assets address a range of issues from community infrastructure to individual broadband accessibility across the state. Utah's CPF investment is concentrated across three primary initiatives and one community infrastructure project, all targeting completion by December 31, 2026.

USES OF FUNDS

Utah utilizes the Capital Projects Fund (CPF) to invest in critical capital projects that directly enable remote work, education, and health monitoring, in direct response to the needs highlighted by the public health emergency.

The state maintains a commitment to effectively managing taxpayer funds, ensuring these federal resources are applied to their highest and best uses. The COVID-19 pandemic clearly demonstrated that communities and individuals lacking access to high-quality, affordable internet are at a marked disadvantage. Therefore, the CPF is strategically deployed to address this digital inequity, primarily through investments in:

- Broadband Infrastructure: Funding last-mile deployment to unserved and underserved households and businesses and constructing non-discriminatory middle-mile fiber networks.

- Digital Connectivity for Anchor Institutions: Upgrading network infrastructure for schools, libraries, and key telehealth institutions that serve as critical community access points.

- Community Infrastructure: Supporting multi-purpose community facilities in disadvantaged areas to provide resources for workforce development, health, and education.

Utah Rural Last Mile Broadband Grants Program
Program Plan Number: CPF_GP-000193
Status: Approved
Funding Amount: $15,000,000
Program Start Date: July 2023
Program End Date: December 31, 2026

Managed by the Utah Broadband Center, this program funds the deployment of high-speed fiber broadband to unserved and underserved households and businesses in rural and economically distressed areas. The focus is on implementing reliable, affordable fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) infrastructure where service would otherwise be economically infeasible.

The need for this program was amplified by COVID-19, which underscored the disadvantage of communities lacking affordable access to high-quality internet necessary for remote work, online education, and telehealth. Target areas are typically those without broadband access or where existing speeds of <25/3 Mbps are inadequate for modern demands.

Grant funds for these broadband projects were allocated to support labor, materials, fiber installation, permitting, and coordination with utility and municipal partners. Several projects have already completed construction and successfully disbursed over 90% of their awarded funding. These initiatives targeted regions with documented broadband shortages, ensuring that rural, tribal, and low-density communities now have access to essential digital services such as telehealth, online education, and remote work opportunities.

All participating entities confirmed compliance with prevailing wage requirements, with multiple projects prioritizing local hiring. This approach has generated direct economic benefits by creating jobs and engaging skilled labor within the communities. Providers employed a variety of outreach methods, including public meetings, door-to-door marketing, and collaboration with community leaders, helping to drive broadband adoption and build trust with residents.

To date, completion rates across the projects range from 70% to 100%, resulting in the deployment of over 145 miles of new fiber infrastructure. Early adoption rates are steadily increasing, and the expanded broadband network is expected to provide lasting educational, healthcare, and economic benefits throughout Utah's underserved regions.

All West Communications
All West/Utah, Inc. has successfully completed its ARPA-funded broadband infrastructure project in Croydon, Utah. The project targeted 52 rural locations and

reached full completion as of September 30, 2024. All mainline construction is finished, and customer service drops have been completed for those who signed up, with the potential to install more as additional customers enroll. Adoption stood at 25% as of September 2024, and the deployed infrastructure now provides high-speed internet access to homes, farms, and businesses that previously lacked adequate connectivity. Of the original $508,425 grant award, only $210,999.76 was spent by All West, with $211,985.08 reallocated to HiCountryNet. The funds supported installation costs, project planning and design, materials, and permitting. The result was the deployment of 4.74 miles of fiber, creating a robust 1000/1000+ Mbps fiber optic network across the Croydon area. With the infrastructure complete and the project 100% finished, All West has ensured long-term broadband capacity in an underserved area with a relatively small footprint but high impact.

Direct Communications

Direct Communications Cedar Valley, LLC has successfully completed a full fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) broadband project in the White Hills neighborhood of Eagle Mountain, Utah. This rural area of 111 residences previously relied on low-quality DSL and fixed wireless internet, offering poor speed and reliability. As of December 31, 2024, the project was 100% complete, and all homes now have access to buried, ducted fiber with symmetric speeds up to 2 Gbps. Adoption reached 54% by April 2025, demonstrating strong community interest and satisfaction with the new service.
The project received a $600,000 ARPA grant, of which $566,723.54 (94%) was disbursed. Funds were used to purchase fiber infrastructure materials, electronics, and contractor services. The construction resulted in 15.63 miles of fiber deployed, connecting every household in the service area. Installation was customized based on best practices, with network interface points located either inside or outside homes depending on the optimal configuration. This investment established a scalable, future-proof broadband network for the White Hills neighborhood.

Beehive Broadband

Box Elder County Government, in partnership with the Bear River Association of Governments and Beehive Broadband, completed a comprehensive broadband infrastructure project serving several rural communities in Utah. This effort targeted areas long underserved by high-speed internet, including Thatcher, Penrose, Howell, Bear River City, Elwood, Willard, South Willard, and Mantua. The project is now 100% complete and successfully delivered broadband access to residents previously dependent on limited or no connectivity. With an adoption rate of 40% as of April 2025, the project has meaningfully narrowed the digital divide across the region.
The project received and fully disbursed $7,431,135.00 in ARPA grant funds. These resources supported labor, materials, and costs related to infrastructure agreements, including those with agencies such as Rocky Mountain Power. A total of 81.8 miles of fiber were deployed, enabling reliable, high-speed internet access for residents and

institutions throughout the target communities. The funds allowed for a robust and scalable broadband network to be installed, helping rural Utah meet growing digital demands across sectors like education, healthcare, and business.

CentraCom
Central Telcom Services, LLC is deploying high-speed broadband infrastructure in Millard County, Utah, as part of a project funded by the ARPA Capital Projects Fund. The project covers 437 locations and is currently 97% complete, with 33.81 miles of fiber deployed. Initial services have been launched in Meadow and Kanosh, with fiber-based services scheduled to begin in Leamington by August. While adoption currently stands at 20%, this is expected to rise to 70% as the service matures. Residents in these communities are now gaining access to reliable, high-speed internet for the first time, marking a significant digital upgrade for rural Utah.

Of the $839,708.00 total grant award, $755,737.20 (90%) has been disbursed. These funds supported the completion of all conduit and fiber installations through the middle-mile network. Service drops are now being prepared, and cabinets have been installed and activated in Leamington. Fixed wireless solutions are also being offered to residents in areas where fiber cannot be deployed due to infrastructure limitations, such as the railroad corridor. The project was granted a one-year extension, with closeout anticipated in the fourth quarter of the current year.

HiCountryNet
HiCountryNet, LLC, based in Herriman, Utah, is nearing completion of a broadband infrastructure expansion funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Capital Projects Fund. The project encompasses 315 locations, with an overall completion rate of 92.38% and 9.71 miles of fiber deployed to date. Originally slated to begin construction on November 9, 2026, the project instead began early on June 5, 2024, and remains on track to begin operations by December 20, 2024. Despite high summer temperatures, progress continues without delay. HiCountryNet currently serves over 90% of its customers through wireless service but has begun transitioning some to fiber as deployment advances.

To date, $513,049 of the $767,795 grant award has been disbursed—approximately 67%. These funds have supported various construction phases, with Phases 1, 2, and 4 already completed, and Phase 3 at 70% completion. Grant resources have been used to deploy fiber infrastructure and support labor costs, such as equipment operators paid prevailing wages. The strategic aim is to transition the customer base from predominantly wireless to fiber, thereby improving reliability and speed in the underserved community.

Utah Broadband

The West Mountain Fiber project, led by Utah Broadband in collaboration with the South Utah Valley Electric Service District (SESD), aims to deliver high-speed broadband to a rural, underserved region of Utah. As of now, construction is in progress with key foundational work completed, including the installation of nearly one mile of underground conduit and over four miles of aerial strand. While fiber has yet to be deployed, critical components such as head-end electronics are already installed and powered. The project is preparing to connect its first customers as soon as pending railroad permits are approved and remaining make-ready work on power poles is completed.

Out of a total grant award of $4,148,244.64, $542,649.54 (13%) has been disbursed to date. These funds have been used to initiate construction activities, including trenching, conduit installation, aerial strand deployment, and preparation for fiber pulling. Railroad insurance has been secured and permit applications submitted to Union Pacific for critical crossings. The project team has also installed in-ground vaults and coordinated the electrification of head-end systems, ensuring that infrastructure is ready once fiber installation proceeds.

Navajo Tribal Utility Authority

The Montezuma Creek Fiber to the Home Project, led by the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA), is designed to bring broadband access to Montezuma Creek, Utah—a remote and historically underserved area within the Navajo Nation. This census-designated community currently lacks reliable high-speed internet, and the project aims to provide digital connectivity for residents, businesses, and key anchor institutions. As of the current reporting period, 78% of the make-ready work has been completed, including the replacement of 77 out of 98 utility poles. The project remains in the Right of Way (ROW) phase and has received a one-year grant extension through December 4, 2026.

Although none of the $420,732 grants have been disbursed to date, the project has achieved significant pre-construction milestones. NTUA has obtained legal plats and requested biological and cultural reports, which are prerequisites for full deployment. ROW approvals continue to be the primary barrier to construction, and bi-weekly meetings are held to facilitate progress and resolve any outstanding issues.

Once construction begins, the grant funds will be used to install last-mile fiber connections using existing electric pole infrastructure managed by NTUA. These funds will cover construction, labor, and materials, enabling the delivery of high-speed broadband to homes and institutions in Montezuma Creek, ultimately providing critical digital access to a historically underserved community.

Box Elder Community Campus
Program Plan Number: CPF_GP-000362
Status: Approved
Funding Amount: $7,000,000
Program Start Date: January 2024
Program End Date: January 2025

The Boys and Girls Club of Northern Utah serves as the grantee for the Box Elder County Community Campus project, which aims to promote economic well-being for individuals, families, and the broader community. The project involves building, remodeling, and establishing a community campus that houses a family center, community center, and shelter. During the state fiscal year 2025 performance period, the property was acquired, parcels were divided, and the master plan for the campus was completed. Although there were some unintended delays in starting the project due to the land acquisition process, the project remains on track to meet the projected timeline. Local residents were able to access the facility during remodeling for community events and recreational activities.

As proposed, funds for the project have been used to support engineering and design, building permits, contracts, construction, furniture, equipment, project management, storage, and other construction-related requirements. Construction was put out to bid through the State of Utah Division of Facilities and Construction Management, following all applicable systems and requirements.

The project is establishing three centers within the campus: a community center for club programming and community agencies; an events center with a full-size gym for larger community events; and a domestic violence shelter and family education center. Multiple agencies, organizations, and community groups will utilize the center, and MOUs and service agreements will establish long-term occupancy. These agreements will provide access to thousands of local residents and clients from economically distressed communities.

The campus will address three primary focus areas: Workforce, Health & Wellness, and Education. Workforce programs include job skills labs and classes, a small business resource center, an entrepreneur center, child care, employment counseling, and college and career programming. Health & Wellness initiatives include a health center with screenings, a mental health and wellness center, an event center for fairs and education, safe spaces for families, women's health programming, counseling services, social-emotional programs, and housing and safety programs. Education-focused programs include a parent education center, mentoring center, and an academic tutoring and support center. Success within each area will be measured through participation,

pre- and post-testing, referrals, evaluation tools, community engagement, decreased risk factors, and other metrics employed by community partners.

Notable challenges encountered during this reporting period included delays in acquiring the land, which pushed back the project start date. Additionally, safety requirements limited the number of organizations that could access the center during remodeling. Extensive coordination with the city was required to accommodate local needs, and there were minor delays in construction supplies and inventory. Despite these challenges, the project is on track to meet the performance deadline of December 31, 2026.

Key outcomes achieved to date include: the opening of the existing building for nonprofit and community group use in April 2024; property acquisition, parcel division, and campus master plan completion in June 2024; completion of engineering and architecture for remodeling and shelter construction; construction put out to bid and contracts awarded in September 2024; the beginning of construction in September 2024; additional funds raised to meet overall funding goals; and establishment of 0–5 child care services.

Utah Department of Transportation Middle Mile Projects
Program Plan Number: CPF_GP-000196
Status: Approved
Funding Amount: $96,600,035
Program Start Date: February 2024
Program End Date: December 31, 2026

The Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) Middle Mile project focuses on unserved and underserved areas of Utah that lack the infrastructure that reliably connects rural communities and households to broadband services. One of the biggest hurdles for rural broadband providers is right of way and environmental clearances needed to install middle mile fiber to get to the rural population. This project will allow providers to focus on last mile installation at the same time UDOT is focusing on and building the middle mile connection. UDOT right of way and telecommunication infrastructure is telecom carrier neutral by state law. This project includes Logan Canyon, Trappers Loop and Levan.

UDOT is uniquely positioned to install the middle mile fiber gap because of the state and federal highway right of ways. Clearing right of ways, permits, and environmental clearances can take broadband providers years to obtain. Digital inequity is impacting our rural areas *now*. This allows equal opportunity for any entity to partner with UDOT, in addition to promoting competition and better pricing for all areas of the state.

This project provides opportunities for multiple Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to build and service this area competitively without having to build the expensive middle mile infrastructure. UDOT will build and maintain the middle mile that will connect to the last mile and connect individual homes and businesses. UDOT will work with local ISPs to coordinate the connection to the last mile users.

<u>Logan Canyon Middle Mile</u>
Key design for this project was completed in September 2024 and advertised to contractors that same month. Construction was awarded to a contractor in October 2024, with work beginning in May 2025. By the end of June 2025, approximately 15% of the construction had been completed. During this reporting period, 1,720,428 feet of conduit, 185,000 feet of fiber cable, and 617 fiber boxes were procured and delivered to UDOT. The completion of fiber optic cable installation is planned for the first 10 miles at the mouth of the canyon by November 2025. Although the project is not yet far enough along to serve individuals and households directly, UDOT is collaborating with communities to provide Wi-Fi hotspots at community-owned buildings. CentraCom Interactive is partnering with UDOT to build fiber to the home in the surrounding areas concurrently with this project.

Several challenges were encountered during this reporting period. A significant issue involved approximately 1,500 feet of faulty orange cell 1D fiber conduit, which needs to be replaced by the vendor. The most practical solution is to widen the trench and replace the entire conduit bundle rather than attempting to protect the existing conduit while making repairs. This approach minimizes the risk of damage to surrounding lines and is expected to be faster and more reliable. Another challenge arose when attaching fiber conduit to concrete girders and bridges. While UDOT's standards address attachments to steel girders, no standard exists for concrete girders. A potential solution has been identified and is currently undergoing engineering review. This work is scheduled for completion during the next annual reporting cycle. A new master agreement has also been established to outline bridge attachment costs for telecom partners, providing clarity and consistency moving forward.

An opportunity identified during this reporting period is "Dig Once" collaboration with utility companies. Rocky Mountain Power, Logan City Light and Power, and Logan City Irrigation Company will co-locate their utilities in the same trench as UDOT's fiber conduit, promoting efficiency and reducing disruption.

The main ancillary cost for this project is public involvement. UDOT has a dedicated public involvement team actively engaging a wide range of stakeholders to disseminate information, answer questions, and conduct outreach to affected communities. These efforts ensure transparency and community awareness throughout the construction process.

Levan Middle Mile

The project design was completed and advertised to contractors in March 2025. The bidding process proved to be highly competitive, with the awarded contract coming in at only 51 percent of the engineer's estimate. Three additional bids were submitted at 79 percent, 91 percent, and 99 percent of the estimate, respectively. To ensure accuracy, the low-bid contractor was contacted directly and expressed confidence in their submitted pricing. Following award, fiber conduit and cable were ordered and delivered to the UDOT shed in Gunnison. Construction began in June 2025 and is scheduled to be completed by summer 2026.

During the reporting period, UDOT encountered a challenge with the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) compliance item. The design plans had listed "Fiber Rolls" as a linear feature, but in practice, most of the areas requiring protection are spot features such as culverts and washes. To address this, UDOT is preparing a change order to properly reflect the additional work required to install and remove fiber rolls at multiple discrete locations rather than as a single continuous run. This adjustment is expected to increase the overall contract cost by approximately $200,000.

At the same time, a significant opportunity emerged due to lower-than-anticipated bid pricing. With the cost savings realized, UDOT plans to extend the scope of the project by adding an additional 25 miles of fiber installation along SR-50 between Aurora and Scipio. This extension will provide service to an unserved area, create a redundant network loop, and open future opportunities for expanding cellular coverage in the region.

Trappers Loop Middle Mile

During the reporting period, significant progress was made in preparing for project implementation. The design phase was completed in May 2025, and the project was advertised to contractors that same month. Construction for Phase 1 had already been awarded to a contractor in June 2024, setting the stage for upcoming work. In addition, key materials were procured and delivered to UDOT, including 330,000 feet of conduit, 173,942 feet of fiber cable, and 186 fiber boxes. These steps have ensured that construction activities can proceed on schedule.

Looking ahead, construction for Phase 1 is anticipated to begin in July 2025 and conclude in September 2025. This work will lay the foundation for expanding connectivity in underserved areas, and UDOT anticipates reporting measurable service outcomes in the next annual reporting cycle.

Although the project is not yet enough to directly serve individuals and households, UDOT has been proactive in coordinating with local communities and telecommunications partners to expand access in the interim. Wi-Fi hotspots are being established at community-owned buildings, ensuring that residents have some level of

connectivity as construction progresses. UDOT is working closely with AllWest Communications, Beehive Broadband, Liberty Wireless, and Comcast to ensure fiber access is in place to support long-term service delivery. UDOT expects to provide detailed reporting on the number of individuals and households served in the next annual report.

Several challenges were also encountered during this period. Coordination with Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) regarding right-of-way and easement issues remains unresolved and is currently under discussion between attorneys for UDOT (the state Attorney General's Office) and UPRR. In addition, geotechnical concerns along SR-226 have required land surveys to begin the process of identifying a viable solution, though a final resolution has not yet been determined. Another challenge involved guardrail footing placements, which will be addressed by boring the fiber conduit through the area rather than using the standard pavement-cutting method.

The primary ancillary cost associated with this project has been public involvement. UDOT has dedicated resources to its public involvement team, which has been actively working with a wide range of stakeholders. Their efforts include disseminating project information, answering questions, and conducting outreach to affected communities to ensure transparency and engagement throughout the project's lifecycle.

US-40 Jurassic Middle Mile
Project design for the US-40 fiber expansion began in February 2025. To manage the complexity of the work, the project was subdivided into four distinct geographic segments that will be advertised to contractors and constructed separately. Segment A covers the westernmost portion of the project, running through a canyon environment between Heber City and Daniels Summit. Segment B continues east through a more open corridor extending from Daniels Summit to the western boundary of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation lands. Segment C encompasses the portion of the route crossing tribal lands, while Segment D extends from the east side of the Reservation to the Colorado border.

During this reporting period, UDOT encountered several challenges. A key issue has been compliance with tribal process and timeline requirements, which necessitates additional coordination and review. Another challenge arose at the Starvation Reservoir Bridge, where UDOT had initially planned to use existing fiber conduit installed by a telecommunications company. Upon inspection, it was determined that the conduit did not meet UDOT standards and would compromise the system's longevity. As a result, the conduit will need to be replaced, and similar issues are anticipated on other bridges along the project route.

Despite these challenges, the project has also presented meaningful opportunities. UDOT's partnership with the Ute Tribe has been highly positive and has created an

opportunity to strengthen relationships and foster collaboration between the agency and tribal leadership. This partnership is expected to benefit both the current project and future infrastructure efforts in the region.

Key activities during the reporting period included initiating project design and procuring major materials. UDOT acquired 2,111,336 feet of conduit, 693,204 feet of fiber cable (with 80,190 feet already delivered), and 379 fiber boxes (with 220 delivered). These steps have ensured that construction can begin as soon as design milestones are met and contracts are awarded.

Looking ahead, design work for Segment A is expected to be completed and advertised to contractors by late summer 2025. Segments B and D are anticipated to follow in the fall of 2025, while Segment C is expected to take longer due to tribal compliance requirements. Construction on all segments is expected to conclude by late 2026. UDOT is also coordinating with the Ute Tribe to support their efforts on a separate federal tribal grant, ensuring the two projects complement one another.

Although the project is not yet at a stage where it can directly serve individuals and households, UDOT has been proactive in providing interim connectivity. Wi-Fi hotspots have been established at community-owned buildings, with the Ute Tribe serving as a key partner in these efforts. UDOT expects to provide detailed reporting on the number of individuals and households served in the next annual cycle.

Challenges continue to be addressed through structured processes. Tribal compliance requirements are being met through deliberate coordination and ongoing dialogue, with good progress toward resolving outstanding issues. For the fiber conduit installation across bridges, the project design team's structural designer is reviewing all structure attachments to ensure compliance with UDOT standards and will provide recommendations on how to proceed.

The primary ancillary cost associated with the project is public involvement. UDOT has dedicated a specialized team to engage stakeholders, share project information, respond to inquiries, and conduct outreach with affected communities to maintain transparency and build trust throughout the project's lifecycle.

Zion Middle Mile

Environmental and design work on the project began in December 2024. The environmental review for portions of the project located within UDOT road rights-of-way has been completed, while design work for the segments inside Zion National Park boundaries was finalized in June 2025. This milestone allows NPS and UDOT to collaborate on the environmental review for the park sections, which is anticipated to be completed by October 2025. An agreement between UDOT and NPS was signed in August 2024 to authorize detailed design and environmental compliance efforts,

ensuring work could progress on schedule.

Several challenges emerged during the reporting period. One involved NPS requirements for environmental documentation. While the most streamlined process could apply to this project, eligibility depends on whether disturbed soil can be classified as "stable," a somewhat ambiguous term. To resolve this, UDOT has engaged a geotechnical firm to perform soil classification, with confidence that a report will satisfy NPS requirements. In addition, NPS requires UDOT to provide a 70 percent design plan—detailing all proposed connections and impacts within the park—before initiating their environmental review. This differs from UDOT's standard process and has delayed the environmental timeline, though the 70 percent design comment resolution meeting was completed on July 9, 2025. UDOT remains optimistic that the environmental review will be completed in time to advance the project to construction. Another challenge relates to resurfacing projects within Springdale and Rockville, where directional drilling will be required to minimize impacts, increasing installation costs.

At the same time, several opportunities have arisen. UDOT is installing additional conduit capacity to support future telecommunications growth in the area. Through partnership with South Central Communications, UDOT has been able to leverage existing conduit installed on the east side of the project, reducing construction costs. Coordination with NPS has also revealed that its upcoming water and sewer line replacement project in Zion Canyon will include conduit installation, creating opportunities to expand fiber connections at minimal additional cost. Finally, delays to a planned NPS resurfacing project on the iconic Zion-Mount Carmel Highway have presented a cost-saving opportunity: instead of UDOT restoring the road's unique red pavement after conduit placement, the NPS chip seal resurfacing project will restore the roadway, preserving aesthetics and reducing UDOT's expenses.

During the reporting period, significant procurement milestones were achieved. UDOT acquired and received delivery of 465,000 feet of conduit, procured 206,796 feet of fiber cable (with 220,178 feet delivered), and procured 51 fiber boxes (44 delivered). These materials position the project for timely construction once environmental approvals are secured.

Looking forward, UDOT anticipates completing environmental and design work for all project segments, including those within Zion National Park, in fall 2025. The project will be advertised to contractors at that time, with construction expected to be completed by summer 2026.

Although the project is not yet far enough along to directly serve households, UDOT is working with communities to provide Wi-Fi hotspots at community-owned buildings. South Central Communications has also partnered with UDOT, investing its own capital to build fiber-to-the-home connections in communities on both sides of Zion National

Park. This middle-mile project will complete a fiber ring connecting through the park, positioning the region for long-term broadband access. UDOT expects to provide more detailed reporting on individuals and households served in the next annual report.

The most significant challenge remains completing the environmental documentation within the park. UDOT addresses this through soil classification studies and compliance with NPS's unique 70 percent design plan requirement. Directional drilling requirements in Springdale and Rockville will increase costs, but these have been incorporated into construction plans.

The primary ancillary cost for the project is public involvement. UDOT has dedicated a public involvement team to working with stakeholders, disseminate information, answer questions, and conduct outreach in affected communities, ensuring transparency and engagement throughout the project lifecycle.

Utah Education and Telehealth Network Infrastructure Upgrade Project
Program Plan Number: CPF_GP-000195
Status: Approved
Funding Amount: $19,295,400
Program Start Date: July 2024
Program End Date: December 31, 2026

The funds for this project are being used to enhance middle-mile and last-mile broadband capabilities for schools, libraries, and key telehealth institutions in Utah. The Utah Education and Telehealth Network (UETN) serve as an anchor institution, ensuring service provider sustainability while introducing fiber optic infrastructure into neighborhoods and communities. This approach benefits residential, business, government, and healthcare customers. The project includes upgrading key components of the middle mile such as hardware, cybersecurity, and software—to better support last-mile connections. These critical network improvements will have lasting effects on schools, libraries, and healthcare facilities served by UETN, providing reliable service for Utah's students and disadvantaged communities.

UETN has made significant progress on the CPF-funded Network Infrastructure Upgrade Project, which focuses on modernizing Utah's middle-mile infrastructure to improve last-mile broadband connectivity for underserved communities. By partnering with local internet service providers, UETN is enhancing service to public schools, libraries, and healthcare facilities—particularly in rural and tribal areas where connectivity is often most limited.

Key outcomes have already been achieved during the reporting period. UETN completed modernization of hardware and software at eight key sites to support a 400 GB backbone, significantly increasing network capacity to meet the expanding needs of public Wi-Fi at libraries, higher education institutions, and healthcare sites. Aggregation edge installations at four key sites were also completed, improving efficient routing to the core network and enhancing scalability and performance. In addition, UETN has installed approximately 385 miles of dark fiber across eight routes, providing long-term capacity and resilience for the network.

Since the beginning of the project, UETN has completed out-of-band management upgrades at 43 higher education and K–12 sites, with the remaining sites scheduled for completion before the project deadline. Public Wi-Fi improvements have been delivered to 42 of the planned 54 libraries, providing free access to community members across the state. Cybersecurity enhancements are also underway: Adlumin Security implementation and a baseline security review have been completed, while statewide MDR, Gigamon, and Netflow implementation remain in progress.

Looking ahead, construction for the San Juan fiber build is scheduled to begin in early August. The San Juan School District is also partnering with a contractor to install fiber at three K–12 sites in Blanding, Utah. These projects will extend high-speed connectivity to underserved schools and communities in the region.

Overall, the project strengthens broadband infrastructure at community anchor institutions—schools, libraries, and healthcare sites—that serve as essential access points for residents. This expansion supports adult education, telehealth access, and digital literacy resources that benefit surrounding households, particularly in rural and underserved areas. UETN measures success by tracking increased network capacity, improved service reliability, and expanded institutional reach. Feedback from stakeholders and data from UETN's network operations center help ensure that infrastructure upgrades translate into meaningful improvements in community access and opportunity.

PROMOTING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES

Utah's CPF projects are designed to ensure that all Utahns, regardless of geography or circumstance, can benefit from investments in broadband, education, and infrastructure. In particular, they are supporting rural Utah's participation in the state's strong economic future. Through sustainable economic development, targeted investments in rural infrastructure, and strengthened coordination between state, local, and federal partners, Utah is addressing long-standing disparities in access to opportunity. These efforts are focused on providing the tools communities need to thrive while maintaining the unique character and strengths of rural regions.

The three approved CPF projects—Utah Rural Last Mile Broadband Grants Program, the Box Elder Community Campus, and the Utah Department of Transportation Middle Mile Projects advance these equity goals by directly enabling remote work, expanding access to education, and supporting telehealth services in rural and underserved communities. By extending high-speed connectivity and improving infrastructure where it is needed most, these projects lay the foundation for long-term resilience and prosperity, ensuring that Utah's rural communities are not left behind in the digital economy.

Utah Rural Last Mile Broadband Grants Program

These projects were intentionally directed toward communities with demonstrated broadband needs, including tribal lands, agricultural zones, and remote neighborhoods. NTUA's Montezuma Creek buildout, for example, focuses on tribal communities and includes critical anchor institutions such as schools and health centers. In Box Elder County, Beehive's deployment brought reliable internet to cities that had previously lacked adequate service, helping promote both social and economic inclusion. AllWest extended high-speed fiber to more than 50 rural homes and businesses in Croydon, while HiCountryNet and UBB are working to migrate underserved wireless users to fiber connections, providing greater stability and speed. Collectively, these efforts enable equitable access to essential services such as online education, telehealth, remote work, and digital government—addressing critical gaps that became especially evident during the COVID-19 pandemic.

All West Communications
The Croydon area, being rural and previously lacking reliable internet access, was a strong candidate for equity-focused broadband investment. Through this project, over 50 homes, farms, and businesses gained access to fiber service, unlocking opportunities in remote work, education, e-commerce, and telehealth. All West is also a participant in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), helping reduce cost barriers for low-income residents. This combination of geographic reach and affordability directly supports ARPA's goal to close the digital divide in high-need communities.

Direct Communications

Though the neighborhood is not classified as economically disadvantaged, it is a rural area that previously lacked access to adequate broadband services. Participation in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) ensures that eligible residents can benefit from reduced-cost internet access. To increase awareness and promote signups, Direct Communications launched a targeted marketing campaign that included signage at neighborhood entrances, yard signs, door hangers, and direct door-to-door outreach. These efforts helped overcome awareness barriers and boosted adoption in a previously underserved region.

Beehive Broadband

This project was designed to directly address long-standing disparities in broadband access. The participating communities had previously suffered from connectivity gaps that limited educational attainment, economic opportunity, and access to healthcare. By deploying modern infrastructure and joining the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), Beehive Broadband helped ensure that affordability and digital equity were central to the effort. As a result, residents now benefit from essential tools that support remote work, telehealth, and online learning, helping drive long-term social and economic inclusion.

CentraCom

By participating in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), Central Telcom Services is helping ensure that low-income households in Millard County can afford broadband service. This is especially significant in rural towns like Meadow, Kanosh, and Leamington, which have historically lacked access to modern internet infrastructure. The introduction of fixed wireless for homes unable to receive fiber further reflects the project's commitment to inclusivity and overcoming geographical barriers to connectivity. The high community enthusiasm signals strong demand and potential for long-term impact on education, employment, and public services.

HiCountryNet

HiCountryNet participates in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), ensuring low-income households can access broadband services at a reduced cost. This initiative supports digital equity by providing affordable access to reliable internet in a rural or underserved area, where traditional providers may not offer sufficient coverage or speed. The project's goal of converting wireless users to fiber connections aligns with broader federal objectives of closing the digital divide and ensuring long-term infrastructure sustainability in marginalized communities.

Utah Broadband

This broadband project is designed to address major digital inequities in a rural area with limited connectivity. Once completed, it will enable residents to engage in remote work, participate in online education, access telehealth services, and utilize government and public resources more efficiently. The project also supports smart agriculture and aims to stimulate economic development through improved infrastructure. Participation in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) ensures that the service will remain financially accessible to low-income residents, reinforcing its mission to bridge the digital divide.

Navajo Tribal Utility Authority

Montezuma Creek is a community with limited access to digital services, and this project directly targets those inequities. By connecting schools, healthcare providers, public offices, and small businesses to reliable high-speed internet, NTUA is enabling critical services such as online education, telehealth, remote work, and public benefits access. Participation in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) will ensure that low-income households can afford the new service, reinforcing the project's focus on inclusivity and long-term digital equity within the Navajo Nation.

The Utah Rural Last Mile Broadband Grants Program, administered by the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity (GOEO), was designed to expand broadband accessibility in unserved rural and underserved economically distressed areas across the state. As part of the Utah Broadband Center, this initiative brings together a wide network of partners, including nonprofit and government agencies, legislators, tribal groups, economic development offices, healthcare and educational organizations, broadband and internet service providers, and participants in the Utah Broadband Alliance. By focusing on offsetting capital expenses, the program makes it possible to deploy high-speed broadband to households and businesses that would otherwise remain unserved due to challenges such as rural geography, economic limitations, or high infrastructure costs.

Box Elder Community Campus

The Box Elder Community Campus is a cost-saving initiative designed to provide the workforce in Northern Utah with expanded childcare options, alongside a wide range of nonprofit services aimed at supporting family self-sufficiency. These services are intended to assist employees who face barriers to employment due to childcare challenges or other difficult circumstances, including housing instability, mental health concerns, domestic safety issues, physical health needs, and family struggles. The center will address these challenges through a comprehensive array of programs and resources, including transitional housing, domestic violence services, prevention

programs, skills training, counseling, mental and physical health support, family assistance, and legal aid.

The project is intentionally designed to serve underserved groups and address critical community needs. Programming already underway includes recreation opportunities for disabled youth, support groups for families of disabled youth, homeschool association programs for disenfranchised families, and a grandfamilies program for kinship care. Childcare will support parents onboarding new employment, and qualified nutrition programs, including the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), are offered to the entire community. The campus also hosted Northern Utah's first AA conference in April, with additional programming to come once the building is completed.

Upon completion, the community campus will expand access to services for all clients, increase ADA accessibility for programs, activities, classes, and events, and provide additional services to both older and younger populations. Continued coordination with the community will ensure that underserved groups are identified and their needs addressed. The project also aims to enhance digital connectivity for all populations served. Awareness and accessibility are central to the project's mission, and significant community engagement has already occurred. The Founders Night event, held on November 7, 2024, included local, state, and federal leaders, representatives from large employers, nonprofit partners, and education and training organizations. A subsequent open house allowed community members to engage with the campus and its partners.

Although construction is ongoing and full programming is not yet available, project progress is being tracked through bi-weekly On-Site Owner-Architect-Contractor meetings and regular reporting from all contractors and subcontractors. The Box Elder Community Campus specifically targets the funding priorities of workforce, education, and health. Led by the Boys & Girls Club of Northern Utah in partnership with the New Hope Crisis Center, the project has established clear objectives: promoting economic well-being for individuals, families, and the community; improving health outcomes and addressing health disparities; and fostering academic success and job skills development.

The center will host hundreds of programs in a safe and secure environment, including domestic violence support, childcare, housing assistance, mental health services, financial literacy, and legal services. Transitional housing will also be provided, ensuring that families have stability while accessing these critical supports. The project addresses the long-term needs of a community heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, where many parents worked extended hours while children lacked supervision, mental health declined, and skill development stagnated. Housing instability and underemployment further exacerbated these challenges.

Located in the highest intergenerational poverty neighborhood of Box Elder County, the campus will have a significant impact where it is needed most. The county is largely rural and manufacturing-dependent, with nearly 20% of the working population lacking a high school diploma, lower rates of post-secondary education, and longer work commutes compared to the state average. Childcare shortages are severe, with nearly half of retired residents caring for grandchildren. The neighborhood faces a 28% intergenerational poverty rate, and over 20% of children are at risk of remaining in poverty into adulthood. Mental health challenges are a major concern, with suicide rates, attempts, and other crises occurring at rates higher than both state and national averages. Obesity, poor nutrition, family violence, drug abuse, addiction, and financial instability continue to hinder economic development and employment opportunities. The Box Elder Community Campus is designed to directly address these barriers, providing a comprehensive support system that promotes economic stability, health, and educational advancement for the entire community.

Utah Department of Transportation Middle Mile Projects

Logan Canyon Middle Mile

Community outreach prior to this project included a wide array of stakeholders to ensure that local needs and concerns were understood and addressed. Outreach efforts involved citizens living in the geographical areas, city mayors, county commissioners, state and federal legislators, the United States Forest Service, and telecommunication providers such as CenturyLink, CentraCom, First Digital, AT&T, and Crown Castle. The Utah Communications Authority, which provides public safety radio services, was also engaged. Additionally, the project was coordinated with the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) process to ensure alignment with broader infrastructure planning.

During these outreach efforts, the main comments received from the community centered on three questions: "How fast can this be built?", "Where do we get the funding?", and "What can we do to help?" Key concerns expressed included minimizing the impact of construction on the natural beauty of Logan Canyon while still delivering the essential broadband services needed by residents. UDOT addressed these concerns by demonstrating flexibility and community sensitivity. For example, camouflaged fiber markers were developed to replace the typical bright orange markers, and fiber and conduit were routed under pavement or along the edge of the shoulder to preserve the delicate canyon ecosystem. These measures illustrate UDOT's commitment to balancing environmental stewardship with critical infrastructure development.

The project specifically targets individuals and groups with critical needs, including those with limited internet access, low-income households, individuals with limited digital skills,

seniors, immigrants, small businesses, students, and persons with disabilities. Access to high-speed internet has proven benefits across these populations, enabling students to learn and thrive, businesses to remain competitive, seniors to access telehealth services, and all community members to participate fully in the digital society.

To promote awareness, UDOT has leveraged its public involvement efforts to highlight the benefits this project will bring to the community. Detailed information on these engagement activities can be found in Section 5 of this report. While the project is still in the early stages and outcomes relative to the stated goals have not yet been fully documented, progress to date indicates that the project is on track to achieve the desired objectives and deliver meaningful benefits to the communities it serves. Watch video Logan Canyon Fiber project

Levan Middle Mile
On January 19, 2023, a broadband workshop was hosted with representatives from Juab and Sanpete Counties and surrounding municipalities to discuss local connectivity challenges and barriers to internet adoption. Key takeaways from this workshop highlighted the negative impacts of low internet speeds on teleworking capabilities, as well as the pressing need for broadband infrastructure in small rural communities. Local ISP CentraCom has invested substantial funding to build fiber-to-the-home connections, and the middle-mile project is designed to complement these efforts, providing resilience and improved connectivity for these rural areas. The middle-mile infrastructure, constructed in tandem with CentraCom's fiber-to-the-home buildout, aims to meet community connectivity needs by the project's completion.

Workshop discussions also emphasized that students in areas lacking sufficient infrastructure struggle to access virtual learning opportunities due to inadequate home internet. Many residents in these areas rely on satellite or wireless internet, which can be expensive and less reliable. Since the project's inception, UDOT has engaged closely with county commissioners, city elected officials, statewide leadership, and local ISPs to address the needs of populations with critical connectivity challenges. These populations include individuals with limited internet access, low-income households, people with limited digital skills, seniors, immigrants, small businesses, students, and individuals with disabilities. Access to high-speed internet is proven to support student learning, enable businesses to remain competitive, expand telehealth access for seniors, and allow all community members to fully participate in the digital economy.

UDOT's public involvement efforts are actively promoting awareness of the benefits this project will bring to local communities. Detailed information on these engagement activities can be found in Section 5 of this report. While the project is not yet far enough along to have documented outcomes relative to the stated goals, progress is on track to

meet the intended objectives. Future annual reports will feature detailed outcomes as the project advances and measurable results become available.

Trappers Loop Middle Mile
On January 24–25, 2023, broadband workshops were held with representatives from Morgan and Weber Counties, as well as local municipalities, to assess connectivity across the region and identify community priorities and needs. Through these workshops, unserved and underserved locations were mapped, and barriers to broadband access and adoption were recognized. These communities face critical needs that can be addressed through the implementation of this project, including emergency response, affordability, and access to opportunities.

The lack of reliable connectivity in these areas has tangible impacts on public safety and day-to-day life. The fiber optic backbone, combined with the addition of traffic monitoring cameras, will enhance emergency response capabilities and increase safety for residents and visitors. During the winter months, roadways experience additional traffic from recreationists traveling to Snowbasin Ski Resort, and real-time monitoring of road conditions will help commuters, residents, and visitors make informed travel decisions.

Rural and low-income residents are disproportionately affected by limited connectivity. The fiber optic infrastructure provided by this project will allow internet service providers to connect qualifying households through the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). By owning the conduit and fiber, UDOT ensures that multiple providers can access the infrastructure, foster competitive pricing and expand service options for households that may not qualify for ACP. This enables residents to fully participate in telework, online education, telehealth, and other digital services. All providers using this infrastructure are required to participate in the ACP, ensuring affordability and equitable access.

An extensive public awareness campaign will be conducted leading up to and during construction. The campaign will begin with the identification of stakeholders throughout Morgan and Weber Counties and research into the most effective engagement methods for each group, providing meaningful opportunities for input and information sharing. UDOT's public involvement efforts continue to promote awareness of the benefits this project will provide to communities; additional details are included in Section 5 of this report.

While the project is still in the early stages and outcomes relative to project goals are not yet documented, progress is on track to meet the intended objectives. Future annual reports will feature detailed outcomes as the project advances and measurable results become available.

US-40 Jurassic Middle Mile

A broadband workshop was hosted with representatives from counties, surrounding municipalities, and tribal lands to discuss local connectivity challenges and barriers to internet adoption and access. Key takeaways from this workshop included the negative impact of low internet speeds on teleworking capabilities, the urgent broadband needs of small rural communities, and the difficulties students face in accessing virtual learning opportunities due to limited home internet. Many residents in these areas also rely on satellite internet, which can be costly and less reliable. Local ISPs have invested in expanding broadband to larger communities but face challenges in crossing tribal lands to reach smaller, rural locations. Any use of middle-mile conduit over tribal lands must comply with all tribal requirements.

Since the project's inception, UDOT has engaged closely with county commissioners, city elected officials, tribal leaders, statewide leadership, and local ISPs to identify populations with critical needs and develop strategies to address them. These populations include individuals with limited internet access, low-income households, those with limited digital skills, seniors, immigrants, small businesses, students, and individuals with disabilities. Access to high-speed internet is proven to support student learning, enable businesses to remain competitive, expand telehealth access for seniors, and allow all community members to fully participate in the digital society.

UDOT is leveraging its public involvement efforts to promote awareness of the benefits this project will provide to communities. Additional information about these outreach efforts is included in Section 5 of this report. While the project is not yet far enough along to document outcomes relative to project goals, progress is on track to meet the intended objectives. Detailed outcomes will be reported in future annual reports as the project advances and measurable results become available.

Zions Middle Mile

In March 2023, broadband workshops were hosted in Washington and Kane Counties, bringing together local leaders, emergency service providers, educators, and other interested stakeholders to discuss connectivity challenges and barriers to internet adoption. Key takeaways from these workshops included limited options for service providers, resulting in extremely high monthly costs; internet packages with advertised speeds that are often not achievable; students' inability to access virtual learning opportunities due to lack of home internet; and reliance on satellite or wireless internet in areas where fiber to the home is unavailable or cost prohibitive.

UDOT has engaged closely with county commissioners, city elected officials, statewide leadership, and local ISPs to identify populations with critical needs and develop strategies to address them. These populations include residents with limited internet access, low-income households, individuals with limited digital skills, seniors,

immigrants, small businesses, students, and people with disabilities. Access to high-speed internet has been shown to improve educational outcomes, enable businesses to remain competitive, expand telehealth access for seniors, and allow community members to fully participate in the digital society.

Through public involvement efforts, UDOT is actively promoting awareness of the benefits this project will bring to communities. Further details on outreach activities are included in Section 5 of this report. While the project is not yet far enough along to report measurable outcomes relative to project goals, progress is on track to achieve the intended objectives. Outcomes will be featured in future annual reports as data becomes available.

Utah Education and Telehealth Network Infrastructure Upgrade Project

The Utah Education and Telehealth Network (UETN) Infrastructure Upgrade Project is designed to enhance connectivity and ensure equitable access to essential services across communities throughout Utah. By partnering with telecommunications providers, UETN connects anchor institutions such as schools, libraries, and healthcare facilities, creating a holistic network that benefits both public entities and individual households. The project specifically supports infrastructure and technology for Pre-K through high schools, school districts, Head Start programs, and healthcare end sites, including those in high-poverty districts. Upgrades to the leased network will ensure that equitable services are accessible statewide, supporting both new and existing sites on UETN's network.

This initiative is intentionally focused on underserved and high-poverty communities, including rural areas, tribal lands, and economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. "Critical need" is defined as areas lacking sufficient network capacity to support current bandwidth demands while allowing for the addition of new schools, libraries, and healthcare institutions without compromising reliability. The network prioritizes key sites, particularly public libraries, which offer free Wi-Fi to community members in critical need areas, ensuring digital access for education, healthcare, and civic participation.

Awareness: CPF-funded services are delivered through trusted community institutions—such as schools, libraries, and healthcare facilities, ensuring that residents can access them where they already seek support. These institutions further promote awareness through local outreach and the availability of public Wi-Fi, increasing the visibility and reach of critical broadband services.

Outcomes: The project has significantly increased network capacity, enabling both new and existing schools, libraries, and healthcare facilities to meet current and future bandwidth demands. Upgraded middle-mile connections and expanded fiber routes allow

UETN to support additional sites while maintaining reliability. Progress is monitored through network utilization data, site installation tracking, and feedback from anchor institutions, ensuring that improvements align with community needs and contribute to closing service gaps across the state.

LABOR

Across Utah's broadband and infrastructure projects funded through the CPF and related programs, all projects reported adherence to prevailing wage standards or higher, reflecting a consistent commitment to fair labor practices and responsible grant stewardship.

Overall, the labor practices across these projects reflect a focus on fair wages, local hiring where applicable, skilled workforce deployment, and alignment with federal wage and civil rights requirements, supporting both infrastructure delivery and local economic development.

Utah Rural Last Mile Broadband Grants Program

All projects confirmed that workers were paid prevailing wages or higher. Examples include Direct Communications paying pipe layers $22/hour and operators $28/hour, and AllWest reporting hourly wages between $21 and $27.55 for its labor force. HiCountryNet paid $25/hour to its backhoe/excavator operators. Several projects emphasized the use of local hiring, including Beehive and Central Telcom, contributing not only to community development through infrastructure, but also by supporting the local workforce. The consistency in prevailing wage compliance across providers reflects a commitment to fair labor practices as part of responsible grant stewardship.

All West Communications
All project workers were paid at or above prevailing wages, with laborers earning between $23 and $27.55 per hour, and operators between $21 and $23 per hour. The wage transparency reflects a commitment to fair labor practices and compliance with federal guidelines. While specific subcontractors or stakeholders weren't listed, the documentation confirms that sufficient labor resources were deployed to complete the project on schedule, with no noted delays or labor-related barriers.

Direct Communications
The project adhered to prevailing wage standards, paying three pipe layers $22 per hour and three operators $28 per hour. Local hiring practices were followed, supporting economic activity in the area. Though no subcontractors or named stakeholders were listed, the report indicates the use of contractor services as part of the funded activities. The labor effort contributed to timely project completion and the successful deployment of high-quality, buried fiber infrastructure.

Beehive Broadband

All laborers were paid at or above prevailing wages, in compliance with federal funding requirements, and local hiring practices were utilized to support workforce development within the region. While specific subcontractors weren't named, the inclusion of agencies like Rocky Mountain Power highlights coordination between public and private sectors. This local hiring approach not only ensured compliance but also supported regional job creation and kept project investments circulating within the community.

CentraCom

All workers on the project are paid at or above prevailing wage standards, ensuring fair compensation in line with labor regulations. BJ Jackson Construction and the municipalities of Kanosh, Leamington, and Meadow have served as critical stakeholders and partners in project execution. The workforce has successfully completed complex infrastructure tasks including fiber splicing, outside plant work, and cabinet installation, even while navigating challenges like railroad permit issues. The adherence to wage standards and use of skilled local labor supports both economic equity and project integrity.

HiCountryNet

The project employs backhoe and excavator operators, including five workers earning $25 per hour or more, in accordance with prevailing wage standards for similar construction projects. There have been no reported issues regarding wage compliance or labor availability. Key partners and subcontractors, such as PCM Industries and Rockaholics, LLC, support specialized aspects of infrastructure deployment. By maintaining fair labor practices and offering competitive compensation, the project promotes local workforce development and contributes to job stability in the region.

Utah Broadband

All project workers are compensated at or above prevailing wage levels. UBB field crews have also demonstrated local investment by cleaning up roadside trash during construction, reflecting community stewardship alongside infrastructure development. Although no detailed labor partner list was provided, the progress on conduit, vaults, and aerial installations shows the use of skilled construction teams in active phases of deployment.

Navajo Tribal Utility Authority

All workers associated with the project are paid wages equal to or above prevailing wage standards. Although construction has not yet begun, 77 poles have already been replaced in anticipation of fiber deployment. NTUA is coordinating with multiple stakeholders, including Millennium Contracting, Inc., and various local institutions, to

ensure readiness once ROW approval is finalized. The project also plans to prioritize local labor and infrastructure providers to keep economic benefits within the community.

Box Elder Community Campus

The Utah Division of Facilities and Construction Management (DFCM) led the bidding and contracting process for the construction of the Box Elder Community Campus. All contractors were selected in accordance with DFCM's existing policies and procedures to ensure compliance with project and procurement requirements. At this stage, no formal community benefit agreements have been established; however, agreements will be implemented as rooms, spaces, and project components are completed. The project is being delivered through the standard bidding process, with no direct hires or personnel costs managed by the grantee. Prevailing wage requirements are embedded in the contracting process rather than through direct project hires.

Utah Department of Transportation Middle Mile Projects

UDOT has executed numerous cooperative agreements with local governments to provide fiber access to government buildings, enabling these agencies to maintain Wi-Fi hotspots for community use. In terms of labor practices, UDOT adheres to all applicable federal requirements, including Civil Rights and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) regulations, with a DBE goal of 3% for project construction. These measures ensure equitable participation and compliance with prevailing labor standards while supporting local workforce engagement.

Utah Education and Telehealth Network Infrastructure Upgrade Project

All projects that involve construction that need to comply with Davis Bacon have agreed to adhere to this standard. They have filled out a certification to confirm they agree and have complied to the terms of Davis Bacon.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement has been a central component of Utah's broadband and connectivity initiatives, ensuring that infrastructure projects are responsive to local needs and broadly supported. Across the Utah Rural Last Mile Broadband Grants Program, projects like Beehive, AllWest, Direct Communications, NTUA, HiCountryNet, and Utah Broadband have engaged local leaders, residents, schools, businesses, and tribal communities to inform project design, deployment, and adoption strategies. Engagement efforts have included community workshops, site visits, stakeholder meetings, public events, translation services, and digital outreach to reach underserved populations, including low-income residents, seniors, students, and individuals with disabilities. These activities have facilitated strong local support, helped identify critical connectivity gaps, and promoted equitable access to telehealth, education, and employment opportunities. Projects have also emphasized coordination with local governments, non-profits, and regional stakeholders to maintain ongoing communication, respond to community feedback, and ensure long-term adoption and benefits.

Utah Rural Last Mile Broadband Grants Program

While some projects are still planning formal community engagement activities (e.g., UBB's public meetings will commence post-winter), others have already seen positive outcomes. Beehive conducted visits across multiple cities and reported broad community support. AllWest engaged with local leaders during the grant application and continued outreach through marketing and word-of-mouth. Direct Communications received positive community feedback and celebrated their success with a ribbon splicing event. NTUA noted the project's transformative potential for online schooling, telemedicine, and digital connectivity in the Montezuma Creek region. Together, these engagement efforts help ensure the infrastructure meets real community needs and builds trust and adoption among residents.

All West Communications
All West proactively engaged the community throughout the project. During the grant application phase, they worked with local leaders and received a formal resolution of support from the Morgan County Council. The company used both traditional and digital outreach strategies—such as word-of-mouth, online engagement, and collaboration with local influencers—to inform and encourage adoption. These efforts aim to build long-term customer interest and ensure that the community continues to benefit from the broadband investment.

Direct Communications
Community response has been overwhelmingly positive, reflected in both the high adoption rate and local feedback shared during a state ribbon splicing event. Residents expressed support to community leaders and chamber members, highlighting the value

of the new service. While quantitative metrics on educational, health, or employment outcomes are not available, the qualitative benefits are clear. The project significantly improved digital access and quality of life, laying the groundwork for increased connectivity-driven opportunities in a growing rural neighborhood.

Beehive Broadband

The project featured strong coordination with local governments and stakeholders in each of the affected cities. Engagement efforts included visits to all participating communities, with direct communication and planning alongside Box Elder County. Community impact was broadly positive, with the COVID-19 pandemic highlighting the critical need for broadband access in areas such as education, healthcare, and basic human connection. These interactions helped ensure that deployment was tailored to local needs and that residents were aware of and able to benefit from the new service.

CentraCom

Community collaboration has been central to the project's progress and success. Local governments in Kanosh, Leamington, and Meadow actively supported the project, including efforts to resolve permitting barriers. The visible excitement from residents about gaining high-speed fiber access illustrates a strong connection between infrastructure investment and public interest. The project team has maintained clear communication with communities and demonstrated responsiveness, such as by implementing wireless alternatives where fiber access was not feasible. As adoption grows, continued engagement will ensure residents are well-informed and able to benefit fully from the new broadband services.

HiCountryNet

Community engagement efforts are reflected in the high wireless adoption rate (>90%) and the proactive transition to fiber, indicating strong community interest in improved broadband service. As operations begin, HiCountryNet is expected to expand its outreach and services under the ACP, reinforcing its commitment to long-term affordability and access. The involvement of local subcontractors also highlights regional economic support, and the lack of timeline delays signals efficient communication and responsiveness to community and logistical needs.

Utah Broadband

While formal community engagement has not been reported, Utah Broadband and SESD have plans to initiate public meetings and outreach now that winter construction delays have passed. These events are currently in the planning stage and are expected to be launched as customer connections begin. The community impact is anticipated to be transformative, improving quality of life, enhancing access to vital services, and increasing economic resilience. This broadband deployment will create lasting change by

enabling future generations to better access education, healthcare, commerce, and communication.

Navajo Tribal Utility Authority

Community impact is expected to be substantial once the project is complete. The service will enable students to attend school online, patients to access telehealth services, and individuals to pursue self-employment or remote work opportunities. The project will also allow residents to stay connected through digital platforms, promoting social inclusion. NTUA has engaged anchor institutions such as schools, clinics, and local businesses in planning, demonstrating a broad-based commitment to improving connectivity in this high-need area.

Stakeholder Involvement

Each broadband project in Utah has engaged a broad range of stakeholders to ensure comprehensive community involvement, collaboration, and support. These partnerships have been critical for the successful implementation and long-term sustainability of infrastructure projects, helping to align technical deployment with local needs while promoting economic development and digital inclusion.

For CentraCom, key stakeholders include the cities of Kanosh, Leamington, and Meadow, as well as BJ Jackson Construction, a new subcontractor in Leamington, who contributed to project execution. The Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) project engaged a wide array of partners, including the Navajo Nation Tribal Utility Authority as the infrastructure provider, local anchor institutions such as the San Juan County Public Library, Montezuma Creek Community Health Center, Montezuma Creek Elementary School, and White Horse High School, as well as business customers like Red Mesa Express, Montezuma Well Service, Family Dollar, Millennium Contracting, and Navajo Nation Oil & Gas.

HiCountryNet collaborated closely with PCM Industries for construction, with additional support from subcontractors ICS and Rockaholics, ensuring that design and deployment efforts were well-coordinated. AllWest worked with Morgan County Public Works to facilitate project planning and implementation, while Beehive Broadband engaged multiple municipalities—including Box Elder County, Elwood City, Bear River City, Howell Town, Willard City, South Willard, Thatcher, Penrose, and Mantua Town—as well as regional partners such as the Bear River Association of Governments, Niels Fugal & Sons, Rocky Mountain West Telecom, Rocky Mountain Power/Pacificorp, Optimize, and the Bear River Canal Company. Direct Communications partnered with Optimize Communications for construction services, ensuring local coordination and project oversight.

These extensive stakeholder relationships have helped projects identify and address community needs, leverage local expertise, and ensure that broadband deployment reaches underserved and rural areas. By fostering collaboration among government entities, businesses, non-profits, and educational institutions, these projects not only expand connectivity but also support local workforce development, economic growth, and equitable access to critical digital services.

Box Elder Community Campus

Elder County, while other non-profit partners focus on the area's most at-risk populations, assisting in identifying critical community needs. The project has engaged over a dozen partners and will create a dedicated space to increase the capacity of nonprofits and service agencies. Each partner provides additional access to disenfranchised and high-risk populations, and the facility will be open to organizations offering resources, skills, and services for the community. The family center will also host community engagement and public participation events, reinforcing its role as a hub for local involvement.

From project conception, the initiative has brought together community members, agencies, and businesses to design and advocate for the campus. Engagement will continue through neighborhood meetings, community presentations, and events with project partners. These collaborations ensure that partners help guide the campus's design and operations for years to come, maintaining focus on critical needs and supporting programs that serve the most vulnerable populations in Northern Utah.

Community feedback has been incorporated into CPF project selection and implementation, with the Boys & Girls Club working closely with the community to develop programs, allocate spaces, address safety, and establish partnerships. Organizations engaged include Brigham City, Box Elder County, Box Elder Chamber of Commerce, Box Elder Home Schoolers Consortium, local residents, state legislative representatives, Grandfamilies Program, Addiction Anonymous, United Way of Northern Utah, Day for Girls, Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts, and Utah State University 4-H Positive Youth Development Program.

Outreach efforts include translation of all flyers and communications into Spanish, with plans to expand to additional languages to ensure accessibility. While outreach during state fiscal year 2025 was limited due to safety concerns associated with ongoing construction, more extensive engagement is planned for fiscal year 2026.

Looking ahead, the grantee will continue robust community engagement and outreach efforts. Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and letters of engagement with partners

are expected to be completed by January 2026, ensuring sustained collaboration and community participation as the campus and its programs continue to grow.

Utah Department of Transportation Middle Mile Projects

Community engagement has been a central component of UDOT's Middle Mile Broadband Projects, with outreach conducted prior to project selection and continuing throughout construction. UDOT engaged a broad array of stakeholders, including local residents, city and county officials, state and federal legislators, telecommunication providers, recreation entities, and tribal authorities. Project selections were informed by opportunities to maximize public benefits, including:

- Improving the affordability of publicly available broadband services.

- Connecting unserved and underserved communities.

- Enabling students to access virtual learning opportunities

- Supporting telehealth, teleworking, and accessibility for rural residents and individuals with disabilities.

- Enhancing public safety communications, including 911 access.

Logan Canyon Middle Mile

Prior to project selection, UDOT conducted extensive community outreach, engaging a diverse array of stakeholders including local residents, city and county officials, state and federal legislators, and telecommunication providers. The information gathered through these efforts helped guide project selections to maximize the positive impact of middle mile broadband investments. Priority areas for these projects included improving the affordability of publicly available broadband services, connecting unserved and underserved communities, enabling students to access virtual learning opportunities, providing rural residents and individuals with disabilities access to telehealth and telework services, and enhancing public safety communications, including reliable 911 access.

UDOT has maintained strong organizational engagement throughout the project, collaborating closely with communities along the entire route. Coordination with local government entities and organizations over the past year included Cache County, Rich County, Logan City, Garden City, the Utah Division of Facilities Construction and Management (DFCM), Utah State Parks (notably Bear Lake State Park), Beaver Mountain Resort, Bear Lake Watch, the Utah Visitors Bureau, State Trucking, Utah State University, and multiple recreation outlets. These partnerships helped ensure that local concerns were addressed before construction began, and UDOT continues to provide timely project updates as work progresses. A live text chat with the project team relays

real-time construction impacts and information to the UDOT Traffic Operations Center, keeping drivers informed and prepared while traveling through the canyon.

To ensure accessibility and inclusion, the project website incorporates translation options, allowing a broader range of community members to access information. UDOT actively monitors opportunities to share project updates at community events, markets, and city or town gatherings. In Garden City and Logan City, project flyers have been distributed to local businesses and government buildings, providing overviews and contact information for the project. These outreach efforts ensure that residents, particularly those from underserved populations, are informed and able to provide feedback.

Looking ahead, UDOT plans to sustain and expand engagement efforts throughout the construction and implementation phases. Weekly progress updates, including photos, are shared with stakeholders, and all outreach activities are tracked in a stakeholder log. A dedicated project hotline ensures inquiries are answered promptly, typically within 24 hours. UDOT also plans to conduct a site visit with professional videography and photography to produce a live-action video showcasing construction progress, illustrating the benefits of expanded fiber infrastructure, and enhancing public awareness of the project's impact on the community.

Levan Middle Mile

UDOT has been actively engaging with communities along the entire project route to ensure that residents and local governments are informed and involved in the planning and design of the Levan Middle Mile project. During the design phase, the UDOT public involvement team conducted in-person meetings with several municipalities, including Levan Town, Nephi City, Gunnison City, Sterling Town, Salina City, and Centerfield City. Fayette Town participated through a virtual meeting. These meetings provided an opportunity for the project team to present an overview of the project, coordinate on utility requirements, answer questions, and build lasting relationships with each municipality.

Outreach and engagement efforts also focused on ensuring accessibility for underserved populations. The public involvement team prepared English-language materials for stakeholder meetings and placed a legal advertisement in the Deseret News to meet environmental requirements. According to U.S. Census Bureau data, Juab and Sanpete Counties are majority white, with Hispanic or Latino residents representing 6% and 11% of the population, respectively. In response, construction materials have been distributed in English, with a notice on the project website encouraging Spanish-speaking stakeholders to request translated materials. The website also includes a "translate" button, offering additional language support to help ensure broad accessibility.

Looking forward, UDOT plans to maintain and expand engagement throughout the construction phases in 2025 and 2026. Stakeholders will continue to receive updates via email, doorhangers, mailers, and other communication methods. To support in-person interactions, business cards have been distributed to the contractor and municipal representatives. Additionally, UDOT will implement a public relations campaign at the conclusion of the project to raise awareness of the infrastructure improvements and highlight the benefits these broadband enhancements provide to rural communities.

Trappers Loop Middle Mile

Outreach and engagement efforts have prioritized accessibility for underserved populations. The project website includes translation options on the main page, allowing a wider range of stakeholders to access project information. UDOT continues to monitor opportunities to engage with community members through local events, ensuring information about the project reaches residents where they are. When appropriate, UDOT staff may participate in markets and city or town events to provide updates and answer questions directly.

Looking ahead, UDOT has prepared a script for a project introduction video, which will highlight the benefits of the new fiber infrastructure for the community. Once completed, this video will be used as part of upcoming public outreach efforts to further inform stakeholders, demonstrate progress, and showcase the impact of the middle mile project on local connectivity and services.

US-40 Jurassic Middle Mile

Community outreach prior to project selection involved a wide range of stakeholders, including local citizens, politicians, state and federal legislators, and telecommunication providers. Project selections were guided by areas where UDOT's middle mile funds could deliver the greatest positive impact, including improving the affordability of publicly available broadband, connecting unserved and underserved communities, enabling students to access virtual learning opportunities, expanding telehealth and telework capabilities for rural residents and people with disabilities, and enhancing public safety communications, including 911 access.

UDOT has worked diligently to maintain organizational engagement with communities along the entire project route. Coordination with local government entities and other stakeholders has been a key component of the project. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Uintah & Ouray Agency was consulted to obtain consent for access to six allotted properties owned by members of the Ute Tribe to perform surveys and environmental assessments. UDOT also met with representatives from Vernal City to discuss potential public Wi-Fi sites and to review downtown development plans that could be supported by the project. Coordination extended to the Utah Department of Natural Resources at Starvation Reservoir, Duchesne City, the Jensen Welcome Center, Uintah County, and Roosevelt City to identify and plan locations for public Wi-Fi hotspots.

Outreach and feedback efforts have emphasized underserved populations, particularly through close coordination with the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation. The Tribe is implementing a last mile network to connect over 1,000 unserved Native American households and anchor institutions, and UDOT is ensuring its middle mile efforts complement these Tribal initiatives while meeting federal grant requirements.

Looking ahead, UDOT plans to sustain and expand engagement as construction progresses. Outreach packages will be prepared to notify cities, towns, drivers, and recreation users of upcoming work and travel impacts. Additionally, UDOT will continue to work with the Ute Tribe to keep Tribal Lands residents informed about the project, the benefits of increased connectivity, and ways to leverage enhanced broadband service across the Uintah Basin.

Zions Middle Mile

UDOT coordinated closely with local government entities during this reporting period, including Zion National Park, Hurricane City, LaVerkin City, Rockville Town, and Springdale Town. This collaboration ensures that the project aligns with community needs and local priorities while providing timely updates and opportunities for input.

Outreach, translation, and feedback efforts have been central to engaging underserved populations. The project website includes translation options to reach a broader audience, and Spanish translation will be provided at the upcoming public meeting as well as in all printed materials. UDOT is working with Rockville and Springdale to ensure meeting materials are tailored to community needs and support meaningful engagement. Additionally, UDOT participated in the Southern Utah Transportation Expo in St. George to introduce the project and highlight the benefits of fiber deployment to local communities. The agency continues to monitor opportunities to engage the public at markets and city/town events to share project information and gather feedback.

Looking ahead, UDOT plans to facilitate a public meeting once environmental and design work are complete, likely in early Fall 2025. This meeting will cover Zion National Park and surrounding communities, providing an opportunity to share updates, answer questions, and demonstrate project benefits. UDOT also plans to produce an introduction video highlighting the advantages of the fiber infrastructure, which will be made available on the project website to further inform and engage the community.

Utah Education and Telehealth Network Infrastructure Upgrade Project

The Utah Education and Telehealth Network (UETN) Infrastructure Upgrade Project has actively engaged a wide range of stakeholders to address the growing demand for enhanced network services. UETN maintains regular communication with stakeholders

through regional and state technology forums, wireless user groups, and advisory bodies such as the UETN Board, Advisory Council, and Technology Advisory Committee. Additionally, UETN has a dedicated liaison working directly with the Navajo Nation to ensure their specific needs are addressed. Stakeholders have voiced concerns about performance degradation, emphasizing the importance of improving troubleshooting and issue resolution processes. The communities involved in this project have demonstrated significant grassroots support and active interest, highlighting strong commitment to the project's success. UETN will continue to engage with stakeholders through these established channels as the project advances.

UETN has a longstanding practice of working collaboratively with its stakeholders to identify and prioritize infrastructure needs. Throughout the CPF project lifecycle, community feedback was incorporated through regular meetings with advisory councils and stakeholders, including school districts, libraries, healthcare institutions, and higher education institutions. This engagement includes consultations with all 54 participating libraries through Zoom meetings and monthly surveys. UETN also conducts regular outreach with K-12 school districts, charter schools, private schools, healthcare clinics, and higher education institutions connected through the network, with advocates assigned to these institutions to gather regular feedback. In addition, partnerships with the Navajo Nation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs support inclusive engagement across tribal and underserved communities.

To reach underserved populations, UETN relies on its trusted community anchor institutions—public libraries, schools, and healthcare facilities—to engage directly with their communities. These institutions have established relationships that allow them to effectively support rural, tribal, and other underserved populations. Due to data privacy requirements and the decentralized nature of the network, UETN does not conduct direct outreach to individual community members but instead provides the necessary tools, infrastructure, and resources for these institutions to gather feedback and deliver services. Monthly surveys collected by libraries, along with ongoing dialogue with education and healthcare partners, ensure that community needs are incorporated into project implementation ([Watch a video highlighting UETN's outreach through libraries and schools here](#)).

Looking forward, UETN plans to sustain this trusted and effective engagement model by continuing to work through its network of community anchor institutions. These partners remain the most effective channels for gathering localized feedback, building trust with underserved populations, and ensuring equitable access. UETN will maintain regular communication with stakeholders through advisory councils, regional technology forums, and working groups. This ongoing collaboration ensures that community perspectives continue to shape project implementation and that the network evolves in response to

local needs (Watch a video highlighting UETN's expansion of Wi-Fi in Utah's Public Libraries through the American Rescue Plan here).

PROJECT INVENTORY

Project Name	Program Plan Number	Project Status	Use Code	CPF Funds Allocated to Program	Expenditures as of June 30, 2025
Utah Rural Last Mile Broadband Grants Project	CPF_GP-000193	Approved	1A Broadband Infrastructure Project	$15,000,000	$10,106,136
UDOT Middle Mile Projects	CPF_GP-000196	Approved	1A Broadband Infrastructure Project	$96,600,035	$9,803,897
Box Elder Community Campus	CPF_GP-000362	Approved	1C Multi-purpose Community Facility Project	$7,000,000	$4,507,381
Utah Education and Telehealth Network Infrastructure Upgrade Project	CPF_GP-000195	Approved	1A Broadband Infrastructure Project	$19,295,400	$8,697,526
			Total Budgeted & Spent	**$137,895,435**	**$33,114,940**
			Total CPF Award	**$137,895,435**	
			Available for Allocation	**$0**	