



SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization

Serving our member governments and their constituents since 1972

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA GOVERNMENTS ORGANIZATION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 PARTNERSHIP PLANNING AND LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT FUNDS FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

WHEREAS, the SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization (SEAGO) has been designated by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) as an Economic Development District (EDD) for the four-county region of Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties; and

WHEREAS, SEAGO is desirous of continuing and expanding activities to advance the economic development of these four counties; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for broadband expansion in the region; the economic shock waves of the pandemic have caused a re-orientation for many industry sectors to allow for remote work and for students of all ages to perform classwork and/or pursue their educational goals; and

WHEREAS, SEAGO, in partnership with the Economic Policy Institute at Northern Arizona University and Arizona Commerce Authority, have performed extensive research and have determined the broadband capacity in the rural parts of the SEAGO region is insufficient to stimulate economic growth and provide resiliency in the event of future pandemic disasters; and

WHEREAS, SEAGO is desirous of applying for funding through the Economic Development Administration's (EDA) FY 2022 partnership planning and local technical assistance grant program to improve regional economic development capacity and resiliency by developing a regional broadband expansion master plan covering the four counties within the SEAGO region; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Broadband Plan will improve SEAGO's ability to accurately assess the local digital divide and wealth gaps within regional urban and rural communities and develop actionable insights to close them; and

WHEREAS, said Regional Broadband Plan will prepare SEAGO and its community broadband stakeholders for the next phase of strategic broadband expansion – a regional broadband middle-mile network engineering and design plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the SEAGO Executive Board hereby authorizes an application to be made to the U.S. Department of Commerce, EDA for a Fiscal Year 2022 planning and local technical assistance grant in the amount of \$173,800; and

SEAGO Member Entities

Cochise County

Benson

Bisbee

Douglas

Huachuca City

Sierra Vista

Tombstone

Willcox

Graham County

Pima

Safford

San Carlos

Apache Tribe

Thatcher

Greenlee County

Clifton

Duncan

Santa Cruz County

Nogales

Patagonia

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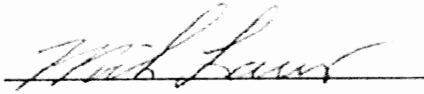
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THAT, up to \$34,760 is hereby committed to assure that SEAGO meets the matching funds requirement for the EDA grant, funded through an in-kind match of staff time and program deliverables paid by community broadband stakeholders; and

THAT, in the unlikely event the in-kind match provided by the above referenced community broadband stakeholders proves insufficient to meet the EDA's matching requirements for this application, SEAGO is hereby committed to provide funds in an amount sufficient to assure that SEAGO meets said matching requirements, and these matching funds will be committed, available as needed, and not conditioned or encumbered in any way that will preclude their use; and

THAT, the SEAGO Executive Director is hereby authorized to sign and execute all application forms, contracts, or documents for the receipt and use of the EDA grant funds.

Passed and adopted by the SEAGO Executive Board on this 20th day of August, 2021.



Michael Laws,
Executive Board Chair



Randy Heiss,
Executive Director