



REQUEST TO EMERGENCY COMMISSION
SECRETARY OF STATE
 (See SFN 02580)

#1
#2083

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NOV - 7 2022

SEC. OF STATE

Requestor Information

Department name: ND Information Technology
 Department number: 112.0
 Name of contact person: Greg Hoffman
 Telephone number: (701) 328-4006

Purpose of Request

Is this request related to a state emergency? No
 Purpose of request: Increase in line item spending authority

Line Item	Amount
11230	\$516,000

Funding Information

What is the source of funds for the requested increase? Federal
 Is the funding source a pass-through from another agency? No
 Will continued funding be required if Federal funds are no longer available? No
 Does the request require a general fund match in this bienium? No
 Will the request require general fund support in the next biennium? No

Background Information

Was any portion of the request presented during the previous legislative session? No
 Is the request for a new program? Yes

Provide explanation:

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 has created federal funding opportunities for state to apply for. One such opportunity is the State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program. This State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program is intended to fund a planning exercise whereby a statewide comprehensive digital equity program will be created. This plan is a prerequisite for a State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program which is a formula grant and the Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program which is a competitive grant. Both of these future grants provide for the ability to promote the achievement of digital equity, support digital inclusion activities, and build capacity for efforts by States relating to the adoption of broadband by residents of North Dakota. NDI has applied for and has been awarded \$516,000 of federal funds for the planning activities related to this program.

Will funding be required in future bienniums? Yes

Provide explanation:

Future grant awards include the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program which is a formula grant based on a number of characteristics of the State along with the Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program that is a competitive grant. The detailed application for both grants have not been released at this time however the funding from both of these future grants are available through 2026.

Does the request require an FTE increase? No

Does the request conform with legislative intent? No

Provide explanation:

While there has not been any ND legislation to date establishing intent, each State is eligible to apply for grants under this program. The governor or equivalent official of an applicant State shall select an Administering Entity to receive and administer the State's grant funding. NDI has been selected as the Administering Entity of the State's grant funding.

Other Information



Statutory provisions that relate to this request:
54-59

Provide an explanation as to how the request supports state priorities, improves state efficiencies, and promotes effective state government:

In recent decades, access to the internet has played a critical and growing role in the ways in which North Dakota residents work, learn, receive health care, earn a living, and participate in democracy. The COVID-19 pandemic crystalized what many have known for a very long time: High-speed internet access is not a luxury, but a necessity, for all North Dakota residents regardless of their age, race, or income, irrespective of where they live, what languages they speak, what resources they have at their disposal, and what challenges they may face in their daily lives. This funding opportunity is intended to identify what the barriers to adoption are within North Dakota and help determine what actions should be taken to overcome those barriers to adoption and help enable all residents to become full participants in a digital society and a digital world.

Provide any other relevant information:

This is a planning exercise to open the door for future funding opportunities. There are no state match requirements for the planning work.

Signature

I, the undersigned, have read this Request, know the contents, and believe the statements contained within to be true.

Greg Hoffman

11/06/2022

Sign Here

Date