

NOHFC Funding Support for Cellular/Broadband Expansion Projects

NOHFC is accepting applications for cellular/broadband expansion projects in Northern Ontario under the **Strategic Economic Infrastructure Program** (<http://nohfc.ca/en/programs/strategic-economic-infrastructure-program>).

1. Funding Criteria for Broadband Projects

Who is Eligible?

- Applicants would include municipalities, municipal organizations, First Nations, Community Based Networks or ICT community champions (non-profit economic development / innovation centres) in Northern Ontario.

What is Eligible?

- Projects that deliver broadband coverage to areas with broadband download speeds of less than 10 Mbps (un-served or under-served areas).
- Projects must deliver 10 Mbps to consumers at a cost equal to or less than the cost paid by the nearest urban consumer.
- Projects must demonstrate sustainability and the ability to grow with future demand to meet a minimum of 25 Mbps by 2020.

Funding

- NOHFC will fund 50 per cent of eligible costs up to a maximum of \$1 million dollars per project with a targeted funding of \$500 per dwelling (average) within the coverage area. This cost per dwelling *may* need to be exceeded in areas where the backhaul network cannot support target speeds; however it cannot be used to overbuild network solutions.
- Funding is in the form of a conditional contribution under the Strategic Economic Infrastructure Program.
- A minimum of 85 per cent of eligible costs must be broadband-related capital and equipment costs (i.e. towers, antennas, electronics, and site buildings).
- Preference will be given to projects that deliver services that are scalable and lowest cost per customer served.

General Guidelines

- Proposed broadband projects should demonstrate improved connectivity and usage of information technology to support the competitiveness of existing and new businesses and address gaps in broadband connectivity or increases bandwidth availability and affordability.
- The applicant must make a cash contribution of at least 10 per cent of the total eligible project costs.
- Copy of map and identification of property showing broadband projects must be provided with proposals to NOHFC.
- NOHFC strongly encourages applicants to access additional funding toward broadband projects from other funders such as FedNor, Industry Canada and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC).

2. Funding Criteria for Cellular Projects

Who is Eligible?

- Applicants would include municipalities, municipal organizations, First Nations in Northern Ontario, Community Based Networks or ICT community champions (non-profit economic development / innovation centres).

What is Eligible?

- Projects that expand cellular coverage along the Trans-Canada and Kings' Highways.
- Projects must demonstrate sustainability.

Funding

- NOHFC will fund 50 per cent of eligible costs generally not to exceed \$1 million per project.
- Funding is in the form of a 100% conditional grant under the Strategic Economic Infrastructure Program.
- 85 per cent of eligible costs must be cellular-related capital and equipment costs (i.e. towers, antennas, electronics, site buildings)
- Preference will be given to projects that offer large coverage and roaming on other networks

General Guidelines

- Proposed cellular projects should demonstrate improved connectivity and usage of information technology to support the competitiveness of existing and new businesses.
- The applicant must make cash contributions of at least 10 per cent of the eligible project costs.
- Copy of map and identification of property showing cellular projects must be provided with proposals to NOHFC.
- NOHFC will continue to leverage funding toward cellular projects from other funders such as FedNor, Industry Canada and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC).