

Joe Lombardo Governor

STATE OF NEVADA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GOVERNOR LOMBARDO ANNOUNCES APPROVAL OF \$55 MILLION PROGRAM TO CONNECT LOW-INCOME MULTI-DWELLING UNITS ACROSS NEVADA TO FASTER INTERNET

CARSON CITY, NV (January 26, 2023) – Governor Joe Lombardo and the Governor's Office of Science, Innovation and Technology (OSIT) today announced the US Treasury's approval of Nevada's Capital Projects Fund plan to bring faster, more reliable internet service to low-income Nevadans in communities across the state. The news comes on the heels of Governor Lombardo announcing in his State of the State speech that he will be making a \$400 million dollar investment in broadband to accelerate statewide connectivity.

"Internet connectivity is not a luxury – it is a critical element of access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunity," **said Governor Lombardo.** "This funding will help ensure that all residents in Nevada, including the most disadvantaged, have the access they need to succeed."

The \$55 million program focuses on low-income, tax-subsidized housing and will construct modern broadband infrastructure to over 40,000 residential units in all corners of Nevada. OSIT will work with its partners at the state's three regional housing authorities and other community leaders to identify internet service provider partners. In addition to upgrading infrastructure in the MDUs, winning service providers will be encouraged to extend coverage to nearby residential areas that are also unserved. The program is funded through the Capital Projects Fund at the US Treasury.

"I'm grateful to our community partners who helped shape this plan," said OSIT Director Brian Mitchell. "Approval of these funds will start a comprehensive digital adoption effort that goes beyond infrastructure and will include affordability, device access, and the digital literacy supports needed to begin to close the digital divide."

The Low-Income MDU Connectivity Program is a part of the larger High Speed Nevada Initiative with the goal of universal access to high speed internet that is affordable, reliable, and scalable. Over the next four years, over \$400 million will be dedicated to broadband infrastructure and digital equity and adoption initiatives.

For more information, please visit: <u>http://osit.nv.gov/Broadband/Capital_Projects_Fund/</u> or email <u>highspeednv@gov.nv.gov</u>.

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