



## Board of County Commissioners

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The Honorable Gina M. Raimondo  
Secretary of Commerce  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economic Development Administration  
1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Suite 317  
Washington DC, 20004

RE: Letter of Support for Colorado State University, CO - Broadband Plan and Feasibility Study

Dear Honorable Gina M. Raimondo,

Colorado State University System is applying for an Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant in the amount of \$340,000. We urge you to give this application your full consideration as the objective of the Broadband Plan and Feasibility Study is to develop a broadband plan that will provide a strategic roadmap in updating broadband services available to Colorado State University System facilities. The plan will identify the broadband gaps in the system to better assist the underserved and disadvantaged communities with a fast, reliable, and affordable broadband internet service. The broadband plan will include the implementation and required steps to provide or upgrade broadband availability to all campuses, Extension Offices, Agricultural Experiment Station Research Centers, and Colorado Forestry Service partners. This will be an important step in contributing to the overall goal of expanded broadband coverage and connectivity for all Coloradans.

Colorado State University System has over 57,000 students on and around the main campuses and Extension Offices serving all 64 counties in Colorado. This includes over 18,000 Colorado State University Global Students who depend on broadband virtual connections as well. Rural areas face challenges of availability and dependability. In both cases the ability of rural areas and families to bridge digital gaps for this future generation is hindered.

At a minimum, this Broadband Plan and Feasibility Study will:

- Identify Colorado State University System's needs. Conduct CSU System outreach and stakeholder meetings.
- Further connect with communities in every county employing broadband expansion in Colorado. A consultant will be contracted to identify where these connections can best serve Colorado State University System's needs, as well as identify the infrastructure and partnerships needed to meet demands.
- Promote and support connectivity by identifying various funding opportunities and strategies that benefit all the Colorado State University System facilities.



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- Enhance interoperable and digital communications with first responders, campus police, and emergency managers.
- Planned implementation will play a critical role in the delivery of virtual learning. Online courses are a powerful tool that Colorado State University employs to instruct its students.

The Colorado State University System fully supports all its campuses to ensure the success of this project. The project will dramatically improve the quality of education and support to students, research facilities, communities, and public agencies in and around the Colorado State University System that must rely on broadband and internet systems. Campuses that will benefit from this project are as follows:

- CSU Fort Collins, their Extension campuses, and the Experiment Station Research Centers across Colorado
- CSU Pueblo
- CSU Global
- SPUR Campus - Denver, Colorado
- Colorado State Forest Service's Partnership with CSU

Sincerely,

Matt Scherr  
Chair

Jeanne McQueeney  
Commissioner

Kathy Chandler-Henry  
Commissioner