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CTC Awarded USDA ReConnect Grant



Yakutat community to get high-speed internet

Cordova Telecom Cooperative (CTC) is pleased to announce it has been awarded \$18,888,668.00 in grant funding from the USDA's ReConnect program to deliver high-speed broadband internet to the community of Yakutat Alaska.

The project codenamed NICEY (New Internet Communications for Everyone in Yakutat) will deliver broadband internet service to all year-round residents and businesses in Yakutat via fiber-to-the-home connections. Yakutat will be connected to Cordova's submarine fiber optics via a new highly scalable Microwave middle mile network spanning over 230 miles between the two communities.

"The Yakutat Tlingit Tribe is excited to work with Cordova Telecom to bring high-speed broadband to Yakutat. The USDA grant investment in Yakutat will allow for greater services in Health Care, Schools, and Social Services and will positively impact lives and opportunities for everyone in our community. Rural connectivity has been a pressing matter and I am so thankful for the hard work and dedication from the folks at Cordova Telecom. This is an exciting development and we look forward to seeing you in Yakutat." Said Nathan Moulton, Executive Director of Yakutat Tlingit Tribe.

CTC will work with the community of Yakutat and partners to deliver new services over the next three calendar years with initial activation targeted for the fall of 2021. The project will invest over twenty-five million dollars to extend the cooperatives network to Yakutat and offer a range of telecommunication services to community members.

"CTC is very excited and honored to receive a USDA ReConnect grant. The opportunity to extend Cordova's network to Yakutat and deliver modern internet will significantly improve the quality of life, education, healthcare, and communications for the entire community." Stated Jeremiah Beckett, CEO of CTC

The ReConnect Program is an innovative new program that offers unique federal financing and funding options in the form of grants, loans, and loan/grant combinations to facilitate broadband deployment in areas of rural America that don't currently have sufficient access to internet. Priority was awarded for projects that propose to deliver higher-capacity connections to rural homes, businesses and farms in severely underserved areas of the nation. To learn more about ReConnect please visit <https://www.usda.gov/reconnect>.

Cordova Telecom Cooperative is a member-owned local co-op serving the telephone, high speed internet, television, and technology needs of the community of Cordova, Alaska since 1978. Founded in 1997, Cordova Wireless provides cellular voice, text and data services to Cordova, as well as Prince William Sound fishing grounds and Yakutat, Alaska. More information about Cordova Telecom and Cordova Wireless can be found at www.ctcak.net, and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/cordovatelecomcoop

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