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CTC Awarded USDA ReConnect Round 3 Grant

Cordova to Invest \$28.5M in Fiber Infrastructure

Cordova Telecom Cooperative (CTC) is pleased to announce it has been awarded \$21,404,940.00 in grant funding from the USDA's Rural Utility Service ReConnect Round 3 program to deliver Fiber-To-The-Home in Cordova, Alaska, and a submarine fiber line from Cordova to Seward with strategic branches to the FAA Johnstone Point site and the Village of Chenega. With CTC's match of \$7,134,980.00, it will result in a community investment of \$28,539,920.00.

The project, codenamed "FISH in AK" (Fiber Internet Serving Homes in Alaska), will deliver broadband internet speeds of 100/20 Mbps with gigabit potential to all year-round residents and businesses in Cordova via fiber-to-the-home connections. This will complement two other USDA investment with CTC; the Chenega Highspeed Internet Project (CHIP) and the New Internet Communications for Everyone in Yakutat project (NICEY). These grants will provide harmonious fiber broadband services to three rural roadless Alaska Native communities.

"Together our projects, FISH in AK, NICEY, and CHIP will deliver the largest serving of FISH-N-CHIPS in Alaska," stated CTC CEO Jeremiah Beckett. "But all jokes aside, CTC is very excited and honored to receive another USDA ReConnect grant. In the past four years, CTC has secured over \$42 million in USDA funding to upgrade our network for highspeed fiber-based broadband services. The opportunity to accelerate Cordova's fiber network deployment and protect our communications with a secondary submarine line will significantly improve the quality of life, education, healthcare, and communications for our entire community."

CTC will work with the community of Cordova and partners to deliver fiber broadband services over the next five calendar years. The FISH in AK project will invest over twenty-eight million dollars in Cordova to enhance and fortify fiber based broadband services.

"We are very excited to continue our partnership with Cordova Telecom through this award. CTC has been highly successful in using USDA Rural Development's telecommunications programs to expand access to high-speed internet in Prince William Sound which is essential to educational and healthcare services, economic opportunity and public safety in rural communities." General Field Representative, Natalie Kovach, who oversees USDA's RUS Telecommunication Programs in Alaska. "From Yakutat to Chenega, and now in Cordova itself, we're working together to increase network reliability and close the digital divide."

The ReConnect project will consist of two simultaneous phases and take a maximum of five years to complete. Planning and engineering are scheduled to begin this year.

The ReConnect Program is an innovative 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