



CTC Awarded USDA ReConnect Round 4 Grant

Cordova to Invest \$34.9 Million in Fiber Infrastructure

Cordova Telecom Cooperative (CTC) is pleased to announce it has been awarded \$34,905,000 in grant funding from the USDA's Rural Utility Service ReConnect Round 4 program to install a submarine fiberoptic cable from Cordova to Juneau, deliver Fiber-To-The-Home in the unserved community of Pelican, and have additional fiber branches to Yakutat, Gustavus, and Hoonah. With CTC's match of \$11,635,000 it will result in a community investment of \$46,540,000.

The project, codenamed "FISH in SEAK" (Fiber Internet Serving Homes in Southeast Alaska), will deliver broadband internet speeds of 100/20 Mbps with gigabit potential to all year-round residents and businesses in Pelican via fiber-to-the-home connections. This will complement three other USDA investments with CTC; the Chenega Highspeed Internet Project (CHIP), the New Internet Communications for Everyone in Yakutat project (NICEY), and most recently, the Fiber Internet Serving Homes in Alaska project (FISH in AK) in Cordova which was awarded in July 2022. These grants will provide fiber connectivity to four rural roadless Alaska Native communities and new transport opportunities for telecom carriers serving Southeast Alaska.

"CTC is honored to bring broadband to the City of Pelican as well as aid other carriers with reliable backbone infrastructure in Southeast Alaska. This will provide vital connectivity to unserved and underserved communities in rural Alaska for which the USDA ReConnect Program has been invaluable to making that a reality," stated CTC CEO, Jeremiah Beckett.

CTC will work with the community of Pelican and partners to deliver fiber broadband services over the next five calendar years. The Cooperative has already partnered with Pioneer Consulting to begin designing the path for the submarine cable and its multiple branch units. The consulting firm, which has engineered submarine cable projects across the globe, is designing the ReConnect Round 3 path from Cordova to Seward. Tentative installation for both fiberoptic cables is tentatively slated for 2026.

"This is a huge win for Pelican," stated the City's Mayor, Patricia Phillips. "Fiber being brought to our community will provide residents with lifechanging accessibility to remote services like healthcare, education, and sustainable economic development opportunities. We're looking forward to working with Cordova Telephone Cooperative over the coming years as construction progresses."

FISH in SEAK 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