

State of Hawaii
Performance Report

Capital Projects Fund
2023 Report
July 31, 2023

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Executive Summary

Provide a high-level overview of the Recipient's actual uses of funding and progress made during the reporting period towards objectives stated in the approved Program Plan(s). The Executive Summary should also include an overview of key outcomes and any noteworthy challenges or opportunities identified during the reporting period.

Uses of Funds

For the period of performance, through June 30, 2023, the state is working through the competitive procurement efforts for both approved Program Plans. No program funds have been obligated nor expended as of the end of the reporting period. Neither program envisions the use of other federal funds to achieve the objectives of the program plans. Both program plans were structured to work in concert with the other available federal broadband investment programs to help achieve Hawaii's goals of meaningful universal service access for all residents, and to ensure that access is on par with the rest of the country, so that our residents can fully benefit from online access to all manner of information and services, in particular to support education, healthcare, employment, commerce and public services. General information supporting the state's overall efforts to maximize the benefits of the federal broadband investments are at the state broadband office web site (<https://www.hawaii.edu/broadband/>). Information about the state's Capital Projects Fund award is available at <https://www.hawaii.edu/broadband/article/capital-projects-funds-approved-for-hawaii/>.

Hawaii Subsea Middle Mile

Building on the work already completed (funded separately by state ARPA funds), the state has issued a Request for Proposals for the State of Hawaii Inter-island Submarine Fiber Cable System (RCUH RFP #103119). Information about the RFP is available at www.hawaii.edu/broadband/request-for-proposals/. Work remains on track per the published RFP timeline; a number of questions were received from potential offerors by the June 30, 2023 deadline. Responses to the questions were published the following week.

All effort to assemble and issue the RFP was supported by a combination of CPF administrative funds, and University institutional support. No program funds were obligated nor expended to date. We expect to receive offeror proposals on August 1, 2023, and proceed with the evaluation, selection and award process, with the expectation to award a contract and obligate a significant portion of the program funds by September 2023.

Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) Connections Program

State broadband office staff continues to work on the drafting of the Request for Proposals for the HPHA Connections Program. The program envisions fully enabling 100Mbps symmetric access for all residential units of HPHA owned facilities, and to connect and equip about half of the facilities with common use community digital hubs (in BEAD terms, aka Community Anchor Institutions) with gigabit access. The state team is working with the HPHA staff to coordinate the RFP with the recently announced capital construction program by HPHA. Timing of the HPHA Connections Program must be synchronized with the HPHA capital construction program in order to ensure maximum benefits to HPHA residents. We expect that the RFP for the HPHA Connections Program will be published in August or September 2023, with an anticipated start date later in the calendar year.

All effort to date was supported by a combination of CPF administrative funds, and University institutional support, working with HPHA staff. No program funds were obligated nor expended to date.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes

Both of the State's program plans broadly support all residents of Hawaii. The Hawaii Subsea Middle Mile program will primarily and directly benefit all residents of the neighbor islands, i.e. all islands except Oahu, through the addition of significant capacity and resilience to the brittle existing inter-island middle mile infrastructure. Additional benefits accrue to the state as a whole by reducing the barriers to landing future trans-Pacific submarine cables in Hawaii, to address both future capacity and overall resilience for the state's telecommunications infrastructure.

The HPHA Connections Program is specifically designed to benefit all residents of HPHA owned facilities throughout the state. All residents of HPHA facilities are low-income families, and represent a high need segment of the population. A majority of the HPHA residents do not currently have meaningful access to the Internet - the combination of 100% residential unit access with the addition of new shared-access community digital hubs in the HPHA facilities, will help to significantly increase both access to high-speed Internet service, as well as wrap-around services to support the effective and meaningful use of the service.

Successful implementation of both of the State's programs will deliver 100% support for high-speed Internet access across these communities of need, and help to ensure our statewide population is well connected into the future.

Labor

All labor practices under our two RFP efforts will be structured to include standard in-state labor practices, to be consistent with fair labor practices, encourage local hiring, and support investments in local workforce development. We also expect that the completion of the two capital projects will establish the basis for further increases in business opportunities and expansion of existing business activities supported by lowering capital cost hurdles and increasing competitive opportunities in the state.

Community Engagement

The state broadband office is currently working on a comprehensive public communications strategy to help tie together efforts from the range of federal broadband programs, including CPF. In particular, given the long-lead time of construction projects, this public communications program will be layered with the CPF and NTIA BEAD community outreach and engagement efforts to both inform the public as to the works in progress, and to encourage greater utilization of the Internet access infrastructure and services.

The public communications effort will include multi-language support, in particular to support polynesian and Pacific Island languages that are unique to Hawaii's population.