



Broadband Technical Assistance Past Program Profile

Regional broadband readiness and infrastructure coordination

Grantee and project lead	Tahoe Prosperity Center
Funder	USDA Rural Utilities Service
Project period	November 2023 - April 2026
Grant award	\$200,000
Region served	Lake Tahoe Basin, California and Nevada
Regional coordination platform	Tahoe Regional Broadband Consortium
Technical collaborators	Ookla and SIG GIS

Objective

Strengthen regional readiness for broadband infrastructure development by improving shared data, coordinating public agencies and providers, and identifying opportunities to integrate connectivity into planned roadway and utility projects across the Tahoe Basin.

Executive summary

Through the USDA Broadband Technical Assistance grant, Tahoe Prosperity Center developed a coordinated, data-informed approach to broadband planning across the Lake Tahoe Basin. The project strengthened the regional foundations needed to support future deployment, business continuity, remote work, and public-sector coordination.

TPC convened monthly Tahoe Regional Broadband Consortium meetings across five counties and two states, completed lake-wide broadband mapping, and established ongoing speed-test data collection with Ookla and SIG GIS. It also advanced Dig Once planning and opportunities to coordinate broadband infrastructure with transportation and utility work.

The closeout narrative reports completion of the grant-funded scope of work and alignment with the approved budget, with minor adjustments during implementation. The project left a shared technical baseline and coordination framework that TPC will continue to support through the consortium.

Key accomplishments

Regional coordination. Maintained monthly consortium meetings connecting public agencies, internet service providers, and regional partners around shared infrastructure priorities across California and Nevada.

Lake-wide broadband mapping. Completed and shared a regional technical baseline incorporating provider inputs, wireline pathways, and cellular coverage layers within a dynamic GIS platform. The baseline was introduced at the annual Summit.

Ongoing performance data. Established regional speed-test data collection with Ookla and SIG GIS, incorporating thousands of records each month to inform assessment of connectivity needs.

Broadband and public works alignment. Advanced Dig Once frameworks with the City of South Lake Tahoe and El Dorado County and held coordination sessions with Placer County. Integrated broadband co-build concepts into Caltrans SR28 and SR267 design packages.

Business and community engagement. Gathered connectivity feedback through targeted business walks and supported resident communications and frequently asked questions for a provider with a California Advanced Services Fund award.

TPC role and partnerships

TPC served as grantee, regional facilitator, and coordinator of the Tahoe Regional Broadband Consortium. It brought together mapping, performance data, public works schedules, provider outreach, and community feedback to help partners identify needs and coordinate future projects. Technical collaboration with Ookla and SIG GIS supported data collection and mapping; local jurisdictions, Caltrans, and internet service providers contributed to planning and implementation coordination.

Lessons and lasting value

Permitting and coordination across two states and multiple jurisdictions influenced project timing. Provider interest also took longer than anticipated to translate into provider-led grant applications because of funding cycles and commercial schedules. TPC responded by sharing validated data, project schedules, and potential infrastructure pathways through the consortium.

The grant strengthened the information and relationships needed to prepare future broadband projects. TPC will continue facilitating the consortium and maintaining regional coordination beyond the award. The documented accomplishments establish a foundation for future deployment and funding efforts; they do not quantify new connections or construction delivered through this grant.

Funding acknowledgment and source

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