

About Us

[Current Articles](#) | [Archives](#) | [Search](#)



Consolidated Communications Awarded \$40 Million in Grants to Aid in Building Fiber to 57,000 Homes in New Hampshire

N.H. Office of Broadband Initiatives Grant will help fund fiber-to-the-home service to 37 towns in Carroll, Cheshire, Coos, Grafton, Hillsborough and Sullivan counties

MANCHESTER, N.H. – Feb. 22, 2023 –Consolidated Communications (NASDAQ: CNSL), a leading fiber provider, announced today it was awarded \$40 million in funding from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to build fiber to nearly 25,000 unserved homes throughout New Hampshire. Consolidated will invest its own capital to bring fiber to more than 32,000 additional homes. In total, the entire project will provide reliable fiber internet services to more than 57,000 homes across six different counties.

Upon completion, residents will have access to Consolidated's fiber internet service, Fidium, which offers multi-gig speeds and WiFi6 without data caps, contracts or hassles.

"This project will have a major positive economic impact on these towns," said Kathleen Kelley, a resident of Randolph, N.H. and local advocate. "Better internet will help our students prepare for the future, will allow small businesses to operate in today's global economy, and will improve health outcomes for seniors in our community."

"We in Tamworth are thrilled to learn that Consolidated has been awarded the recent broadband grant," said Patricia Farley, chair of the Tamworth Economic Development Commission. "I'm especially pleased that businesses and families can finally relocate to our area with the knowledge that excellent internet service will be available. We are grateful to the State of New Hampshire, the N.H. Executive Council and Consolidated for helping us grow and flourish."

The unanimous vote to approve Consolidated's grant took place during the Feb. 22 meeting of the New Hampshire Executive Council meeting. The grant was offered by the N.H. Department of Business and Economic Affairs Office of Broadband Initiatives, with funding from the federal ARPA and Capital Projects Fund.

"We're grateful to the Office of Broadband Initiatives for selecting this project and to the State of New Hampshire for making broadband access a priority," said Sarah Davis, vice president of government affairs at Consolidated. "This project has received incredible support and active engagement from the towns, and we look forward to working with these dedicated town leaders to

bring reliable, multi-gig fiber internet to their neighbors.”

DT 22-047
Attachment 1

Construction is expected to begin at the end of 2023 and be largely completed by the end of 2024. Consolidated has partnered with 23 New Hampshire towns since 2018, building and delivering fiber connectivity to 32,750 homes. Since 2021, Consolidated has built fiber to more than 244,000 New Hampshire homes and small businesses.

About Consolidated Communications

Consolidated Communications Holdings, Inc. (Nasdaq: CNSL) is dedicated to moving people, businesses and communities forward by delivering the most reliable fiber communications solutions. Consumers, businesses and wireless and wireline carriers depend on Consolidated for a wide range of high-speed internet, data, phone, security, cloud and wholesale carrier solutions. With a network spanning more than 57,500 fiber route miles, Consolidated is a top 10 U.S. fiber provider, turning technology into solutions that are backed by exceptional customer support. Learn more at [consolidated.com](https://www.consolidated.com). Connect with us on social media.

#

Actions: **E-mail**

[Site Map](#) [Terms & Policies](#) [About Us](#) [Contact Us](#)

Follow CCI



FEB10'23 AM11:13 RCVD

JS



47



January 27, 2023

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Executive Council
State House Concord, NH 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the Department of Business and Economic Affairs, Division of Economic Development to enter into a contract with Consolidated Enterprise Services, Inc. (CCI) (VC # 286193), Mattoon, IL in the amount of \$40,000,000 in American Rescue Plan Capital Project Funds for the buildout of broadband services to the unserved and underserved addresses identified in the RFP proposal submitted by CCI, effective upon Governor and Council approval through December 31, 2026. **100% Federal Funds.**

Funds are available in the following account for Fiscal Year 2023 and are anticipated to be available upon the acceptance and approval of funding in future fiscal years, with the authority to adjust encumbrances between fiscal years within the price limitation through the Budget Office, if needed and justified.

	<u>FY 2023</u>	<u>FY2024</u>	<u>FY2025</u>
03-022-022-221510-24410000 Broadband Connectivity FD ARP 072-509073 Contracts	\$12,000,000	\$12,000,000	\$16,000,000

EXPLANATION

On November 1, 2022, the Governor and Council approved the expenditure of \$40,000,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Capital Projects Funds for the purpose of improving broadband infrastructure across New Hampshire. This contract between the Department of Business and Economic Affairs (BEA) and Consolidated Enterprise Services, Inc. (CCI) is in response to the Request For Proposal (RFP) DBEA 2023-06, under the previously approved expenditure.

This contract will provide high-speed broadband services to 24,757 locations throughout the state currently unserved or underserved. This build-out will enable Granite Staters in previously unserved and underserved areas to utilize not only remote learning or remote work options but also access to telehealth services.

January 27, 2023
His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Executive Council
State House
Page 2 of 3

CPF funds were used for a similar program that awarded \$50,000,000 to the NH Electric Cooperative last year to bring this high-speed internet (broadband) coverage to more than 23,000 households that are currently underserved or unserved entirely. Combined with this request, these funds are expected to result in bringing broadband to approximately 40,000 households in the state.

A selection committee comprised of three state employees (Schedule #2) reviewed and scored the proposals (Schedule #1). Consolidated Enterprise Services, Inc. was ultimately awarded the contract with BEA. Scoring is included as Schedule #3.

The Attorney General's office has approved this contract as to form, substance, and execution.

In the event that Federal Funds become no longer available, General Funds will not be requested to support this program.

Respectfully submitted by,



Taylor Caswell
Commissioner

January 27, 2023
His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Executive Council
State House
Page 3 of 3

Additional Information – Round 2 Broadband Connect Program

Carroll County	6984	COOS County (cont.)	
ALBANY	21	DUMMER	257
Bartlett	714	ERROL	524
CHATHAM	281	GORHAM	349
Conway	2	GREENS GRANT	10
EATON	14	JEFFERSON	498
EFFINGHAM	406	LANCASTER	20
FREEDOM	1794	MARTINS LOCATION	5
Glenn	3	MILAN	901
Harts Location	14	MILLSFIELD	19
Jackson	4	NORTHUMBERLAND	380
MADISON	546	PINKHAMS GRANT	9
MOULTONBOROUGH	540	PITTSBURG	1524
OSSIPEE	1304	RANDOLPH	76
SANDWICH	58	SARGENTS PURCHASE	8
TAMWORTH	1265	SECOND COLLEGE GRANT	1
TUFTONBORO	8	SHELBURNE	139
WOLFEBORO	10	STARK	442
Cheshire County	3078	STRATFORD	205
ALSTEAD	368	WENTWORTH LOCATION	107
MARLOW	4	WHITEFIELD	1060
RICHMOND	338	Grafton County	2501
WALPOLE	1	BETHLEHEM	624
WINCHESTER	2367	FRANCONIA	529
COOS County	8459	LINCOLN	3
BERLIN	1306	LISBON	11
CAMBRIDGE	82	LITTLETON	1032
CARROLL	26	SUGAR HILL	302
CLARKSVILLE	67	Hillsborough County	280
DALTON	443	HANCOCK	280
DIXVILLE	1		
Merrimack County	1342	Sullivan County	2113
NEW LONDON	134	ACWORTH	26
NEWBURY	1201	CROYDON	614
SUTTON	7	LANGDON	169
		SPRINGFIELD	718
		SUNAPEE	586
		Grand Total	24757

Match Breakdown			
Funding Source	Funding	Unserviced Passings	Cost per Passing
Total Unserviced Cost	\$54,937,898	24,757	N/A
CCI Contribution	\$14,937,898	N/A	N/A
RDOF Contribution	\$3,984,506	N/A	N/A
Installation Costs	\$3,728,404	N/A	N/A
Drop Costs	\$7,224,987	N/A	N/A
Grant Request	\$40,000,000	24,757	\$1,616
Network Build Costs	\$39,872,158	N/A	N/A
Drop Costs	\$127,842	N/A	N/A

Consolidated's contributions represent 27% of the total project costs to reach unserved addresses, while grant funding would account for the remaining 73%.

Schedule #1

**Department of Business and Economic Affairs
Division of Economic Affairs
Round 2 Statewide Broadband Build for Unserved and
Underserved Communities
RFP Scoring Criteria**

Proposals were reviewed, evaluated, and scored by an evaluation committee. Evaluation of proposals were based on the following criteria for each component. Each criterion was scored according to the degree of responsiveness present in the proposal being evaluated.

- **Experience and Qualifications of key staff and subcontractors**
 - Bidders that are either a cooperative, non-profit, or government-affiliated organization authorized to perform business in NH (up to 25 points)
 - Bidder that is not cooperative, non-profit, or government-affiliated organization authorized to perform business in NH (up to 15 points)
- **Overall strategy and approach, methodology** (up to 35 points)
 - # of unserved properties below 100/20Mbps to be served
 - Most unserved properties to be served
 - 2nd most unserved properties to be served
 - 3rd most unserved properties to be served
- **Offered speeds** (up to 25 points)
 - 100/100 symmetrical
 - 100/20 scalable to 100/100
- **Cost/unserved property (total bid/unserved properties to be served)** (up to 15 points)
 - Lowest cost per property to be served
 - 2nd lowest cost per property to be served
 - 3rd lowest cost per property to be served

Grand Total (up to 100 or 90 points)

Schedule #2

Department of Business and Economic Affairs
Division of Economic Affairs
Capital Projects Broadband Consultant
RFP Scoring Committee

Matt Conserva, Broadband Program Manager
NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs
100 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-271-4963
matthew.e.conserva@livefree.nh.gov

Mr. Conserva has worked for the State of New Hampshire for the past two and a half years. Prior to working for the State, Mr. Conserva spent 24 years working at Nextel Communications and then Sprint. During his career at Sprint Nextel, Mr. Conserva performed many functions from individual contributor to managing large teams. Mr. Conserva attended the University of Mass, Lowell with a focus on Business Administration

Mark Laliberte, Business Development Manager
NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs
100 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-271-0322
mark.j.laliberte@livefree.nh.gov

Mr. Mark Laliberte has worked for the Department of Business and Economic Affairs for more than six years and, in August 2021, assumed the role as Broadband Project Manager. He has an extensive background in government, public policy, politics, and economic development, almost exclusively in New Hampshire. Mr. Laliberte has a M.P.A. (Masters in Public Administration) and a B.A. in Political Science, both from the University of New Hampshire. He also has numerous certifications in economic development, project management, and Lean/Six Sigma

Lisa Cota-Robles – Program and Oversight Director, GOFERR
GOFERR
100 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Ms. Cota-Robles is the program director for the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery. Prior to her appointment to GOFERR, she worked for the New Hampshire Insurance Department and the New Hampshire Office of Strategic Initiatives.

Schedule #3

Department of Business and Economic Affairs
Division of Economic Affairs
Round 2 Statewide Broadband Build for Unserved and
Underserved Communities
RFP Scoring Results

Company	Experience & Qualification (Up to 25 points)	Strategy & Approach (Up to 35 points)	Offered Speeds (Up to 25 points)	Requested Funding	Cost/Unserved Property (Up to 15 points)	Total Points
Consolidated	15.00	33.33	25.00	\$40,000,000	10.67	84.00
Hub66	11.67	15.00	25.00	\$40,000,000	15.00	66.67
Comcast	15.00	21.67	20.00	\$16,614,750	5.00	61.67

FORM NUMBER P-37 (version 12/11/2019)

Notice: This agreement and all of its attachments shall become public upon submission to Governor and Executive Council for approval. Any information that is private, confidential or proprietary must be clearly identified to the agency and agreed to in writing prior to signing the contract.

AGREEMENT

The State of New Hampshire and the Contractor hereby mutually agree as follows:

GENERAL PROVISIONS**1. IDENTIFICATION.**

1.1 State Agency Name Business & Economic Affairs (BEA)		1.2 State Agency Address 100 North Main St, Suite 100 Concord, NH 03301	
1.3 Contractor Name Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc.		1.4 Contractor Address 2116 S. 17 th . Street Mattoon, IL 61937	
1.5 Contractor Phone Number 217-235-3311	1.6 Account Number 24410000	1.7 Completion Date 12/31/2026	1.8 Price Limitation \$40,000,000
1.9 Contracting Officer for State Agency Matthew Conserva		1.10 State Agency Telephone Number 603-271-4963	
1.11 Contractor Signature  Date: 1-31-23		1.12 Name and Title of Contractor Signatory Fred Graffam, CFO	
1.13 State Agency Signature  Date: 2/9/2023		1.14 Name and Title of State Agency Signatory Taylor Caswell Commissioner	
1.15 Approval by the N.H. Department of Administration, Division of Personnel (if applicable) By: _____ Director, On: _____			
1.16 Approval by the Attorney General (Form, Substance and Execution) (if applicable) By: <i>Takhmina Rakhmatova</i> On: 2/9/223			
1.17 Approval by the Governor and Executive Council (if applicable) G&C Item number: _____ G&C Meeting Date: _____			

2. SERVICES TO BE PERFORMED. The State of New Hampshire, acting through the agency identified in block 1.1 ("State"), engages contractor identified in block 1.3 ("Contractor") to perform, and the Contractor shall perform, the work or sale of goods, or both, identified and more particularly described in the attached EXHIBIT B which is incorporated herein by reference ("Services").

3. EFFECTIVE DATE/COMPLETION OF SERVICES.

3.1 Notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement to the contrary, and subject to the approval of the Governor and Executive Council of the State of New Hampshire, if applicable, this Agreement, and all obligations of the parties hereunder, shall become effective on the date the Governor and Executive Council approve this Agreement as indicated in block 1.17, unless no such approval is required, in which case the Agreement shall become effective on the date the Agreement is signed by the State Agency as shown in block 1.13 ("Effective Date").

3.2 If the Contractor commences the Services prior to the Effective Date, all Services performed by the Contractor prior to the Effective Date shall be performed at the sole risk of the Contractor, and in the event that this Agreement does not become effective, the State shall have no liability to the Contractor, including without limitation, any obligation to pay the Contractor for any costs incurred or Services performed. Contractor must complete all Services by the Completion Date specified in block 1.7.

4. CONDITIONAL NATURE OF AGREEMENT.

Notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement to the contrary, all obligations of the State hereunder, including, without limitation, the continuance of payments hereunder, are contingent upon the availability and continued appropriation of funds affected by any state or federal legislative or executive action that reduces, eliminates or otherwise modifies the appropriation or availability of funding for this Agreement and the Scope for Services provided in EXHIBIT B, in whole or in part. In no event shall the State be liable for any payments hereunder in excess of such available appropriated funds. In the event of a reduction or termination of appropriated funds, the State shall have the right to withhold payment until such funds become available, if ever, and shall have the right to reduce or terminate the Services under this Agreement immediately upon giving the Contractor notice of such reduction or termination. The State shall not be required to transfer funds from any other account or source to the Account identified in block 1.6 in the event funds in that Account are reduced or unavailable.

5. CONTRACT PRICE/PRICE LIMITATION/ PAYMENT.

5.1 The contract price, method of payment, and terms of payment are identified and more particularly described in EXHIBIT C which is incorporated herein by reference.

5.2 The payment by the State of the contract price shall be the only and the complete reimbursement to the Contractor for all expenses, of whatever nature incurred by the Contractor in the performance hereof, and shall be the only and the complete

compensation to the Contractor for the Services. The State shall have no liability to the Contractor other than the contract price.

5.3 The State reserves the right to offset from any amounts otherwise payable to the Contractor under this Agreement those liquidated amounts required or permitted by N.H. RSA 80:7 through RSA 80:7-c or any other provision of law.

5.4 Notwithstanding any provision in this Agreement to the contrary, and notwithstanding unexpected circumstances, in no event shall the total of all payments authorized, or actually made hereunder, exceed the Price Limitation set forth in block 1.8.

6. COMPLIANCE BY CONTRACTOR WITH LAWS AND REGULATIONS/ EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY.

6.1 In connection with the performance of the Services, the Contractor shall comply with all applicable statutes, laws, regulations, and orders of federal, state, county or municipal authorities which impose any obligation or duty upon the Contractor, including, but not limited to, civil rights and equal employment opportunity laws. In addition, if this Agreement is funded in any part by monies of the United States, the Contractor shall comply with all federal executive orders, rules, regulations and statutes, and with any rules, regulations and guidelines as the State or the United States issue to implement these regulations. The Contractor shall also comply with all applicable intellectual property laws.

6.2 During the term of this Agreement, the Contractor shall not discriminate against employees or applicants for employment because of race, color, religion, creed, age, sex, handicap, sexual orientation, or national origin and will take affirmative action to prevent such discrimination.

6.3. The Contractor agrees to permit the State or United States access to any of the Contractor's books, records and accounts for the purpose of ascertaining compliance with all rules, regulations and orders, and the covenants, terms and conditions of this Agreement.

7. PERSONNEL.

7.1 The Contractor shall at its own expense provide all personnel necessary to perform the Services. The Contractor warrants that all personnel engaged in the Services shall be qualified to perform the Services, and shall be properly licensed and otherwise authorized to do so under all applicable laws.

7.2 Unless otherwise authorized in writing, during the term of this Agreement, and for a period of six (6) months after the Completion Date in block 1.7, the Contractor shall not hire, and shall not permit any subcontractor or other person, firm or corporation with whom it is engaged in a combined effort to perform the Services to hire, any person who is a State employee or official, who is materially involved in the procurement, administration or performance of this Agreement. This provision shall survive termination of this Agreement.

7.3 The Contracting Officer specified in block 1.9, or his or her successor, shall be the State's representative. In the event of any dispute concerning the interpretation of this Agreement, the Contracting Officer's decision shall be final for the State.

8. EVENT OF DEFAULT/REMEDIES.

8.1 Any one or more of the following acts or omissions of the Contractor shall constitute an event of default hereunder ("Event of Default"):

8.1.1 failure to perform the Services satisfactorily or on schedule;

8.1.2 failure to submit any report required hereunder; and/or

8.1.3 failure to perform any other covenant, term or condition of this Agreement.

8.2 Upon the occurrence of any Event of Default, the State may take any one, or more, or all, of the following actions:

8.2.1 give the Contractor a written notice specifying the Event of Default and requiring it to be remedied within, in the absence of a greater or lesser specification of time, thirty (30) days from the date of the notice; and if the Event of Default is not timely cured, terminate this Agreement, effective two (2) days after giving the Contractor notice of termination;

8.2.2 give the Contractor a written notice specifying the Event of Default and suspending all payments to be made under this Agreement and ordering that the portion of the contract price which would otherwise accrue to the Contractor during the period from the date of such notice until such time as the State determines that the Contractor has cured the Event of Default shall never be paid to the Contractor;

8.2.3 give the Contractor a written notice specifying the Event of Default and set off against any other obligations the State may owe to the Contractor any damages the State suffers by reason of any Event of Default; and/or

8.2.4 give the Contractor a written notice specifying the Event of Default, treat the Agreement as breached, terminate the Agreement and pursue any of its remedies at law or in equity, or both.

8.3. No failure by the State to enforce any provisions hereof after any Event of Default shall be deemed a waiver of its rights with regard to that Event of Default, or any subsequent Event of Default. No express failure to enforce any Event of Default shall be deemed a waiver of the right of the State to enforce each and all of the provisions hereof upon any further or other Event of Default on the part of the Contractor.

9. TERMINATION.

9.1 Notwithstanding paragraph 8, the State may, at its sole discretion, terminate the Agreement for any reason, in whole or in part, by thirty (30) days written notice to the Contractor that the State is exercising its option to terminate the Agreement.

9.2 In the event of an early termination of this Agreement for any reason other than the completion of the Services, the Contractor shall, at the State's discretion, deliver to the Contracting Officer, not later than fifteen (15) days after the date of termination, a report ("Termination Report") describing in detail all Services performed, and the contract price earned, to and including the date of termination. The form, subject matter, content, and number of copies of the Termination Report shall be identical to those of any Final Report described in the attached EXHIBIT B. In addition, at the State's discretion, the Contractor shall, within 15 days of notice of early termination, develop and

submit to the State a Transition Plan for services under the Agreement.

10. DATA/ACCESS/CONFIDENTIALITY/PRESERVATION.

10.1 As used in this Agreement, the word "data" shall mean all information and things developed or obtained during the performance of, or acquired or developed by reason of, this Agreement, including, but not limited to, all studies, reports, files, formulae, surveys, maps, charts, sound recordings, video recordings, pictorial reproductions, drawings, analyses, graphic representations, computer programs, computer printouts, notes, letters, memoranda, papers, and documents, all whether finished or unfinished.

10.2 All data and any property which has been received from the State or purchased with funds provided for that purpose under this Agreement, shall be the property of the State, and shall be returned to the State upon demand or upon termination of this Agreement for any reason.

10.3 Confidentiality of data shall be governed by N.H. RSA chapter 91-A or other existing law. Disclosure of data requires prior written approval of the State.

11. **CONTRACTOR'S RELATION TO THE STATE.** In the performance of this Agreement the Contractor is in all respects an independent contractor, and is neither an agent nor an employee of the State. Neither the Contractor nor any of its officers, employees, agents or members shall have authority to bind the State or receive any benefits, workers' compensation or other emoluments provided by the State to its employees.

12. ASSIGNMENT/DELEGATION/SUBCONTRACTS.

12.1 The Contractor shall not assign, or otherwise transfer any interest in this Agreement without the prior written notice, which shall be provided to the State at least fifteen (15) days prior to the assignment, and a written consent of the State. For purposes of this paragraph, a Change of Control shall constitute assignment. "Change of Control" means (a) merger, consolidation, or a transaction or series of related transactions in which a third party, together with its affiliates, becomes the direct or indirect owner of fifty percent (50%) or more of the voting shares or similar equity interests, or combined voting power of the Contractor, or (b) the sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the Contractor.

12.2 None of the Services shall be subcontracted by the Contractor without prior written notice and consent of the State. The State is entitled to copies of all subcontracts and assignment agreements and shall not be bound by any provisions contained in a subcontract or an assignment agreement to which it is not a party.

13. **INDEMNIFICATION.** Unless otherwise exempted by law, the Contractor shall indemnify and hold harmless the State, its officers and employees, from and against any and all claims, liabilities and costs for any personal injury or property damages, patent or copyright infringement, or other claims asserted against the State, its officers or employees, which arise out of (or which may be claimed to arise out of) the acts or omission of the

Contractor, or subcontractors, including but not limited to the negligence, reckless or intentional conduct. The State shall not be liable for any costs incurred by the Contractor arising under this paragraph 13. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing herein contained shall be deemed to constitute a waiver of the sovereign immunity of the State, which immunity is hereby reserved to the State. This covenant in paragraph 13 shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

14. INSURANCE.

14.1 The Contractor shall, at its sole expense, obtain and continuously maintain in force, and shall require any subcontractor or assignee to obtain and maintain in force, the following insurance:

14.1.1 commercial general liability insurance against all claims of bodily injury, death or property damage, in amounts of not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 aggregate or excess; and

14.1.2 special cause of loss coverage form covering all property subject to subparagraph 10.2 herein, in an amount not less than 80% of the whole replacement value of the property.

14.2 The policies described in subparagraph 14.1 herein shall be on policy forms and endorsements approved for use in the State of New Hampshire by the N.H. Department of Insurance, and issued by insurers licensed in the State of New Hampshire.

14.3 The Contractor shall furnish to the Contracting Officer identified in block 1.9, or his or her successor, a certificate(s) of insurance for all insurance required under this Agreement. Contractor shall also furnish to the Contracting Officer identified in block 1.9, or his or her successor, certificate(s) of insurance for all renewal(s) of insurance required under this Agreement no later than ten (10) days prior to the expiration date of each insurance policy. The certificate(s) of insurance and any renewals thereof shall be attached and are incorporated herein by reference.

15. WORKERS' COMPENSATION.

15.1 By signing this agreement, the Contractor agrees, certifies and warrants that the Contractor is in compliance with or exempt from, the requirements of N.H. RSA chapter 281-A ("*Workers' Compensation*").

15.2 To the extent the Contractor is subject to the requirements of N.H. RSA chapter 281-A, Contractor shall maintain, and require any subcontractor or assignee to secure and maintain, payment of Workers' Compensation in connection with activities which the person proposes to undertake pursuant to this Agreement. The Contractor shall furnish the Contracting Officer identified in block 1.9, or his or her successor, proof of Workers' Compensation in the manner described in N.H. RSA chapter 281-A and any applicable renewal(s) thereof, which shall be attached and are incorporated herein by reference. The State shall not be responsible for payment of any Workers' Compensation premiums or for any other claim or benefit for Contractor, or any subcontractor or employee of Contractor, which might arise under applicable State of New Hampshire Workers' Compensation laws in connection with the performance of the Services under this Agreement.

16. **NOTICE.** Any notice by a party hereto to the other party shall be deemed to have been duly delivered or given at the time of mailing by certified mail, postage prepaid, in a United States Post Office addressed to the parties at the addresses given in blocks 1.2 and 1.4, herein.

17. **AMENDMENT.** This Agreement may be amended, waived or discharged only by an instrument in writing signed by the parties hereto and only after approval of such amendment, waiver or discharge by the Governor and Executive Council of the State of New Hampshire unless no such approval is required under the circumstances pursuant to State law, rule or policy.

18. **CHOICE OF LAW AND FORUM.** This Agreement shall be governed, interpreted and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New Hampshire, and is binding upon and inures to the benefit of the parties and their respective successors and assigns. The wording used in this Agreement is the wording chosen by the parties to express their mutual intent, and no rule of construction shall be applied against or in favor of any party. Any actions arising out of this Agreement shall be brought and maintained in New Hampshire Superior Court which shall have exclusive jurisdiction thereof.

19. **CONFLICTING TERMS.** In the event of a conflict between the terms of this P-37 form (as modified in EXHIBIT A) and/or attachments and amendment thereof, the terms of the P-37 (as modified in EXHIBIT A) shall control.

20. **THIRD PARTIES.** The parties hereto do not intend to benefit any third parties and this Agreement shall not be construed to confer any such benefit.

21. **HEADINGS.** The headings throughout the Agreement are for reference purposes only, and the words contained therein shall in no way be held to explain, modify, amplify or aid in the interpretation, construction or meaning of the provisions of this Agreement.

22. **SPECIAL PROVISIONS.** Additional or modifying provisions set forth in the attached EXHIBIT A are incorporated herein by reference.

23. **SEVERABILITY.** In the event any of the provisions of this Agreement are held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be contrary to any state or federal law, the remaining provisions of this Agreement will remain in full force and effect.

24. **ENTIRE AGREEMENT.** This Agreement, which may be executed in a number of counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, constitutes the entire agreement and understanding between the parties, and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings with respect to the subject matter hereof.

EXHIBIT A

No Special Provisions

Contractor Initials
Date


1-31-23

EXHIBIT B

Below is the Scope of Services of this Agreement

The scope of this project includes planning, construction, and installation of all necessary broadband infrastructure and equipment for providing access to broadband for Unserved Properties in the state of New Hampshire.

Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc. (CCI) will be responsible to provide:

1. A performance bond for the duration of the Grant Agreement and for 3 months following acceptance of the Project by the State in the amount of \$40,000,000 ("Acceptance").
2. Broadband access to Unserved Properties in New Hampshire as identified by CCI in their response to RFP proposal dated November 28, 2022.
3. Designed to deliver upon completion, service that reliably meets or exceeds symmetrical download and upload speeds of 100 Mbps.
4. Must be completed, including all financial reporting closeout documents as soon as possible, but no later than December 31, 2026.
5. Ongoing operations and maintenance of the system will be the sole responsibility of CCI.
6. Low-cost option offered at speeds that are sufficient for a household with multiple users to simultaneously telework and engage in remote learning. Consolidated currently meets this requirement by offering the Affordable Connectivity Program discount on all speed tiers including 3 in excess of 100M/100M. Any future, low-cost option mandated by the federal government would negate this requirement
7. Project and Expenditure Report (P&E): A quarterly report to provide information on the Project funded, obligations, expenditures, project status, outputs, performance indicators, address list modifications and other information

Contractor Initials

Date



1-31-23

EXHIBIT C

Contract Price

Total contract shall not exceed: \$40,000,000

Below is the detailed payment terms of the contract:

- 30% or \$12,000,000 upon Governor and Executive Council Approval of the contract
- 30% or \$12,000,000 upon 12,000 potential customer passings and active service offered and verified. All Project and Expenditure Reports due, have been submitted and approved by the State up to this point.
- 40% or \$16,000,000 upon all remaining property passings and 100% of the addresses identified in the original proposal has been offered service and service is available to the address and verified. Also, Projects and Expenditure Reports have been submitted and approved. This must be received and approved before the December 31, 2026 deadline.
- All expenditures under this program will end by December 31, 2026. The pro rata portion, as determined by the State, of any Projects not completed by December 31, 2026, will not be eligible for funding and must be completed at the Applicant's sole expense. The ongoing operation and maintenance of the Projects will be the sole responsibility of the Applicant.

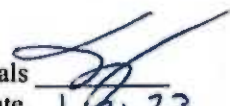
Method of Payment

- All invoices must be sent to:
Rhonda Hensley, Finance and Operations
Department of Business and Economic Affairs
100 North Main Steet, Suite 100
Concord, NH 03301
Email: rhonda.d.hensley@livefree.nh.gov

Matt Conserva, Broadband Program Manager
Department of Business and Economic Affairs
100 North Main Steet, Suite 100
Concord, NH 03301
Email: matthew.e.conserva@livefree.nh.gov

Contractor Initials

Date


1-31-23

STANDARD EXHIBIT D

Drug-Free Workplace

The Grantee (aka "Contractor") identified in Section 1.3 of the General Provisions agrees to comply with the provisions of Sections 5151-5160 of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 (Pub. L. 100-690, Title V, Subtitle D; 41 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), and further agrees to have the Grantee's representative, as identified in Sections 1.11 of the General Provisions execute the following Certification:

Certification Regarding Drug Free Workplace

This certification is required by the regulations implementing Sections 5151-5160 of the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 (Pub. L. 100-690, Title V, Subtitle D; 41 U.S.C. 701 et seq.). The January 31, 1989, regulations were amended and published as Part II of the May 25, 1990, Federal Register (pages 21681-21691), and require certification by grantees (and by inference, sub-grantees and sub-Grantees), prior to award, that they will maintain a drug-free workplace. Section 3017.630(c) of the regulation provides that a grantee (and by inference, sub-grantees and sub-Grantees) that is a state may elect to make one certification to the Department in each federal fiscal year in lieu of certificates for each grant during the federal fiscal year covered by the certification. The certificate set out below is a material representation of fact upon which reliance is placed when the agency awards the grant. False certification or violation of the certification shall be grounds for suspension of payments, suspension or termination of grants, or government wide suspension or debarment. Grantees using this form should send it to:

Department of Business and Economic Affairs
100 North Main Street, Suite 100
Concord, NH 03301

- (A) The Grantee certifies that it will or will continue to provide a drug-free workplace by:
- (a) Publishing a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the grantee's workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violation of such prohibition;
 - (b) Establishing an ongoing drug-free awareness program to inform employees about—
 - (1) The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace;
 - (2) The grantee's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace;
 - (3) Any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs; and
 - (4) The penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violations occurring in the workplace;
 - (c) Making it a requirement that each employee to be engaged in the performance of the grant be given a copy of the statement required by paragraph (a);
 - (d) Notifying the employee in the statement required by paragraph (a) that, as a condition of employment under the grant, the employee will—
 - (1) Abide by the terms of the statement; and
 - (2) Notify the employer in writing of his or her conviction for a violation of a criminal drug statute occurring in the workplace no later than five calendar days after such conviction;
 - (e) Notifying the agency in writing, within ten calendar days after receiving notice under subparagraph

(d)(2) from an employee or otherwise receiving actual notice of such conviction. Employers of convicted employees must provide notice, including position title, to every grant officer on whose grant activity the convicted employee was working, unless the Federal agency has designated a central point for the receipt of such notices. Notice shall include the identification number(s) of each affected grant;

(f) Taking one of the following actions, within 30 calendar days of receiving notice under subparagraph (d)(2), with respect to any employee who is so convicted—

- (1) Taking appropriate personnel action against such an employee, up to and including termination, consistent with the requirements of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; or
- (2) Requiring such employee to participate satisfactorily in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved for such purposes by a Federal, state, or local health, law enforcement, or other appropriate agency;

(g) Making a good faith effort to continue to maintain a drug-free workplace through implementation of paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f).

(B) The Grantee may insert in the space provided below the site(s) for the performance of work done in connection with the specific grant.

Place of Performance (street address, city, county, State, zip code) (list each location)

770 Elm Street
Manchester, NH 03101

Check ☐ if there are workplaces on file that are not identified here.

Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc

Contractor Name

Upon Governor & Executive Council Approval
through December 31, 2026

Period Covered by this Certification

Fred Graffam, CFO

Name and Title of Authorized Contractor Representative



Contractor Representative Signature

1-31-23

Date

STANDARD EXHIBIT E
Lobbying

The Grantee (aka "Contractor") identified in Section 1.3 of the General Provisions agrees to comply with the provisions of Section 319 of Public Law 101-121, Government wide Guidance for New Restrictions on Lobbying, and 31 U.S.C. 1352, and further agrees to have the Grantee's representative, as identified in Sections 1.11 and 1.12 of the General Provisions execute the following Certification:

CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

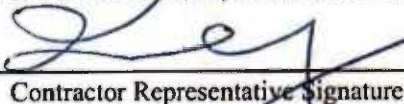
Programs (indicate applicable program covered): Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund for New Hampshire Population Projections

Contract Period: Upon Governor & Executive Council Approval through December 31, 2026

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

- (1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement (and by specific mention sub-grantee or sub-Grantee).
- (2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement (and by specific mention sub-grantee or sub-Grantee), the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying, in accordance with its instructions, attached and identified as Standard Exhibit E-1.
- (3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award document for sub-awards at all tiers (including subcontracts, sub-grants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all sub-recipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by Section 1352, Title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.


Contractor Representative Signature

CFO
Contractor Representative Title

Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc
Contractor Name


1-31-23
Date

STANDARD EXHIBIT F - Debarment

The Grantee (aka "Contractor") identified in Section 1.3 of the General Provisions agrees to comply with the provisions of Executive Office of the President, Executive Order 12529 and 45 CFR Part 76 regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters, and further agrees to have the Grantee's representative, as identified in Sections 1.11 and 1.12 of the General Provisions execute the following Certification:

CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS - PRIMARY COVERED TRANSACTIONS**Instructions for Certification**

- (1) By signing and submitting this Contract, the Grantee is providing the certification set out below.
- (2) The inability of a person to provide the certification required below will not necessarily result in denial of participation in this covered transaction. If necessary, the Grantee shall submit an explanation of why it cannot provide the certification. The certification or explanation will be considered in connection with the State determination whether to enter into this transaction. However, failure of the Grantee to furnish a certification or an explanation shall disqualify such person from participation in this transaction.
- (3) The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when the State determined to enter into this transaction. If it is later determined that the Grantee knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, State may terminate this transaction for cause or default.
- (4) The Grantee shall provide immediate written notice to State, to whom this Contract is submitted if at any time the Grantee learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.
- (5) The terms "covered transaction," "debarred," "suspended," "ineligible," "lower tier covered transaction," "participant," "person," "primary covered transaction," "principal," "proposal," and "voluntarily excluded," as used in this clause, have the meanings set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of the rules implementing Executive Order 12549: 45 CFR Part 76.
- (6) The Grantee agrees by submitting this Contract that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the State.
- (7) The Grantee further agrees by submitting this Contract that it will include the clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion - Lower Tier Covered Transactions," provided by State, without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.
- (8) A Grantee in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of Grantee in a lower tier covered transaction that it is not debarred, suspended, ineligible, or involuntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A Grantee may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals. Each participant may, but is not required to, check the Non-procurement List (of excluded parties).
- (9) Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of a Grantee is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.
- (10) Except for transactions authorized under paragraph 6 of these instructions, if a Grantee in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal government, State may terminate this transaction for cause or default.

Initials  Date 1-31-23 Page 4 of 11

**CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, AND OTHER
RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS - PRIMARY COVERED TRANSACTIONS, cont'd**

***Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other
Responsibility Matters - Primary Covered Transactions***

- (1) The Grantee (aka "Contractor") certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it and its principals:
- (a) are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal department or agency;
 - (b) have not within a three-year period preceding this Contract been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State or local) transaction or a contract under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
 - (c) are not presently indicted for otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (1) (b) of this certification; and
 - (d) have not, within a three-year period preceding this Contract, had one or more public transactions (Federal, State or local) terminated for cause or default.
- (2) Where the prospective primary participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this Contract.



Contractor Representative Signature

CFO

Contractor Representative Title

Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc

Contractor Name

1-31-23

Date


Initials  Date 1-31-23 Page 5 of 11


STANDARD AGREEMENT EXHIBIT G

**CERTIFICATION REGARDING THE
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT COMPLIANCE**

The Contractor identified in Section 1.3 of the General Provisions agrees by signature of the Contractor's representative as identified in Sections 1.11 and 1.12 of the General Provisions, to execute the following certification:

By signing and submitting this Contract the Contractor agrees to make reasonable efforts to comply with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

	CFO
Contractor Representative Signature	Contractor's Representative Title
Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc	1-31-23
Contractor Name	Date

Initials  Date 1-31-23 Page 6 of 11

STANDARD EXHIBIT H

CERTIFICATION

**Public Law 103-227, Part C
ENVIRONMENTAL TOBACCO SMOKE**

Public Law 103227, Part C Environmental Tobacco Smoke, also known as the Pro Children Act of 1994, requires that smoking not be permitted in any portion of any indoor facility routinely owned or leased or contracted for by an entity and used routinely or regularly for provision of health, day care, education, or library services to children under the age of 18, if the services are funded by Federal programs either directly or through State or local governments, by Federal grant, contract, loan, or loan guarantee.

The law does not apply to children's services provided in private residences, facilities funded solely by Medicare or Medicaid funds, and portions of facilities used for inpatient drug or alcohol treatment.

Failure to comply with the provisions of the law may result in the imposition of a civil monetary penalty of up to \$1000 per day and/or the imposition of an administrative compliance order on the responsible entity.

By signing and submitting this Contract the Grantee (aka "Contractor") certifies that it will comply with the requirements of the Act.

The Grantee further agrees that it will require the language of this certification be included in any subawards which contain provisions for the children's services and that all subgrantees shall certify accordingly.



Contractor Representative Signature

CFO


Contractor Representative Title

Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc

Contractor Name

1-31-23

Date

Initials  Date 1-31-23 Page 7 of 11

STANDARD EXHIBIT I**ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE NONDISCRIMINATION IN FEDERALLY ASSISTED PROGRAMS****OMB Burden Disclosure Statement**

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Paperwork Reduction Project (1910-0400), Washington, DC 20503.

Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc (hereinafter called the "Grantee" and aka "Contractor") HEREBY AGREES to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Pub. L. 88-352), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, (Pub. L. 92-318, Pub. L. 93-568, and Pub. L. 94-482), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Pub. L. 93-112), the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (Pub. L. 94-135), Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Pub. L. 90-284). In accordance with the above laws and regulations issued pursuant thereto, the Grantee agrees to assure that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity in which the Grantee receives Federal assistance.

Applicability and Period of Obligation

In the case of any service, financial aid, covered employment, equipment, property, or structure provided, leased, or improved with Federal assistance extended to the Grantee by the State with federal ARPA funds, this assurance obligates the Grantee for the period during which Federal assistance is extended. In the case of any transfer of such service, financial aid, equipment, property, or structure, this assurance obligates the transferee for the period during which Federal assistance is extended. If any personal property is so provided, this assurance obligates the Grantee for the period during which it retains ownership or possession of the property.

Employment Practices

Where a primary objective of the Federal assistance is to provide employment or where the Grantee's employment practices affect the delivery of services in programs or activities resulting from Federal assistance extended by the State, the Grantee agrees not to discriminate on the ground of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability, in its employment practices. Such employment practices may include, but are not limited to, recruitment, advertising, hiring, layoff or termination, promotion, demotion, transfer, rates of pay, training and participation in upward mobility programs; or other forms of compensation and use of facilities.

Subrecipient Assurance

The Grantee shall require any individual, organization, or other entity with whom it subcontracts, subgrants, or subleases for the purpose of providing any service, financial aid, equipment, property, or structure to comply with laws and regulations cited above. To this end, the subrecipient shall be required to sign a written assurance form; however, the obligation of both recipient and subrecipient to ensure compliance is not relieved by the collection or submission of written assurance forms.

Data Collection and Access to Records

The Grantee agrees to compile and maintain information pertaining to programs or activities developed as a result of the Grantee's receipt of Federal assistance from the State. Such information shall include, but is not limited to the following: (1) the manner in which services are or will be provided and related data necessary for determining whether any persons are or will be denied such services on the basis of prohibited discrimination; (2) the population eligible to be served by race, color, national origin, sex, age and disability; (3) data regarding covered employment including use or planned use of bilingual public contact employees serving beneficiaries of the program where necessary to permit effective participation by beneficiaries unable to speak or understand English; (4) the location of existing or proposed facilities connected with the program and related information adequate for determining whether

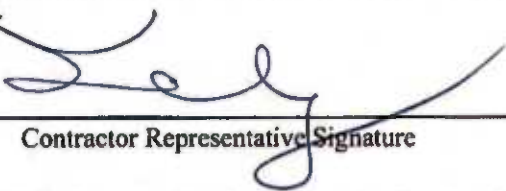
the location has or will have the effect of unnecessarily denying access to any person on the basis of prohibited discrimination; and (5) the present or proposed membership by race, color, national origin, sex, age and disability in any planning or advisory body which is an integral part of the program.

The Grantee agrees to submit requested data to the State, the U.S. Department of Treasury or OMB regarding programs and activities developed by the Grantee from the use of ARPA funds extended by the State upon request. Facilities of the Grantee (including the physical plants, buildings, or other structures) and all records, books, accounts, and other sources of information pertinent to the Grantee's compliance with the civil rights laws shall be made available for inspection during normal business hours on request of an officer or employee of the State, the U.S. Department of Treasury or OMB specifically authorized to make such inspections.

This assurance is given in consideration of and for the purpose of obtaining any and all Federal grants, loans, contracts (excluding procurement contracts), property, discounts or other Federal assistance extended after the date hereof, to the Grantee by the State including installment payments on account after such data of application for Federal assistance which are approved before such date. The Grantee recognizes and agrees that such Federal assistance will be extended in reliance upon the representations and agreements made in this assurance, and that the United States shall have the right to seek judicial enforcement of this assurance. This assurance is binding on the Grantee, the successors, transferees, and assignees, as well as the person(s) whose signatures appear below and who are authorized to sign this assurance on behalf of the Grantee.

Grantee Certification

The Grantee certifies that it has complied, or that, within 90 days of the date of the grant, it will comply with all applicable requirements of 10 C.F.R. § 1040.5 (a copy will be furnished to the Grantee upon written request to the State).

	CFO
Contractor Representative Signature	Contractor Representative Title
Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc	1-31-23
Contractor Name	Date

STANDARD EXHIBIT J

CERTIFICATION REGARDING THE FEDERAL FUNDING ACCOUNTABILITY AND
TRANSPARENCY ACT (FFATA) COMPLIANCE

The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) requires grantees of individual Federal grants equal to or greater than \$25,000 and awarded on or after October 1, 2010, to report on data related to executive compensation and associated first-tier sub-grants of \$25,000 or more. If the initial award is below \$25,000 but subsequent grant modifications result in a total award equal to or over \$25,000, the award is subject to the FFATA reporting requirements, as of the date of the award.


In accordance with 2 CFR Part 170 (*Reporting Subaward and Executive Compensation Information*), the State must report the following information for any grant award subject to the FFATA reporting requirements:

- 1) Name of entity
- 2) Amount of award
- 3) Funding agency
- 4) NAICS code for contracts / CFDA program number for grants
- 5) Program source
- 6) Award title descriptive of the purpose of the funding action
- 7) Location of the entity
- 8) Principle place of performance
- 9) Unique identifier of the entity (DUNS #)
- 10) Total compensation and names of the top five executives if:
 - a. More than 80% of annual gross revenues are from the Federal government, and those revenues are greater than \$25M annually and
 - b. Compensation information is not already available through reporting to the SEC.

Grantees (aka "Contractors") must submit FFATA required data by the end of the month, plus 30 days, in which the award or award amendment is made.

The Grantee identified in Section 1.3 of the General Provisions agrees to comply with the provisions of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act, Public Law 109-282 and Public Law 110-252, and 2 CFR Part 170 (*Reporting Subaward and Executive Compensation Information*), and further agrees to have one of the Grantee's representative(s), as identified in Sections 1.11 of the General Provisions execute the following Certification:

The below named Grantee agrees to provide needed information as outlined above to the State and to comply with all applicable provisions of the Federal Financial Accountability and Transparency Act.

	CFD
Contractor Representative Signature	Contractor Representative Title
Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc	1-31-23
Contractor Name	Date

**STANDARD EXHIBIT J cont.
CERTIFICATION**

As the Grantee (aka "Contractor") identified in Section 1.3 of the General Provisions, I certify that the responses to the below listed questions are true and accurate.

1. The SAM number for your entity is: MB4HFJHKM573

2. In your business or organization's preceding completed fiscal year, did your business or organization receive (1) 80 percent or more of your annual gross revenue in U.S. federal contracts, subcontracts, loans, grants, sub-grants, and/or cooperative agreements; and (2) \$25,000,000 or more in annual gross revenues from U.S. federal contracts, subcontracts, loans, grants, subgrants, and/or cooperative agreements?

X NO YES

**If the answer to #2 above is NO, stop
here**

**If the answer to #2 above is YES, please answer the
following:**

3. Does the public have access to information about the compensation of the executives in your business or organization through periodic reports filed under section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(a), 78o(d)) or section 6104 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986?

 NO YES

If the answer to #3 above is YES, stop

**If the answer to #3 above is NO, please answer the
following:**

4. The names and compensation of the five most highly compensated officers in your business or organization are as follows:

Name: _____	Amount: _____
Name: _____	Amount: _____
Name: _____	Amount: _____
Name: _____	Amount: _____
Name: _____	Amount: _____

Initials JS Date 1-21-23 Page 11 of 11

Document A312TM – 2010

Conforms with The American Institute of Architects AIA Document 312

Performance Bond

Bond Number: CMS0343852

CONTRACTOR:

(Name, legal status and address)

Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc.
2116 South 17th Street
Mattoon, IL 61938

SURETY:

(Name, legal status and principal place of business)

RLI Insurance Company
9025 N. Lindbergh Dr.
Peoria, IL 61615
State of Inc: IL

OWNER:

(Name, legal status and address)

State of New Hampshire, Business & Economic Affairs (BEA)
100 North Main Street, Suite 100
Concord, NH 03301

This document has important legal consequences. Consultation with an attorney is encouraged with respect to its completion or modification.

Any singular reference to Contractor, Surety, Owner or other party shall be considered plural where applicable.

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

Date: February 7, 2023

Amount: \$40,000,000.00

Description: (Name and location)

Planning, construction and installation of all necessary broadband infrastructure and equipment for providing access to broadband for Unserved Properties in New Hampshire

BOND

Date: February 7, 2023

(Not earlier than Construction Contract Date)

Amount: \$40,000,000.00

Modifications to this Bond: ☒ None ☐ See Section 16

CONTRACTOR AS PRINCIPAL

Company: (Corporate Seal)

Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc.

SURETY

Company:

(Corporate Seal)

RLI Insurance Company

Signature:

Name: Fred Garton

And Title: CFO

(Any additional signatures appear on the last page of this Performance Bond)

Signature:

Name:

And Title:

Cynthia L. Choren, Attorney-in-Fact

(FOR INFORMATION ONLY – Name, address and telephone)

AGENT or BROKER:

Marsh

OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE:

(Architect, Engineer or other party:)

Marsh USA LLC
800 Market Street
St. Louis, MO 63101
314-621-5540



§ 1 The Contractor and Surety, jointly and severally, bind themselves, their heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns to the Owner for the performance of the Construction Contract, which is incorporated herein by reference.

§ 2 If the Contractor performs the Construction Contract, the Surety and the Contractor shall have no obligation under this Bond, except when applicable to participate in a conference as provided in Section 3.

§ 3 If there is no Owner Default under the Construction Contract, the Surety's obligation under this Bond shall arise after

- .1 the Owner first provides notice to the Contractor and the Surety that the Owner is considering declaring a Contractor Default. Such notice shall indicate whether the Owner is requesting a conference among the Owner, Contractor and Surety to discuss the Contractor's performance. If the Owner does not request a conference, the Surety may, within five (5) business days after receipt of the Owner's notice, request such a conference. If the Surety timely requests a conference, the Owner shall attend. Unless the Owner agrees otherwise, any conference requested under this Section 3.1 shall be held within ten (10) business days of the Surety's receipt of the Owner's notice. If the Owner, the Contractor and the Surety agree, the Contractor shall be allowed a reasonable time to perform the Construction Contract, but such an agreement shall not waive the Owner's right, if any, subsequently to declare a Contractor Default;
- .2 the Owner declares a Contractor Default, terminates the Construction Contract and notifies the Surety; and
- .3 the Owner has agreed to pay the Balance of the Contract Price in accordance with the terms of the Construction Contract to the Surety or to a contractor selected to perform the Construction Contract.

§ 4 Failure on the part of the Owner to comply with the notice requirement in Section 3.1 shall not constitute a failure to comply with a condition precedent to the Surety's obligations, or release the Surety from its obligations, except to the extent the Surety demonstrates actual prejudice.

§ 5 When the Owner has satisfied the conditions of Section 3, the Surety shall promptly and at the Surety's expense take one of the following actions:

§ 5.1 Arrange for the Contractor, with the consent of the Owner, to perform and complete the Construction Contract;

§ 5.2 Undertake to perform and complete the Construction Contract itself, through its agents or independent contractors;

§ 5.3 Obtain bids or negotiated proposals from qualified contractors acceptable to the Owner for a contract for performance and completion of the Construction Contract, arrange for a contract to be prepared for execution by the Owner and a contractor selected with the Owner's concurrence, to be secured with performance and payment bonds executed by a qualified surety equivalent to the bonds issued on the Construction Contract, and pay to the Owner the amount of damages as described in Section 7 in excess of the Balance of the Contract Price incurred by the Owner as a result of the Contractor Default; or

§ 5.4 Waive its right to perform and complete, arrange for completion, or obtain a new contractor and with reasonable promptness under the circumstances:

- .1 After investigation, determine the amount for which it may be liable to the Owner and, as soon as practicable after the amount is determined, make payment to the Owner; or
- .2 Deny liability in whole or in part and notify the Owner, citing the reasons for denial.

§ 6 If the Surety does not proceed as provided in Section 5 with reasonable promptness, the Surety shall be deemed to be in default on this Bond seven days after receipt of an additional written notice from the Owner to the Surety demanding that the Surety perform its obligations under this Bond, and the Owner shall be entitled to enforce any remedy available to the Owner. If the Surety proceeds as provided in Section 5.4, and the Owner refuses the payment or the Surety has denied liability, in whole or in part, without further notice the Owner shall be entitled to enforce any remedy available to the Owner.

§ 7 If the Surety elects to act under Section 5.1, 5.2 or 5.3, then the responsibilities of the Surety to the Owner shall not be greater than those of the Contractor under the Construction Contract, and the responsibilities of the Owner to the Surety shall not be greater than those of the Owner under the Construction Contract. Subject to the commitment by the Owner to pay the Balance of the Contract Price, the Surety is obligated, without duplication, for:

1. the responsibilities of the Contractor for correction of defective work and completion of the Construction Contract;
2. additional legal, design professional and delay costs resulting from the Contractor's Default, and resulting from the actions or failure to act of the Surety under Section 5; and
3. liquidated damages, or if no liquidated damages are specified in the Construction Contract, actual damages caused by delayed performance or non-performance of the Contractor.

§ 8 If the Surety elects to act under Section 5.1, 5.3 or 5.4, the Surety's liability is limited to the amount of this Bond.

§ 9 The Surety shall not be liable to the Owner or others for obligations of the Contractor that are unrelated to the Construction Contract, and the Balance of the Contract Price shall not be reduced or set off on account of any such unrelated obligations. No right of action shall accrue on this Bond to any person or entity other than the Owner or its heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns.

§ 10 The Surety hereby waives notice of any change, including changes of time, to the Construction Contract or to related subcontracts, purchase orders and other obligations.

§ 11 Any proceeding, legal or equitable, under this Bond may be instituted in any court of competent jurisdiction in the location in which the work or part of the work is located and shall be instituted within two years after a declaration of Contractor Default or within two years after the Contractor ceased working or within two years after the Surety refuses or fails to perform its obligations under this Bond, whichever occurs first. If the provisions of this Paragraph are void or prohibited by law, the minimum period of limitation available to sureties as a defense in the jurisdiction of the suit shall be applicable.

§ 12 Notice to the Surety, the Owner or the Contractor shall be mailed or delivered to the address shown on the page on which their signature appears.

§ 13 When this Bond has been furnished to comply with a statutory or other legal requirement in the location where the construction was to be performed, any provision in this Bond conflicting with said statutory or legal requirement shall be deemed deleted herefrom and provisions conforming to such statutory or other legal requirement shall be deemed incorporated herein. When so furnished, the intent is that this Bond shall be construed as a statutory bond and not as a common law bond.

§ 14 Definitions

§ 14.1 **Balance of the Contract Price.** The total amount payable by the Owner to the Contractor under the Construction Contract after all proper adjustments have been made, including allowance to the Contractor of any amounts received or to be received by the Owner in settlement of insurance or other claims for damages to which the Contractor is entitled, reduced by all valid and proper payments made to or on behalf of the Contractor under the Construction Contract.

§ 14.2 **Construction Contract.** The agreement between the Owner and Contractor identified on the cover page, including all Contract Documents and changes made to the agreement and the Contract Documents.

§ 14.3 **Contractor Default.** Failure of the Contractor, which has not been remedied or waived, to perform or otherwise to comply with a material term of the Construction Contract.

§ 14.4 **Owner Default.** Failure of the Owner, which has not been remedied or waived, to pay the Contractor as required under the Construction Contract or to perform and complete or comply with the other material terms of the Construction Contract.

§ 14.5 **Contract Documents.** All the documents that comprise the agreement between the Owner and Contractor.

§ 15 If this Bond is issued for an agreement between a Contractor and subcontractor, the term Contractor in this Bond shall be deemed to be Subcontractor and the term Owner shall be deemed to be Contractor.

§ 16 Modifications to this bond are as follows:

(Space is provided below for additional signatures of added parties, other than those appearing on the cover page.)

CONTRACTOR AS PRINCIPAL

SURETY

Company:

(Corporate Seal)

Company:

(Corporate Seal)

Signature: _____
Name and Title:
Address

Signature: _____
Name and Title:
Address

POWER OF ATTORNEY

RLI Insurance Company Contractors Bonding and Insurance Company

9025 N. Lindbergh Dr. Peoria, IL 61615
Phone: 800-645-2402

Know All Men by These Presents:

That this Power of Attorney is not valid or in effect unless attached to the bond which it authorizes executed, but may be detached by the approving officer if desired.

That RLI Insurance Company and/or Contractors Bonding and Insurance Company, each an Illinois corporation, (separately and together, the "Company") do hereby make, constitute and appoint:

Pamela A. Beelman, Cynthia L. Choren, Heidi A. Notheisen, Debra C. Schneider, JoAnn R. Frank, Karen L. Roeder, Sandra L. Ham,
Brittany D. Stuckel, Leah L. Juenger, jointly or severally

in the City of Saint Louis, State of Missouri its true and lawful Agent(s) and Attorney(s) in Fact, with full power and authority hereby conferred, to sign, execute, acknowledge and deliver for and on its behalf as Surety, in general, any and all bonds and undertakings in an amount not to exceed Fifty Million Dollars (\$50,000,000.00) for any single obligation.

The acknowledgment and execution of such bond by the said Attorney in Fact shall be as binding upon the Company as if such bond had been executed and acknowledged by the regularly elected officers of the Company.

RLI Insurance Company and/or Contractors Bonding and Insurance Company, as applicable, have each further certified that the following is a true and exact copy of a Resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of each such corporation, and is now in force, to-wit:

"All bonds, policies, undertakings, Powers of Attorney or other obligations of the corporation shall be executed in the corporate name of the Company by the President, Secretary, any Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, or any Vice President, or by such other officers as the Board of Directors may authorize. The President, any Vice President, Secretary, any Assistant Secretary, or the Treasurer may appoint Attorneys in Fact or Agents who shall have authority to issue bonds, policies or undertakings in the name of the Company. The corporate seal is not necessary for the validity of any bonds, policies, undertakings, Powers of Attorney or other obligations of the corporation. The signature of any such officer and the corporate seal may be printed by facsimile."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the RLI Insurance Company and/or Contractors Bonding and Insurance Company, as applicable, have caused these presents to be executed by its respective Vice President with its corporate seal affixed this 7th day of February, 2023.



RLI Insurance Company
Contractors Bonding and Insurance Company

By: Barton W. Davis
Barton W. Davis Vice President

State of Illinois }
County of Peoria } SS

CERTIFICATE

On this 7th day of February, 2023, before me, a Notary Public, personally appeared Barton W. Davis, who being by me duly sworn, acknowledged that he signed the above Power of Attorney as the aforesaid officer of the RLI Insurance Company and/or Contractors Bonding and Insurance Company and acknowledged said instrument to be the voluntary act and deed of said corporation.

I, the undersigned officer of RLI Insurance Company and/or Contractors Bonding and Insurance Company, do hereby certify that the attached Power of Attorney is in full force and effect and is irrevocable; and furthermore, that the Resolution of the Company as set forth in the Power of Attorney, is now in force. In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the RLI Insurance Company and/or Contractors Bonding and Insurance Company this 7th day of February, 2023.

By: Catherine D. Geiger
Catherine D. Geiger Notary Public

RLI Insurance Company
Contractors Bonding and Insurance Company

By: Jeffrey D. Fick
Jeffrey D. Fick Corporate Secretary



**EVIDENCE OF PROPERTY INSURANCE**DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)
01/26/2023

THIS EVIDENCE OF PROPERTY INSURANCE IS ISSUED AS A MATTER OF INFORMATION ONLY AND CONFERS NO RIGHTS UPON THE ADDITIONAL INTEREST NAMED BELOW. THIS EVIDENCE DOES NOT AFFIRMATIVELY OR NEGATIVELY AMEND, EXTEND OR ALTER THE COVERAGE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES BELOW. THIS EVIDENCE OF INSURANCE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE ISSUING INSURER(S), AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OR PRODUCER, AND THE ADDITIONAL INTEREST.

AGENCY Marsh USA, Inc. 800 Market Street, Suite 1800 St. Louis, MO 63101 Attn: St.Louis.CertRequest@marsh.com Fax: 212-948-0811		PHONE (A/C, No, Ext):		COMPANY See Attached Acord 101	
FAX (A/C, No):		E-MAIL ADDRESS:			
CODE:		SUB CODE:			
AGENCY CUSTOMER ID#:		LOAN NUMBER		POLICY NUMBER SEE ATTACHED	
INSURED Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc. dba Consolidated Communications 2116 South 17th Street Mattoon, IL 61938		EFFECTIVE DATE 12/30/2022		EXPIRATION DATE 12/30/2023	<input type="checkbox"/> CONTINUED UNTIL TERMINATED IF CHECKED
THIS REPLACES PRIOR EVIDENCE DATED:					

PROPERTY INFORMATION

LOCATION/DESCRIPTION

THE POLICIES OF INSURANCE LISTED BELOW HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO THE INSURED NAMED ABOVE FOR THE POLICY PERIOD INDICATED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REQUIREMENT, TERM OR CONDITION OF ANY CONTRACT OR OTHER DOCUMENT WITH RESPECT TO WHICH THIS EVIDENCE OF PROPERTY INSURANCE MAY BE ISSUED OR MAY PERTAIN, THE INSURANCE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES DESCRIBED HEREIN IS SUBJECT TO ALL THE TERMS, EXCLUSIONS AND CONDITIONS OF SUCH POLICIES. LIMITS SHOWN MAY HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY PAID CLAIMS.

COVERAGE INFORMATION		PERILS INSURED	BASIC	BROAD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL			
COVERAGE / PERILS / FORMS							AMOUNT OF INSURANCE	DEDUCTIBLE
Risks of Direct Physical Loss or Damage (including Flood and Earthquake and Equipment Breakdown) to covered property except as excluded within the policy.							300,000,000	SEE ATTACHED

REMARKS (Including Special Conditions)**CANCELLATION**

SHOULD ANY OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED POLICIES BE CANCELLED BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE THEREOF, NOTICE WILL BE DELIVERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY PROVISIONS.

ADDITIONAL INTEREST CHI-010225772-01

NAME AND ADDRESS The State of New Hampshire 100 North Main St Suite 100 Concord, NH 03301	<input type="checkbox"/> ADDITIONAL INSURED	<input type="checkbox"/> LENDER'S LOSS PAYABLE	<input type="checkbox"/> LOSS PAYEE
	<input type="checkbox"/> MORTGAGEE		
	LOAN #		
	AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE Marsh USA Inc.		

AGENCY CUSTOMER ID: CN101359106

LOC #: St. Louis



ADDITIONAL REMARKS SCHEDULE

Page 2 of 2

AGENCY Marsh USA, Inc.		NAMED INSURED Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc. dba Consolidated Communications 2116 South 17th Street Mattoon, IL 61938
POLICY NUMBER		
CARRIER	NAIC CODE	EFFECTIVE DATE:

ADDITIONAL REMARKS

THIS ADDITIONAL REMARKS FORM IS A SCHEDULE TO ACORD FORM,

FORM NUMBER: 27 FORM TITLE: Evidence of Property Insurance

COMPANY	POLICY NO.	PARTICIPATION	LIMIT
American Guarantee and Liability Ins. Co.	ERP6963922-01	50.00%	\$150,000,000
Swiss Re Corporate Solutions Elite Insurance Corporation	NAP 2002274 05	50.00%	\$150,000,000

\$100,000 Per Occurrence AOP Deductible, except as follows:

FLOOD:

- 1) \$500,000 as respects all loss, damage or expenses caused by or resulting from physical damage to all other Locations which is caused by or results from Flood.
- 2) 5% of Property values; 5% of Time Element, subj. to a combined minimum of \$500,000 per occurrence for all loss, damage or expenses caused by or resulting from physical damage to locations wholly or partially located in a High Hazard Flood Zones which is caused by or results from Flood.

EARTH MOVEMENT:

- 1) \$500,000 as respects all loss, damage or expenses caused by or resulting from physical damage to all other Locations which is caused by or results from Earth Movement.
- 2) 2% of the 100% Value of Property Insured, 2% of the Full 12 Months Time Element Values. As respects all loss, damage or expenses caused by or resulting from physical damage to locations in the New Madrid and/or Pacific Northwest Earth Movement territories which is caused by or results from Earth Movement. The combined deductible for Property Damage and Time Element shall be subject to a minimum of \$500,000 in any one occurrence.
- 3) 5% of the 100% Value of Property Insured, 5% of the Full 12 months Time Element values. As respects all loss, damage or expenses caused by or resulting from physical damage to locations in California which is caused by or results from Earth Movement. The combined deductible for Property Damage and Time Element shall be subject to a minimum of \$500,000 in any one Occurrence.

NAMED WINDSTORM

- 1) As respects all loss, damage or expenses caused by or resulting from physical damage to Locations in Critical U.S. Named Windstorm Areas which is caused by or results from the peril of Wind from any Named Storm - Deductible is: 5% of the 100% of the Property Insured, 5% of the Full 12 Months Time Element Values. The combined deductible for Property Damage and Time Element shall be subject to a minimum of \$500,000 in any one occurrence.
- 2) At all other Locations - Deductible is: \$500,000 any one occurrence.

CONVECTIVE STORM (WIND AND HAIL):

- 1) 2% of the 100% Value of Property Insured, 2% of the Full 12 Months Time Element Values, subject to a minimum of \$500,000 per occurrence.
- 2) At all other Locations - Deductible is: \$500,000 any one occurrence.

Other deductibles may apply as per policy terms and conditions.

State of New Hampshire

Department of State

CERTIFICATE

I, David M. Scanlan, Secretary of State of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby certify that CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS ENTERPRISE SERVICES, INC. is a Delaware Profit Corporation registered to transact business in New Hampshire on February 07, 2017. I further certify that all fees and documents required by the Secretary of State's office have been received and is in good standing as far as this office is concerned.

Business ID: 605307

Certificate Number: 0006084317



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF,

I hereto set my hand and cause to be affixed
the Seal of the State of New Hampshire,
this 17th day of January A.D. 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David M. Scanlan", is written over a circular stamp that partially overlaps the seal of the State of New Hampshire.

David M. Scanlan
Secretary of State

CORPORATE RESOLUTION

I, J. Garrett Van Osdell, hereby certify that I am the duly elected Chief Legal Officer and Secretary of Consolidated Communications Enterprise Services, Inc. (the "Company"). I hereby certify the following is a true copy of an action by written consent of the Board of Directors the Company executed on January 23, 2023 in lieu of a meeting:

VOTED: That Fred Graffam, Chief Financial Officer and Sarah Davis, Vice President, are each duly authorized to enter into contracts or agreements on behalf of the Company with the State of New Hampshire and any of its agencies or departments and further are authorized to execute any documents which may in his/her judgment be desirable or necessary to effect the purpose of this vote.

I hereby certify this said vote has not been amended or repealed and remains in full force and effect as of the date of the contract to which this certificate is attached. This authority remains valid for thirty (30) days from the date of this Corporate Resolution. I further certify that it is understood that the State of New Hampshire will rely on this certificate of evidence that the person(s) listed above currently occupy the position(s) indicated and that they have full authority to bind the corporation in contracts with the State of New Hampshire, all such limitations are expressly stated herein.

DATED: January 25, 2023

ATTEST:



J. Garrett Van Osdell
Chief Legal Officer & Secretary