Connecting Communities BC Program
Frequently asked questions

What is the Connecting Communities BC (CCBC) Program?

On March 8, 2022, a Canada-British Columbia $830 million funding partnership was announced to support connecting all households in B.C. to high-speed internet services by 2027. From this partnership, the Connecting Communities BC program was created.

The program will support funding infrastructure to reach underserved households in areas that currently lack internet service of at least 50 Megabits per second (Mbps) download speed and 10 Mbps upload speed.

Where does the funding come from?

The $830 million program is funded equally by the BC Government and the Government of Canada.

Applications selected by CCBC may be funded by both the Province and the Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada's (ISED) Universal Broadband Fund (UBF).

Who is eligible to receive funding?

Please refer to the Application Guide for a definition of eligible applicants.

How do I know if my project will be jointly funded?

All applications received under the Connecting Communities BC program will be eligible for joint funding from the province and the Universal Broadband Fund. The Province and Innovation, Science & Economic Development Canada (ISED) will collaborate on application assessment to determine specific funding amounts.

Is there a limit on how many applications an Applicant can submit?

There is no limit for the number of applications an Applicant may submit to the program. Per the Application Guide, applicants submitting more than one application must ensure that each application is technologically and financially independent and that one application is not dependent on another for successful completion.

What eligible costs qualify for funding?

Please refer to the Application Guide for a list of eligible and ineligible costs.

Which areas are eligible for funding?

Eligible areas with underserved households are those identified by ISED's National Broadband Service Availability Map (Availability Map) as having less than 50/10 Mbps internet service speeds.

An update to this map is anticipated in September 2022. Please check the program landing page for updates.

Questions regarding the availability map should be directed to ISED at nationalbroadbandmap-cartenationaledesservicesalargebande@ised-isde.gc.ca.

How do I apply for the program?

Information about how to apply can be found on the CCBC website. Eligible applicants can apply for funding through the Applicant Portal. Please read through the Application Guide and complete the necessary documentation before applying.

Applicants should check the CCBC website regularly for program updates.

When can I apply for the program?

The first intake of the program will open on September 7, 2022 at 09:00 (9:00 AM) and close on December 15, 2022 at 14:00 (2:00 PM).

The Program anticipates that it may take more than one intake to achieve the goal of connecting 100% of households in B.C. to high-speed internet. Future intake dates and timelines will be posted to the program landing page.

When will I hear if my application is successful?

Projects will be assessed over the months following the end of each application period, with selection decisions and the negotiation of funding agreements to follow. Applicants will be notified once their project has been conditionally approved, followed by negotiation of funding agreements.

When should my project be completed?

All projects must be completed by March 31, 2027, with all claims processed.

Large-scale projects are to be completed by March 31, 2026 at the latest. Large-scale projects provide coverage to several communities and have funding from the Canadian Infrastructure Bank.

Are resolutions and/or letters for last-mile projects mandatory?

Yes, resolutions and/or support letters are **mandatory** for last-mile projects. Letters must be signed, recently dated, and reference the Project.

- For Indigenous communities, a Band Council or Tribal Council Resolution is required.
- For municipalities, a council resolution or letter is required.
- For unincorporated areas, a regional district board resolution or letter is required.

Who can I contact for more information about the program?

If your question is not answered in the Application Guide, please send an email to connectingcommunitiesbc@gov.bc.ca.