

# BROADBAND

## IN SOUTH DAKOTA

- March 2019 – South Dakota legislature approved \$5 million to be used as matching funds to improve broadband.
- South Dakota created statewide Broadband plan.
- May 2019 – Creation and launch of Connect South Dakota.
- Spring/Summer 2019 – The \$5 million leveraged more than \$11 million in broadband upgrades. Additionally, because the state had a broadband plan in place, South Dakota companies were awarded additional points on their Reconnect application, a federal program to provide funding for telecommunications updates. While \$5 million didn't fix our broadband gap overnight, it was a start.
- Eight awards to:
  - » *Alliance Communications* - \$269,428
  - » *Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority* - \$474,500
  - » *Interstate Telecommunications Cooperative* - \$253,300
  - » *Midco Communications* - \$306,199
  - » *Mitchell Telecom* - \$441,470
  - » *RC Technologies* - \$361,500
  - » *Vast Broadband* - \$128,844
  - » *Venture Communications* - \$2,764,759
- The total project costs of these approved projects was \$12 million.
- Collectively, these eight projects connect about 4,800 unserved and underserved households and more than 100 South Dakota businesses.
- Because South Dakota has a broadband plan in place, companies applying for Reconnect dollars receive additional points on their application.
- Alcester, SD benefits from a Reconnect grant awarded to Heartland Communications of Iowa.
- December 2019 – The USDA Reconnect Program awarded \$9.5 million in high-speed broadband infrastructure to Valley Telecommunications that will create or improve e-Connectivity for more than 1,750 homes in rural South Dakota. <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2019/12/12/usda-invests-95-million-rural-broadband-south-dakota-families>
- In early November, Verizon announced 5G wireless would rollout in Sioux Falls, making it among the first 20 cities in the US with 5G technology.
- When you combine the Connect and Reconnect projects, 6,800 households and nearly 150 businesses in South Dakota now have access to higher speed broadband service.
- The total combined investment from Connect and Reconnect projects in South Dakota is \$25 million.