

FCC FUNDING RECEIVED FOR BROADBAND EXPANSION

Arrowhead Cooperative receives \$18.4 million in federal funds that will be used over the next ten years to expand high-speed broadband services.



The FCC recently announced that it is ready to authorize \$163,895,636 to 42 broadband providers in the second round of funding for new broadband deployments through the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF). In this funding wave, broadband providers will bring fiber-to-the-home gigabit broadband to approximately 65,000 locations in 21 states over the next 10 years.

In March of 2021, we announced that Arrowhead Cooperative was successful in securing a bid of \$18.4 million in the RDOF auction but there were several steps to be completed before funding would be granted or service was available. We are excited to share that after a long and exhaustive review of Arrowhead Cooperative's application, the Cooperative received confirmation from the FCC that we would be receiving this new funding, as of October 7, 2021.

Arrowhead Cooperative launched its broadband division in 2010 after receiving over \$16 million in grants and low-interest loans from the United States Department of Agriculture. In addition, Cook County awarded the Cooperative a \$4 million grant to aid the project. Fiber-to-the-home service was then offered to locations on the electrical grid. In relatively short order, Arrowhead Cooperative made high-speed internet hook-ups possible to over 70 percent of Cook County's population. This new funding will allow Arrowhead Cooperative to grow the availability of broadband services in our area.

"It is with great excitement for our community that we share this incredible news," said CEO John Twiest. "What started as a

concept among community leaders as far back as the mid-2000s, has become a reality for all of us, and Arrowhead Cooperative will now be installing fiber to the more remote areas of our community that have no utilities present. An opportunity that we are proud to lead."

This funding is set up over 10 years. Arrowhead's goal is to have the infrastructure installed within six years, provided materials and skilled workers are available. The Cooperative will be installing approximately 20 – 25 miles of facility per year, hopefully starting by Fall 2022. We have many hours of preparation ahead of us and our staff is excited to bring fiber to new members of the Cooperative.

"Access to reliable, high-quality broadband connectivity should be a reality for everyone, no matter where you live and we look forward to leveraging our technology and expertise to deliver high-quality service to more people in our service territory. This funding makes it possible," said Twiest. "We ask for patience from our community as we develop, share, and execute the plans with all involved. We understand how important this is and will do our very best to move safely and efficiently."

RDOF is a once-in-a-lifetime funding opportunity that is projected to dramatically improve the quality of life in our area, and Arrowhead Cooperative is excited about the future.

ARROWHEAD BROADBAND PUT YOUR SERVICE ON VACATION HOLD

Going on vacation or away for a while? Find out how to temporarily suspend your service.

Reminder to Arrowhead Broadband Residential Subscribers: if you will be suspending your phone or internet service this fall, please contact our office three business days before the date you are pausing service.

The minimum monthly service charge for each suspended service is \$10 and the maximum length of a suspension is 6 months. If you suspended your service last year, you need to have 6 months of active service before you are eligible to suspend again. For example, if your service became active in May you must wait until November to suspend this year. You may request suspension via phone at (218) 663-9030 or email truenorth@arrowhead.coop.



WARM HANDS & WARM HEARTS

Arrowhead Cooperative is collecting cold-weather accessories (mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves) to help keep our neighbors warm this winter.

Contributions of **new or homemade** winter accessories can be brought to Arrowhead Cooperative's office by 4 pm on December 10.

Operation Family Christmas coordinators will distribute your donations to those in need in our community.

Help us decorate our mitten tree with warmth, comfort, and cheer!

NORTH COUNTRY EV SHOW & TELL EVENT A SUCCESS



Several types of electric vehicles (EVs), including Teslas, an electric Polaris Ranger, and electric bicycles, were available to the public for viewing during a special EV-focused event on Thursday, September 30, in Duluth. The goal of this event was to connect those interested in EVs to those who have already made the leap to purchase an EV.

A discussion panel of EV owners, energy representatives, the Ford dealership, and other industry experts kicked off the event at 5:00 p.m. in the North Shore Room of Canal Park Lodge. Over 100 people attended the discussion and heard from George Host (Lake Country Power member and EV owner), Paul Blomquist (owner of C&M Ford Sales, a dealership in Hallock, MN), Jukka Kukkonen (Chief EV Educator and Strategist at Shift2Electric), David Ranallo (Director, Culture, Communications, & Member Services at Great River Energy), and Yusef Orest (EV Programs & Services Representative at Minnesota Power). They shared their experience owning an EV, information about today's charging technologies, and charging programs available through their local electric provider – while also taking questions from the audience. They also discussed the convenience of EVs, costs, safety, practicalities of charging, and batteries.

Afterward, approximately 200 people toured the city parking lot to visit EV owners and their cars. Models of EVs at the event included: Ford Mach E, Hyundai Kona, Chevy Bolts, Tesla models, Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid, Volkswagen ID.4, Kia Niro PHEV, electric bicycles, etc.

EVs offer a variety of benefits, some of which include lower costs-to-own over the life of the vehicle, cleaner air in the community, no emissions, and a smooth, powerful ride. Arrowhead Cooperative offers an off-peak charging program with reduced electric rates for charging EVs as well as discounted pricing on EV chargers through the EnergyWiseMN website. For more information contact our Member Services Department at (218) 663-7239.



CO-OP NEWS

OFFICE CLOSED

Arrowhead Cooperative will be closed on Thursday, November 25, and Friday, November 26, 2021, in observance of Thanksgiving. Please call (800) 864-3744 in the event of an outage or emergency.

COLD WEATHER RULE REMINDER

Arrowhead Cooperative members who may have trouble paying their winter energy bills are reminded that the Cold Weather Rule took effect October 1, 2021.

The Minnesota Cold Weather Rule protects qualified residential utility customers during the winter months. Under this rule, electric service will not be disconnected from October 1 through April 30 due to non-payment, if customers meet Cold Weather Rule requirements. However, this rule does not relieve members of their responsibility to pay their utility bills.

Those who qualify for Cold Weather Rule protection need to set up a payment schedule with the Cooperative. Call us today for more information or to set up your payment arrangement at (800) 864-3744.



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LAST CHANCE FOR 2021 REBATES

Arrowhead Cooperative offers a wide range of programs and smart technologies to our members to help manage electricity while ensuring reliability. We offer several rebates and incentives to save you even more when making energy-efficient changes in your home.

It's not too late to make the energy efficiency upgrades that will save you money before the end of the year. Take advantage of these great offers before time runs out.

ENERGY STAR® APPLIANCES

Energy Star® Dishwasher \$15

Energy Star® Dehumidifier \$25

Energy Star® Clothes Dryer \$25

Energy Star Freezer or Refrigerator \$75
(Proof of recycling old unit required.)

LIGHTING

Energy Star® LED Bulbs up to \$2 per bulb

HVAC

Smart Thermostat \$25

ETS Space Heating System \$50 per kW

Ductless ASHP – Electric Primary Heat \$500

Ductless ASHP – Delivered Fuels Primary Heat \$300

Central ASHP System \$480-\$630
(Call for details.)

Energy Star® Ductless Mini-Split
Air Source Heat Pump \$300/\$500

WATER HEATING

ETS Water Heater \$400
(80+ gallon and high efficiency only)

Heat Pump Water Heater \$500

Interruptible Water Heater \$200
(50+ gallon and high efficiency only)

In addition to the residential rebates above, Arrowhead Cooperative offers commercial rebates for lighting, motors, drives, and more. All rebate and incentive programs have certain restrictions and requirements that must be met before a rebate can be issued. Contact Arrowhead Cooperative for more information and to access the appropriate rebate forms by calling (800) 864-3744 or emailing newsletter@arrowhead.coop

You don't have to sacrifice your lifestyle or a single degree of comfort to be a smart energy user. Contact the member services department today to learn more about how you can improve your home's energy use.

REMINDER: ALL REBATE FORMS FOR 2021 MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 31, 2021 AT 4:00 PM.



NOVEMBER CALENDAR WINNER

Submitted by: Chuck Coldwell



EFFICIENCY TIP

Heading out of town for the holiday season? Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets like TVs, phone chargers, gaming consoles and toothbrush chargers use energy when plugged into an outlet—even when they're not in use.

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