



# VISIONARY BROADBAND

For Immediate Release:  
January 24, 2024

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## **VISIONARY BROADBAND AWARDED \$3.9 M GRANT IN ARCHULETA COUNTY FOR FIBER BUILD**

ARCHULETA COUNTY, CO – Visionary Broadband—a provider of high-speed internet service to communities in the rural West including Colorado, Wyoming and Montana—has been awarded a CPF grant totaling \$3.9 million. Visionary will be contributing \$1.3 million of its own monies for a total project amount of \$5.2 million. The grant and subsequent match will allow Visionary to build out high-speed internet service to nearly 1,034 users in Pagosa Springs, Colorado.

Awards are from Colorado’s Advance Broadband Initiative via the Colorado Projects Fund Grant.

Visionary pinpointed 1,034 homes and businesses in the towns of Pagosa Springs in Archuleta County that suffer from slow or no internet service at all, referred to as underserved and unserved; 1,030 were identified as underserved and 4 unserved. The funding will allow Visionary to provide the infrastructure for “Fiber to the Home” internet service, which is state of the art technology.

To meet the new high-speed requirements of the federal government and Colorado Broadband Office, broadband constructed with the grant funds must provide download speeds of 100 megabits per second and upload speeds of at least 20 Mbps. The old requirements were 25 Mbps down and 3 Mbps up.

Emily Lashbrooke, executive director for the Pagosa Springs Community Development Corporation, said the partnership with Visionary and subsequent award is vital to the economic well-being of the area. “Visionary continues to be a great partner for Archuleta County’s broadband development, as they have been for many years. This grant will address an area of great need in the Hatcher Reservoir and surrounding area, which has traditionally been an area that has been ‘hit-or-miss,’ at best.” She continued: “Universally available fiber internet for over 1,000 residents of this area, as well as the prospect of better cellular coverage the accompanying fiber infrastructure will bring, will be a true game-changer for this area. It will



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allow residents to fully participate in the modern economy, which will be fully scalable to whatever standard broadband capabilities become in the future.”

The projects must be completed by the end of 2026 in order to receive full funding. The Colorado Projects Fund grant application process was highly competitive. Thirteen projects were awarded \$113.5 million, out of 112 applicants seeking more than \$640 million.

Brian Worthen, CEO of Visionary applauded the state’s effort: “Awarding such a large number of grants in such a short time was not a simple lift. The Colorado Broadband Office did a phenomenal job ensuring that the areas of greatest need in rural Colorado were prioritized and we are excited to get to work to deliver an exceptional product to these areas.”

In Colorado, Visionary serves primarily mountain communities in western Colorado, areas where internet service has historically been difficult to provide due to the vast distances between users or the rugged, high-altitude topography of the Rocky Mountains.

About Visionary Broadband:

*Visionary Broadband was founded in 1994 in a rural community in Wyoming. It is a homegrown company that has developed technical abilities with a focus on reliability. Today, the rural internet provider serves five states and has a proven track record of connecting the most rural communities, bringing a commitment of efficiency, reliability and affordability to its customers. To learn more visit, <https://www.vcn.com/>*

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