



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
ACQUISITION AND GRANTS OFFICE

August 8, 2013

Mr. Bill Welch
Nevada Hospital Association
5250 Neil Road, Suite 302
Reno, NV 89502-6568

Re: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
Nevada Hospital Association (NHA) Recovery Act Nevada Broadband Telemedicine
Initiative Grant Award # NT10BIX5570103
Lift of Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) Suspension

Dear Mr. Welch:

Thank you for the March 1, 2013, response to the February 6, 2013, Corrective Action Plan (CAP) and ASAP suspension letter. Based on an initial review of this response, as well as on the results of subsequent discussions and meetings, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has recommended and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Grants Office has agreed to lift the ASAP suspension of the NHA BTOP award to allow NHA access to funds in order to finalize a viable and sustainable broadband network plan and to secure a third-party partner to address financial, organizational and schedule concerns with its BTOP-funded network.

NHA provided sufficient information to NTIA about how it plans to address each of the issues it is facing, including:

- performance progress
- budget and match
- schedule
- project oversight and organizational capacity.

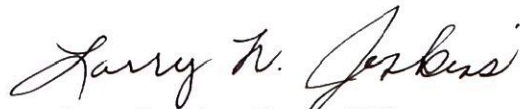
In particular, NHA outlined its process and plan to identify a new project partner and source of matching funds. In order to complete this process and construct the network, NHA requested an extension through September 30, 2014. NHA expects to complete the process for securing a partner by October 2013 and restart construction activities no later than January 2014. Based on the documentation provided, including this deadline for securing a new partner, NTIA has recommended and NOAA has agreed to extend the project performance period for the NHA BTOP award to September 30, 2014.

To ensure prudent expenditures of funds, NHA's award will remain on agency review status until the conclusion of the award period. In light of NHA's past difficulties in complying with project schedules and timelines, NTIA has determined that this status is necessary to ensure that NHA timely implements its process to revise its plan, in an expeditious manner. To request reimbursement for allowable expenses, NHA will need to submit an Award Action Request (ASAP Drawdown Request) along with a list of allowable costs and copies of associated invoices. The list should be accompanied by a short description of each cost. NOAA and NTIA will then initiate a review to determine the cost allowability of each expense. After NOAA and NTIA perform their review, the Grants Office will send NHA a confirmation message listing the costs approved for payment, and NHA may initiate a drawdown request from the ASAP system.

Failure to demonstrate adequate progress toward completion of the network may result in suspension or termination of the award.

If you have any questions, please contact your Federal Program Officer, Max Fainberg, at 202.482.0021 or Mfainberg@ntia.doc.gov. You may also contact your Grant Specialist, Andrew Nobleman, at 301.628.1325 or Andrew.I.nobleman@noaa.gov. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,



Larry Jenkins, Grants Officer
NOAA Grants Management Division

cc: Arlene Simpson Porter, NOAA
Anthony Wilhelm, Ph.D., NTIA
Aimee Meacham, NTIA
Laura Dodson, NTIA
Max Fainberg, NTIA
Alan Conway, NOAA
Andrew Nobleman, NOAA
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