

THE Power Lines REPORT



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March 2024

\$5.1M Broadband Grant Puts Last Miles in Sight for Elevate Internet

Grant will close the broadband gap in Montrose & Delta counties



Jack Johnston, CEO

I'm proud to announce that on January 3, the Colorado Capital Projects Fund (CPF) officially awarded Elevate a \$5,140,782 grant to continue building our fiber network in Montrose and Delta counties.

Not only does this grant help us bring affordable high-speed internet to another 395 homes and businesses, but it also marks the culmination of a community vision to bring fiber internet to Western Colorado.

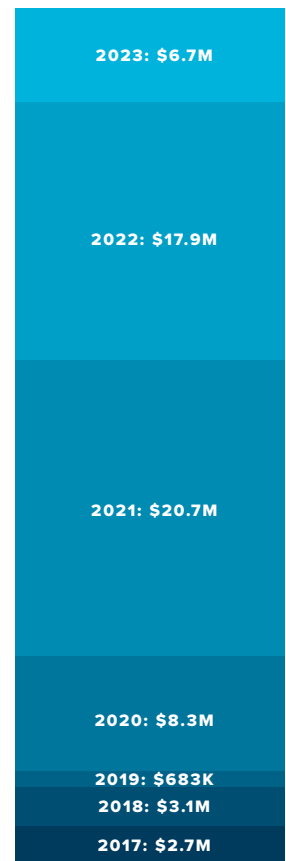
The CPF grant accounts for almost 75% of the construction costs to build an additional 125 miles of Elevate's fiber network in scattered pockets throughout Montrose and Delta counties, including the long-awaited neighborhoods east of Montrose and north of the City of Delta. Less than 1,700 locations in DMEA's service territory will remain unserved when construction is complete.

While we are no longer eligible for current public grant funding, there are still member homes we need to serve. From a public policy perspective, these areas are considered served, but that's not good enough for us. Elevate is committed to reaching every DMEA member by 2027. The last few areas will be funded through future capital budgets.

The massive undertaking to bring high-speed, affordable, and reliable internet to Montrose and Delta counties began in 2016 when we created your wholly-owned fiber internet subsidiary, Elevate Internet. Since then, we have secured nearly \$61M in state and federal grant funds, all dedicated to bringing fiber internet to local communities. Over the last seven-and-a-half years, Elevate has constructed 1,580 miles of fiber to more than 27,000 homes and businesses.

Grant funding has been a key element to Elevate's success. It has allowed us to expand our fiber footprint more rapidly and bring world-class internet into our valley. Check elevateinternet.com to see if we are in your neighborhood. It would be our privilege to serve you.

TOTAL GRANT DOLLARS
~ \$61M



OUR CORE VALUES:

At DMEA and Elevate, we operate based on core values defined by our Board of Directors. Here are our recently updated values:

SAFETY

We relentlessly protect our most valued resources: our employees, members, infrastructure, contractors, and the public.

TRANSPARENCY

We act with uncompromising honesty and openness.

INNOVATION

We think freely and experiment boldly as an independent cooperative in the pursuit of continuous improvement.

INTEGRITY

We remain true to our word and treat others with respect.

SUSTAINABILITY

We are good stewards of our resources and work to protect the community we all share.

RELIABILITY

We deliver service you can count on all day, every day.



YOUR CO-OP YOUR VOTE

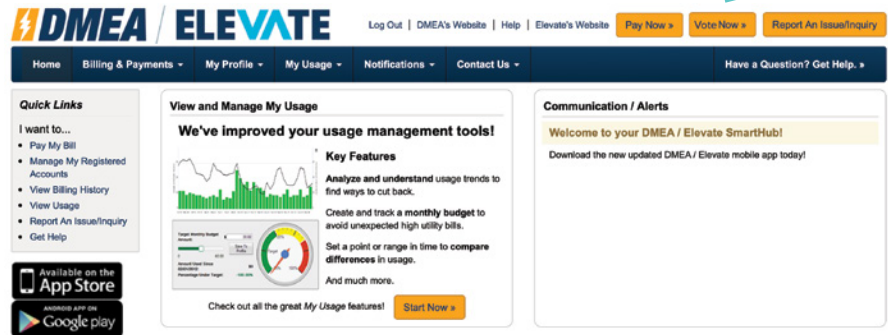
Important information about the
2024 DMEA Board of Directors Election

VOTING FOR YOUR DIRECTOR REPRESENTATIVES JUST GOT EASIER!

This year, you can vote electronically for your board representatives.
Here's what you need to know.



SmartHub: Starting May 3, all eligible voters will see a 'Vote Now' button in their secure SmartHub account. To access your electronic ballot, click the button, vote, and submit.



Email for Web Portal: If you have an email address registered to your DMEA account, you will also receive an email with your unique secure link. To access your ballot, click the link, enter the credentials provided in your email, and cast your vote. Be on the lookout for an email from noreply@directvote.net and add it to your contacts!



Mail-in Ballot: All members will still receive a mailed paper ballot and can return their vote by mail.



At the Annual Meeting: If you prefer voting in person, be sure to attend the annual meeting on June 6 - stay tuned for details!



One member, one vote! If you submit more than one ballot, only your first ballot cast will be counted.



THERE'S NO NEED FOR
FOMO
(Fear of Missing Out)

Just update your account information so you don't miss any notifications or important news. You'll get notified when the power goes out and stay up-to-date while we work to get you turned back on.

Name: _____
Account #: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____

Fill out the information above, and return this slip to us at DMEA:
11925 6300 Road, Montrose, CO; 21191 H75 Rd. Delta, CO; or return with your payment.



A SENIOR'S GUIDE TO THE DIGITAL WORLD

Feeling lost in our digital world?
Elevate is here to help!

Free!

Learn the basics of streaming TV, smart devices, video chatting, and internet safety through this 4-class series. All classes are from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. at the Delta Public Library (Delta, CO) on the dates below. Refreshments will be provided. Class is free of charge!

Intro to Video Chatting

Are you ready to connect with your far flung friends and loved ones face to face? Join us to learn the basics of video chatting! We'll go over chat options, basic functions, and answer your questions.



When: April 11, 10-11:30 a.m.

Where: Delta Public Library
124 E 6th St.

How: Register at:

- ▶ elevateinternet.com/101
- ▶ 844-386-8744
- ▶ or scan here:



Attend all four sessions
and you'll be entered to
win a Kindle or an iPad!

Save these Dates:

- ▶ August 15: Intro to Smart Devices
- ▶ September 19: Internet Safety

ELEVATE
FAST INTERNET ▶ (for real)

CONCERN *for* COMMUNITY

COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE #7

Congratulations to our Youth Leadership Program participants!

Each year, DMEA sends one student to Washington, D.C., to the Rural Electric Youth Tour and two students to Steamboat Springs to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp. Meet this year's participants:



Carissa Trask

Montrose High School

Carissa plays girls varsity Lacrosse and is a member of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), National Honor Society, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Since 7th grade, she has volunteered once a month at Heirlooms for Hospice in Montrose and helps at the local food bank with her church.

"I would like to participate to learn valuable leadership skills and gain a greater understanding of the government and how cooperatives work."



Willow Webb

North Fork High School

Willow is a National Honor Society, student council, and FBLA member. He participates in Knowledge Bowl, jazz, and concert bands and has played in the Western Slope Honor Jazz Band.

Willow is on the Montrose Mountain Bike Team and volunteers with 'Seniors and Tech' to help senior citizens fix tech issues.

"I believe that electric cooperatives are important for this country, and going on the Youth Tour will help me learn more about them in a fun and awesome way."



Evie Sherman

Montrose High School

Evie is involved in aerial arts and circus performing, is a church youth leader, is on the honor roll, and is taking AP and honors classes. She participates in the Rotary Club, is a mobile and floor camera operator, and is on her church's production, youth, and children's teams.

"I believe the Youth Camp would be a great opportunity to meet like-minded individuals with similar academic and leadership goals."



Montrose Office
11925 6300 Road
Montrose, CO 81401
M, W, F; 8:00am-5:00pm
T & Th; 8:00am-6:00pm

Read Office
21191 H 75 Road
Delta, CO 81416
M - F; 8:00am-5:00pm

Contact Us:
877-687-3632 | dmea.com |    

Your Board of Directors:

Bill Patterson, District 1
Jacob Gray, District 3
Kevin Williams, District 5
Enno Heuscher, District 7
Jock Fleming, South

Steve Metheny, District 2
Emily Sanchez, District 4
Damon Lockhart, District 6
Stacia Cannon, North

DMEA Board Meetings are open to all members and are generally held on the 4th Tuesday monthly beginning at 3PM with the public comment period at 5PM. Call 970-240-1212 to confirm date, time, and location.

DMEA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to USDA by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, DC. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.instate@usda.gov.



SAFE SPRING BURN



PRIORITIZE YOUR WORK NETWORK

The battle for bandwidth supremacy is underway in our chaotic modern family homes. Even with Elevate's lightning speeds, parents and kids engage in a subtle yet strategic Wi-Fi tug-of-war.

The virtual battleground may be invisible, but a few clicks on your Elevate IQ app prioritizes your work devices, ensuring a smooth and uninterrupted connection for emails, file transfers, and crystal-clear video calls. Little do your unsuspecting kiddos know that you have won a digital victory!

Here are a few ways ElevateIQ can help you ensure your online meetings and chat exchanges are seamless:



Set up Users: Assign users and their devices, and prioritize yours.



Set up Places: Assign your workspace devices, printers, and online tools to your office and set it as the most important place in your home, so it is immune to the whims of wireless interference.



Eject Freeloaders: With ninja-like precision, you can turn off any devices that shouldn't be on your network.

Let ElevateIQ help you maintain your household's delicate balance between professional responsibilities and the digital wonders that keep your kids happy.

GET THE FREE APP TODAY!



Ready to clean up the dead material around your property? Remember if you burn, you are liable for damage caused by your fire. Don't forget to follow these tips for a safe spring burn:

Check the weather. Pick a day with little to no wind and burn in the morning when it is less breezy.

Notify those around you. Alert your local dispatch or fire department—they may field calls about your burn and need to know your plans. Be considerate of your neighbors, and inform them too.

More helpers = more control. Have plenty of helpers on hand. Line up rakes and shovels in advance and have them readily available for all participants.

Establish firebreaks. Keep debris piles a maximum of 8 feet in diameter. Create firebreaks by raking or plowing around the area you plan to burn. Ensure breaks keep at least 25 feet of distance between flames and trees, power lines, and structures.

Keep water and equipment ready. Have a reliable water source available to douse flames.

Stay with the fire until it is out cold. Have people on hand for the burn's duration and ensure it is entirely out by sunset. Abandoned smoldering areas can ignite and quickly get out of control. Make sure it is out cold.

REMEMBER: YOUR FIRE IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY. DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL 911 IF THE FIRE GETS OUT OF HAND. THE LONGER YOU WAIT, THE BIGGER THE FIRE WILL BE WHEN HELP DOES ARRIVE!

Find more information at dmea.com | 877-687-3632