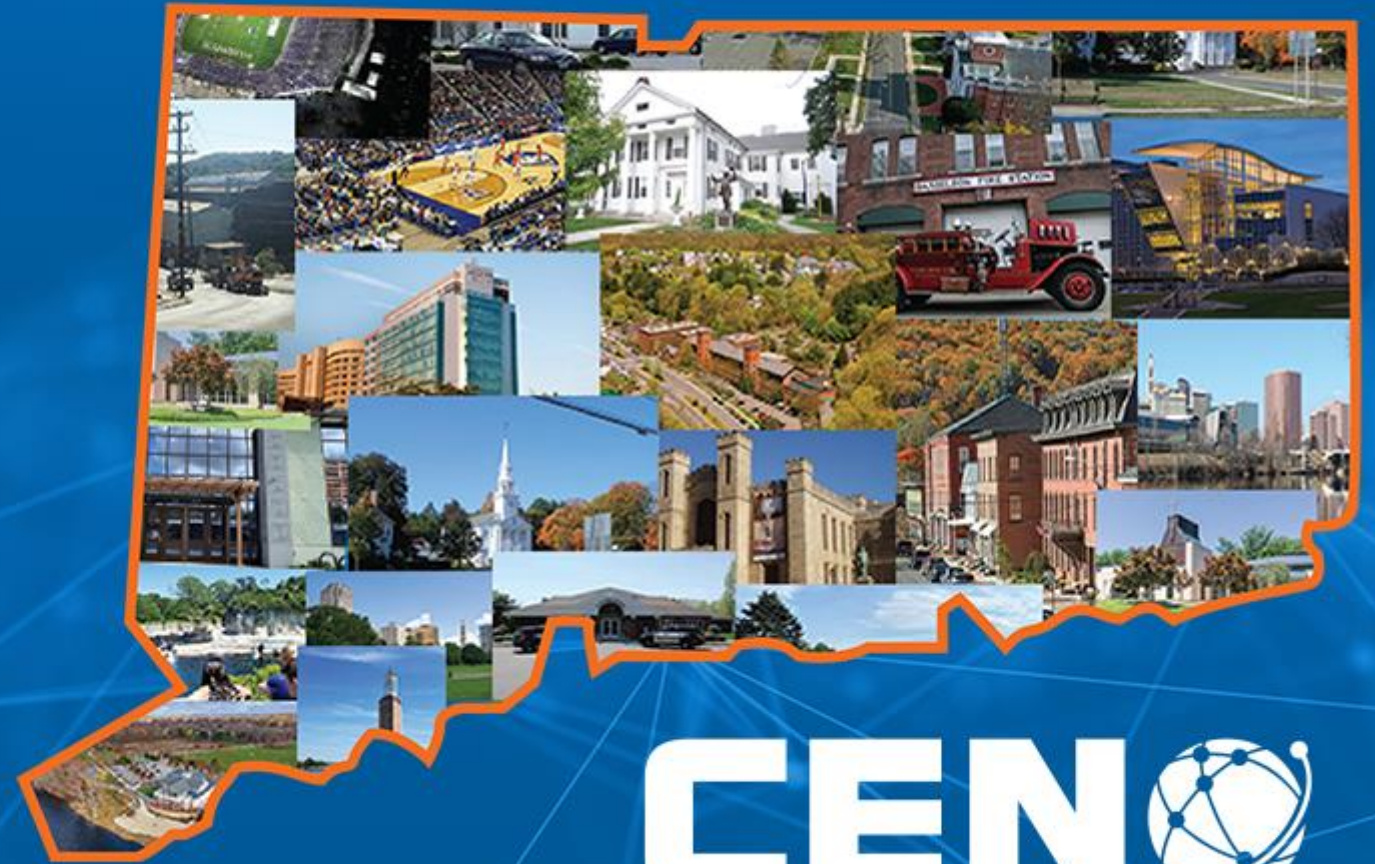


Community Wi-Fi Webinar

June 18, 2025



CEN 

Connecticut's Trusted Internet Partner

COMMUNITY WI-FI GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Overview

- \$10M Grant Funds
- Second round applications open now



Expected Timeline

- **Grant Application Window:** 4/15/25 – 6/30/25
 - Office Hours will be available
 - **Grant Application Review:** As received
- **Grant Awards:** Following review
- **Rolling Installations, Monitoring, Close Out:** Open
- **Program End:** June 2026

Overview

- \$10M Grant Funds
- Round 2 Launched April 15th



Info / Benefits

- **Administration:** by CET, supported by CEN, grant sub-awardee oversight required
- **Target:** underserved, typically economically disadvantaged groups; increases reach of public Wi-Fi across the state
- **Scope:** Primarily addresses wireless buildouts, which may also require establishing connectivity to CEN. Applicants can use funds to directly connect to CEN for Internet services (IE fiber build is eligible use)
- **Partnerships:** encourage and favor proposals with multiple entities working together, such as municipalities, schools, libraries, community centers, cultural arts institutions, etc.
- **Sustainability:** Require assurances that applicants will support the wireless service for the funding period (5 years) and after.
- Awardees encouraged to broadcast the **eduroam** service set identifier (SSID).

Overview

- \$10M Grant Funds
- Preparing Program Launch in January



Eligibility

- Lead applicant must meet the definition of a 'Community Anchor Institution' or CAI (defined below).
- Lead and partner applicants must qualify as a government entity, non-profit, education sectors, or fall into a private for-profit
- Be eligible and in good standing to receive federal or state grants
- Be registered with SAM.gov and able to provide their UEI number
- Ability to produce a partnership agreement or MOA when multiple entities are partnering up for an application

COMMUNITY ANCHOR INSTITUTION.—The term “community anchor institution” or ‘CAI’ means an entity such as a school, library, health clinic, health center, hospital or other medical provider, public safety entity, institution of higher education, public housing organization, or community support organization that facilitates greater use of broadband service by vulnerable populations, including low- income individuals, unemployed individuals, and aged individuals.

Overview

- \$10M Grant Funds
- Preparing Program Launch in January



Project Prioritization Criteria

- Leverage community partnerships among schools, libraries, municipal service providers (e.g., senior centers), other CAIs, and private entities whose project shows a coordinated effort to streamline and expand reach within a single application
- Include a clear sustainability plan that describes how services will be managed and maintained after the funding period ends
- Integrate eduroam and capability to install access points that broadcast the eduroam service set identifier (SSID)
- Meet or exceed the minimum wireless internet speeds of 1 gigabit-per-second symmetrical download and upload (i.e. 802.11AC > Wi-Fi 5, or better)
- Include in-kind contributions as part of matching funds (encouraged though not required)

eduroam expansion

Add eduroam to your existing Wi-Fi network

- Upgrade hardware to support 802.11i / WPA2 Enterprise
- Add RADIUS servers (hardware, software, licensing)
- Use professional Services to install, configure, and integrate.
- Federate to eduroam network and expand access to all educational communities.

Public Spaces

Indoor or Outdoor Wi-Fi access targeting communities in need

- Parks, Recreational Areas, Green Spaces
- Public Libraries
- Community Centers
- Schools and Universities
- Cultural Arts Institutions
- Public Housing Complexes
- Public Transportation Hubs

Connectivity to CEN

Attach to CEN Fiber Network to also offer public Wi-Fi

- Cover cost of fiber build to connect to CEN
- Network Router / Switch
- Professional Services (PS) directly related to the turn up of services.

GRANT APPLICATION GENERAL ADVICE

Login Early

- Get your grant portal access sorted out right away, navigate the space, review info, fill out what you can that is easy and straightforward. PLEASE DO NOT WAIT

Use the Checklist

- Lists documents and needed items that should be ready at the time of application.
- Create files to upload and google or word docs with text to copy/paste as needed.

Make the point

- Address the points in the scoring rubric so evaluators can clearly read and tie items to point values. Direct and to the point is always best.

5-Year Horizon

- Period of performance is 5 years. Hardware licensing can be included for the full term.

Ask Questions

- If you have questions, ask, we want to get you answers and keep the process moving.
 - E-mail, attend webinars, office hours, etc.

Note:

- Applicant may request an advance of a portion of the grant award

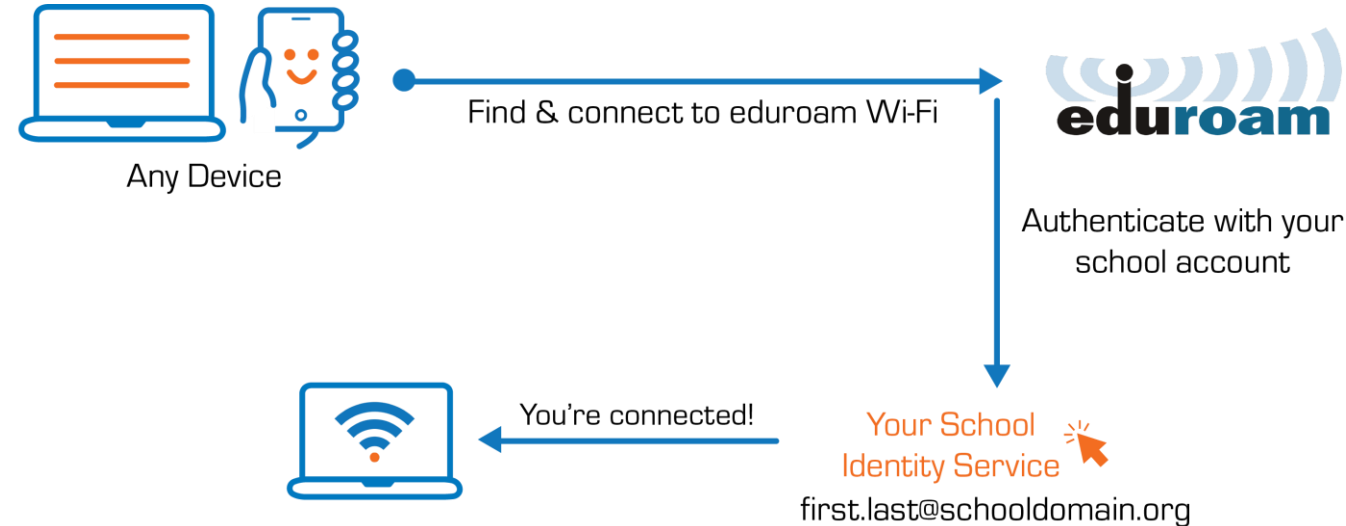
HOW TO PREPARE



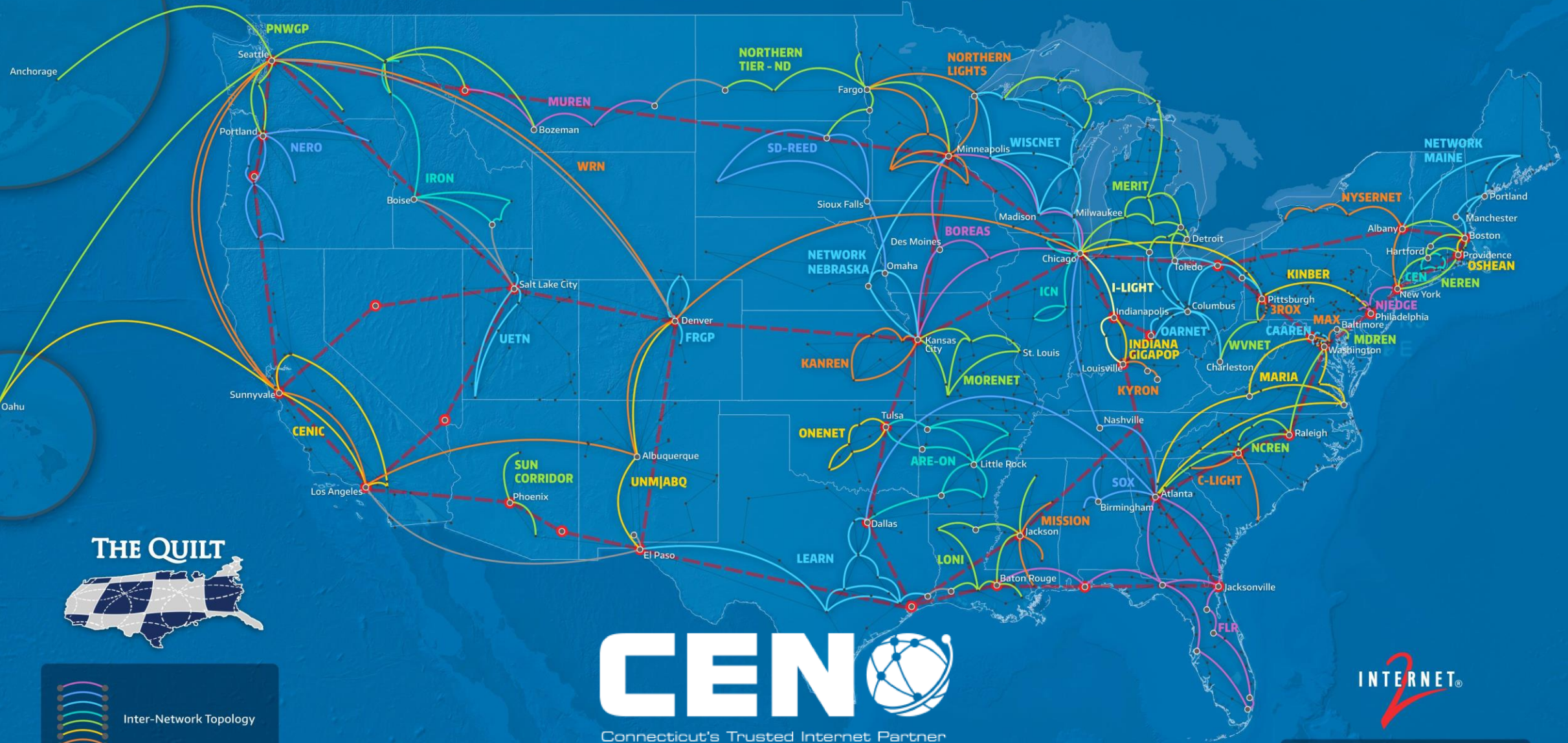
- Visit the [CEN Application Portal](#) to download and review all program documents [Program Guidance](#)
- Gather the information needed for the application
- See FAQs and New Applicant Tool Kit for application help
- Email questions to "cenwifigrant@cteducation.net"
- Prepare the content needed for submission with the application
- Complete the online application via the [CEN Application Portal](#)

WHAT IS EDUROAM?

- **eduroam** is the secure, world-wide roaming wireless service that allows students, faculty, and staff to roam on Wi-Fi networks and find connectivity.
 - 2,500 participating locations in the US, and more than 33,000 worldwide.
- **How do I connect?**
 - Find eduroam in your list of available networks and connect using your school email address and account password. More information is available on our website.



REGIONAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION NETWORKS IN THE UNITED STATES



CEN

Connecticut's Trusted Internet Partner

One Connection | Many Possibilities

INTERNET²

Internet2 Topology
Advanced Layer 3 Services

WHY EDUROAM IN Community Spaces?

- Supports Students & Faculty on the Move: Secure, automatic access for academic visitors.
- Promotes Lifelong Learning: Enables access to online academic resources on-site.
- Bridges the Digital Divide: Offers internet access for students without home connectivity.

- Fewer Guest Accounts: Eliminates need for temporary credentials, they connect to eduroam, automatically, and with no help from others.
- Low Overhead: Authentication is managed by the user's home institution.
- Builds Institutional Connections: Strengthens ties with local schools and universities.

HOW TO GET STARTED



1. Get in touch with CEN (eduroam@cteducation.net)
2. Ensure Wi-Fi supports 802.1X and RADIUS.
3. Work with IT or local institutions for setup/testing.
4. Promote with signage and patron guides.

ADDITIONAL HELP

- Questions, comments, concerns?
Please email and ask!
cenwifigrant@cteducation.net
- FAQs available on our webpage

IMPORTANT LINKS

- <https://ctedunet.net/cWi-Fi/>
- <https://ctedunet.net/eduroam/>
- <https://eduroam.org/how/>(how eduroam works at a high level)
- <https://wiki.geant.org/display/H2eduroam> (beginner to advanced technical how-to on how to configure eduroam networks)



Questions, Comments, Concerns?

How can CEN help?

Rachael Collard

Member Services Specialist | CEN

860 622 4588

rachael.collard@uconn.edu

Bradley Tudisca

System Administrator | CEN

860 622 4570

bradley@uconn.edu

Patrick Welch

Grant Manager | CEN

860 622 4593

patrick.welch@uconn.edu

ctedunet.net

860 622 4560

servicedesk@cteducaiton.net

ctedunet.net