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OPPORTUNITY & PACKAGE DETAILS:

Opportunity Number:	NTIA-BROADBAND-INFRASTRUCTURE-PROGRAM-21
Opportunity Title:	BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM
Opportunity Package ID:	PKG00267256
CFDA Number:	11.031
CFDA Description:	Broadband Infrastructure Program
Competition ID:	NTIA-BROADBAND-INFRASTRUCTURE-PROGRAM-21
Competition Title:	Broadband Infrastructure Program
Opening Date:	05/19/2021
Closing Date:	08/17/2021
Agency:	National Telecommunications and Information Admini
Contact Information:	Jennifer Duane Senior Broadband Program Specialist E-mail: jduane@ntia.gov Phone: 202.482.2048

APPLICANT & WORKSPACE DETAILS:

Workspace ID:	WS00758344
Application Filing Name:	Mississippi2021NTIAGrant
DUNS:	8786393680000
Organization:	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, MISSISSIPPI
Form Name:	Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
Form Version:	3.0
Requirement:	Mandatory
Download Date/Time:	Sep 10, 2021 02:56:22 PM EDT
Form State:	No Errors

FORM ACTIONS:

CHECK FOR ERRORS

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Application for Federal Assistance SF-424*** 1. Type of Submission:**

- ☐ Preapplication
☒ Application
☐ Changed/Corrected Application

*** 2. Type of Application:**

- ☒ New
☐ Continuation
☐ Revision

*** If Revision, select appropriate letter(s):***** Other (Specify):***** 3. Date Received:****4. Applicant Identifier:****5a. Federal Entity Identifier:****5b. Federal Award Identifier:****State Use Only:****6. Date Received by State:****7. State Application Identifier:****8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:***** a. Legal Name:** *** b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):***** c. Organizational DUNS:****d. Address:***** Street1:****Street2:***** City:****County/Parish:***** State:****Province:***** Country:***** Zip / Postal Code:****e. Organizational Unit:****Department Name:****Division Name:****f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:****Prefix:***** First Name:****Middle Name:***** Last Name:****Suffix:****Title:** **Organizational Affiliation:***** Telephone Number:** **Fax Number:** *** Email:**

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:

A: State Government



Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:



Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:



* Other (specify):

* 10. Name of Federal Agency:

National Telecommunications and Information Admini

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

11.031

CFDA Title:

Broadband Infrastructure Program

* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:

NTIA-BROADBAND-INFRASTRUCTURE-PROGRAM-21

* Title:

BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

13. Competition Identification Number:

NTIA-BROADBAND-INFRASTRUCTURE-PROGRAM-21

Title:

Broadband Infrastructure Program

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:

State of Mississippi's application for NTIA Grant Funding. Our application contains eight companies and ten projects. The eight companies will own and maintain the infrastructure.

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments

Delete Attachments

View Attachments

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424**16. Congressional Districts Of:*** a. Applicant * b. Program/Project

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

17. Proposed Project:* a. Start Date: * b. End Date: **18. Estimated Funding (\$):**

* a. Federal	<input type="text" value="32,696,332.55"/>
* b. Applicant	<input type="text" value="3,632,925.84"/>
* c. State	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* d. Local	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* e. Other	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* f. Program Income	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* g. TOTAL	<input type="text" value="36,329,258.39"/>

*** 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**

- ☐ a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on .
- ☒ b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.
- ☐ c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

*** 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)**☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001)**

☒ ** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix: * First Name:

Middle Name:

* Last Name:

Suffix:

* Title: * Telephone Number: Fax Number: * Email: * Signature of Authorized Representative: * Date Signed:

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APPLICANT & WORKSPACE DETAILS:

Workspace ID:	WS00758344
Application Filing Name:	Mississippi2021NTIAGrant
DUNS:	8786393680000
Organization:	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, MISSISSIPPI
Form Name:	Budget Information for Construction Programs (SF-424C)
Form Version:	2.0
Requirement:	Mandatory
Download Date/Time:	Sep 10, 2021 02:55:44 PM EDT
Form State:	No Errors

FORM ACTIONS:

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BUDGET INFORMATION - Construction Programs

NOTE: Certain Federal assistance programs require additional computations to arrive at the Federal share of project costs eligible for participation. If such is the case, you will be notified.

COST CLASSIFICATION	a. Total Cost	b. Costs Not Allowable for Participation	c. Total Allowable Costs (Columns a-b)
1. Administrative and legal expenses	\$ 408,500.00	\$	\$ 408,500.00
2. Land, structures, rights-of-way, appraisals, etc.	\$ 163,280.00	\$	\$ 163,280.00
3. Relocation expenses and payments	\$ 94,001.00	\$	\$ 94,001.00
4. Architectural and engineering fees	\$ 2,860,292.00	\$ 37,050.00	\$ 2,823,242.00
5. Other architectural and engineering fees	\$ 34,779.00	\$	\$ 34,779.00
6. Project inspection fees	\$ 247,425.00	\$	\$ 247,425.00
7. Site work	\$ 34,196.00	\$	\$ 34,196.00
8. Demolition and removal	\$	\$	\$
9. Construction	\$ 25,011,239.00	\$	\$ 25,011,239.00
10. Equipment	\$ 6,887,200.37	\$ 67,950.00	\$ 6,819,250.37
11. Miscellaneous	\$ 625,939.40	\$	\$ 625,939.40
12. SUBTOTAL (sum of lines 1-11)	\$ 36,366,851.77	\$ 105,000.00	\$ 36,261,851.77
13. Contingencies	\$ 646,473.31	\$	\$ 646,473.31
14. SUBTOTAL	\$ 37,013,325.08	\$ 105,000.00	\$ 36,908,325.08
15. Project (program) income	\$ 675,000.00	\$	\$ 675,000.00
16. TOTAL PROJECT COSTS (subtract #15 from #14)	\$ 36,338,325.08	\$ 105,000.00	\$ 36,233,325.08
FEDERAL FUNDING			
17. Federal assistance requested, calculate as follows: (Consult Federal agency for Federal percentage share.) Enter the resulting Federal share.	Enter eligible costs from line 16c Multiply X 90 %		
	\$ 32,609,992.57		

ASSURANCES - CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

OMB Number: 4040-0009
Expiration Date: 02/28/2022

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0042), Washington, DC 20503.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

NOTE: Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the Awarding Agency. Further, certain Federal assistance awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant:, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance, and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project costs) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the assistance; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will not dispose of, modify the use of, or change the terms of the real property title or other interest in the site and facilities without permission and instructions from the awarding agency. Will record the Federal awarding agency directives and will include a covenant in the title of real property acquired in whole or in part with Federal assistance funds to assure non-discrimination during the useful life of the project.
4. Will comply with the requirements of the assistance awarding agency with regard to the drafting, review and approval of construction plans and specifications.
5. Will provide and maintain competent and adequate engineering supervision at the construction site to ensure that the complete work conforms with the approved plans and specifications and will furnish progressive reports and such other information as may be required by the assistance awarding agency or State.
6. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
7. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
8. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards of merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
9. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
10. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to non-discrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681 1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.

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Standard Form 424D (Rev. 7-97)
Prescribed by OMB Circular A-102

11. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal and federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
12. Will comply with the provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.
13. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333) regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.
14. Will comply with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
15. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).
16. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
17. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq).
18. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
19. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.
20. Will comply with the requirements of Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104) which prohibits grant award recipients or a sub-recipient from (1) Engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect (2) Procuring a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect or (3) Using forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL Ilicia Boaler	TITLE Executive Director MS Public Utilities Staff
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION State of Mississippi	DATE SUBMITTED 08/17/2021

SF-424D (Rev. 7-97) Back

Applicants should also review the instructions for certification included in the regulations before completing this form. Signature on this form provides for compliance with certification requirements under 15 CFR Part 28, 'New Restrictions on Lobbying.' The certifications shall be treated as a material representation of fact upon which reliance will be placed when the Department of Commerce determines to award the covered transaction, grant, or cooperative agreement.

LOBBYING

As required by Section 1352, Title 31 of the U.S. Code, and implemented at 15 CFR Part 28, for persons entering into a grant, cooperative agreement or contract over \$100,000 or a loan or loan guarantee over \$150,000 as defined at 15 CFR Part 28, Sections 28.105 and 28.110, the applicant certifies that to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, 'Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying,' in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure occurring on or before October 23, 1996, and of not less than \$11,000 and not more than \$110,000 for each such failure occurring after October 23, 1996.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I hereby certify that the applicant will comply with the above applicable certification.

*** NAME OF APPLICANT**

State of Mississippi

*** AWARD NUMBER**

NTIA-BROADBAND-INFRASTRUC

*** PROJECT NAME**

MISSISSIPPI2021NTIAGRANT

Prefix:

Mrs.

*** First Name:**

Sally

Middle Name:

Burchfield

*** Last Name:**

Doty

Suffix:*** Title:**

Executive Director MS Public Utilities Staff

*** SIGNATURE:**

Ilicia Boaler

*** DATE:**

08/17/2021

State of Mississippi NTIA Grant Application

A. Executive Summary

The Mississippi Public Utilities Staff (MPUS) serves as the governmental partner for the State of Mississippi's NTIA Grant Application. The application contains 10 separate projects across the state administered by 8 providers. These eight providers will construct, operate, manage, and own all the infrastructure. All are in rural, high-cost areas. The state of Mississippi does request that, if necessary, each project be viewed separately.

Since Mississippi currently has no formal broadband office, MPUS has de facto acted in that capacity, most recently administering a 150-million-dollar grant of CARES ACT funds for electric cooperatives and other internet service providers. By state statute, MPUS provides technical, accounting, and legal expertise to the elected members of the Mississippi Public Service Commission along with other duties as directed. After providers were unable to find governmental partners in local areas, the Governor directed MPUS to file this NTIA application on behalf of the State of Mississippi.

No arm of the State has engaged in formal broadband mapping, but MPUS has used internal data from the CARES ACT grant, RDOF, and the ETC designation process to determine gaps in coverage while currently pursuing other mapping opportunities. MPUS has entered into a data sharing agreement with Delta Regional Authority for access to its mapping program for 60% of the state and will have access to the remaining 40% in the next few weeks. MPUS's internal mapping considers the difficulties with satellite coverage shown as available for large swaths of rural Mississippi when in fact those areas are underserved or effectively unserved.

Likewise, broadband buildout in Mississippi must take into consideration the "Mississippi Broadband Enabling Act" passed by the Mississippi Legislature in 2019 that allowed the 25 electric coops within the state to become broadband providers. MPUS administered grants for 15 of these coops and has worked closely with state cooperative leadership to determine which cooperatives will enter this new arena, what areas of the state will soon be covered by broadband, and what areas are just too costly to undertake. This knowledge enabled MPUS to make necessary decisions for inclusion in this NTIA funding opportunity.

The initial response to this NTIA funding opportunity was twenty-eight projects and a total project cost of more than \$82 million, demonstrating the overwhelming need for broadband infrastructure funding in Mississippi. MPUS used internal mapping and interviews with each service provider to narrow the scope to the 10 projects contained in the application. The proposed funded service area covers approximately 1,385 census blocks in 10 rural counties across the state of Mississippi. Only one county has a population of over 35,000. Combined, the project will bring approximately 602 miles of core fiber to some of the most rural areas of Mississippi and make high speed broadband available to approximately 12,487 households through fiber to the home and fixed based wireless technology. The projects are as follows:

<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>CABLE/FIBER</u>	<u>PROJECT TOTAL</u>	<u>REQUESTED</u>	<u>MATCH</u>
Bay Springs Telephone	Fiber	\$ 6,119,828.00	\$ 5,507,845.20	\$ 611,982.80
Bruce Telephone	Fiber	\$ 8,472,306.86	\$ 7,625,076.17	\$ 847,230.69
C Spire	Fiber	\$ 994,200.00	\$ 894,780.00	\$ 99,420.00
C Spire	Fiber	\$ 695,000.00	\$ 625,500.00	\$ 69,500.00
Cable South Media 3	Cable	\$ 1,950,000.00	\$ 1,755,000.00	\$ 195,000.00
Franklin Telephone	Fiber	\$ 5,918,056.00	\$ 5,326,250.00	\$ 591,805.60
MaxxSouth	Fiber	\$ 3,413,670.87	\$ 3,072,303.78	\$ 341,367.09
MaxxSouth	Fiber	\$ 1,881,494.64	\$ 1,693,345.18	\$ 188,149.46
UpLink	Fiber/Wireless	\$ 5,399,256.20	\$ 4,859,330.58	\$ 539,925.62
WeConnect	Fiber	\$ 1,485,445.82	\$ 1,336,901.24	\$ 148,544.58
		\$ 36,329,258.39	\$ 32,696,332.55	\$ 3,632,925.84

Mississippi is currently experiencing another surge of COVID-19 infections. The ability to work from home, availability of telehealth, and access to remote learning remain crucial. All school children across the state were provided computers with CARES Act funding but must also have broadband access. These projects will address the digital divide that plagues rural areas across Mississippi.

B. Description of Covered Partnership

The Mississippi Public Utilities Staff was created in 1990 to represent the broad interests of the State of Mississippi by balancing the respective concerns of the residential, commercial, and industrial utility customers, the state agencies and the public utilities. The team working on this project consists of Ms. Sally Doty, Mr. Kyle Brown, Ms. Angel Stenmark, and Mr. Jonathan Alford. In 2020, the Mississippi Legislature created a \$75 broadband grant program utilizing CARES Act funds and tasked this team with administering funds and supervising projects. This team was also designated by Governor Tate Reeves as the official coordinating body for projects to be submitted in response to this NTIA Funding Opportunity. The projects will be owned and maintained by the subrecipient. The state of Mississippi will not own or operate any of projects listed. The enclosed application represents a collaboration between the Mississippi Public Utilities Staff and the following participants:

<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>ROLE</u>	<u>SCOPE OF WORK</u>	<u>PROPOSED FUNDING</u>
Bay Springs Telephone	2988 Highway 15 Bay Springs, MS 39422	Subrecipient	Construction and service provider	\$ 5,507,845.20
Bruce Telephone	101 Public Square Bruce, MS 38915	Subrecipient	Construction and service provider	\$ 7,625,076.17
C Spire	1018 Highland Colony Parkway, Ridgeland, MS 39157	Subrecipient	Construction and service provider	\$ 894,780.00
C Spire	1018 Highland Colony Parkway, Ridgeland, MS 39157	Subrecipient	Construction and service provider	\$ 625,500.00
Cable South Media 3	1434 Highway 13 N Columbia, MS 39429	Subrecipient	Construction and service provider	\$ 1,755,000.00
Franklin Telephone	Box 278 Meadville, MS 39653	Subrecipient	Construction and service provider	\$ 5,326,250.40
MaxxSouth	1901 Jackson Ave W, Ste B Oxford, MS 38655	Subrecipient	Construction and service provider	\$ 3,072,303.78
MaxxSouth	1901 Jackson Ave W, Ste B Oxford, MS 38655	Subrecipient	Construction and service provider	\$ 1,693,345.18
Mississippi, State of	Public Utilities Staff, 501 N. West Street, Jackson MS, 39201	Applicant	Grant Administrator	\$ 0.00
New Albany, City of	101 W. Bankhead St, New Albany, MS 38652	Collaborator	Partner with MaxxSouth	\$ 0.00
Pontotoc EPA	12 South Main St., Pontotoc, MS 38863	Collaborator	Partner with MaxxSouth	\$ 0.00
UpLink	1315 Industrial Park Dr Clarksdale, MS 38614	Subrecipient	Construction and service provider	\$ 4,859,330.58
WeConnect	Box 922 Bay Springs, MS 39422	Subrecipient	Construction and service provider	\$ 1,336,901.24
				\$ 32,696,332.55

Below is a brief summary of each provider's qualifications. Each company has provided supporting documentation to ensure that each of our ten projects are as thorough as possible. The documentation includes letters of commitment, company resolutions authorizing submission of the application and resources to the committed project, and letters of community support.

Bay Springs Smith County	Bay Springs is a wholly owned subsidiary of Telephone Electronics Corporation and currently provides internet to over 6,500 customers in Mississippi.
Bruce Telephone	Bruce is a subsidiary of Fail Telecommunications Corporation and has provided voice and broadband services to rural Mississippians for decades.
C Spire Issaquena (Mayersville)	C Spire is a privately held company that provides wireless telecommunications and all-fiber broadband services. The company also owns four data centers and provides managed and cloud services to consumers and businesses.
C Spire Madison County (Livingston Road)	C Spire is a privately held company that provides wireless telecommunications and all-fiber broadband services. The company also owns four data centers and provides managed and cloud services to consumers and businesses.
CableSouth Media 3 Collins	Cable South Media 3 is a cable tv company operating in Poplarville, Lumberton, Columbia, Foxworth, Tylertown, and Collins.
Franklin Telephone	Franklin was founded in 1959 and is an ILEC serving approximately 8,000 subscribers across 17 exchanges in parts of 26 rural Mississippi counties.
MaxxSouth New Albany	MaxxSouth Broadband is a telecommunications firm that offers internet, cable TV & digital phone services.
MaxxSouth Pontotoc	MaxxSouth Broadband is a telecommunications firm that offers internet, cable TV & digital phone services.
Uplink Coahoma	Uplink LLC was formed as a wireless internet service provider (WISP) providing Coahoma County and the surrounding area with unlimited high-speed Internet
We Connect Calhoun County	WeConnect Communications, Inc. is a subsidiary of parent company, Fail Telecommunications Corporation ("Fail"). Fail has provided telecom services for decades throughout the state of Mississippi.

[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[illegible]

D. Description of areas to be served

An Excel file containing census blocks for all projects is provided in a separate file.

Bay Springs Smith County	Project includes 257 census blocks that are all eligible per FCC and NTIA maps. None were awarded RDOF funding, and all lack 25/3 service for residential customers. This area includes 754 unserved households, 2 businesses, 3 churches, and 1 anchor location.
Bruce Telephone	Project includes 225 census blocks serving 1,199 unserved household locations. Most census blocks not RDOF eligible due to reported satellite coverage or business-only coverage; applicant certifies no 25/3 services available to customers.
C Spire Issaquena (Mayersville)	Project covers 120 unserved household locations, 10 businesses, including 2 anchor locations, in 34 census blocks; 14 blocks RDOF eligible, others are reported to be served by a satellite provider; Applicant reports no reliable service available in entire project area.
C Spire Madison County (Livingston Road)	Project covers 101 unserved household locations, and 32 businesses in 34 census blocks. 14 blocks RDOF eligible while most of the others are reported to be served by a satellite provider. Applicant reports no reliable service available in entire project area.
CableSouth Media 3 Collins	Project includes 227 census blocks serving 1,955 unserved households, 201 businesses, and 6 anchor institutions. 41 census blocks were RDOF eligible, but applicant reports no service above 25/3 for residential customers in entire area.
Franklin Telephone	Project includes 132 census blocks serving 604 unserved household locations, 4 businesses, and 2 anchor locations. 88 census blocks were RDOF eligible, but no 25/3 service for residential customers in entire area.

MaxxSouth New Albany	Project includes 79 census blocks serving 632 unserved household locations. 70 census blocks were RDOF eligible, but no 25/3 service for residential customers in entire area.
MaxxSouth Pontotoc	Project includes 63 census blocks serving 664 unserved household locations, 6 businesses, and 2 anchor locations. 58 census blocks were RDOF eligible, but applicant reports no service above 25/3 for residential customers in entire project area.
Uplink Coahoma	Proposed service area is 377 census blocks in rural Coahoma County. Total county population is 22,124. 301 of the census blocks are designated unserved by the FCC, and the others also lack 25/3 service. The project covers 6,295 unserved households, providing 1,837 residences with fiber, 4,458 residences with wireless, and 10 anchor locations.
We Connect Calhoun County	Project covers 28 census blocks in rural Calhoun County. 22 of the blocks were designated unserved by the FCC, and the others blocks also lack 25/3 service. This area includes 163 unserved households, one small business and multiple farms and churches.

E. Description of statutory funding priorities addressed by the projects

Bay Springs Smith County	Project will expand service to (1) a large number of households, (2) a county with less than 50,000 inhabitants, (3) an extremely rural area, and (4) exceeds the 100 Mbps requirement by offering Gigabit service using future-proof technology
Bruce Telephone	Project will expand service to (1) a large number of households, (2) a county with less than 50,000 inhabitants, (3) an extremely rural area, and (4) exceeds the 100 Mbps requirement by offering Gigabit service using future-proof technology
C Spire Issaquena (Mayersville)	Project will expand service to (1) 120 of 573 households in Issaquena County, (2) a county with only 1,327 inhabitants, (3) an extremely rural area, and (4) exceeds the 100 Mbps requirement by offering Gigabit service using future-proof technology
C Spire Madison County (Livingston Road)	Project will expand service to (1) a large number of households per fiber mile, (2) a part of Madison County not adjacent to a city with 50,000 inhabitants, (3) an extremely rural area unlikely to be served without federal subsidy, and (4) exceeds 100 Mbps requirement by offering Gigabit fiber-to-the-home service
CableSouth Media 3 Collins	Project will expand service to (1) a large number of households, (2) a county with less than 50,000 inhabitants, (3) an extremely rural area, and (4) exceeds the 100 Mbps requirement by offering Gigabit service using future-proof technology
Franklin Telephone	Project will expand service to (1) a large number of households, (2) a county with less than 50,000 inhabitants, (3) an extremely rural area, and (4) exceeds the 100 Mbps requirement by offering Gigabit service using future-proof technology
MaxxSouth New Albany	Project will expand service to (1) a large number of households, (2) a county with less than 50,000 inhabitants, (3) an extremely rural area, and (4) exceeds the 100 Mbps requirement by offering Gigabit service using future-proof technology
MaxxSouth Pontotoc	Project will expand service to (1) a large number of households, (2) a county with less than 50,000 inhabitants, (3) an extremely rural area, and (4) exceeds the 100 Mbps requirement by offering Gigabit service using future-proof technology
Uplink Coahoma	Project will expand service to (1) a large number of households, (2) a county with less than 50,000 inhabitants, (3) an extremely rural area, and (4) exceeds the 100 Mbps requirement by offering a minimum of 150 Mbps symmetrical service. The fiber

	portions of this project are future-proof, while the fixed wireless portion will provide 150 Mbps service to more than 4,400 locations.
We Connect Calhoun County	Project will expand service to (1) 163 households, (2) a county with less than 50,000 inhabitants, (3) an extremely rural area, and (4) exceeds the 100 Mbps requirement by offering Gigabit service using future-proof technology

F. Description of how projects address the evaluation criteria

Bay Springs Smith County	Funding requested for entirely unserved area, cost of services commiserate with other providers, project is a scalable fiber solution with ability to complete within one year, applicant is a telecom provider with proven ability to serve community, budget of \$8,116 per home passed is comparable to other rural projects in the state, project is sustainable due to fiber deployment and community engagement, and 10% match is provided by the company
Bruce Telephone	Funding requested for entirely unserved area, cost of services commiserate with other providers, project is a scalable and buried fiber solution with ability to complete within one year, applicant is a telecom provider with proven ability to serve community, budget of \$7,064 per home passed is comparable to other rural, buried fiber projects in the state, project is sustainable due to fiber deployment and community support, and 10% match is provided by the company
C Spire Issaquena (Mayersville)	Funding requested for unserved, extremely rural area, cost of services commiserate with other providers, project is a scalable, buried fiber solution with ability to complete within one year, applicant is a telecom provider with proven ability to serve community, budget of \$7,718 per home passed is comparable to other rural, buried fiber projects in the state, project is sustainable due to fiber deployment, and 10% match is provided by the company
C Spire Madison County (Livingston Road)	Funding requested for entirely unserved area, cost of services commiserate with other providers, project is a scalable fiber solution with ability to complete within one year, applicant is a cable provider with proven ability to serve community, budget of \$6,881 per home passed is comparable to other rural, buried fiber projects in the state, project is sustainable due to fiber deployment, and 10% match is provided by the company
CableSouth Media 3 Collins	Funding requested for entirely unserved area, cost of services commiserate with other providers, project is a scalable fiber solution with ability to complete within one year, applicant is a cable provider with proven ability to serve community, budget of \$997 per home passed is lower than other projects due to rip-and-replace strategy, project is sustainable due to fiber deployment, and 10% match is provided by the company
Franklin Telephone	Funding requested for entirely unserved area, cost of services commiserate with other providers, project is a scalable, buried fiber solution with ability to complete within one year, applicant is a telecom provider with proven ability to serve community, budget of \$9,762 per home passed is higher than other projects due to rural location but still comparable to other buried fiber projects in the state, project is sustainable due to fiber deployment and community engagement, and 10% match is provided by the company

MaxxSouth New Albany	Funding requested for entirely unserved area, cost of services commiserate with other providers, project is a scalable fiber solution with ability to complete within one year, applicant is a broadband provider with proven ability to serve community, budget of \$5,136 per home passed is comparable to other rural, aerial fiber projects in the state, project is sustainable due to fiber deployment, and 10% match is provided by the company
MaxxSouth Pontotoc	Funding requested for entirely unserved area, cost of services commiserate with other providers, project is a scalable fiber solution with ability to complete within one year, applicant is a broadband provider with proven ability to serve community, budget of \$2,969 per home passed is low compared to other rural, aerial fiber projects in the state, project is sustainable due to fiber deployment, and 10% match provided by the company
Uplink Coahoma	Funding requested for entirely unserved area, cost of services commiserate with other providers, project contains a mixture of fixed wireless and fiber to provide future scalability, applicant is a telecom provider with proven ability to serve community, budget of \$857.93 per location passed is low due to the ability of fixed wireless to reach a large number of customers, project is sustainable due to partial fiber deployment and community engagement, and 10% match is provided by the company
We Connect Calhoun County	Funding requested for entirely unserved area, cost of services commiserate with other providers, project is a scalable fiber solution with ability to complete within one year, applicant is a telecom provider with proven ability to serve community, budget of \$9,113 per home passed is higher than other projects due to rural location but still comparable to other buried fiber projects in the state, project is sustainable due to fiber deployment and community engagement, and 10% match is provided by the company

G. Description of how deployment can scale over time

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] capabilities from day one

	upgraded.

Latency

Bay Springs Smith County	Less than 100 MS. Anticipated less than 10MS.
Bruce Telephone	At or below 100 MS.
C Spire Issaquena (Mayersville)	Less than 100 MS
C Spire Madison County (Livingston Road)	Less than 100 MS
CableSouth Media 3 Collins	Well below 100 MS and on par with fiber.
Franklin Telephone	Less than 100 MS
MaxxSouth New Albany	Exceed the standard of 100 MS and rarely ever hits 50 MS.
MaxxSouth Pontotoc	Exceed the standard of 100 MS and rarely ever hits 50 MS.
Uplink Coahoma	Less than 75 MS on fiber and less than 100 MS on fixed wireless.
We Connect Calhoun County	At or below 100 MS.

H. Project plan describing all major project activities and timelines

All applicants have committed to completion within one year of receiving awards. Per the NTIA rules, if material or contractor labor scarcity endangers our timeline, a petition for extension will be submitted not later than ninety (90) calendar days before the end of the award period. Below is a high-level summary of key activities, along with a table outlining specifics for each project.

- Assuming notification of award is by November 29, 2021
- Order materials and electronics - complete by December 31, 2022
- Engineering: Design, staking and application for right of way permits complete by February 28, 2022
- Engage construction contractor (competitive bid process)- complete by May 30, 2021
- Construction for core fiber distribution - complete by November 19, 2022
- Installation of Electronics - complete by November 19, 2022
- Testing complete by November 30, 2022
- Fiber drops buried and turn-up of customers from June 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022
- Project will be complete within 12 months from award date

Bay Springs Smith County	Marketing plan to begin June 1, 2022, fiber drops beginning in September 2022, project completed within 12 months of award date
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Bruce Telephone	Feasibility, engineering, and design already complete. Some materials on hand, construction will begin immediately upon award and be completed within one year.
C Spire Issaquena (Mayersville)	Engineering and permitting already in progress. Construction will begin immediately upon award and be completed on or before December 1, 2022.
C Spire Madison County (Livingston Road)	Construction will begin immediately upon award and be completed on or before December 1, 2022.
CableSouth Media 3 Collins	Project will be completed within one year.
Franklin Telephone	Preliminary engineering will begin immediately upon funding and construction will be completed by December 31, 2022.
MaxxSouth New Albany	Project will begin no later than January 1, 2022 and be completed by December 31, 2022.
MaxxSouth Pontotoc	Project will begin no later than January 1, 2022 and be completed by December 31, 2022.
Uplink Coahoma	All construction will be completed within one year in conjunction with a third-party construction firm.
We Connect Calhoun County	Feasibility, engineering, and design have been completed. Company has some materials on hand to immediately begin construction, and construction will be completed within one year.

I. Description of physical project area and its surroundings

Bay Springs Smith County	Covers 132 miles or 40% of Smith County. Project is 75% aerial and 25% underground. Aerial will use existing poles under current pole attachment agreement with local electric coop. Buried fiber will be placed in existing previously disturbed public rights-of-way. 2020 Census reports population of 15,916; 19% below poverty level; 26 persons per mile; African American 23.7%; white 75.3%; Bachelor's Degree or higher 12.2%.
Bruce Telephone	Covers 154 miles of Calhoun County. The project consists of all underground fiber placed in existing previously disturbed public rights-of-way. 2020 Census reports population of 14,361; 17.2% below poverty level; 26 people per square mile; African American 28.65%; White 69.41%.
C Spire Issaquena (Mayersville)	Covers 14.25 miles of Issaquena County. The project consists of all underground fiber placed in existing previously disturbed public rights-of-way. 2020 Census reports population of 1,327; 35.8% below poverty level; 3.4 people per square mile; African American 63.8%; White 34.9%.
C Spire Madison County (Livingston Road)	Covers 10.7 miles of Madison County. The project consists of all underground fiber placed in existing previously disturbed public rights-of-way. 2020 Census reports population of 106,272; 10.1% below poverty level; 133.2 people per square mile; African American 38.3%; White 57.5%.
CableSouth Media 3 Collins	Covers 41 miles of Covington County. Project is 97% aerial and 3% underground. Aerial will use existing poles under current pole attachment agreement with local electric coop. Buried fiber will be placed in existing previously disturbed public rights-of-way. 2020 Census reports population of 18,636; 21.3% below poverty level; 47.3 people per square mile; African American 36.1%; White 62.0%

Franklin Telephone	Covers 68 miles of Lincoln County. The project consists of all underground fiber placed in existing previously disturbed public rights-of-way. 2020 Census reports population of 34,153; 19.6% below poverty level; 59.5 people per square mile; African American 30.3%; White 67.9%.
MaxxSouth New Albany	Covers 91 miles of Covington County. Project is 90% aerial and 10% underground. Aerial will use existing poles under current pole attachment agreement with local electric coop. Buried fiber will be placed in existing previously disturbed public rights-of-way. 2020 Census reports population of 28,815; 13.0% below poverty level; 65.5 people per square mile; African American 15.4%; White 81.3%
MaxxSouth Pontotoc	Covers 91 miles of Covington County. Project is 90% aerial and 10% underground. Aerial will use existing poles under current pole attachment agreement with local electric coop. Buried fiber will be placed in existing previously disturbed public rights-of-way. 2020 Census reports population of 32,174; 15.9% below poverty level; 60.5 people per square mile; African American 15.2%; White 81.8%
Uplink Coahoma	Covers Coahoma County. Project is 97 miles underground with 35 towers for fixed based wireless. Buried fiber will be placed in existing previously disturbed public rights-of-way. 2020 Census reports population of 22,124; 38.2% below poverty level; 47.3 people per square mile; African American 77.6%; White 20.9%
WeConnect Calhoun County	Covers 27 miles of Calhoun County. The project consists of all underground fiber placed in existing previously disturbed public rights-of-way. 2020 Census reports population of 14,361; 17.2% below poverty level; 25.5 people per square mile; African American 28.5%; White 69.7%

J. Description of any other support

Bay Springs Smith County	Bay Springs is not receiving any other support to provide service in this area.
Bruce Telephone	Bruce is not receiving any other support to provide service in this area.
C Spire Issaquena (Mayersville)	C Spire is not receiving any other support to provide service in this area.
C Spire Madison County (Livingston Road)	C Spire is not receiving any other support to provide service in this area.
CableSouth Media 3 Collins	CableSouth Media 3 is not receiving any other support to provide service in this area.
Franklin Telephone	Franklin is not receiving any other support to provide service in this area.
MaxxSouth New Albany	MaxxSouth is not receiving any other support to provide service in this area.
MaxxSouth Pontotoc	MaxxSouth is not receiving any other support to provide service in this area.
Uplink Coahoma	Uplink is not receiving any other support to provide service in this area. The 10% match will be provided by a community partner.
WeConnect Calhoun County	WeConnect is not receiving any other support to provide service in this area.

ASSURANCES - CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

OMB Number: 4040-0009
Expiration Date: 02/28/2022

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0042), Washington, DC 20503.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

NOTE: Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the Awarding Agency. Further, certain Federal assistance awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance, and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project costs) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the assistance; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will not dispose of, modify the use of, or change the terms of the real property title or other interest in the site and facilities without permission and instructions from the awarding agency. Will record the Federal awarding agency directives and will include a covenant in the title of real property acquired in whole or in part with Federal assistance funds to assure non-discrimination during the useful life of the project.
4. Will comply with the requirements of the assistance awarding agency with regard to the drafting, review and approval of construction plans and specifications.
5. Will provide and maintain competent and adequate engineering supervision at the construction site to ensure that the complete work conforms with the approved plans and specifications and will furnish progressive reports and such other information as may be required by the assistance awarding agency or State.
6. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
7. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
8. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards of merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
9. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
10. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to non-discrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681 1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.

11. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal and federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
12. Will comply with the provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.
13. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333) regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.
14. Will comply with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
15. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).
16. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
17. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).
18. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
19. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.
20. Will comply with the requirements of Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104) which prohibits grant award recipients or a sub-recipient from (1) Engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect (2) Procuring a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect or (3) Using forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL <i>Chris Champion</i>	TITLE VP, Government Relations
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION Telepak Networks Inc. d/b/a C Spire	DATE SUBMITTED 08/11/21

ASSURANCES - CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

OMB Number: 4040-0009
Expiration Date: 02/28/2022

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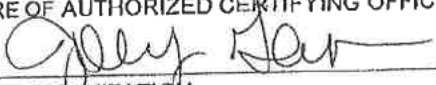
PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

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As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance, and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project costs) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the assistance; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will not dispose of, modify the use of, or change the terms of the real property title or other interest in the site and facilities without permission and instructions from the awarding agency. Will record the Federal awarding agency directives and will include a covenant in the title of real property acquired in whole or in part with Federal assistance funds to assure non-discrimination during the useful life of the project.
4. Will comply with the requirements of the assistance awarding agency with regard to the drafting, review and approval of construction plans and specifications.
5. Will provide and maintain competent and adequate engineering supervision at the construction site to ensure that the complete work conforms with the approved plans and specifications and will furnish progressive reports and such other information as may be required by the assistance awarding agency or State.
6. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
7. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
8. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards of merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
9. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
10. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to non-discrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681 1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.


11. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal and federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
12. Will comply with the provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.
13. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333) regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.
14. Will comply with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
15. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).
16. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
17. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).
18. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
19. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.
20. Will comply with the requirements of Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104) which prohibits grant award recipients or a sub-recipient from (1) Engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect (2) Procuring a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect or (3) Using forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL 	TITLE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION BAY SPRINGS TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC., DBA: TEC	DATE SUBMITTED 8/4/2021

11. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal and federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
12. Will comply with the provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.
13. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333) regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.
14. Will comply with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
15. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of

Federal actions to State (Clean Air) implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).

16. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
17. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).
18. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
19. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.
20. Will comply with the requirements of Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104) which prohibits grant award recipients or a sub-recipient from (1) Engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect (2) Procuring a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect or (3) Using forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL 	TITLE Coo
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION Cable South Media 3 LLC	DATE SUBMITTED 8-02-2021

ASSURANCES - CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

OMB Number 2540-0046
Excluded Date: 10/21/2014

Prime reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (2545-0042), Washington, DC 20503.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

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As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project costs) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the assistance, and will maintain a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will not dispose of, modify the use of, or change the terms of the real property (site or other interests) in the site and facilities without commission and instruction from the awarding agency. Will record the Federal awarding agency directives and will include a covenant in the title of real property acquired in whole or in part with Federal assistance funds to ensure non-discrimination during the useful life of the project.
4. Will comply with the requirements of the assistance awarding agency with regard to the drafting, review and approval of construction plans and specifications.
5. Will provide and maintain competent and adequate engineering supervision at the construction site to ensure that the complete work conforms with the approved plans and specifications and will furnish progress reports and such other information as may be required by the assistance awarding agency or State.
6. Will initiate and complete the work within the specified time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
7. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their position for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest or reward/punishment.
8. Will comply with the Intervention and Personnel Act of 1973 (42 U.S.C. 55472-4-53) relating to proposed standards of merit systems for programs funded under one of the 13 statutes of regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 400, Subpart F).
9. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. 554201 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
10. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to non-discrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1681-1683 and 1681-1685) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 794) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. 55101-55101-610) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-355), as amended relating to non-discrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-617), as amended relating to non-discrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) 5523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. 5523-5525 and 190-5523), as amended relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 55151 et seq.), as amended relating to non-discrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other non-discrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and (j) the requirements of any other non-discrimination statutes which may apply to the application.

8/6/21 MAXX SOUTH # 15002600

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ASSURANCES - CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

OMB Number: 4040-0009
Expiration Date: 02/28/2022

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0042), Washington, DC 20503.

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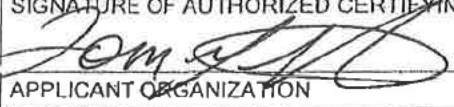
As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance, and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project costs) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the assistance; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will not dispose of, modify the use of, or change the terms of the real property title or other interest in the site and facilities without permission and instructions from the awarding agency. Will record the Federal awarding agency directives and will include a covenant in the title of real property acquired in whole or in part with Federal assistance funds to assure non-discrimination during the useful life of the project.
4. Will comply with the requirements of the assistance awarding agency with regard to the drafting, review and approval of construction plans and specifications.
5. Will provide and maintain competent and adequate engineering supervision at the construction site to ensure that the complete work conforms with the approved plans and specifications and will furnish progressive reports and such other information as may be required by the assistance awarding agency or State.
6. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
7. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
8. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards of merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
9. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
10. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to non-discrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681 1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.

11. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal and federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
12. Will comply with the provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.
13. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333) regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.
14. Will comply with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
15. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of

Federal actions to State (Clean Air) implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).

16. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
17. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).
18. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
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SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL 	TITLE VP/GM
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION FRANKLIN TELEPHONE CO., INC.	DATE SUBMITTED 7/30/2021

ASSURANCES - CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

OMB Number: 4040-0009
Expiration Date: 02/28/2022

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8. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards of merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
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SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL <i>Brian Smith</i>	TITLE <i>CEO</i>
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION <i>Uplink LLC</i>	DATE SUBMITTED <i>7-30-21</i>

ASSURANCES - CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

OMB Number: 4040-0009
Expiration Date: 02/28/2022

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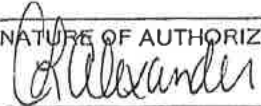
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8. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards of merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
9. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
10. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to non-discrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681 1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.

11. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal and federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
12. Will comply with the provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.
13. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333) regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.
14. Will comply with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
15. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).
16. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
17. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).
18. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
19. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.
20. Will comply with the requirements of Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104) which prohibits grant award recipients or a sub-recipient from (1) Engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect (2) Procuring a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect or (3) Using forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL 	TITLE VP Operations
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION WeConnect Communications	DATE SUBMITTED 8/3/21

ASSURANCES - CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

OMB Number: 4040-0009
Expiration Date: 02/28/2022

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0042), Washington, DC 20503.

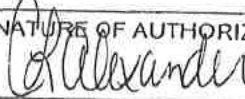
PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

NOTE: Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the Awarding Agency. Further, certain Federal assistance awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance, and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project costs) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the assistance; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will not dispose of, modify the use of, or change the terms of the real property title or other interest in the site and facilities without permission and instructions from the awarding agency. Will record the Federal awarding agency directives and will include a covenant in the title of real property acquired in whole or in part with Federal assistance funds to assure non-discrimination during the useful life of the project.
4. Will comply with the requirements of the assistance awarding agency with regard to the drafting, review and approval of construction plans and specifications.
5. Will provide and maintain competent and adequate engineering supervision at the construction site to ensure that the complete work conforms with the approved plans and specifications and will furnish progressive reports and such other information as may be required by the assistance awarding agency or State.
6. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
7. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
8. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards of merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
9. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
10. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to non-discrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681 1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.

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13. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333) regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.
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15. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).
16. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
17. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).
18. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
19. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.
20. Will comply with the requirements of Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104) which prohibits grant award recipients or a sub-recipient from (1) Engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect (2) Procuring a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect or (3) Using forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL 	TITLE VP Operations
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION Bruce Telephone Company	DATE SUBMITTED 8/3/21

This Workspace form is one of the forms you need to complete prior to submitting your Application Package. This form can be completed in its entirety offline using Adobe Reader. You can save your form by clicking the "Save" button and see any errors by clicking the "Check For Errors" button. In-progress and completed forms can be uploaded at any time to Grants.gov using the Workspace feature.

When you open a form, required fields are highlighted in yellow with a red border. Optional fields and completed fields are displayed in white. If you enter invalid or incomplete information in a field, you will receive an error message. Additional instructions and FAQs about the Application Package can be found in the Grants.gov Applicants tab.

OPPORTUNITY & PACKAGE DETAILS:

Opportunity Number:	NTIA-BROADBAND-INFRASTRUCTURE-PROGRAM-21
Opportunity Title:	BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM
Opportunity Package ID:	PKG00267256
CFDA Number:	11.031
CFDA Description:	Broadband Infrastructure Program
Competition ID:	NTIA-BROADBAND-INFRASTRUCTURE-PROGRAM-21
Competition Title:	Broadband Infrastructure Program
Opening Date:	05/19/2021
Closing Date:	08/17/2021
Agency:	National Telecommunications and Information Admini
Contact Information:	Jennifer Duane Senior Broadband Program Specialist E-mail: jduane@ntia.gov Phone: 202.482.2048

APPLICANT & WORKSPACE DETAILS:

Workspace ID:	WS00758344
Application Filing Name:	Mississippi2021NTIAGrant
DUNS:	8786393680000
Organization:	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, MISSISSIPPI
Form Name:	CD511 Form
Form Version:	1.1
Requirement:	Mandatory
Download Date/Time:	Aug 16, 2021 01:05:09 PM EDT

Form State:

FORM ACTIONS:

Applicants should also review the instructions for certification included in the regulations before completing this form. Signature on this form provides for compliance with certification requirements under 15 CFR Part 28, 'New Restrictions on Lobbying.' The certifications shall be treated as a material representation of fact upon which reliance will be placed when the Department of Commerce determines to award the covered transaction, grant, or cooperative agreement.

LOBBYING

As required by Section 1352, Title 31 of the U.S. Code, and implemented at 15 CFR Part 28, for persons entering into a grant, cooperative agreement or contract over \$100,000 or a loan or loan guarantee over \$150,000 as defined at 15 CFR Part 28, Sections 28.105 and 28.110, the applicant certifies that to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, 'Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying,' in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure occurring on or before October 23, 1996, and of not less than \$11,000 and not more than \$110,000 for each such failure occurring after October 23, 1996.

Statement for Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

In any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, 'Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying,' in accordance with its instructions.

Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure occurring on or before October 23, 1996, and of not less than \$11,000 and not more than \$110,000 for each such failure occurring after October 23, 1996.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I hereby certify that the applicant will comply with the above applicable certification.

* NAME OF APPLICANT

State of Mississippi

* AWARD NUMBER

NTIA BROADBAND INFRASTRUC

* PROJECT NAME

MISSISSIPPI2021NTIAGRANT

Prefix:

* First Name:

Middle Name:

Sally

Burchfield

* Last Name:

Doth

Suffix:

* Title: Executive Director, MS Public Utilities Staff

* SIGNATURE:

Completed by Grants.gov upon submission.

* DATE: 8/16/21

Completed by Grants.gov upon submission.

Applicants should also review the instructions for certification included in the regulations before completing this form. Signature on this form provides for compliance with certification requirements under 15 CFR Part 28, 'New Restrictions on Lobbying.' The certifications shall be treated as a material representation of fact upon which reliance will be placed when the Department of Commerce determines to award the covered transaction, grant, or cooperative agreement.

LOBBYING

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(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, 'Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying,' in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure occurring on or before October 23, 1996, and of not less than \$11,000 and not more than \$110,000 for each such failure occurring after October 23, 1996.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I hereby certify that the applicant will comply with the above applicable certification.

*** NAME OF APPLICANT**

Bruce Telephone Company

*** AWARD NUMBER**

NIAB Broadband Infrastructure Grant

*** PROJECT NAME**

Mississippi WINTAG 4

Prefix:

* First Name:

Christa

Middle Name:

* Last Name:

Alexander

Suffix:

* Title:

VP Operations

* SIGNATURE:

C Alexander

* DATE:

Aug. 3, 2021

Statement for Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

In any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, 'Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying,' in accordance with its instructions.

Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure occurring on or before October 23, 1996, and of not less than \$11,000 and not more than \$110,000 for each such failure occurring after October 23, 1996.

Applicants should also review the instructions for certification included in the regulations before completing this form. Signature on this form provides for compliance with certification requirements under 15 CFR Part 28, 'New Restrictions on Lobbying.' The certifications shall be treated as a material representation of fact upon which reliance will be placed when the Department of Commerce determines to award the covered transaction, grant, or cooperative agreement.

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(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, 'Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying,' in accordance with its Instructions.

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As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I hereby certify that the applicant will comply with the above applicable certification.

* NAME OF APPLICANT

WeConnect Communications, Inc.

* AWARD NUMBER

NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Grant

* PROJECT NAME

Hopewell

Prefix:

* First Name:

Christa

Middle Name:

* Last Name:

Alexander

Suffix:

* Title:

VP Operations

* SIGNATURE:

C Alexander

* DATE:

Aug. 3, 2021

Applicants should also review the instructions for certification included in the regulations before completing this form. Signature on this form provides for compliance with certification requirements under 15 CFR Part 28, 'New Restrictions on Lobbying.' The certifications shall be treated as a material representation of fact upon which reliance will be placed when the Department of Commerce determines to award the covered transaction, grant, or cooperative agreement.

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(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

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As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I hereby certify that the applicant will comply with the above applicable certification.

* NAME OF APPLICANT

Uplink LLC

* AWARD NUMBER

NITA Broadband Infrastructure Grant

* PROJECT NAME

Mississippi 201 NITA Grant

Prefix:

* First Name:

Brian

Middle Name:

Dele

* Last Name:

Smith

Suffix:

* Title:

CEO

* SIGNATURE

Brian Smith

* DATE:

7-30-21

Applicants should also review the instructions for certification included in the regulations before completing this form. Signature on this form provides for compliance with certification requirements under 15 CFR Part 28, 'New Restrictions on Lobbying.' The certifications shall be treated as a material representation of fact upon which reliance will be placed when the Department of Commerce determines to award the covered transaction, grant, or cooperative agreement.

LOBBYING

As required by Section 1352, Title 31 of the U.S. Code, and implemented at 15 CFR Part 28, for persons entering into a grant, cooperative agreement or contract over \$100,000 or a loan or loan guarantee over \$150,000 as defined at 15 CFR Part 28, Sections 28.105 and 28.110, the applicant certifies that to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

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As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I hereby certify that the applicant will comply with the above applicable certification.

Statement for Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

In any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, 'Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying,' in accordance with its instructions.

Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure occurring on or before October 23, 1996, and of not less than \$11,000 and not more than \$110,000 for each such failure occurring after October 23, 1996.

* NAME OF APPLICANT

FRANKLIN TELEPHONE CO., INC.

* AWARD NUMBER

NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Grant

* PROJECT NAME

Mississippi 2021 Grant

Prefix:

* First Name:

Middle Name:

TOM

* Last Name:

Suffix:

GRIFFIN

* Title: VP/GM

* SIGNATURE:

Tom Griffin

* DATE:

7/30/2021

Applicants should also review the instructions for certification included in the regulations before completing this form. Signature on this form provides for compliance with certification requirements under 15 CFR Part 28, 'New Restrictions on Lobbying.' The certifications shall be treated as a material representation of fact upon which reliance will be placed when the Department of Commerce determines to award the covered transaction, grant, or cooperative agreement.

LOBBYING

As required by Section 1352, Title 31 of the U.S. Code, and implemented at 15 CFR Part 28, for persons entering into a grant, cooperative agreement or contract over \$100,000 or a loan or loan guarantee over \$150,000 as defined at 15 CFR Part 28, Sections 28.106 and 28.110, the applicant certifies that to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, 'Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying,' in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure occurring on or before October 23, 1996, and of not less than \$11,000 and not more than \$110,000 for each such failure occurring after October 23, 1996.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I hereby certify that the applicant will comply with the above applicable certification.

* NAME OF APPLICANT

Cable South Media 3 LLC

* AWARD NUMBER

NTIA-Track 2 Information

* PROJECT NAME

Information

Prefix:

* First Name:

DREW

Middle Name:

* Last Name:

CANNON

Suffix:

* Title:

COO

* SIGNATURE:

Drew Cannon

* DATE:

8-08-2021

8/3/2

Applicants should also review the instructions for certification included in the regulations before completing this form. Signature on this form provides for compliance with certification requirements under 15 CFR Part 28, 'New Restrictions on Lobbying.' The certifications shall be treated as a material representation of fact upon which reliance will be placed when the Department of Commerce determines to award the covered transaction, grant, or cooperative agreement.

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- (1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
- (2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, 'Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying,' in accordance with its instructions.
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As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I hereby certify that the applicant will comply with the above applicable certification.

Statement for Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

In any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, 'Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying,' in accordance with its instructions.

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* NAME OF APPLICANT

Telepak Networks Inc. d/b/a C Spire

* AWARD NUMBER

NTIA Broadband Infrastructure 2021

* PROJECT NAME

Mississippi 2021 NTIA Grant

Prefix:

* First Name:

Middle Name:

Mr.

Chris

* Last Name:

Suffix:

Champion

* Title: VP, Government Relations

* SIGNATURE:

Chris Champion

* DATE:

08/11/21

Applicants should also review the instructions for certification included in the regulations before completing this form. Signature on this form provides for compliance with certification requirements under 15 CFR Part 28, 'New Restrictions on Lobbying.' The certifications shall be treated as a material representation of fact upon which reliance will be placed when the Department of Commerce determines to award the covered transaction, grant, or cooperative agreement.

LOBBYING

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(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

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As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I hereby certify that the applicant will comply with the above applicable certification.

Statement for Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

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* NAME OF APPLICANT

BAY SPRINGS TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC., DBA: TEC

* AWARD NUMBER

NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Rev.

* PROJECT NAME

SMITH COUNTY COMMUNITY BROADBAND PROJECT

Prefix:

* First Name:

Middle Name:

JOEY

* Last Name:

GARNER

Suffix:

* Title: EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

* DATE: 8/4/2021

* SIGNATURE:

JOEY GARNER



- i. Project Lead for TEC: Lisa Wigington, Vice President of Strategic Operations (601) 354-9070, LisaW@TEC.com
- ii. Project Title: **Smith County Community Broadband Project – Phase 2**
- iii. Brief Project Description: The Smith County Community Broadband Project Phase 2 proposed funded service area covers approximately 132 square miles of rural Smith county in central Mississippi. This project will bring approximately 126 miles of core fiber to some of the most rural areas of Mississippi and make high speed broadband available to approximately 1,029 locations through fiber to the home technology.
- iv. The total cost for this project is \$6,119,828. Bay Springs Telephone Company, Inc., dba: TEC is requesting \$5,507,845 in grant funding and is proposing to cash match \$611,983.
- v. Bay Springs Telephone Company, Inc. (BST) elected the Alternative Connect America Cost Model (ACAM) for a FCC support mechanism to provide internet. ACAM requires that BST deploy broadband service to 609 locations (of the 1,029 locations in the proposed service area). Per the ACAM requirements, BST is being funded for a total of 9,658 locations. Of these 9,658, only 8,058 must be 25/3 by the end of the ACAM funding period. The remaining 1,600 are required to have a 10/1 or 4/1 available. BST is requesting funding to construct fiber to these 609 ACAM locations in Smith county, which would not be upgraded under the FCC ACAM funding requirement as part of the 1,600.
- vi. Planned project start date: December 1, 2021 and ending November 30, 2022. Per the NTIA rules, if material or contractor labor scarcity endangers our timeline, a petition for extension will be submitted not later than ninety (90) calendar days before the end of the award period.
 - a. Assuming notification of award is by November 29, 2021
 - b. Order fiber materials and electronics - complete by December 31, 2022
 - c. Engineering: Design, staking and application for right of way permits complete by February 28, 2022
 - d. Engage construction contractor (competitive bid process)- complete by May 30, 2021
 - e. Construction for core fiber distribution - complete by November 19, 2022
 - f. Installation of Electronics - complete by November 19, 2022
 - g. Testing complete by November 30, 2022
 - h. Marketing campaign "fiber is coming to Smith county area" runs from June 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022



- i. Fiber drops buried and turn-up of customers from September 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022
 - j. Project will be complete within 12 months from award date
- vii. Bay Springs Telephone Company, Inc. is partnering with the Mississippi Public Utilities Staff (the State of Mississippi).
- viii. Project labor standards: TEC employs over 200 local employees in AL, MS and TN currently and will hire local employees for any required increase in staffing at market labor rates. In addition, TEC has long standing relationships with many contractors and will bid or negotiate this project within the Southeast. TEC buys over 80% of its equipment and material from KGP Telecommunications, Inc. (KGPCo), which has been a certified woman owned business since 1982. TEC will abide by labor requirements set forth in this application.

Bay Springs Telephone Company, Inc. dba: TEC complies fully with all requirements, in accordance with Federal civil rights law and does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

- a. Community benefit: TEC has also adopted the practice of installing WIFI Hotspots at Volunteer Fire Departments that are passed with fiber construction to provide public access to communities and communication and training opportunities for the first responders. Seven locations will be provided this service in the TEC expansion projects planned for 2021 and 2022 in central MS and four of these will be in Smith county.
- b. Smith county demographics are explained in more detail in the criteria section of this RFI, but the county desperately needs broadband access.

The inhabitants of the Smith County Community Broadband Project need access to health care, government services, educational and business opportunities, just like every person living in urban areas. Access can only be gained by using broadband services and sophisticated technologies that require high-speed connections. According to the Federal Communications Commission, 39 percent of rural Americans lack access to 25 Mbps/3 Mbps service, compared to only 4 percent of urban Americans. Specifically, in the Smith county communities, current and future generations will be left behind if they are without affordable



high-speed broadband service that enables them to tap into health care and educational services, government agencies, and new business opportunities as reflected later in the economic characteristics of the county.

Public safety: The Smith county board of supervisors has requested higher speed and more reliable broadband service for the Volunteer Fire Departments and TEC is providing that service free including a WIFI Hotspot for public access in every location passed with fiber in the ongoing expansion efforts. There are many services that could be useful, including broadband data transfers, real-time video, and geolocation, which would enable dispatchers to track the precise location of the emergency and of the first responders during an emergency. Multiple community leaders have documented support and the need for reliable broadband service for communication and access for first responders in this area in support letters attached to the application.

Economic characteristics: The Smith County Community Broadband Project is proposed for rural Smith county, MS which, according to census data, has 18.9% of the population under the poverty level, significantly higher than the national average of 12.6%. The employment rate is 49.3%, with a median income of \$43,105 per household, lower than the average \$62,843 in the U.S. In addition, the population of disabled is 17.9%.

Per www.census.gov, 20.8% of the population in this county did not finish high school when polled about educational attainment. There are no major employers in the PFSA.

The PFSA desperately needs the availability of the broadband service. Access to government services and health care through telemedicine for the large population of disabled, educational and business opportunities for the unemployed. According to the Smith County Chamber of Commerce an educated and trained workforce is the number one key driver for companies looking to locate or expand their businesses. Internet access has become a vital component of both education and workforce readiness. Children are the workforce of tomorrow and education and technical skills are mandatory for preparing them for the job opportunities that will be available when they enter the workforce.

Internet access would provide opportunities for job hunting and for students who need internet access for homework and school projects. According to the Pew Research Center analysis from April 20, 2015, of the Census data, the lowest-income households have the lowest home broadband subscription rates. Roughly one-third (31.4%) of households whose incomes fall below \$50,000 and with children ages 6 to 17 do not have a high-speed internet connection at home. This low-income group makes up about 40% of all families with school-age children in the United States, according to the bureau's American Community Survey.



Providing opportunity and encouragement to be able to keep up with their classmates and assignments could curb the drop out statistic in Smith county.

In addition, building broadband to the PFSA would make it more attractive to businesses to locate in the area, providing more job opportunities. Working from home would become an option for many of the unemployed.

Educational challenges: When used as part of a comprehensive educational strategy, technology provides access to tools, resources, data, and support systems that all increase teaching and learning opportunities. Such environments enable individualized, competency-based learning that can take place anywhere and anytime. There are no schools located inside the PFSA, however, there are students that do not have adequate access at home. This digital divide is known as the 'homework gap' and is defined as the gap between those with access to the internet and those without. The Smith County School District (among other community leaders) have agreed to partner with TEC on its digital literacy program and each has provided a letter documenting how imperative internet access is for students at home. Providing the community with broadband access to their homes is necessary for these students to not be left behind. In addition, the Volunteer Fire Department location in the PFSA at which TEC will be providing free public access will allow students a location to do homework if they cannot afford internet at home. TEC's digital literacy plan is attached.

Health care needs: There are no public medical clinics or hospitals in the PFSA however, it is vital for rural areas like Smith county for residents to have access to patient care through telemedicine and online portals. Hospital-based telemedicine and remote monitoring capabilities that extend access to specialty care and other services are becoming an increasingly popular option for patients and providers. The use of telemedicine and remote monitoring tools that extend care into the home are applicable to many healthcare situations ranging from primary care to emergency care.

As more healthcare consumers cite the benefits of telemedicine, such as convenience and lower travel costs, hospitals are beginning to meet consumer demands while capitalizing on the improvements that telemedicine brings to their healthcare services.

Patients can monitor their vital signs and answer symptom questions daily through a single user portal. Portals can be customized to a patient's specific disease condition and experience and can be used by patients to alert providers about health conditions in real time.

The aim of telemedicine and patient monitoring is to improve health outcomes for chronic conditions involving cardiac disease, respiratory issues, and diabetes.



These new digital healthcare initiatives also help with organizational goals such as reducing hospital admissions and keeping patients comfortable in their homes. With the high population of disabled, Smith county needs online patient care which can be remedied by the availability of broadband service.



Criteria:

- i. The strategy for this expansion project is to leverage existing fiber and continue building a network using a fiber to the home architecture utilizing passive optical networking (PON) technology and topology.



BST will leverage its existing operations and management to sustain the project and projects a positive net income and cash flow during the five years (included in the budget spreadsheet as support). As will be reflected in the 5-year projection, the company will attain a positive net income after the project is completed utilizing economies of scale to provide operations support to these additional customers at little additional operating cost.

After construction, BST will continue to market and raise awareness and will add drops and customer premise equipment as customers are added with company cash flows. BST will offer a subscription-based internet service plan. BST has 25 local employees and a physical location in Bay Springs, MS for customer care and field services staff. This local service adds value to its offerings by providing technical onsite support for any issues and a shorter time to wait for repairs of plant infrastructure if unavoidable outages occur. A help desk is also available 24X7. The local staff of employees can provide maintenance on the plant and service these customers as a part of our current company business model, however, with continued growth in the area BST is preparing to hire additional manpower to maintain the current level of service in future years. BST already has over 5,200 voice customers and approximately 5,500 broadband internet customers in Jasper, Smith, Newton, Rankin and Jones counties in central MS.

BST has continually invested in its network over the years and this build will just be an extension of the fiber infrastructure already in place. In addition, BST has the centralized support of the TEC corporate structure for billing, accounting, regulatory compliance, engineering and network operations, which provides economies of scale to leverage the existing operations and maintain the new infrastructure and new customers at very little additional cost. In short, the additional fiber and customers in the Smith County area will become part of BST's everyday continuing operations.



ii.

[REDACTED]

TEC Companies do not and will not have any data caps.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



higher as bandwidth usage grows. This network facilitates excellent response times across the network with minimal latency.

- iii. The proposed service area for the Smith Community Broadband Project focuses on a currently underserved area that has some ACAM support for 609 of the 754 locations included in the PFSA. The project will serve FTTH to 1,029 locations, but only 754 are in the proposed funded service area and should be considered for funding.

These locations are eligible per the FCC broadband map and the NTIA map. None of these locations were awarded in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) reverse auction by the FCC and currently do not have service at 25/3 or above.

Per a visual count using satellite imagery, the funded service area includes 754 locations. The area is largely residential and results from desktop research reflect an estimated 2 businesses, 3 churches, and 1 anchor institution (the Head Start Cherry Grove Center located at 213 County Road 10B, Taylorsville, MS 39168) and 748 residences all without 25/3 or above available.

The number of addresses in these areas is 754 and the proposed project will cover 132 square miles. Utilizing this address count and the average rural take rate of 63%, according to the PEW research center, it was determined that 476 locations was a reasonable estimate for the "take rate" and for planning the construction project and budget.

iv.



The build out timeline and turn up of customers is a one-year period for this project. This proposed design will deploy single mode fiber optic cables constructed utilizing RUS approved construction techniques. The Smith County Community Broadband Project is projected to be 75% aerial and 25% underground fiber construction. Aerial fiber construction will utilize existing poles under a current pole attachment agreement with the local electric cooperative in the proposed service area.

Buried or bored fiber will be placed in existing previously disturbed public rights-of-ways. To provide a more secure reliable fiber footprint all the buried fiber will be placed at a minimum depth of 36 inches unless other depths are required by the affected highway, railroad, municipalities or other authorities. The two methods of underground



construction that will be utilized are predominately plowing with a 1.25" pipe for fiber and directional boring utilized when road or stream or other types of crossings are required. Directional boring will also be utilized when it is not possible to plow or boring is more feasible construction. Along the buried fiber route, flush-mounted handholes will be deployed with the proposed fiber being accessible at each location. This will allow for easy access to the network and makes future expansions more economical and feasible.

Additional Prioritization:

- i. A high-level design of the Smith County Community Broadband Project includes 100% of the locations inside the shaded areas on the enclosed map. The proposed funded service area covers approximately 132 square miles of Smith county in central Mississippi. This project will bring approximately 126 miles of core fiber to some of the most rural areas of Mississippi and make high speed broadband available to approximately 1,029 locations through fiber to the home technology.
- ii. The proposed service area is in Smith county, MS. Covering 637 square miles, Smith County is located in central Mississippi. Smith County is bordered by Jasper, Rankin, Scott, Simpson and Covington counties. Per <https://data.census.gov> the population of Smith county is 16,009. The populations of all adjacent and contiguous counties are also well below 50,000 in population. This project would cover over 40% of the area in the county.

As demonstrated in the table below, this area would benefit from access to broadband for telemedicine, homework, precision farming, work from home opportunities. All economic benefits to the county.

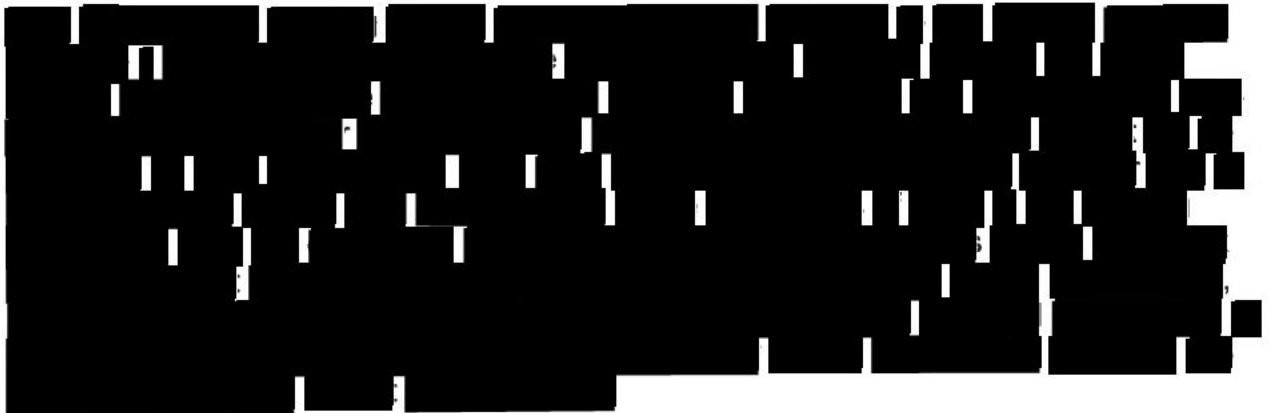
Demographics for Smith County

Demographic Category	Smith County, MS	Average of United States
Population	16,009	324,697,795
Median Household Income	\$43,105	\$62,843
Poverty Rate	18.9%	12.6%
Children Under 18 Poverty Rate	23.9%	18.5%
Disability	17.9%	12.6%
Education: High School Graduate	79.2%	88.0%
Employment Rate	49.3%	59.6%

- iii. TEC has been meeting the communication needs of the rural south since 1923. Bay Springs Telephone Company, Inc. (BST) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of TEC and has provided voice service in Jones, Jasper, Smith, Newton and Hinds counties since 1923 and internet service since 1995. Utilizing this experience and the relationships established with vendors and contractors will allow effective and efficient implementation of this project.



The cost per location passed is \$8,116 and a business model cannot be made to build fiber in this area without funding. However, the planned construction for this project is the most cost-effective solution to provide Gigabit service. Approximately 75% of the construction will be built as aerial on existing pole routes under a current pole attachment agreement. Aerial fiber construction can be built faster and is at least 30% less expensive in initial investment than directional bored fiber infrastructure construction.



While providing access to every location is important, the critical issue with any deployment is adoption. Without adoption, the economic characteristics of the county will not change. TEC will market to the areas we upgrade by yard signs, direct mail, door to door surveys, social media and community events hosted at various locations around the county. Employees will attend and speak at city council meetings, rotary club meetings, anywhere there is a gathering we will be there. TEC has a comprehensive website and facebook page with services available and current promotions to also help raise customer awareness. Digital literacy video clips on "how to" will also be featured on our website and "what can the internet do for you" and online safety for children and parents training sessions will be hosted at the school and/or the local library for the public. TEC's Roadmap to Improve Digital Literacy is attached. With BST's highly skilled and experienced customer care and technical staff of 25 employees located in Bay Springs, MS, the company is positioned to give superior service to customers and has the tier two support from the TEC corporate office located in Jackson, MS for design and construction of fiber plant and maintenance of the network.

- iv. TEC will be providing up to symmetrical Gigabit speed (940.0 Mbps /940.0Mbps). The TEC Companies (including Bay Springs Telephone Company, Inc.) will meet Gigabit performance tier, latency of less than 100 ms, and MOS of greater than 4, utilizing GPON and XGS-PON. GPON is capable of subscriber speeds of 1Gbps symmetrical. XGS-PON is capable of subscriber speeds of 10Gbps symmetrical. Latency of both



[REDACTED]

v.

TEC Companies do not and will not have any data caps.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Attachments:

- ii. Project budget with cost details (equipment proposed) and match committed attached. File also includes project milestones and timeline.
- iii. Pre-construction work has been limited to high level fiber design for the area. No staking, permitting, or environmental applications have been filed.
- iv. Project area map in kmz (with separate word doc with bullet points explaining the map) and an excel file with all census blocks completely or partially covered by the proposed project are attached.
- v. Network diagrams are attached of both the proposed build and existing network and network operations center.
- vi. Project collaborators (formal and informal):
 - a. Bay Springs Telephone Company, Inc., dba: TEC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Telephone Electronics Corporation. Currently, BST serves internet to over 6,500 customers in Mississippi. **Bay Springs Telephone Company, Inc. will be building the fiber and operating the network to serve the customers.**
 - b. Bay Springs Telephone Company, Inc. (BST) is also a wholly owned subsidiary of Telephone Electronics Corporation. With support of BST's highly skilled and experienced customer care and technical staff of 25 employees located in Bay Springs, MS and the TEC Jackson staff of 40 located in Jackson, MS the company is positioned to give superior service to customers and has the tier two support from the TEC corporate office located in Jackson, MS for design and construction of fiber plant and maintenance of the network.
 - c. TEC has also adopted the practice of installing WIFI Hotspots at Volunteer Fire Departments that are passed with fiber construction to provide public access to communities and communication and training opportunities for the first responders. Seven locations will be provided this service in the TEC expansion projects planned for 2021 and 2022 in central MS and four of these will be in Smith county.
 - d. Key Personnel:

Management Team Experience:

Mrs. Joey F. Garner

Leading TEC, Joey F. Garner serves as Executive Vice President. Joey has thirty years' experience in the telecommunications industry and has worked with TEC and its subsidiaries since 1991. She is a graduate of Vanderbilt University where she received a Bachelor of Arts in English.



Through her years of employment with TEC, Joey has worked in various departments. She established TEC's marketing department in 1993. At this time, Joey worked closely with TEC's local telephone companies to develop an annual marketing plan and budget for each company. She subsequently worked with TEC's Commercial and Employee Benefit Department. Since 2011, Joey has served as TEC's Executive Vice President, leading the company's future planning with vision and commitment. She works closely with each department Vice President and Director to ensure TEC is a leader in product development, sales, technology, and customer experience. Joey is a board member for several of TEC's companies. She was selected as Mississippi's Business Woman of the Year in 2009. Joey is a past board member of OPASTCO and of the Tennessee-Mississippi Telephone Association (AMTA). In 2018 she was recognized as one of Mississippi's top CEOs. She currently serves as a board member for the OmniBank.

Mr. Joseph C. Piro

Joseph C. Piro has over thirty years' experience in the telecommunications industry in the area of Finance and Administration. He has been employed by TEC since 1994. He currently serves as Vice President of Administration and Treasurer for TEC. Mr. Piro's current areas of responsibility include Accounting and Human Resources.

Recently, Mr. Piro was key in the centralization of TEC's Human Resources Department and the standardization of policies and practices that involve hiring, employee retention, benefits, safety, and payroll. He also coordinated and worked closely with BST and TEC subsidiaries in the centralization of cash management to provide increased earnings on excess cash and improved internal controls over accounts payable. Additionally, Mr. Piro led the team of TEC management that established electronic data storage for more efficient use of resources including the ability to retrieve documents through remote connections.

Mr. Piro brings years of experience with TEC companies and has great management skills that he has exemplified during his twenty-five years of service with TEC. He has implementing improved management reporting timelines for financial statement presentations that greatly have benefitted all TEC companies. With his various responsibilities at TEC, Mr. Piro has exhibited leadership qualities that will enhance the ongoing survivability of TEC.

Mr. Piro currently serves on the Board of Directors for numerous TEC subsidiary companies. He graduated from Northeast Louisiana University in 1986 after earning a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree in Accounting. He is also licensed in the State of Mississippi as a Certified Public Accountant.

Mr. James W. Garner

James W. Garner is Vice President of Operations for TEC. James leads a comprehensive array of operations teams in every aspect, including strategic planning, budgeting, project management, construction, technology upgrades, new service implementation, and maintenance. He works daily with the operations team members to ensure TEC provides quality broadband and voice services to TEC customers throughout the southeast.



As part of his duties, James oversees the network deployment and management for TEC, working with subsidiaries, end users, and supply chain vendors. This effort includes securing diverse, redundant broadband connections that ensure business continuity and reliability. James has played a pivotal role in the implementation of TEC's cloud communication products including IP PBX, SIP Trunks and privatized VoIP and is an integral part of TEC's continuous efforts to be a leader in the rapidly-changing technology industry.

Drawing on experiences dating back to 1992 when James joined the TEC team, he has worked closely with every aspect of the telecommunications networks from engineering, design, construction to regulatory compliance. As new technologies emerged, James led the operations team in the introduction of high-speed Internet access to customers, both in the residential and business markets and James continues this leading-edge technology implementation with cloud-hosted solutions, fiber optic broadband deployments, and enhanced carrier networks for TEC and its customers.

James is particularly active in special projects involving strategic fiber optic and ethernet deployments to for TEC. These projects span a four-state area and involve coordination of financial planning, construction, and installation.

James is a graduate of Mississippi State University with a Bachelor of Science and a Masters of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering, where he focused his post-graduate work on thermal analysis and fluid dynamics. After working at Rockwell International on various NASA Space Shuttle and Department of Defense weapons projects, James began working for TEC in 1992. Currently, James serves as board member for a number of TEC's subsidiaries. He also is a board member and past president of the Tennessee Telephone Association. He is a past president of the Tennessee Mississippi Telephone Association.

Ms. Lisa Wigington

Lisa Wigington is Vice President of Strategic Operations for TEC. Lisa holds a Bachelor and a Master of Professional Accountancy from Mississippi State University and worked in public accounting for the regional firm Whitaker, Lipp and Healea for four years before moving to the telecommunications industry. Lisa is a Certified Public Accountant and holds a Certification as a Project Management Professional. She has been employed with TEC for 26 years, first in the financial department and currently in operations, creating models for new products and product lines, construction budgets and grant applications and managing the initiation, planning and execution of those projects.

Lisa was the leader in TEC's billing conversion for nine of the TEC affiliates. Lisa created timelines, gathered a small conversion project team and assigned tasks. The team converted over 30,000 billing records for the nine companies, including building call plans, testing and analyzing call records side by side, creating plant facilities records and CABs billing records for each of the nine companies over an eighteen-month period. When the conversion was complete, Lisa assembled a Billing Operations Support team and trained them to continue the everyday operations of the billing system and to support the companies. This process also



included preparing a set of operations procedures for the monthly billing cycle.

Lisa also researched and led TEC's introduction of a home security division which was launched in three companies. Lisa created the financial model and assembled security teams at each of the companies, set up training for certifications for these members, and created all required forms for the sales agreements and installation checklists. Lisa also set up an agreement with a third-party monitoring company for the monitoring support. An incentive sales plan was then created, and the team has become very successful.

Since 2008, Lisa has worked with the TEC Operations team, consisting of James Garner, Forrest Collier and Brent Fisher on several additional projects including the Ethernet upgrade project, IPTV project, the soft switch installation project for six telephone companies and most recently the mapping migration and upgrade for six companies. Lisa and the team have a close working relationship to the engineering consulting firm and are heavily involved in the construction projects for all the affiliate companies. The operations team is responsible for developing construction projects, creating a capital budget, creating and managing the timelines and action items for each project and is in constant communication with the company plant personnel, engineers and contractors to ensure execution of each project.

In 2010 Lisa wrote a Broadband Initiatives Project (BIP) application for National Telephone of Alabama, Inc., which was awarded by RUS. Lisa and the operations team successfully managed the construction and all compliance reporting of this successful BIP project and it was completed on time and within budget. She currently is responsible for grant applications and implementation of awards for TEC.

Lisa's experience in the industry and her knowledge of financial applications make her a leader at TEC. She plays a key role in coordination among the marketing, sales and operations departments.

Mr. John Cole

John Cole joined TEC in 2002. Prior to TEC, John operated and held partial ownership of a dialup internet company in Tennessee at that, through periods of expansion, served six counties. A subsidiary of TEC acquired the company in late 2001. John currently serves as Director of Network Operations at TEC and administers daily support, design, and operation of broadband and voice platforms for TEC subsidiaries.

John's technical background and experience includes engineering design, support, and operation of carrier LAN/WAN infrastructure and CLASS 4/5 telephone voice switching platforms. Leveraging his 21 years of experience in telecommunications, John is tasked with and serves an important role in growing and maintaining TEC's broadband network that delivers much needed high-speed connectivity to rural, underserved areas of the Southeast. As a member of TEC's operations team, John works closely with all TEC companies to ensure broadband and voice services are delivered on robust, reliable, and efficient platforms and network infrastructure.

John attended the University of Tennessee at Martin and holds multiple telecom industry specific certifications pertaining to carrier network and voice hardware platforms and design.



John also took an interest in his community at an early age by attending Crockett Youth Leadership and Adult Leadership programs. Currently, John is serving his fourth year as President of the Crockett County Chamber of Commerce, and thirteenth year as a member of the Crockett County Board of Education, seven of which he has served as the Vice Chairman. John has also achieved Level IV Boardmanship status from the Tennessee School Boards Association. John is also a Tennessee College of Applied Technologies (TCAT) Institutional Advisory Board Member. Striving to invest in the community that has invested so much in him, John is involved in many local organizations such as Relay for Life, Friendship Merchants Association, West Tennessee Cotton Festival, Crockett Mills Community Center and The Crockett Christmas Store.

Project Team Track Record

TEC management team has a combined total of over 250 years of experience in the communications and technology industry. The team working to secure and proceed with this project consists of Mr. Joe Piro, Mr. James Garner, Mrs. Joey Garner, Ms. Lisa Wigington, and Mr. John Cole, as well other experienced managers and staff. The majority of these team members average over twenty years of experience working with Bay Springs Telephone Company, Inc. and its sister companies. As mentioned above this is basically the same core management team that was awarded the BIP project by RUS at National Telephone of Alabama, Inc. (an affiliate) which was successfully completed on budget and on time.

Mr. Garner is leading the effort to reach more rural customers in Smith, Scott and Covington counties in central Mississippi. As Vice President of operations for TEC, Mr. Garner works with Bay Springs Telephone Company, Inc. and sister companies on a daily basis to ensure that all projects are completed and goals are fulfilled. He works closely with the management team of Lisa Wigington, Forrest Collier, and John Cole to make sure the network is at full capacity to serve Bay Springs Telephone Company, Inc. customers. Mr. Garner, Ms. Wigington, Mr. Cole and Mr. Collier currently meet weekly to coordinate all outside plant and central office functions at Bay Springs Telephone Company, Inc. The team plans to continue this type of planning session with the direct focus on the expansion to the RDOF awarded census block groups and with the Smith County Community Broadband Project.

Within the realm of the proposed funded service area, Bay Springs Telephone Company, Inc. plans to follow similar steps that currently are followed for new technology and product offerings.

Under the leadership of Mr. Garner, the operations department introduces new technologies for the TEC companies. Ms. Wigington and Mrs. Garner review the offerings and suggest new product packages and pricing. Once the new products are approved by Mr. Garner, the experienced staff of Mr. Collier and local staff will assist with the implementation. All aspects of a new product are reviewed and discussed by the team working on this project. These aspects include cost, revenue, billing, network management, implementation, training, and marketing. Each team member has special talents that combine with others to ensure every detail is covered thoroughly and diligently.



- vii. Letters of commitment: The board of directors for Bay Springs Telephone Company, Inc. signed a resolution to submit the application for this project under the NTIA program. The resolution is attached – see viii.
- viii. Company resolution authorizing submission of the application and resources to the committed project is attached.
- ix. Letters of community support are attached.

Speed Tiers	Residential Rates	Business Rates
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Available upon request:

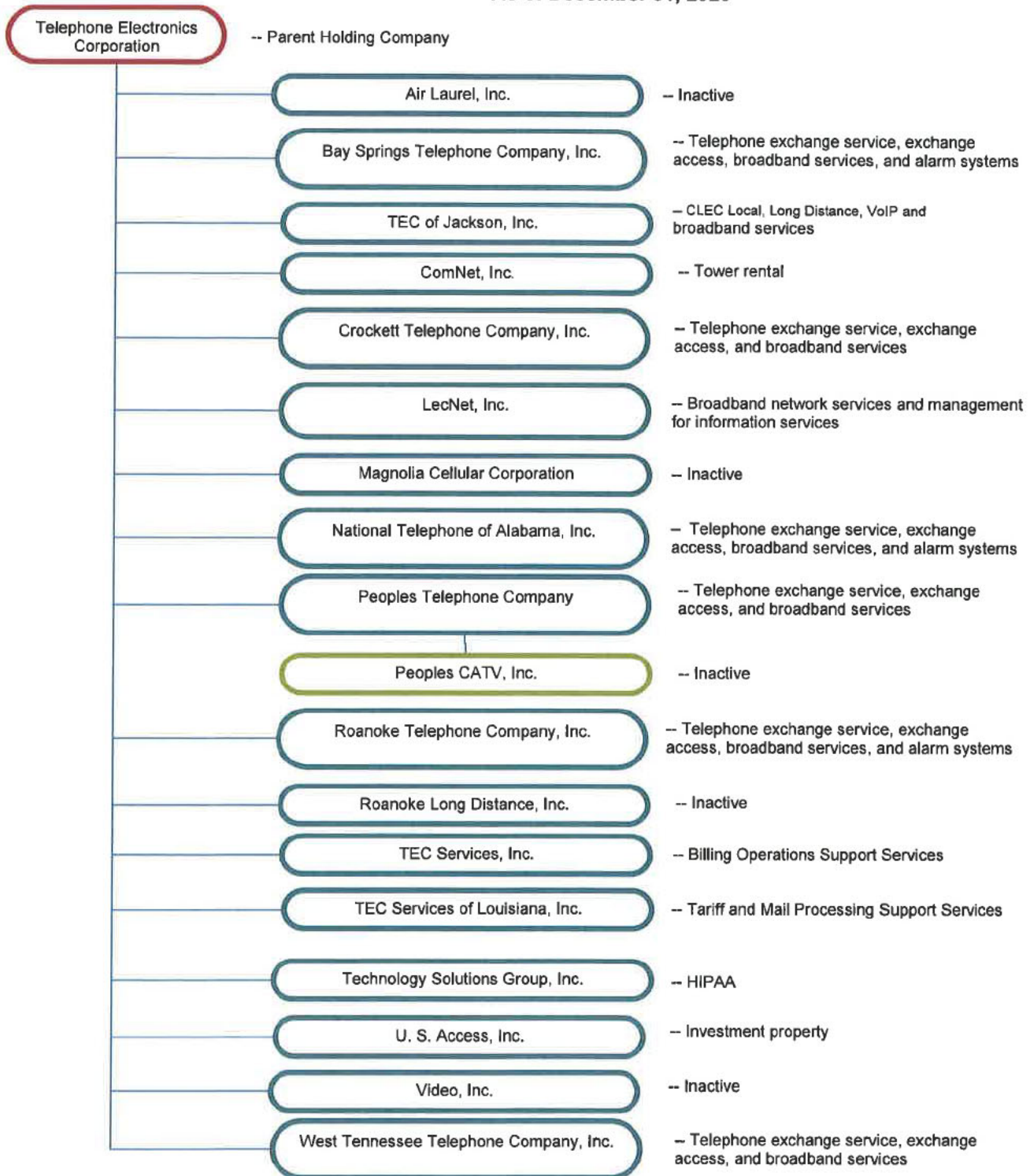
- Audited Financial Statements for 2019 and 2020
- Budget narrative
- Project narrative with additional details per the NTIA application
- Financial Analyses – including projected revenues and expenses and narrative on why financial assistance is needed

Bay Springs Telephone Company, Inc. dba: TEC
Smith County Community Broadband Project - Phase 2

Project Budget

BUDGET	No. of Units	Unit cost	Total	Grant	Cash Match	Allocation of Engineering	Total by Account	Category Reference (see Detailed Equipment Sheet in this file)	Description
BROADBAND SYSTEM									
Electronic Equipment (FTTH)	3	10,600.00	31,800.00	28,620.00	3,180.00	5,069.23	36,869.23	Access6	Optical Line Terminal (OLT)
Electronic Equipment (FTTH)	4	750.00	3,000.00	2,700.00	300.00	478.23	3,478.23	Access2	Pole mounted 1:32 Distributed Optical Splitters (distributed)
Electronic Equipment (FTTH)	3	7,500.00	22,500.00	20,250.00	2,250.00	3,586.72	26,086.72	Access3	288 port LCP Cabinet mounted on a concrete pad or on a pole and loaded with fiber tails splitter ports
Electronic Equipment (FTTH)	1	11,000.00	11,000.00	9,900.00	1,100.00	1,753.51	12,753.51	Access4	432 port LCP Cabinet mounted on a concrete pad or on a pole and loaded with fiber tails and splitter ports
Electronic Equipment (FTTH)	476	375.00	178,500.00	160,650.00	17,850.00	28,454.63	206,954.63	Access5	Includes an Optical Network Terminal (ONT) and Fiber NID
Electronic Equipment (FTTH)	0	65,178.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Access1	Remote access equipment - Adtran T5000 platform
Outside plant (fiber) - Distribution fiber	126	37,100.00	4,674,600.00	4,207,140.00	467,460.00	745,176.44	5,419,776.44	OutsidePlant6	Proposing 126 miles of the required mix of 288, 144 and 96 count fiber - 75% aerial and 25% underground (bunted/plowed or directionally bored). Unit cost includes fiber, fiber pedestals, splice cases, MSTs, handholes with slack fiber and cost of contractor
Customer premises equipment	476	125.00	59,500.00	53,550.00	5,950.00	9,484.88	68,984.88	CPE7	CPE includes a Smart RG Modem
Outside plant (fiber) - Drop	476	625.00	297,500.00	267,750.00	29,750.00	47,424.38	344,924.38	Drops8	Last mile assumes an average of 550 feet from the road to the home or business Fiber Network Interface Device (NID) and the ONT will be mounted (fiber and labor price)
Engineering			841,428.00	757,285.20	84,142.80				
Total Broadband System			6,119,828.00	5,507,845.20	611,982.80	841,428.00	6,119,828.00		
SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES									
Broadband System			6,119,828.00	5,507,845.20	611,982.80				

Telephone Electronics Corporation
Organizational Chart
As of December 31, 2020



Smith Phase 2

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Community Support Summary – Smith County Community Broadband Project

[illegible]



CHAIRMAN DANE MAXWELL
MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
SOUTHERN DISTRICT

August 13, 2021

Ms. Evelyn Remaley
Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Ms. Remaley,

TEC's application for a National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Infrastructure Program Funding Opportunity Grant in rural Smith County, MS should be granted.

Currently, Smith County residents do not have adequate broadband available with roughly 10% having access to 1 Gbit, 17% to 100 mbps, and 58% to 25 mbps.

TEC is an active participant in the community and has been meeting with local government, libraries, schools, chambers of commerce, and other community leaders to discuss their proposed grant application. TEC has volunteered to host digital literacy classes and interest safety training for students and parents in Smith County. Furthermore, TEC will be installing a Wi-Fi hotspot with Gigabit internet service at every Volunteer Fire Department passed with fiber construction.

I fully support this broadband grant application and TEC. I appreciate the community partnership TEC provides and respectfully request you approve this application for this rural community.

Sincerely,

Dane Maxwell, Chairman
Mississippi Public Service Commission

Chancery Court of Smith County

DAVID SHOEMAKE
Chancery Judge Post 1



GERALD MARTIN
Chancery Judge Post 2

CINDY AUSTIN, Chancery Clerk

P. O. Box 39 • 201 Courthouse Square
Raleigh, MS 39153

July 16, 2021

Telephone: (601) 782-9811

Fax: (601) 782-4690

Email: chanceryclerk@co.smith.ms.us

Ms. Angel Stenmark

Director of Telecommunications Division

Mississippi Public Utilities Staff

Mississippi Public Service Commission

To Whom It May Concern:

TEC is an active participant in the local community and has been meeting with the local government, libraries, schools, chamber of commerce, and other community leaders to discuss the proposed grant application for a National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Infrastructure Program Funding Opportunity Grant in our rural area of Smith county, MS that does not have adequate broadband available.

TEC has also volunteered to host digital literacy classes and internet safety training for students and parents at our county library. We greatly appreciate the community partnership TEC provides and respectfully request you approve this application for our community.

I fully support this effort and are thrilled at the prospect of the greater broadband service. TEC, as part of their community support, will be installing a WIFI hotspot with Gigabit internet service at every Volunteer Fire Department passed with fiber construction. Public access is especially important with our recent push for virtual learning and working from home as a result of the pandemic.

In addition, Volunteer Fire Departments are an anchor institution and a public safety entity and many currently do not have access to internet for first responder training and emergency communication.

I fully support this broadband grant application and TEC.

Sincerely,

Cindy Austin
Smith County Chancery Clerk

SMITH COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
CIVIL DEFENSE DIRECTOR/FIRE COORDINATOR/E-911COORDINATOR
Heather Easterling
POST OFFICE BOX 1107 RALEIGH, MISSISSIPPI 39153
OFFICE: (601)782-9151 FAX: (601)782-4081

July 15, 2021

Ms. Angel Stenmark
Director of Telecommunications Division
Mississippi Public Utilities Staff
Mississippi Public Service Commission

To Whom It May Concern:

TEC is an active participant in the local community and has been meeting with the local government, libraries, schools, chamber of commerce, and other community leaders to discuss the proposed grant application for a National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Infrastructure Program Funding Opportunity Grant in our rural area of Smith county, MS that does not have adequate broadband available.

TEC has also volunteered to host digital literacy classes and internet safety training for students and parents at our county library. We greatly appreciate the community partnership TEC provides and respectfully request you approve this application for our community.

We fully support this effort and are thrilled at the prospect of the greater broadband service. TEC, as part of their community support, will be installing a WIFI hotspot with Gigabit internet service at every Volunteer Fire Department passed with fiber construction. Public access is especially important with our recent push for virtual learning and working from home as a result of the pandemic.

In addition, Volunteer Fire Departments are an anchor institution and a public safety entity and many currently do not have access to internet for first responder training and emergency communication.

The county fully supports this broadband grant application and TEC.

Sincerely,

Heather Easterling

Chris K. Rhodes
President / CEO

Directors

B. M. Berry, Chairman
R. H. Thoms, Vice-Chairman
L. H. Montgomery, Secretary
M. W. Berry
B. Eaton
D. Kirby
C. W. Lowe



David Garner
Attorney

Directors

F. L. McNair
B. R. Parish
S. L. Rhodes
J. I. Sims
G. Sullivan
L. D. Tadlock

July 19, 2021

Ms. Angel Stenmark
Director of Telecommunications Division
Mississippi Public Utilities Staff
Mississippi Public Service Commission

To Whom It May Concern:

TEC is an active participant in the local community and has been meeting with the local government, libraries, schools, chamber of commerce, and other community leaders to discuss the proposed grant application. This application is for a National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Infrastructure Program Funding Opportunity Grant in our rural area of Smith County, MS, that does not have adequate broadband available.

TEC has also volunteered to host digital literacy classes and internet safety training for students and parents in Smith County and other parts of Southern Pine's service area. We greatly appreciate the community partnership TEC provides and respectfully request you approve this application for our community.

As part of their community support, TEC will be installing a WIFI hotspot with Gigabit internet service at every Volunteer Fire Department passed with fiber construction. This public access will support the recent push for virtual learning and working remotely because of the pandemic.

In addition, Volunteer Fire Departments are an anchor institution and a public safety entity, and many currently do not have access to the internet for first responder training and emergency communication.

Southern Pine is also community-oriented and focused on economic development. We recognize that fiber to the home and business is something that is a critical need.

Southern Pine fully supports this broadband grant application and TEC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris K. Rhodes".

Chris K. Rhodes
President / CEO

Brandon District
601-824-7070
800-698-9574

New Hebron District
601-694-2711
800-698-9571

Newton District
601-683-2200
800-698-9573

Taylorsville District
601-785-6511
800-231-5240

Hattiesburg Branch
601-264-0185

**SMITH COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
PO Box 308
Raleigh, MS 39153
601-782-4296**

July 20, 2021

Ms. Angel Stenmark
Director of Telecommunications Division
Mississippi Public Utilities Staff
Mississippi Public Service Commission

To Whom It May Concern:

TEC is an active participant in the local community and has been meeting with the local government, libraries, schools, chamber of commerce, and other community leaders to discuss the proposed grant application for a National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Infrastructure Program Funding Opportunity Grant in our rural area of Smith county, MS that does not have adequate broadband available.

TEC has also volunteered to host digital literacy classes and internet safety training for students and parents at our county library. We greatly appreciate the community partnership TEC provides and respectfully request you approve this application for our community.

We fully support this effort and are thrilled at the prospect of the greater broadband service. TEC, as part of their community support, will be installing a WIFI hotspot with Gigabit internet service at every Volunteer Fire Department passed with fiber construction. Public access is especially important with our recent push for virtual learning and working from home as a result of the pandemic.

In addition, Volunteer Fire Departments are an anchor institution and a public safety entity and many currently do not have access to internet for first responder training and emergency communication.

The county fully supports this broadband grant application and TEC.

Sincerely,



Chuck Jones
Federal Programs Director

SMITH COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

POST OFFICE BOX 160

RALEIGH MS 39153

PH (601) 782-4000 FAX (601) 782-4002

**JERRY FIELDS
DISTRICT 1**

**BENJIE FORD
PRESIDENT
DISTRICT 3**

**HOWARD HAMMONS
DISTRICT 5**

**WENDELL JAMES
BOARD ATTORNEY**

**DWIGHT NORRIS
DISTRICT 2**

**DANNY ARENDER
VICE PRESIDENT
DISTRICT 4**

**CINDY AUSTIN
CHANCERY CLERK**

**RITA MCDONALD
PURCHASE AGENT**

July 15, 2021

Ms. Angel Stenmark
Director of Telecommunications Division
Mississippi Public Utilities Staff
Mississippi Public Service Commission

To Whom It May Concern:

TEC is an active participant in the local community and has been meeting with the local government, libraries, schools, chamber of commerce, and other community leaders to discuss the proposed grant application for a National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Infrastructure Program Funding Opportunity Grant in our rural area of Smith county, MS that does not have adequate broadband available.

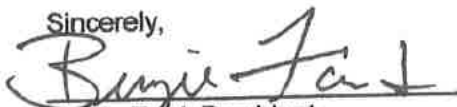
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We fully support this effort and are thrilled at the prospect of the greater broadband service. TEC, as part of their community support, will be installing a WIFI hotspot with Gigabit internet service at every Volunteer Fire Department passed with fiber construction. Public access is especially important with our recent push for virtual learning and working from home as a result of the pandemic.

In addition, Volunteer Fire Departments are an anchor institution and a public safety entity and many currently do not have access to internet for first responder training and emergency communication.

The county fully supports this broadband grant application and TEC.

Sincerely,


Benjie Ford, President
Smith County Board of Supervisors

Project Lead:

Christa Alexander
Vice-President of Operations and Secretary
Bruce Telephone Company
O: 601-764-3463 C: (b) (6)
christa@failinc.com

Project Title: Bruce Telephone Company NTIA Fiber Expansion Project

Brief Project description: Bruce Telephone Company seeks to be a project partner with the Mississippi Public Utilities Staff in order to pursue a funding opportunity offered by the NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Program for the construction of a buried and underground fiber optic network in parts of northern Calhoun County in rural north Mississippi. Bruce Telephone Company is prepared to provide a ten percent (10%) cash match for any project funds awarded. As of the date of this filing, Bruce Telephone Company has not received any other state or federal support for the areas contained in the project.

Total Project Cost: \$8,470,000

Total Grant Funding Sought: \$7,623,000

Estimated Start Date: December 2021 **Estimated Target End Date:** December 2022¹

Partners: Bruce Telephone Company would like to partner with the MPUS to participate in the NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Program.

Wage and Labor Standards:

Bruce Telephone Company is a subsidiary of Fail Telecommunications Corporation ("Fail"). All Fail affiliates are strong supporters of their community. We always have and always will seek to hire locally and if funded, this project will create numerous local-hire employment opportunities. All employees will be paid well above the federal minimum wage requirements, with the lowest starting wage for all project crews being at least \$15/hour.

All Fail affiliates are equal-opportunity employers and as current RUS borrowers, are therefore compliant with all USDA non-discriminatory policies/requirements and will comply with all NTIA federal wage requirements, including adherence to the Davis – Bacon Act. Eligible Fail affiliates participate in the FCC's Lifeline Program and Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBB) and any such applicable financial assistance programs will be offered to any and all additional customers within the area(s) including in this funding application where eligible services are funded and subsequently offered.

We will have trained customer service representatives and *local* service technicians available on call 24/7 so that, in the rare event of an outage, our customers are back connected as quickly as possible.

¹ End date is approximate and is subject to material availability/supply chain shortages which during the Covid-19 pandemic has proven to be fluid. Materials have been ordered and/or stocked by Bruce Telephone Co., Inc. and its affiliates to the extent practicable in anticipation of this and other projects which will allow this project to commence and be completed sooner. In addition, Bruce Telephone Co, Inc. will immediately seek to mitigate any delays or shortages and inform all parties of any needed time extensions promptly.

Total locations passed: 1199
Cost per pass: \$7,064.22

Attachments:

Exhibit A: Project Area Map
Exhibit B: Estimate project budget including technical and cost details and match committed by partner
Exhibit C: List of census blocks within the proposed service area
Exhibit D: Network Diagram and System Design
Exhibit E: Company Resolution
Exhibit F: Letters of Support from Community Partners
Exhibit G: Summary of Preconstruction work completed

Additional Criteria:

As was discovered during the recent pandemic, too many Americans are digitally disadvantaged by lack of adequate broadband service, through no fault of their own. We seek to do our part to remedy that. Living the lifestyle afforded by a quiet, rural setting should not warrant digital punishment. We plan to build a scalable, future-proof fiber optic network to 1199 locations across various unserved areas across the following communities in Calhoun County. All project locations are extremely rural with populations below 50,000 and no locations are adjacent to a city or town with a population above 50,000.

- Sam Nation
- Ellard
- Skuna Valley
- Rocky Mount
- Old Town
- New Liberty
- Lloyd
- Antioch
- Highway 331/Banner
- Serepta
- Drivers Flat

If funded, this project will immediately upon completion have the capability to serve these homes, businesses, and anchor institutions with speeds up to a symmetrical gig (1GB/1GB) well beyond the minimum speed requirements of 25mbps download and 3mbps upload, as well as beyond the 150mbps symmetrical benchmark for 2028. Additionally, with super low latency, the proposed project will provide broadband capacity more than sufficient to support real-time, interactive applications. 95% or more of all peak period measurements of network roundtrip latency will be at or below 100 milliseconds. The project will deliver a network with the capability to meet the demands of emerging technologies such as cloud technologies, artificial intelligence, health IoT and telemedicine, smart grid, and 5G on day one following completion.

Furthermore, the vast majority of this project will be ultra-resilient buried/underground fiber-to-the-home facilities, keeping Bruce Telephone Company customers protected against the most common

causes of network failures such as weather and pests—something that aerial constructions are quite vulnerable to. This state-of-the-art fiber optic network is completely scalable and futureproof. Once in place, the network can quickly and affordably be upgraded to meet the growing consumer and technological demands of tomorrow as by upgrading to further the advanced electronics of the future.

Fail brings nearly a century of experience in rural telecommunications deployments and proven success. Today, Bruce Telephone Company will be led by an experienced and capable team which includes a local manger with over 20 years experience, an engineer overseeing the construction with 44+ years' experience, a network manager with nearly 20 years experience, as well as supported by members of the 4-generation deep Mississippi-family owned and operated parent company.

The Bruce Telephone Company NTIA Fiber Expansion Project bring all the benefits of gig-capable broadband to rural Mississippians such as:

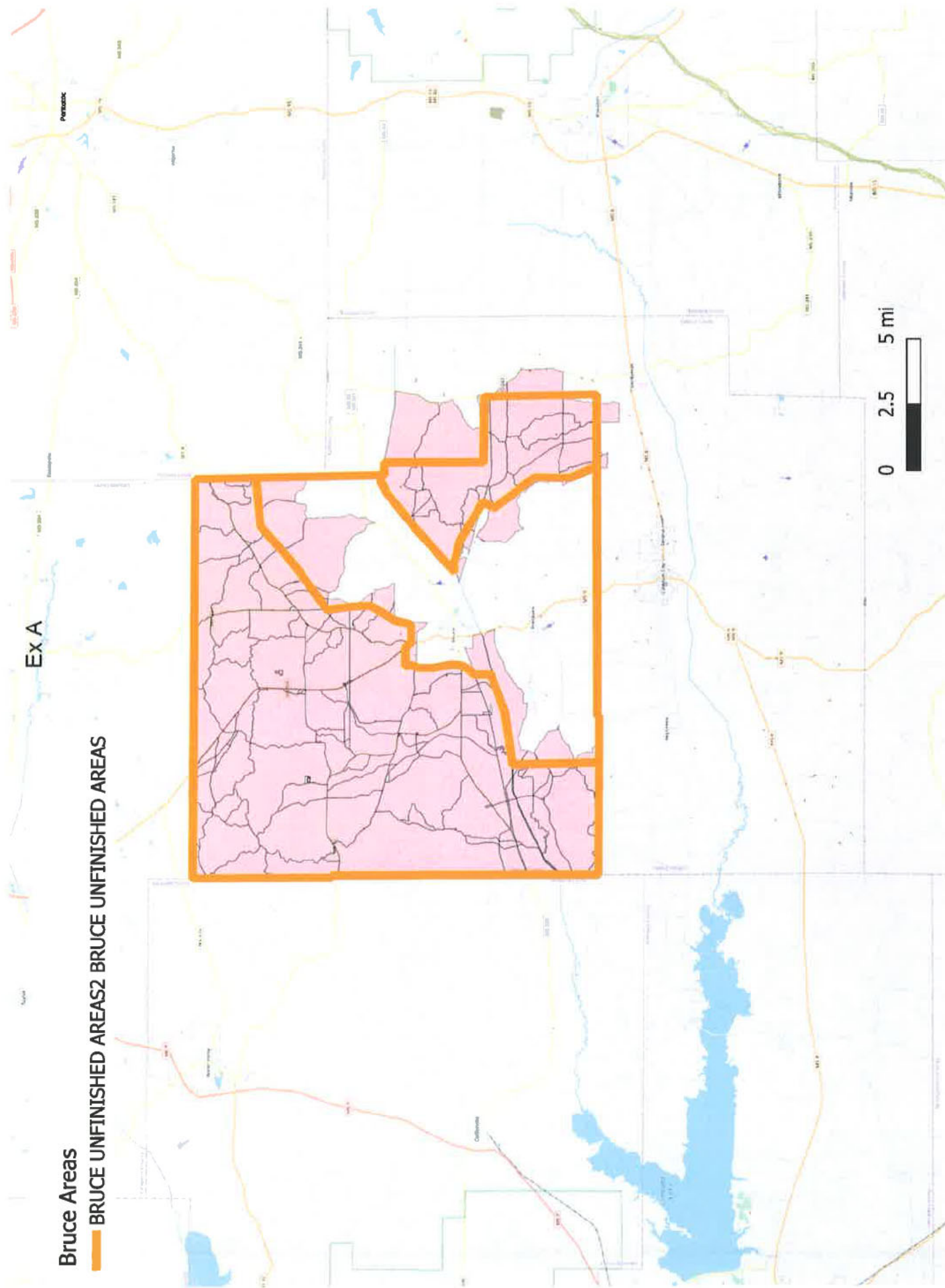
- telemedicine,
- distance learning,
- teleworking,
- lower electricity and water rates by implementation of smart-meters and other automation
- advanced PSAP for next-generation 911/emergency response

The north-northeast Mississippi region is rich in timber and with the addition of robust broadband connectivity, the area becomes prime for economic development. There is also the potential for big economic boost to the area with **job creation** and the broadband infrastructure needed to fuel **smart agriculture**. The proposed project area is ripe for **economic growth** with the presence of a neighboring lumber mill, multiple health care facilities, and furniture manufacturing.

Bruce Areas

 **BRUCE UNFINISHED AREAS2 BRUCE UNFINISHED AREAS**

Ex A



Ex. C

Bruce Census Blocks

280139501002004
280139501002005
280139501002007
280139501002008
280139501002009
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UNANIMOUS CONSENT OF THE SOLE DIRECTOR OF
BRUCE TELEPHONE COMPANY, INC.

The undersigned, being the sole Director of Bruce Telephone Company, Inc. (the "Corporation"), hereby consents to the adoption of the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, the sole Director of the Corporation finds it in the best interest of the Corporation and desires to obtain and have applied for a grant for the Corporation as part of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's Broadband Infrastructure Program;

WHEREAS, the sole Director finds it in the best interest of the Corporation to appoint Christa L. Alexander, the Vice President of Operations and Secretary for the Corporation to submit an application for said grant program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Christa L. Alexander in the capacity of Vice President of Operations and Secretary to the Corporation is authorized to act on behalf of and represent the Corporation in participating in said grant program as the Project Lead and to submit on behalf of the Corporation the application and any supporting documentation associated therewith, and to commit the Corporation's resources of at least ten percent (10%) of any grant awarded.

This the 20th day of July, 2021.



Dorothea C. Fail

DIRECTOR

Exhibit G

Summary of Work Completed:

Feasibility studies have been conducted. Engineering and design have already been completed for this project. Company and its affiliates have some materials on hand so construction can begin immediately upon funding or thereafter but no later than December 1, 2021.



VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

July 20, 2021

Mississippi Public Utilities Staff
ATTN: RFI Response to NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Program
501 N. West Street
Suite 301B
Jackson, MS 39201

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to Request for Information in Response to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Broadband Infrastructure Program Funding Opportunity, as well as regulations established by the Mississippi Public Utilities Staff, please find the attached response from Telepak Networks, Inc (d/b/a C Spire).

Should you need additional information or have further questions, please feel free to contact me, as I will be serving as project lead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Peaster". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matt" and last name "Peaster" clearly legible.

Matt Peaster
Market Development Strategist
mpeaster@cspire.com
662-590-5270



VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

July 20, 2021

Mississippi Public Utilities Staff
ATTN: RFI Response to NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Program
501 N. West Street
Suite 301B
Jackson, MS 39201

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to serve as documentation that Telepak Networks, Inc (d/b/a C Spire) is willing and able to provide a 10% match on all proposed grants in the attached application. The proposed projects will bring all fiber services to residents and community anchor institutions who desperately need improved connectivity. C Spire is willing and able to begin construction on all proposed projects as soon as the grant application is approved and will complete construction by the required date of December 1, 2022.

Should you have additional questions or need further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Ben Pace
Chief Financial Officer
bp@cspace.com
601-974-7151

RFI in Response to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Broadband Infrastructure Program Funding Opportunity

C Spire is a diversified telecommunications and technology services company providing comprehensive wireless communications, all-fiber broadband services, four data centers, and managed and cloud services to consumers and businesses. Serving nearly 1 million wireless and fiber subscribers across its service footprint in Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee, C Spire is the nation's 6th largest wireless provider and 8th largest fiber to the home provider. Headquartered in Ridgeland, Mississippi and with significant operations in Birmingham and Mobile, Alabama, as well as Nashville, Tennessee, C Spire's nearly 1800 employees are driven by the company's mission to improve the communities they serve by putting the customer first in every decision they make - it's who C Spire is. Customer. Inspired.

The COVID-19 public health crisis made clear that Mississippians across the state are in critical need of fast, reliable, symmetric broadband internet service. The emergence and spread of the COVID-19 virus changed the way of life for many Mississippians including working remotely from home, students across the state transitioning to distance learning education models, businesses leaning heavily on e-commerce and online ordering, and healthcare personnel searching for creative solutions to serve patients via telehealth. The common requirement for success in each of these contexts is access to fast, reliable, symmetric broadband internet. The impact of the COVID-19 health crisis weighs heaviest on those Mississippi residents living and working in areas unserved or underserved by robust broadband services.

Residents in unserved areas of Mississippi reach out to C Spire often inquiring about fiber to the home services. Many of those inquiries are included within the proposed projects. In response to the connectivity needs, Telepak Networks, Inc. d/b/a C Spire Fiber ("C Spire") requests funding through the NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Program to fund four cost-efficient broadband expansion projects.

Each project will provide fiber broadband services with speeds of up to 1 Gbps download and 1 Gbps upload to residents in the proposed project areas. None of the proposed projects have received any state or federal support for the deployment of services. While the projects will have various start dates, it is anticipated that each will start as soon as possible and be completed well within the December 1, 2022, deadline. As a privately held company, C Spire does not have any labor agreements in place and work will be completed through a variety of in-house employees and independent contractors depending on the job requirements. C Spire a long history of commitment to the state of Mississippi and hiring Mississippi employees and contractors remains a top priority for the success of our company.

In [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Project 1: Mayersville

Mayersville is a community located in the Mississippi Delta on the banks of the Mississippi River. As the county seat for Issaquena County, the proposed project will include serving the entire town of Mayersville as well as community anchor institutions. The project will consist of a mix of middle mile and last mile connectivity of which engineering work and permitting has already begun. In order for Mayersville to receive connectivity, a middle mile route must be constructed of approximately 10 miles. Once the middle mile is complete, last mile connectivity will be constructed to build out the entire community. Approximately 120 residential and 10 small businesses will be passed for a total construction of 14.25 miles. The project is estimated to cost \$926,250, of which C Spire will cover \$92,625. The cost per premises passed is \$7,718.75.

Project 1: Census Blocks

280559501002020
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280559501002033
280559501002031
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280559501002015
280559501002014
280559501002012



BRENT BAILEY
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER

August 10, 2021

Ms. Evelyn Remaley
Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Ms. Remaley,

Please accept the letter as a demonstration of the Mississippi Public Service Commission-Central District's support of the two Telepak Networks, Inc. (d/b/a C Spire) projects (Mayersville and Livingston-Vernon Road) submitted as part of Mississippi's application to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Infrastructure Program Notice of Funding Opportunity. These proposed projects will bring high-speed, fiber-based broadband internet services to residents and community anchor institutions who desperately need improved connectivity.

According to C Spire, it is willing and able to begin construction on all proposed projects as soon as the grant application is approved and will complete construction by the required date of December 1, 2022. This will have extremely positive implications in the central region of Mississippi, and it will be immensely beneficial for the state. It cannot be overstated how important it is for all Mississippians to have access to reliable broadband internet and these areas will not likely receive service under any other typical economic models for expansion.

Residents in unserved areas of Mississippi reach out to the Public Service Commission on a regular basis inquiring about fiber-to-the-home services and lamenting the lack of internet access. Many of those inquiries are from residents included within C Spire's proposed project areas. While there is still much work to be done to expand internet access in the state, this is a huge step in the right direction. For these reasons, the Mississippi Public Service Commission-Central District requests the NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Program to fund C Spire's two proposed broadband expansion projects.

Sincerely,

Brent Bailey

Brent Bailey, Commissioner
Mississippi Public Service Commission
Central District



VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

July 20, 2021

Mississippi Public Utilities Staff
ATTN: RFI Response to NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Program
501 N. West Street
Suite 301B
Jackson, MS 39201

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Should you need additional information or have further questions, please feel free to contact me, as I will be serving as project lead.

Sincerely,

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Matt Peaster
Market Development Strategist
mpeaster@cspire.com
662-590-5270



VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

July 20, 2021

Mississippi Public Utilities Staff
ATTN: RFI Response to NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Program
501 N. West Street
Suite 301B
Jackson, MS 39201

To Whom It May Concern:

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Should you have additional questions or need further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Ben Pace
Chief Financial Officer
bp@cspace.com
601-974-7151

RFI in Response to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Broadband Infrastructure Program Funding Opportunity

C Spire is a diversified telecommunications and technology services company providing comprehensive wireless communications, all-fiber broadband services, four data centers, and managed and cloud services to consumers and businesses. Serving nearly 1 million wireless and fiber subscribers across its service footprint in Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee, C Spire is the nation's 6th largest wireless provider and 8th largest fiber to the home provider. Headquartered in Ridgeland, Mississippi and with significant operations in Birmingham and Mobile, Alabama, as well as Nashville, Tennessee, C Spire's nearly 1800 employees are driven by the company's mission to improve the communities they serve by putting the customer first in every decision they make - it's who C Spire is. Customer. Inspired.

The COVID-19 public health crisis made clear that Mississippians across the state are in critical need of fast, reliable, symmetric broadband internet service. The emergence and spread of the COVID-19 virus changed the way of life for many Mississippians including working remotely from home, students across the state transitioning to distance learning education models, businesses leaning heavily on e-commerce and online ordering, and healthcare personnel searching for creative solutions to serve patients via telehealth. The common requirement for success in each of these contexts is access to fast, reliable, symmetric broadband internet. The impact of the COVID-19 health crisis weighs heaviest on those Mississippi residents living and working in areas unserved or underserved by robust broadband services.

Residents in unserved areas of Mississippi reach out to C Spire often inquiring about fiber to the home services. Many of those inquiries are included within the proposed projects. In response to the connectivity needs, Telepak Networks, Inc. d/b/a C Spire Fiber ("C Spire") requests funding through the NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Program to fund four cost-efficient broadband expansion projects.

Each project will provide fiber broadband services with speeds of up to 1 Gbps download and 1 Gbps upload to residents in the proposed project areas. None of the proposed projects have received any state or federal support for the deployment of services. While the projects will have various start dates, it is anticipated that each will start as soon as possible and be completed well within the December 1, 2022, deadline. As a privately held company, C Spire does not have any labor agreements in place and work will be completed through a variety of in-house employees and independent contractors depending on the job requirements. C Spire a long history of commitment to the state of Mississippi and hiring Mississippi employees and contractors remains a top priority for the success of our company.

[REDACTED]

Project 2: Livingston-Vernon Road

C Spire's **Livingston-Vernon Road** project proposes deployment of approximately 10.7 route miles of fiber infrastructure passing 101 residential and 32 small businesses addresses. The Livingston-Vernon Road fiber route covers areas north of Highway 22 along Livingston-Vernon Road and into the rural Kearney Park community. The total cost of deploying the fiber infrastructure with equipment to these residents is \$695,000. C Spire will contribute \$69,500 to the construction of this project. The cost per premises passed is \$6,886.14.

Project 2: Census Blocks

280890303024057
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280890303024016
280890303024017
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Budget Narrative

Mayersville Project

Mayersville is a community located in the Mississippi Delta on the Mississippi River. The proposed project will include serving the entire town of Mayersville including community anchor institutions. The project will consist of a mix of middle mile and last mile connectivity. For Mayersville to receive connectivity, middle mile must be constructed of approximately 10 miles of buried fiber. The cost of construction for the 10 miles of buried middle mile fiber is estimated to be \$65,000 per mile. The total cost of deploying the middle mile fiber is due to the following items: engineering and permitting cost of \$2,600.00 per mile, project inspection cost of \$1,300.00 per mile, and construction and materials cost of \$61,100.00 per mile. The total cost of deploying the middle mile fiber is estimated to be \$650,000.00. Once the middle mile is complete, last mile connectivity will be constructed to build out the entire community. The last mile buried fiber deployment will include 4.25 miles of distribution fiber required to make service available to all the premises in the proposed project area. The cost per mile to deploy this fiber is estimated to be \$65,000.00 per mile for a total cost of \$259,675.00. The total cost per mile of the last mile fiber can be broken down into the following categories: engineering and permitting cost of \$2,600.00 per mile, project inspection cost of \$1,300.00 per mile, and construction and materials cost of \$61,100.00 per mile. New electronic equipment will need to be installed for this project to serve the entire proposed project area with GPON enabled fiber services. [REDACTED] t [REDACTED] s and optics for a total cost of \$40,000.00. [REDACTED] of \$20,000.00. A new cabinet will be installed in the service area to house the electronic equipment. The cost of the materials and construction for the cabinet are estimated to be an additional \$45,000.00. The total cost of installing the [REDACTED] along with the construction of a new cabinet to house the equipment is estimated to be \$105,000.00. The total 10 miles of middle mile fiber, 4.25 miles of last mile fiber, and the GPON enabled fiber network will support all-fiber broadband service to approximately 120 residential and 10 small businesses. The services made available to residents and businesses along the project route will be low-latency, all-fiber broadband service with symmetric speeds of up to 1 Gbps download and 1 Gbps upload. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$1,031,250.00. The entirety of the engineering and permitting fees of \$37,050.00 are not allowable for participation as they were completed before the introduction the program. Some addition electronic equipment will be needed that was not included in the original project estimates. The total cost of this electronic equipment is \$67,950.00. The total cost not eligible for grant funding is \$105,000.00. The total eligible costs are \$926,250.00. C Spire will cover \$92,625.00 equal to 10% of the total estimated eligible costs. C Spire expects to win 90% of the businesses and anchor institutions passed and 10% of the residences passed on the project route. The take rate for residences may increase over time as fiber adoption increases in the market as a whole. Please see the Pro Forma Financial information for a detailed analysis of the projected revenue and other financial information for the project.



- i. Drew Cannon, COO, 731-414-1621, dcannon@swyftconnect.com. I will be contact for Project Lead
- ii. Project title. Collins
- iii. Brief project description. Cable South Media 3 is a cable tv company operating in Poplarville, Lumberton, Columbia, Foxworth, Tylertown, and Collins. Currently we offer cable modem internet service via docsis 3.0 except in Collins where it is a one-way coax plant. It is not feasible to upgrade the one-way plant to two-way 3.1 Docsis, so we proposed [REDACTED] equipment would have the scalability to upgraded to XGS when future speeds are required.
- iv. Total project cost and amount of grant funding sought. \$1,950,000 requesting 90% funding.
- v. Any other state or federal support that the broadband service provider who is a project partner has received to deploy broadband service in the proposed service area. NONE
- vi. Planned project start and end dates. Projects must be completed within one year of receipt of grants funds. January 2022 end Date before December 31st 2022.
- vii. Project partners. One or more providers of fixed broadband service must be a partner on the project. CableSouth
- viii. Project labor standards, including any labor agreements, community benefit agreements, wages at or above prevailing wage, and local hire provisions. None as much of the work to be performed by current local staff and field technicians.

To receive consideration for inclusion in the state's application, projects responding to this RFI must describe how they will meet the following criteria:

- i. Be competitively and technologically neutral for deployment of broadband service in an eligible service area. Projects should have the ability to evolve, sustain, and scale for future advanced services. **Fiber is strongly encouraged.** FTTX via GPON.
- ii. Result in minimum speeds of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload (25/3) for every household in the eligible service area, with latency sufficient to support real time, interactive applications. Latency is interpreted to mean 95 percent or more of all peak period measurements of network roundtrip latency are at or below 100 milliseconds. **Responses must include minimum speeds consistent with or exceeding these criteria.** Minimum speed of 100 megs down/100 up. Latency well below 100ms and on par with fiber
- iii. Provide service in an eligible service area. An eligible service area is a census block in which broadband service is not available at one or more homes or businesses according maps created under section 802(c)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 642(c)(1) or, if those maps are not available, the most recent information available to the NTIA including information provided by the Federal Communications Commission.

Responses must demonstrate the number of unserved households, businesses, and anchor institutions that will be served by the project. Columbia and Foxworth have around 1955 residential homes, 201 businesses, and 6 Anchor Institutions.



CableSouth Media 3
1056 Jones Blvd.
Milan, TN 38358

Project Narrative

Executive Summary

CableSouth Media 3 is proposing a FTTH broadband project in Collins Mississippi. The planned project will be a GPON FTTH solution. This fiber network will be capable of delivering 1+ gigabit of data to homes and businesses.

CableSouth Media 3 LLC Description

This project will be a coordination of Mississippi Public Utilities Staff office and CableSouth Media3. CableSouth Media 3, LLC experienced a change in ownership in November 2020. The new owners and executive management team of CableSouth came from the former majority shareholders and executive management team of Hunt Telecommunications, LLC after the sale of Hunt Telecom in 2017 to Uniti Fiber. The new focus of CableSouth is on bringing affordable gigabit broadband services to the current and future communities it serves. Working with the Arkansas Broadband office CableSouth has been successful in building out gigabit fiber to the home to over 10K passing's in less than 1 year. CableSouth was also successful in being the 15th largest RDOF award winner in the country that will lead to bringing gigabit broadband to over 50,000 RDOF households and over 50,000 additional households near the RDOF households. CableSouth has over 50 employees with local offices in Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. Today CableSouth makes cable tv, internet access and telephone service available to approx. 60,000 Coax/Docsis passings and 10,000 fiber to the home passings.

Project Scope

Fiber Project to be funded NTIA grant is as follows

Collins will be built on a distribution network will be composed of Passive Optical Network (PON) elements delivered over a Fiber to the Premise (FTTP) distribution plant. These distribution elements will include Gigabit Passive Optical Networking and 10 Gigabit XGS-PON technologies. Last Mile subscribers will be served via PON nodes scaled as appropriate to meet subscriber bandwidth demands. Where GPON provides subscriber speeds of up to a gigabit symmetrically, XGS-PON allows for up to 10Gbps symmetrical speeds. Collins census blocks have an Average Household Income of \$27,550.



CableSouth Media 3
1056 Jones Blvd.
Milan, TN 38358

MPUS Request for Information cover page

Drew Cannon
Title: COO
731-686-9227
dcannon@swyftconnect.com

Broadband Deployment in Collins

Description: CableSouth Media 3 is planning on upgrading existing hybrid fiber/coaxial network in Collins, Mississippi. We will be upgrading existing Docsis 3.0 to Remote Phy Docsis 3.1 technology. The Remote Phy upgrade will be scalable to provide Docsis 4.0 when it becomes available as well as XGS FTTX. All the technology that we are planning on deploying will be capable of 150MB/150MB symmetrical and well beyond to symmetrical gigabit delivery to the customer.

Project Cost and grant funding sought: \$1,950,000.00

Project Start date: January 2022

Project End date: December 24th 2022

Project Partner: CableSouth Media 3

Project Labor Standards: Media 3 is committed to all Federal Labor Standards as well as base pay of \$15 an hour. Media 3 is committed to sourcing all labor where possible from local communities.



FRANKLIN TELEPHONE COMPANY

1018 Highland Colony Parkway, Suite 700
Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157
Telephone: 601-355-1522 Fax: 601-353-0950

July 20, 2021

VIA EMAIL TO angel.stenmark@mpus.ms.gov

Mississippi Public Utilities Staff
ATTN: Angel Stenmark
50 N. West Street, Suite 31
Jackson, MS 39216

Dear Ms. Stenmark:

This letter is to serve as documentation that Franklin Telephone Company, Inc. ("Franklin") is willing and able to provide a 10% match on all proposed grants in the attached application. The proposed projects will bring all fiber services to residents and businesses who desperately need improved connectivity. Franklin is willing and able to plan and promptly begin construction on all proposed projects as soon as the grant application is approved and will complete construction by the required date of December 1, 2022.

As a privately held company, Franklin does not have any labor agreements in place and work will be completed through a variety of in-house employees and independent contractors, depending upon the job requirements.

Should you have additional questions or need further assistance, please feel free to contact me at wgoings@telapexinc.com or 601-487-5264

Sincerely,

Wesley Goings

cc: Tom Griffin, Franklin Telephone Company

National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Broadband Infrastructure Program Funding Opportunity
MPUS Request for Information

Fiber To The Home
Covering Portions
Of
Lincoln County
In
Southwest Mississippi



Tom Griffin, P.E.
Vice-President/General Manager
Franklin Telephone Co., Inc.
(601) 384-3390
tgriffin@franklintelephone.com

West Lincoln County

Fiber to the Home/Business

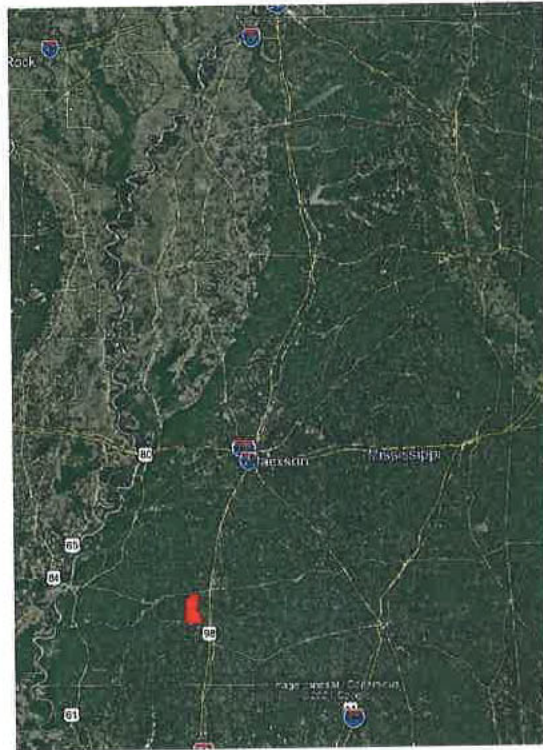
Franklin Telephone Co., Inc. (FTC) was founded in 1959 and is an Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC) serving approximately 8,000 subscribers across 17 exchanges in parts of 26 rural Mississippi counties. Since 2004, in addition to its traditional voice service, FTC has deployed Broadband Internet and IP Television service via its copper and fiber optic outside plant cables. FTC maintains its operational headquarters and largest workforce in Bude, MS. The proposed project area is within 20 miles of the Bude office and will utilize the existing work force for project management and support, as well as long term network maintenance. As a privately held company, FTC does not have any labor agreements in place and work will be completed through a variety of in-house employees and independent contractors depending on the job requirements.

The proposed project represented in the maps below is in Mississippi's 3rd Congressional District and consists of Census Block Group 280859504002 in Lincoln County which is identified as unserved on the FCC's Auction 904 Final Eligible Areas map. NTIA's own "Indicators of Broadband Need" map shows related census tract 28085950400 (Lincoln County) as having 37.8% of households without Internet Access of any kind and the median speeds as 11.98 Mbps down/3.47 Mbps up. A list of relevant census blocks is included in Appendix C. Additionally, FTC, which currently serves adjacent census blocks, regularly receives requests to provide broadband service in these unserved blocks.

FTC proposes to build Fiber to the Home (FTTH) facilities capable of providing broadband speeds of up to 1 Gbps symmetrical; and beyond as technology improves. FTC has existing fiber cable and vacant duct facilities along Highways 84 and 98 close to these areas that will be utilized to provide not only connectivity but also ring protection for network resiliency. FTC utilizes transport equipment capable of deploying Active Ethernet service as well as a variety of PON options, e.g. GPON, XGS-PON, etc. This platform also supports network backhaul speeds of 1, 10, 40 and 100 Gbps. This project consists of 68 miles of buried construction in Lincoln County and will provide service to approximately 604 residential locations and 6 business locations. There two volunteer fire departments; one at 974 West Lincoln Drive and one at 1318 Gum Grove Rd, that would be served by this project. FTC will follow all currently established Federal guidelines that pertain buried construction

The total cost of this project is estimated at \$5,896,400. FTC seeks \$5,306,760, or 90%, grant funding and will match \$589,640, or 10%. The overall average cost per home passed will be \$9,666. While FTC receives support for its regulated operations inside its certificated boundaries through the Alternative Connect America Model (ACAM), it has received no federal or state funding to deploy broadband in this area. If grant funds are made available for this project, FTC will begin preliminary engineering at the earliest possible date and plan for construction to be completed on or before December 1, 2022. It is important to note that recent supply chain issues are speculated to continue through the majority of 2022 and could impact the project completion dates.

Appendix B
Project Proximity – State Level



Project Area – Localized



Appendix C

Relevant Census Blocks

Census Block ID	County
280859504001073	Lincoln
280859504001074	Lincoln
280859504001075	Lincoln
280859504002000	Lincoln
280859504002003	Lincoln
280859504002011	Lincoln
280859504002012	Lincoln
280859504002017	Lincoln
280859504002018	Lincoln
280859504002019	Lincoln
280859504002020	Lincoln
280859504002021	Lincoln
280859504002022	Lincoln
280859504002023	Lincoln
280859504002024	Lincoln
280859504002025	Lincoln
280859504002026	Lincoln
280859504002027	Lincoln
280859504002028	Lincoln
280859504002029	Lincoln
280859504002030	Lincoln
280859504002032	Lincoln
280859504002033	Lincoln
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280859504002035	Lincoln
280859504002036	Lincoln
280859504002038	Lincoln
280859504002039	Lincoln
280859504002040	Lincoln
280859504002041	Lincoln
280859504002043	Lincoln
280859504002045	Lincoln
280859504002047	Lincoln
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280859504002051	Lincoln
280859504002052	Lincoln
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280859504002055	Lincoln
280859504002056	Lincoln
280859504002059	Lincoln
280859504002060	Lincoln
280859504002061	Lincoln
280859504002064	Lincoln
280859504002065	Lincoln
280859504002067	Lincoln
280859504002070	Lincoln
280859504002071	Lincoln
280859504002077	Lincoln
280859504002078	Lincoln
280859504003030	Lincoln
280859504003035	Lincoln
280859504003109	Lincoln
280859504004136	Lincoln
280859504004147	Lincoln
280859504004149	Lincoln
280859504004152	Lincoln
280859504004155	Lincoln
280859504002046	Lincoln

Appendix D

Estimated Costs

COSTS BY FORM SF-424C CATEGORY

<u>Line</u>	<u>Cost Category</u>	<u>Cost to Construct Fiber Route on a Comparable Project①</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Allocation of Estimated Fiber Route Costs for W Lincoln②</u>	<u>Engineering & Service Location Costs</u>	<u>Total Budget for Project</u>
1	Administrative and legal exp	\$ -	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2	Land, structures, rights-of-way, etc	28,968	1.23%	53,279	-	53,279
3	Relocation exp	-	-	-	-	-
4	Architectural and engineering fees	-	-	-	350,000	350,000
5	Other arch/eng fees	-	-	-	-	-
6	Project inspection fees	-	-	-	200,000	200,000
7	Site work	5,000	0.21%	9,196	-	9,196
8	Demolition/removal	-	-	-	-	-
9	Construction	2,230,673	94.59%	4,102,816	398,250	4,501,066
10	Equipment	93,628	3.97%	172,208	610,650	782,858
11	Misc	-	-	-	-	-
12	TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$ 2,358,269	100.00%	\$ 4,337,500	\$ 1,558,900	\$ 5,896,400

Appendix E
Letters of Support

Lincoln County Board of Supervisors

Lincoln County Mississippi
P.O. Box 555 • 301 South First Street • Brookhaven, Mississippi 39602-0555
Telephone 601/835-3421 • Fax 601/835-3423

Board of Supervisors
Dist. 1 Jerry Wilson
Dist. 2 Jerry McGehee
Dist. 3 Nolan Williamson
Dist. 4 Eddie Brown
Dist. 5 Doug Falvey

Chancery Clerk
Aisha McGehee
Board Attorney
Will Allen
County Administrator
David A. Fields

July 20, 2021

Mr. Tom Griffin
Franklin Telephone Co.
154 Main St. E
Meadville, MS 39653

Mr. Griffin:

The Lincoln County Board of Supervisors would be in full support of your efforts to receive funding through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program.

If we can be of further assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely,



David A. Fields
Administrator

Appendix E (cont'd)

Letters of Support



LINCOLN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

P. O. Box 826
233 East Monticello Street
Brookhaven, Mississippi 39602-0826

Phone 601.835.0011
Fax 601.833.3030
<http://lcsd.k12.ms.us>

July 20, 2021

Mississippi Public Utilities Staff
Angel Stenmark
501 N. West Street, Suite 313
Jackson, MS 39216

Dear Ms. Stenmark:

It is my pleasure to pen this correspondence on behalf and in support of Franklin Telephone Company, Inc. (FTC) which is seeking grant funds from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to build broadband infrastructure in unserved portions of Mississippi, including Lincoln County.

Franklin Telephone Company has been providing reliable service to the businesses and residents in neighboring Franklin County for more than 60 years. The company maintains its operational headquarters in Bude and a commercial office in Meadville. FTC also provides fiber for home services in Lincoln County along Highway 84. Additionally, FTC and parent company, Telapex, Inc., employ dozens of residents of Southwest Mississippi, many from Lincoln County.

One of our district schools, West Lincoln Attendance Center, is physically located in close proximity to the FTC service area. Our school and local families would welcome the support this venture will bring to expand broadband services for educational and residential entities in the area.

The Lincoln County School District fully supports this request and thanks you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

David Martin
Superintendent
Lincoln County School District

Thomas Griffin, P.E.

Vice-President/General Manager,
Franklin Telephone Co., Inc.

Experience

2005 - Current

Vice-President/GM – Franklin Telephone Co., Inc.

Manage day to day operations of ILEC providing VoIP, IPTV and Internet access via Fiber to the Home and Copper technologies.

2001-2005

Engineering Supervisor – Telepak Networks, Inc.

Design and implementation of regional carrier networks. Network equipment evaluations and recommendations. Preparing annual network budgets.

1989 - 2001

Director of Engineering – Telspec, Inc.

Managed day to day activities of engineering staff. Oversaw web development team. Project management.

Education

1999

B.S. Electrical Engineering

Mississippi State University

2005

Professional Engineer

PE# 16779

Skills

- Leadership
- Network Design
- Problem Solving
- Troubleshooting

Contact

P.O. Box 446

Bude, MS 39653

(601) 384-3390

tgriffin@franklintelephone.com

linkedin.com/in/tom-griffin-p-e-4012137a/



CHAIRMAN DANE MAXWELL
MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
SOUTHERN DISTRICT

August 13, 2021

Ms. Evelyn Remaley
Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Ms. Remaley,

Franklin Telephone Company's application for a National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Infrastructure Program Funding Opportunity Grant in Lincoln County, MS should be granted. This project is very important for our constituents in Lincoln County as it will bring all fiber services to residents and businesses who desperately need improved connectivity.

Franklin is willing to provide a 10% match on all proposed grants in their application and are willing to start construction on all projects as soon as the grant application is approved. They foresee no issue in constructing all projects by the required date of December 1, 2022.

I fully support this broadband grant application and Franklin Telephone Company. I appreciate the community partnership they provide and respectfully request you approve this application for this rural community.

Sincerely,

Dane Maxwell, Chairman
Mississippi Public Service Commission

**BCI MISSISSIPPI BROADBAND, LLC D/B/A
MAXXSOUTH BROADBAND NTIA BROADBAND
INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM**

RFI RESPONSE

JULY 20, 2021

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- I. MaxxSouth Contact Information**
 - a. Rick Ferrall, Vice President of Government & Legal Affairs, Office 662-259-3211, Cell (b) (6) e-mail rick.ferrall@maxxsouth.com
- II. Project Title**
 - a. MaxxSouth Broadband/New Albany Light, Gas and Water Rural Broadband
 - b. MaxxSouth Broadband/Pontotoc EPA Rural Broadband
- III. Project Description**
 - a. Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) to rural unserved portions of New Albany Light, Gas and Water's service area passing 664 homes and/or businesses.
 - b. Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) to rural unserved portions of Pontotoc EPA's service area passing 632 homes and/or businesses.
- IV. Total Project Cost and Total Grant Fund Requested**
 - a. \$2,662,854, MaxxSouth Broadband is requesting \$2,396,569 grant funding for this project.
 - b. \$1,734,892, MaxxSouth is requesting \$1,561,403 grant funding for this project.
- V. Other State and Federal Funds**
 - a. MaxxSouth Broadband has not received any federal funds for these or any other projects; we are a privately funded company.
 - b. MaxxSouth Broadband has not received any federal funds for these or any other projects; we are a privately funded company.
- VI. Planned Project Start Date**
 - a. MaxxSouth Broadband anticipates this project to begin no later than January 1, 2022 and be completed no later than December 31, 2022.
 - b. MaxxSouth Broadband anticipates this project to begin no later than January 1, 2022 and be completed no later than December 31, 2022.
- VII. Project Partners**
 - a. MaxxSouth Broadband will partner with the State of Mississippi while working closely with New Albany Light, Gas and Water.
 - b. MaxxSouth Broadband will partner with the State of Mississippi while working closely with Pontotoc EPA.
- VIII. Project Labor Standards**
 - a. MaxxSouth Broadband utilizes licensed local contractors based in Prentiss and Pontotoc counties for our construction. Broadband deployment utilizing Fiber-to-the-Home technology is extremely competitive which requires we pay full market rates for any construction.

REQUIRED CRITERIA

- i. MaxxSouth Broadband will deploy a symmetrical Fiber-to-the-Home Gigabit Passive Optical Network (GPON) technology with a minimum of up to 1 gig download and 1 gig upload speeds. The design and equipment is scalable to symmetrical 10 gigabit speeds.
- ii. MaxxSouth Broadband will deploy a minimum of 1 gig download and 1 gig upload at launch with equipment capable of 10 gig download and upload. Latency is dependent on the sites an individual is accessing, but MaxxSouth's design and service far exceed the standard of 100 milliseconds and rarely ever hits 50 milliseconds.
- iii. Service Areas
 - a. MaxxSouth Broadband/New Albany Light, Gas and Water area Census Blocks
 - i. 28145902001
 - 1. 62 Homes and/or businesses passed
 - ii. 280099502002
 - 1. 163 Homes and/or businesses passed
 - iii. 28145901003
 - 1. 143 Homes and/or businesses passed
 - iv. 28145904001
 - 1. 11 Homes and/or businesses passed
 - v. 28145905002
 - 1. 285 Homes and/or businesses passed
 - b. MaxxSouth Broadband/Pontotoc EPA area Census Blocks
 - i. 28145905003
 - 1. 201 Homes and/or businesses passed
 - ii. 281459506001
 - 1. 81 Homes and/or businesses passed
 - iii. 281159501023
 - 1. 225 Homes and/or businesses passed
 - iv. 281159501022
 - 1. 125 Homes and/or businesses passed
- iv. Scalability Plan
 - a. The GPON equipment that will be installed will be scalable to 10 gigabit capabilities from day one.

CINDY HYDE-SMITH
MISSISSIPPI

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2405

COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,
AND FORESTRY

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON
RULES AND
ADMINISTRATION

August 12, 2021

Jody Steverson
MaxxSouth Broadband
Director of Government & Regulatory Relations
115 North Main Street
Ripley, Mississippi 38663

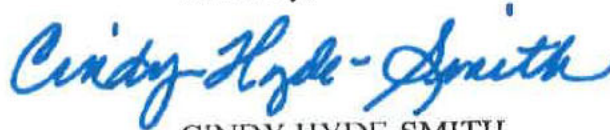
Dear Mr. Steverson,

Thank you for your recent correspondence to my office regarding MaxxSouth Broadband's application for the Broadband Infrastructure Opportunity program through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration at the Department of Commerce.

I have contacted the appropriate authorities at the National Telecommunications and Information Administration in support of this application. I will let you know if any additional information about your submission becomes available.

Thank you for this opportunity to be of service.

Sincerely,



CINDY HYDE-SMITH
United States Senator

City of New Albany

"The Fair and Friendly City"

101 West Bankhead Street • Post Office Box 56 • New Albany, Mississippi 38652
Phone (662) 534-1010 • Fax (662) 534-1045
namayor@visitnewalbany.com • www.newalbany.ms

August 11, 2021

Ms. Evelyn Remaley
Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information National
Telecommunications and Information Administration U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Ms. Remaley,

I am writing to offer my support for grant funding for New Albany, Mississippi through a NTIA grant that has been awarded to the state of Mississippi.

Our community suffers greatly from a lack of connectivity due to broadband access. This lack of access effects our educational systems, workforce development, healthcare services and makes many of our businesses less competitive in an e-commerce environment.

Whatever it takes to lessen this digital divide and our ability to engage with each other to meet 21st century challenges, I will support.

Sincerely,



Mayor Tim Kent

Mayor: Tim Kent

Ward 1 Alderman: Amy Livingston • Ward 2 Alderman: Johnny Anderson
Ward 3 Alderman: Kevin D. White • Ward 4 Alderman: Will Tucker • Alderman-At-Large: Keith Conlee
City Clerk: Frankie Roberts • City Attorney: Regan Russell

Benton County School District



Mr. Pete Howell, Superintendent

Voice – 662.224.6252
Fax – 662.224.3607
www.benton.k12.ms.us

231 Court St – PO Box 247
Ashland, MS 38603

Pamela Gray – Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Roxanne Hall - Business Manager
Shonika Hamilton - Human Resource Director
Sherrie Davis - Finance & HR Liaison
Tom Stewart - Technology Director
Anola Stricklin - Child Nutrition Director
Amanda Ford – Curriculum Coordinator
Harold Nicholson - Maintenance & Transportation
Candace Sanders - Administrative Assistant

August 11, 2021

Ms. Evelyn Remaley
Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce
for Communications & Information
U. S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

RE: Letter of Support for MaxxSouth Broadband

Dear Ms. Remaley:

I am writing to express my support for MaxxSouth Broadband, and their application for a grant to provide broadband service in the Hickory Flat, MS, area.

There are currently 163 homes in this rural area which have no broadband access or less than the FCC minimum. This significantly impacts families in our school district in terms of distance learning opportunities, or in the event of school closures. I wholeheartedly support MaxxSouth and their efforts to alleviate this situation, allowing greater access and educational equality for our rural students.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pete Howell". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "P" and "H".

Pete Howell
Superintendent

NEW ALBANY SCHOOL DISTRICT

LANCE EVANS, SUPERINTENDENT | LEVANS@NASD.MS

301 HIGHWAY 15 NORTH | NEW ALBANY, MS 38652



EST. 1875

Ms. Evelyn Remaley
Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230
August 11, 2021

Dear Ms. Remaley,

This letter is to support Union County's efforts to obtain funding through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's grant program. Union County is located in rural northeast Mississippi. Monies from this grant will provide the ability to expand broadband Internet to underserved areas in our county.

Having reliable Internet is no longer a luxury but should be considered a need – a utility that every household should have access to. Expanding broadband in our region will improve the economy, the health care system, and education.

I am the superintendent for New Albany Schools in New Albany, Mississippi. More than ever, our district understands that we live in a world where Internet access for all is critical. We have just begun the third year where the global pandemic is affecting students' ability to be in a traditional, face-to-face, normal learning environment. It is imperative that students have access to reliable access so that they can learn from home when they are sick or in quarantine or even in the event of school closures. Every student and every family deserve the option to have high-speed, reliable Internet in their homes.

Our district and our state have shown a deep desire for every student to have access to a device that can be utilized for learning in multiple ways. Our school district is 1:1 in grades PreK-12. We have put devices with a plethora of educational resources and a learning management system in the hands of all students and certified teachers. The obvious next step is ensuring that families in our region of the state have access to broadband Internet.

I appreciate the efforts of Representative Sam Creekmore, New Albany Light, Gas, & Water's Bill Mattox, and other leaders in our state who continue to fight for and seek funding to improve Internet access in our area. If you have any questions or need additional information you may contact me at 662-538-5226.

Sincerely,

Lance Evans, Ed.D.
Superintendent

LECIA STUBBLEFIELD
DIRECTOR
LSTUBBLEFIELD@NASD.MS

PHONE (662) 534-1800 | FAX (662) 534-3608

SUZANNE COFFEY
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
SCOFFEY@NASD.MS

THE NEW ALBANY PUBLIC SCHOOLS DO NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF RACE, GENDER, RELIGION, NATIONAL ORIGIN, AGE, OR HANDICAPPING CONDITIONS AND ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

Richard "Ren" Nelson
School Board Member, New Albany, MS Schools
103 Clayton Cove
New Albany, MS 38652

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Ms. Evelyn Remaley
Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for
Communications and Information National
Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitutional Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Ms. Remaley,

I am writing to speak about the NTIA grant for the State of Mississippi. The broadband access in our county is in need, and I hope this grant can serve as a solution to what has been an ongoing issue. As a school board member, I have seen, first hand, the lengths our students have had to go to for access. From placing buses in strategic locations, to allowing students access in personal homes and public facilities, these kids have searched and created ways to get the education they deserve. I am humbly asking that this situation be helped and this grant money can do that.

Our education from a small-town school district has been phenomenal and our teachers, administrators and children should all be commended. This could only be enhanced by the monies that could be allocated for broadband access for our kids. They deserve it, and our community deserves the opportunity to potentially see where this could take us. The heights of education and knowledge have no bounds and I firmly believe in the world we all work, live and go to school in the lack of access has bound some of our families and students.

Again, I humbly ask for your support in the work that Representative Creekmore and countless others have done. I would ask the committee to support Union County and New Albany, MS in giving the access our families and children need.

Sincerely,

Richard "Ren" Nelson
School Board Member, New Albany, MS Schools



UNION COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

August 11, 2021

Ms. Evelyn Remaley

Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information National
Telecommunications and Information Administration U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

As the current pandemic has brought many challenges to our nation and worldwide, one of the most urgent educational needs discovered is the current inability for connectivity for many students that have a device capable but are unable to connect at home. I write this letter in my wholehearted support and hope for the Department of Commerce's support for the NTIA grant to allow Maxx South Broadband to provide broadband support for underserved customers. This grant would allow many children in homes where broadband is unavailable to acquire connectivity to enhance their ability to prosper from additional educational technology that already exists in our schools. Just in Union County alone this grant would provide broadband opportunities to 783 customers where these opportunities currently do not exist. This potential benefit would extend well beyond the immediate and urgent needs created by the pandemic and provide lasting educational benefits to the children and families of our county. It is with fervent hope that I request your consideration and support for this grant. Please feel free to contact me at any time if I can provide additional information needed for your consideration. Thank you on behalf of the children and families of Union County for your support.

Respectfully,

Russell Taylor
Superintendent, UCSD



August 11, 2021

Ms. Evelyn Remaley
Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information National
Telecommunications and Information Administration U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Ms. Remaley,

I am writing this letter of support for New Albany, Mississippi to obtain a portion of the NTIA grant that is part of a 31 million grant for Mississippi to have broadband access. New Albany is located in the northeast corner of our great state and is a rural, underserved area with limited access to high speed internet services.

Lack of access to the technology or the skills to use it is leaving our people behind in an increasingly digital world. This is a tremendous disadvantage for our citizens to be able to compete to improve their quality of life.

New Albany Main Street is on board to do whatever it will take to work with existing carriers, local governments, and public-private partnerships to provide economic opportunities for our citizens. New Albany, Mississippi needs your help in resolving this issue of connectivity.

Respectfully,

Billye Jean Stroud
Director of Community Development and Main Street
135 East Bankhead Street New Albany, MS 38652
662-534-3438 (office) (b) (6) (cell)
billyejeanstroud@newalbanymainstreet.com
www.newalbanymainstreet.com
www.visitnewalbany.com



New Albany Light Gas and Water
Po Drawer 727, New Albany MS 38652

August 11, 2021

Ms. Evelyn Remaley
Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information National
Telecommunications and Information Administration U.S. Department of Commerce 1401
Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Ms. Remaley,

I am writing this letter concerning our community's \$2.7 portion of an NTIA grant application through the State of Mississippi. The New Albany Electric Department (NALGW) supports the efforts of Maxx South Broadband to bring high speed internet service to these customers in our service territory. The areas included in the grant application include over 700 homes that are in remote locations and currently have no access to high speed internet. This project will be a huge boost to the quality of life for all of these families. Without this grant the likelihood of these homes ever being served is extremely remote. NALGW pledges to help Maxx South Broadband in any possible way to make this implementation a reality.

Respectfully,

Bill Mattox
General Manager
New Albany Light Gas and Water

Steve Watson, Fifth District, President
Chad Coffey, Second District, Vice-Pres.
Sam Taylor, First District
CJ Bright, Third District
Randy Owen, Fourth District



Annette M. Hickey, Clerk
Terry Johnson, Administrator
Chandler Rogers, Attorney

**Union County
Board of Supervisors**

POST OFFICE BOX 847
NEW ALBANY, MISSISSIPPI 38652
(662) 534-1902

August 12, 2021

Ms. Evelyn Remaley
Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information National
Telecommunications and Information Administration U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: NTIA Grant - Union County, Mississippi

Ms. Remaley:

This correspondence is sent by the Union County Board of Supervisors and concerns expansion of broadband services in Union County, Mississippi.

The Board understands that parts of Union County, Mississippi have qualified for a NTIA grant that is part of a \$31,000,000.00 grant for Mississippi. Union County, Mississippi has a large portion of its territory which is currently un-served by broadband.

After approaching all internet providers in Union County's area, Maxx South has agreed to partner on this grant if the Department of Commerce approves Union County's grant application. Certain residents of Union County, Mississippi are in desperate need of broadband; therefore, expansion of broadband is an extremely important endeavor. We respectfully request the Department of Commerce approve the grant application for the foregoing reasons.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L.N. Chandler Rogers", is written over the typed name.

L.N. Chandler Rogers
Attorney for the Union County Board of Supervisors

C.J. Bright
Supervisor

CJ Bright

Chad Coffey
Supervisor

Chad Coffey

Steve Watson
Supervisor

Steve Watson

Randy Owen
Supervisor

Randy Owen

Sam Taylor
Supervisor

Sam Taylor

Dr. Brock Puckett
Superintendent of
Education

354 Center Ridge Dr.
Pontotoc, Mississippi 38863
Phone (662) 489-3932
Fax (662) 488-2940



Relentlessly Pursuing the Exceptional

School Board

Allen Royce

President

Danny Robbins

Rodney Robbins

Jim Sappington

Randy Tutor

Ms. Evelyn Remaley
Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

August 12th, 2021

Broadband is an essential part of daily life for most Americans today. Rural citizens are being left out of the 21st century modern society and the digital economy due to a lack of sufficient broadband access. Broadband is crucial to:

1. **Economic Development** – there are numerous studies available that show the high correlation between economic growth and the presence and usage of high-performance broadband networks
2. **Expanding Business** – An online presence allows small businesses to serve a larger footprint. Sales can increase, hiring pools are larger, and many citizens are able to bring in extra income from online second jobs.
3. **Farms – Smart Agriculture and Smart farming** solutions work through sensors. Farmers can monitor various conditions like soil moisture, water level, light, humidity, obstacles, and motion from anywhere by combining sensors, motion detectors, button cameras, and wearable devices. With the help of IoT-based farming applications, Farmers can increase their wholesale and retail sales with an online presence. The ability to utilize different automation products to manage crops or livestock ensures a higher quality product, and more time with family.
4. **Education** – Learning opportunities today go beyond school walls, beginning in the home with parents, continuing through early learning centers, elementary, middle and secondary schools, into the halls of higher education and workplaces, and extending into libraries, museums, health centers, community centers, and other institutions within communities. For many Americans, access to the Internet provides unprecedented means to connect to these institutions and the wider world, bridging physical environments and extending opportunities for learning both online and off. Having a strong broadband connection will allow rural Mississippians to stay on course during a pandemic, complete a college degree, bring in different programs to schools so that STEM programs, etc. can get different perspectives. Students can dual enroll in community college classes while in high school and be ahead when they get to college.

An Equal Opportunity Employer. The Pontotoc County School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, color, handicap, or National Origin.

5. Entertainment - more and more homes are transitioning from a traditional cable or satellite television subscription service to "over-the-top" streaming services like Netflix and YouTube, which require a robust broadband connection. Additionally, online gaming continues to soar in popularity.

The rurality of areas like Ecu, Cherry Creek and other underserved areas of Pontotoc County make it an impossible business case for most Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to provide state-of-the-art Fiber to the home infrastructure. However, rural providers like MaxxSouth are working hard to change that. These communities are fortunate to have a strong, local company who is willing to do what it takes to overcome the challenges of serving high-cost, rural areas. The connectivity needs of the people of these communities have long been forgotten by other large providers and satellite companies' inadequate service.

I have lived in Pontotoc County for 41 years and I currently serve as the Superintendent of Education for the Pontotoc County School District. I have witnessed firsthand the real effects of a lack of broadband service in the lives of students of this county.

As a citizen and educational leader, I am writing to you today in support of MaxxSouth's project proposal to build fiber optic broadband infrastructure into these areas and I recommend that this project be closely considered.

Respectfully,



Dr. Brock Puckett
Superintendent of Education
Pontotoc County Schools

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Benton County School District



Mr. Pete Howell, Superintendent

Voice – 662.224.6252
Fax – 662.224.3607
www.benton.k12.ms.us
231 Court St – PO Box 247
Ashland, MS 38603

Pamela Gray – Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Roxanne Hall - Business Manager
Shonika Hamilton - Human Resource Director
Sherrie Davis - Finance & HR Liaison
Tom Stewart - Technology Director
Anola Stricklin - Child Nutrition Director
Amanda Ford - Curriculum Coordinator
Harold Nicholson - Maintenance & Transportation
Candace Sanders - Administrative Assistant

August 11, 2021

Ms. Evelyn Remaley
Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce
for Communications & Information
U. S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

RE: Letter of Support for MaxxSouth Broadband

Dear Ms. Remaley:

I am writing to express my support for MaxxSouth Broadband, and their application for a grant to provide broadband service in the Hickory Flat, MS, area.

There are currently 163 homes in this rural area which have no broadband access or less than the FCC minimum. This significantly impacts families in our school district in terms of distance learning opportunities, or in the event of school closures. I wholeheartedly support MaxxSouth and their efforts to alleviate this situation, allowing greater access and educational equality for our rural students.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Pete Howell
Superintendent



Uplink LLC
1315 Industrial Park Dr.
Clarksdale, MS 38614

MPUS Request for Information cover page

Brian Smith
Title: CEO
662-302-0929
brian@vantage-south.com

Broadband Deployment to Coahoma

Description: Uplink is planning on building a broadband network to Coahoma county in Mississippi. We will be using a mix of technologies to do this. We will be deploying fiber to the home in areas of high density and using wireless technology in areas of low density where the cost becomes excessive to deploy fiber optics. All the technology that we are planning on deploying will be capable of 150MB/150MB symmetrical delivery to the customer.

Project Cost and grant funding sought: \$5,400,000.00

Project Start date: December 1st 2021

Project End date: December 1st 2022

Project Partner: Uplink LLC

Project Labor Standards: Uplink is committed to all Federal Labor Standards as well as base pay of \$15 an hour. Uplink is committed to sourcing all labor where possible from local communities.

Project Narrative

Executive Summary

Uplink LLC is proposing a broadband project in Coahoma County Mississippi. The planned project will include two main technologies. We propose to run fiber from our Network Operation Center at 1315 Industrial Park Dr. Clarksdale Mississippi to five towns and one community. This fiber network will be capable of delivering 1+ gigabit of data to homes and businesses. These towns include Rena Lara and surrounding communities, Friars Point, Coahoma, Jonestown, and Lula as well as the community of Viney Ridge outside of Clarksdale. We also propose to use a tower network of 35+ towers spread across Coahoma County capable of delivering 150+ MBPS symmetrical data to homes across the rural areas of Coahoma county.

Uplink LLC Description

This project will be a coordination of Mississippi Public Utilities Staff office and Uplink LLC. Uplink LLC was started in 2012 by three friends wanting to be able to get internet access to their homes in rural Coahoma County. They started getting requests from their neighbors to bring them internet as well and as these requests continued to flood in Uplink LLC was formed becoming a Wireless Internet Service Provider (WISP) and these three friends continued to connect people where they could in their spare time. In 2016 two of the owners in Uplink decided to move out of state so the decision was made to sell the business.

In January 2017 current ownership group purchased the business from them and hired a full time network engineer from British Columbia who had 15 year of experience in the WISP industry as well as an installer and tower climber to continue to grow the business. Currently Uplink has over 700 customers and a full time staff of 5 employees. Uplink CEO and owner is Brian Smith who is a serial entrepreneur that has successfully started and ran multiple businesses. He is still currently CEO of two of these companies as well as owner and business development lead in Vantage South a \$5.5M company that spans 4 states with 20+ employees. Scott Litwiller is the COO and one of the owners of Uplink. Since Scott has joined the company as the Chief Operating Officer in January 2019 he has tripled the size and scope of Uplink LLC.

Name	Title	
Brian Smith	CEO / Owner	
Scott Litwiller	COO / Owner	
Nathan Classen	Owner	
Kendall Smith	Owner	

Fiber Project Scope

Fiber Project to be funded NTIA grant is as follows

Rena Lara requires 15 miles of backbone fiber to run from Uplink LLC Network Operation Center (NOC) at 1315 Industrial Park Drive to Optical Line Terminal (OLT) site at Rena Lara. From the Rena Lara OLT to the last customer will take 14 miles of fiber with 177 buildings passing. Rena Lara census blocks have a Average Household Income of \$48,000

Coahoma will need 17 miles of backbone fiber for Uplinks NOC to OLT on site in Coahoma. This backbone fiber will pass 397 buildings en route to Coahoma. From the OLT in Coahoma we need 3 miles of fiber to pass 158 buildings in Coahoma. Coahoma census blocks have a Average Household Income of \$22,000

Friars Point requires 7 miles of fiber backbone to run from the OLT in Coahoma to OLT on site in Friars Point. From the OLT in Friars point to last customer we will need 7.6 miles of fiber to pass 436 buildings. Friars Point census blocks have a Average Household Income of \$22,000

Jonestown requires 7 miles of fiber from splice point in backbone on Old Highway 61 at Rudyard to Jonestown's OLT on site. Jonestown will need 4.2 miles of fiber from OLT site to pass 419 buildings in Jonestown. Jonestown census blocks have a Average Household Income of \$22,000. Jonestown has recently put in a Telehealth center and are requesting very high speed broadband service to be able to operate this.

Lula will require 8.5 miles of backbone fiber from OLT in Coahoma to OLT on site in Lula. From the OLT in Lula to pass 156 buildings requires 3.75 miles of fiber. Lula census blocks have a Average Household Income of \$22,000

Viney Ridge community will require 3.82 miles of fiber from splice point at the intersection of of Lee Drive and Viney Ridge Road passing 94 buildings. Viney Ridge census blocks have a Average Household Income of \$48,000



Wireless ISP Project Scope

Uplink LLC will outfit 35+ tower sites with the latest wireless broadband equipment capable of delivering 150MBPS download and 150MBPS upload to residential and business customers in rural Coahoma county. We will also deploy licensed wireless backhaul links capable of delivering 1.4 gigabit symmetrical to these tower sights. These tower sites are capable of covering a major portion of the 4,458 buildings in this county excluding the town of Clarksdale. We understand that a percentage of these buildings will not be reachable with wireless technology but the majority will. Please see estimated tower coverage in image below.

Ms. Evelyn Remaley

Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Ms Remaley ,

I am writing you in support of potential funding for additional high speed internet services in the small rural town of Jonestown Mississippi. BGM has invested well over 2 million private funded dollars into Jonestown, building new buildings including a 6000 square foot lodge to house visiting missionary teams, and a recently completed 4000 square foot Business Incubator/Economic Development Center. Our business incubator eventually will need broad band that can serve a multitude of small business needs. We are currently in negotiations with a major medical provider in our state to bring a primary care clinic to this small town. It will be predominately a tele medicine clinic serving the preventative and health management needs of Jonestown and the other small communities surrounding it in Coahoma County There is one fiber-based provider in Jonestown. Currently we are using this provider on a shared line with variable speeds dependent on use. We do know that our new clinic will require a dedicated line of 1Gig of consistent speed for use in the telemedicine portion of this operation. It would be desirable to have addition options that would offer a competitive environment and choice. Currently that does not exist.

I thank you for your time and consideration in reviewing our request.

Respectfully,

Rusty Hall

Managing Director

COVER PAGE

Project Lead:

Christa Alexander
Vice-President of Operations and Secretary
WeConnect Communications, Inc.
O: 601-764-3463 C: (b) (6)
christa@failinc.com

Project Title: WeConnect Communications, Inc. Hopewell NTIA Fiber Expansion Project

Brief Project description: WeConnect Communications, Inc. seeks to be a project partner with the Mississippi Public Utilities Staff in order to pursue a funding opportunity offered by the NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Program for the construction of a buried and underground fiber optic network in parts of Calhoun County in rural north-northeast Mississippi. WeConnect Communications, Inc. is prepared to provide a ten percent (10%) cash match for any project funds awarded.

Total Project Cost: \$1,485,000.00

Total Funding Sought: \$1,336,500.00

Estimated Start Date: December 2021 **Estimated Target End Date:** December 2022¹

Partners: WeConnect Communications, Inc. would like to partner with the MPUS to participate in the NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Program.

Wage and Labor Standards:

WeConnect Communications, Inc. is a subsidiary of parent company, Fail Telecommunications Corporation ("Fail"). All Fail affiliates are strong supporters of their community. We always have and always will seek to hire locally and if funded, this project will create numerous local-hire employment opportunities. All employees will be paid well above the federal minimum wage requirements, with the lowest starting wage for all project crews being at least \$15/hour.

All Fail affiliates are equal-opportunity employers and as current RUS borrowers, are therefore compliant with all USDA non-discriminatory policies/requirements and will comply with all NTIA federal wage requirements, including adherence to the Davis – Bacon Act. Eligible Fail affiliates participate in the FCC's Lifeline Program and Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBB) and any such applicable financial assistance programs will be offered to any and all additional customers within the area(s) including in this funding application where eligible services are funded and subsequently offered.

We will have trained customer service representatives and *local* service technicians available on call 24/7 so that, in the rare event of an outage, our customers are back connected as quickly as possible.

Total locations passed: 163

¹ End date is approximate and is subject to material availability/supply chain shortages which during the Covid-19 pandemic has proven to be fluid. Materials have been ordered and/or stocked by WeConnect Communications, Inc. and its affiliates to the extent practicable in anticipation of this and other projects which will allow this project to commence and be completed sooner. In addition, WeConnect Communications, Inc. will immediately seek to mitigate any delays or shortages and inform all parties of any needed time extensions promptly.

Cost per pass: \$9110.43

Attachments:

Exhibit A: Project Area Map
Exhibit B: Estimate project budget including technical and cost details and match committed by partner
Exhibit C: List of census blocks within the proposed service area
Exhibit D: Network Diagram and System Design
Exhibit E: Company Resolution
Exhibit F: Letters of Support from Community Partners
Exhibit G: Summary of Preconstruction work completed

Additional Criteria:

As was discovered during the recent pandemic, too many Americans are digitally disadvantaged by lack of adequate broadband service, through no fault of their own. We seek to do our part to remedy that. Living the lifestyle afforded by a quiet, rural setting should not warrant digital punishment. We plan to build a **scalable, future-proof fiber optic network** to 163 locations across various unserved areas near the Hopewell Community. The project location is extremely rural with populations below 50,000 and no location(s) adjacent to a city or town with a population above 50,000.

If funded, this project will immediately upon completion have the capability to serve all homes, businesses, and anchor institutions within the project with speeds up to a **symmetrical gig (1GB/1GB) exceeding the minimum speed requirements of 25mbps download and 3mbps upload, as well as beyond the 150/150mbps symmetrical benchmark for 2028**. Additionally, with **super low latency**, the proposed project will provide broadband capacity more than sufficient to support real-time, interactive applications. **95% or more of all peak period measurements of network roundtrip latency will be at or below 100 milliseconds**. Furthermore, the vast majority of this project will be ultra-resilient **buried/underground fiber-to-the-home** facilities, keeping WeConnect Communications, Inc. customers protected against the most common causes of network failures such as weather and pests—something that aerial constructions are quite vulnerable to. This state-of-the-art fiber optic network is completely scalable and futureproof. Once in place, the network can quickly and affordably be upgraded to meet the growing consumer and technological demands of tomorrow by upgrading to advanced electronics of the future.

Fail brings nearly a century of experience in rural telecommunications deployments and proven success. Today, WeConnect Communications, Inc. will be lead by an experienced and capable team which includes a local manger with over 20 years experience, an engineer overseeing the construction with 44+ years' experience, a network manager with nearly 20 years experience, as well as supported by members of the 4-generation deep Mississippi-family owned and operated parent company.

The WeConnect Communications, Inc. NTIA Fiber Expansion Project bring all the benefits of gig-capable broadband to rural Mississippians such as:

- telemedicine,
- distance learning,
- teleworking,
- lower electricity and water rates by implementation of smart-meters and other automation
- advanced PSAP for next-generation 911/emergency response

The north-northeast Mississippi region is rich in timber and with the addition of robust broadband connectivity, the area becomes prime for economic development. There is also the potential for big economic boost to the area with **job creation** and the broadband infrastructure needed to fuel **smart agriculture**. The proposed project area is ripe for **economic growth** with the presence of a neighboring lumber mill, multiple health care facilities, and furniture manufacturing.

Timeline/Project Milestones:

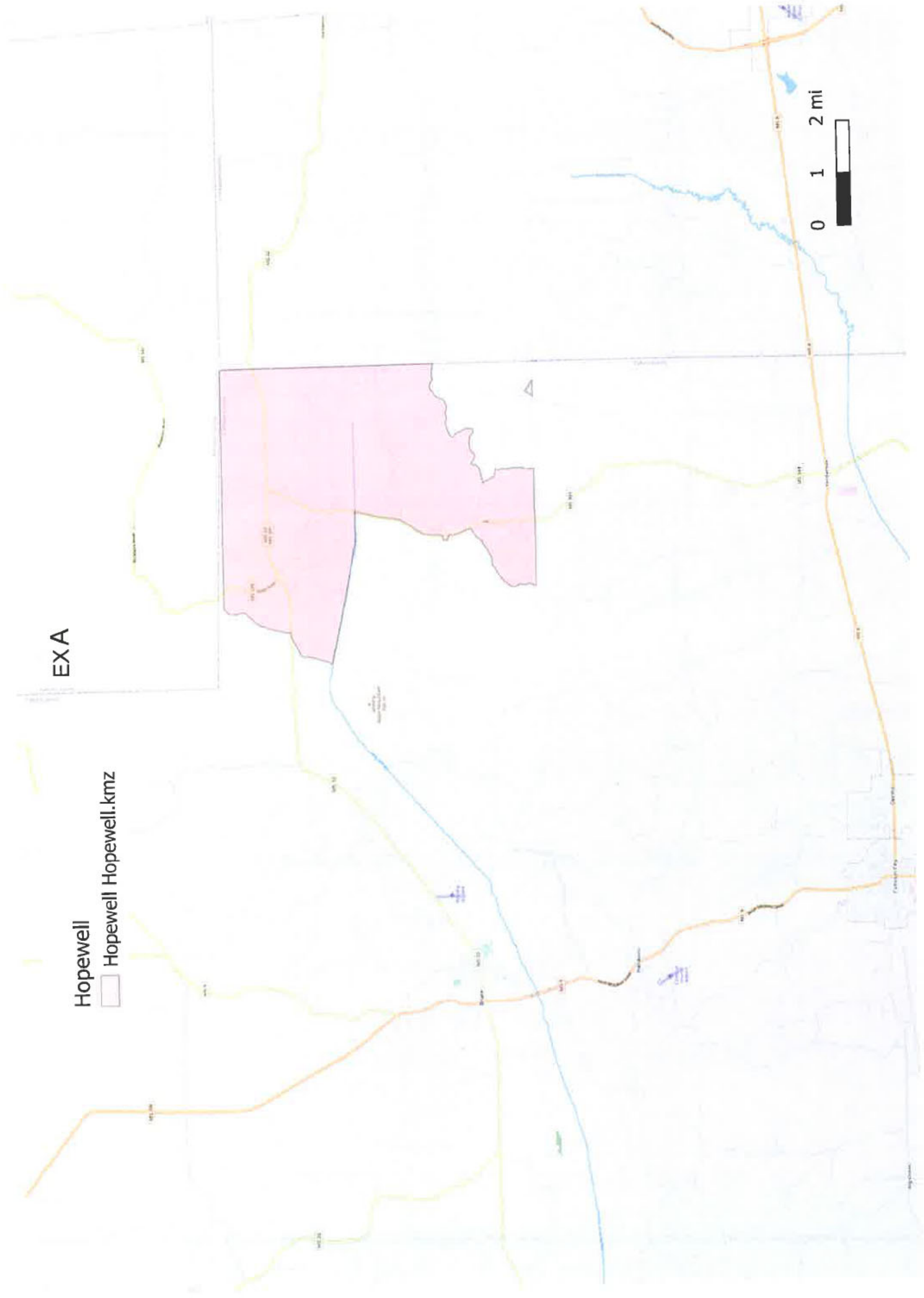
Feasibility for this project has been completed. Engineering and Design have been completed. WeConnect and affiliates have some materials on hand for the Hopewell project and will use those to begin construction December 1, 2021 and will order all other materials as soon as funding is awarded. Construction will be completed by December 2022, assuming materials are delivered and there are no uncontrollable supply chain disruptions.

EXA

Hopewell

Hopewell Hopewell.kmz

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Ex. C

We Connect Hopewell

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UNANIMOUS CONSENT OF THE SOLE DIRECTOR OF
WECONNECT COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

The undersigned, being the sole Director of WeConnect Communications, Inc. (the "Corporation"), hereby consents to the adoption of the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, the sole Director of the Corporation finds it in the best interest of the Corporation and desires to obtain and have applied for a grant for the Corporation as part of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's Broadband Infrastructure Program;

WHEREAS, the sole Director finds it in the best interest of the Corporation to appoint Christa L. Alexander, the Vice President of Operations and Secretary for the Corporation to submit an application for said grant program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Christa L. Alexander in the capacity of Vice President of Operations and Secretary to the Corporation is authorized to act on behalf of and represent the Corporation in participating in said grant program as the Project Lead and to submit on behalf of the Corporation the application and any supporting documentation associated therewith, and to commit the Corporation's resources of at least ten percent (10%) of any grant awarded.

This the 20th day of July, 2021.


Dorothea C. Fall

DIRECTOR

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, Vice-Chairman
Agriculture
Appropriations
Business & Financial Institutions
Constitution
Enrolled Bills
Judiciary, Division B
Municipalities



Post Office Box 8
Bruce, MS 38915
bsuber@senate.ms.gov

Mississippi State Senate

SENATOR BENJAMIN A. SUBER

District 8

**Calhoun, Chickasaw, Lee
Pontotoc and Yalobusha Counties**

AUGUST 6, 2021

National Telecommunications and Information
Administration
ATTN: Ms. Evelyn Remaley
Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for
Communications and Information
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

RE: WeConnect, Broadband Letter of Support

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of WeConnect's proposal to expand fiber optic broadband infrastructure and to be a part of the NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Program. WeConnect is a locally owned business that is invested in our community. Our rural community is in dire need of high speed fiber optic broadband service to our homes and businesses.

WeConnect's sister company Bruce Telephone Company, Inc. has been investing in our community since the 1950s. This company is deeply rooted and has invested millions of dollars expanding high speed broadband for many years.

WeConnect has stepped up to the challenge and continues to expand into the areas that the larger companies have completely ignored. WeConnect is allowing more and more customers each day to work from home, our children to learn, and for our communities to grow. Without high speed broadband, we are losing population with people going to the larger areas.

As a member of the Mississippi State Legislature, I am excited to see the benefits provided from the hard work and dedication of WeConnect. I fully support them and encourage you to seriously support their proposal to continue the years of expanding high speed broadband to our communities.

Sincerely

A blue ink signature of Benjamin A. Suber, written in a cursive style.

Benjamin A. Suber

Dr. Brock Puckett
Superintendent of
Education

354 Center Ridge Dr.
Pontotoc, Mississippi 38863
Phone (662) 489-3932
Fax (662) 488-2940



School Board
Allen Roye,
President
Danny Robbins
Rodney Robbins
Jim Sappington
Randy Tutor

July 18th, 2021

Broadband is an essential part of daily life for most Americans today. Rural citizens are being left out of the 21st century modern society and the digital economy due to a lack of sufficient broadband access. Broadband is crucial to:

1. **Economic Development** – there are numerous studies available that show the high correlation between economic growth and the presence and usage of high-performance broadband networks
2. **Expanding Business** – An online presence allows small businesses to serve a larger footprint. Sales can increase, hiring pools are larger, and many citizens are able to bring in extra income from online second jobs.
3. **Farms** – Smart Agriculture and Smart farming solutions work through sensors. Farmers can monitor various conditions like soil moisture, water level, light, humidity, obstacles, and motion from anywhere by combining sensors, motion detectors, button camera, and wearable devices. With the help of IoT-based farming applications. Farmers can increase their wholesale and retail sales with an online presence. The ability to utilize different automation products to manage crops or livestock ensures a higher quality product, and more time with family.
4. **Education** – Learning opportunities today go beyond school walls, beginning in the home with parents, continuing through early learning centers, elementary, middle and secondary schools, into the halls of higher education and workplaces, and extending into libraries, museums, health centers, community centers, and other institutions within communities. For many Americans, access to the Internet provides unprecedented means to connect to these institutions and the wider world, bridging physical environments and extending opportunities for learning both online and off. Having a strong broadband connection will allow rural Mississippians to stay on course during a pandemic, complete a college degree, bring in different programs to schools so that STEM programs, etc. can get different perspectives. Students can dual enroll in community college classes while in high school and be ahead when they get to college.
5. **Entertainment** – more and more homes are transitioning from a traditional cable or satellite television subscription service to “over-the-top” streaming services like Netflix and YouTube, which require a robust broadband connection. Additionally, online gaming continues to soar in popularity.

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The rurality of areas like Algoma, Redland, Serepta, ^{Exhibit F} Macedonia, Toxish make it an impossible business case for most Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to provide state-of-the-art Fiber to the Home infrastructure. However, rural providers like WeConnect are working hard to change that. These communities are fortunate to have a strong, local company who is willing to do what it takes to overcome the challenges of serving high-cost, rural areas. The connectivity needs of the people of these communities have long been forgotten by other large providers and satellite companies' inadequate service.

WeConnect's sister company has previously invested millions of dollars in hundreds of miles of fiber for the neighboring Bruce Community and with great success. The community loves all the opportunities that BTC has brought to rural Calhoun County.

I have lived in Pontotoc County for 41 years and I currently serve as the Superintendent of Education for the Pontotoc County School District. I have witnessed firsthand the real effects of a lack of broadband service in the lives of students of this county.

As a citizen and educational leader, I am writing to you today in support of WeConnect's project proposal to build fiber optic broadband infrastructure into these areas and I recommend that this project be closely considered as part of the NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Program.

Respectfully,



Dr. Brock Puckett
Superintendent of Education
Pontotoc County Schools

An Equal Opportunity Employer. The Pontotoc County School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, color, handicap, or National Origin.

Exhibit G

Summary of Work Completed:

Feasibility studies have been conducted. Engineering and design have already been completed for this project. Company and its affiliates have some materials on hand so construction can begin immediately upon funding or thereafter but no later than December 1, 2021.

Sally Burchfield Doty
Executive Director
Mississippi Public Utilities Staff

Sally Burchfield Doty was appointed as the Executive Director of the Mississippi Public Utilities Staff on July 15, 2020, by Governor Tate Reeves. Ms. Doty is an attorney, and former Republican State Senator elected three times to represent Southwest Mississippi.

In the Senate she served as chair of the Senate Energy Committee and was instrumental in passing the Broadband Enabling Act which allowed Electric Coops to provide broadband services, thus expanding broadband access across Mississippi. After her appointment as Executive Director of the Public Utilities Staff, she oversaw the 75-million-dollar Covid 19 Broadband Grant Fund appropriated by the Mississippi Legislature from CARES ACT funds.

At the time of her appointment, she was serving as Chairman of the Judiciary A Committee where she advanced major changes to Mississippi's probate code to simplify small estates, and championed legislation to increase protections for victims of domestic violence. She was a member of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and also served as the Lt. Governor's liaison to the Mississippi Public Employees Retirement System (PERS).

Ms. Doty received her Juris Doctorate, with distinction, from Mississippi College School of Law in 1991 and was a Centennial Scholar at Mississippi University for Women. She completed the Harvard Kennedy School summer program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government in 2013. She practiced law with the firm of Wells, Moore, Simmons & Neeld in Jackson, and Allen, Allen, Boerner and Breeland in her hometown of Brookhaven.

The National Conference of State Legislatures recognized Ms. Doty with a "Women Making a Difference" award for her community involvement with local veterans, and her work to encourage young women to become more active in politics. She was also named a "Shero" by the Domestic Violence Coalition.

Angel R. Stenmark, MBA

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

Analytical, performance-driven professional with strong leadership, financial, and administration skills and a track record of delivering top performance. Personal qualities include: organized, innovative, positive, problem-solver, autonomous, persistent, adaptable, and driven. Other skills include:

- Financial Statement Analysis
- Financial modeling
- Budgets and Projections
- Data analysis and reconciliation
- VBA Coding and Automation
- SQL and databases
- Preparation of executive summaries and presentations
- MS Office (Excel, Access, Outlook)
- PowerBI
- Leadership on multidisciplinary teams
- Training and mentoring

WORK EXPERIENCE

Director of Telecommunications, Mississippi Public Utilities Staff [July 2020 – Present]

- Review regulatory filings for all Telecommunications companies
- Create and enforce policies for expansion of broadband service in the State of Mississippi
- Represent the State of Mississippi on national committees
- Supervise staff in the completion of departmental activities

Advanced Accountant, Mississippij Public Utilities Staff [Nov 2018 – July 2020]

- Reviewed regulatory filings for all Telecommunications companies
- Represented the State of Mississippi on various committees
- Made recommendations to the Mississippi Public Service Commission

Revenue Assurance Analyst, C Spire, Ridgeland, MS [Apr 2016 – September 2018]

- Collected financial and performance data and analyzed trends
- Tested customer invoices and other data sources for accuracy
- Examined project requirements and documentation for potential weaknesses
- Created executive summaries and dashboards to report progress on initiatives

Financial Analyst, C Spire, Ridgeland, MS [Oct 2014 – April 2016]

- Streamlined the month-end process by creating automated reports
- Identified gaps in data reconciliation that resulted in revenue loss
- Analyzed pricing and profitability of new and existing products
- Designed project models to budget and forecast cost of service

EDUCATION/CREDENTIALS

2012 Master of Business Administration, cum laude, University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS

2007 Bachelor of Arts, English Major, History Minor, University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS

KYLE BROWN

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT | ECONOMIC INCENTIVES | DATA ANALYSIS | GRANT WRITING

Economic Development Professional committed to building strong mutually rewarding relationships that influence opinions and result in beneficial outcomes for all parties. Proven and repeatable history in developing key indicators that impact the local economy. Recognized for demonstrated adaptability to change and cross-functional partnerships.

SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

For the Public Utilities Staff, coordinated multiple meetings to formulate a detailed plan to address the over \$100 million in past due utility accounts. Created a plan that is one that the state of Mississippi and the mayor of Jackson agreed upon as being fair and manageable. Three different tiers that addressed low-income, not receiving bills, and small commercial customers.

For the City of Brandon, leveraged relationships between commercial developers and city representatives. Provided guidance and assistance to ensure that commercial construction projects complied with developer's timeline by providing strategic information on public and private utilities, site plan development and review, and architectural review.

EXPERIENCE

MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC UTILITIES STAFF, JACKSON, MS

2020-2021

Managed a team of 22 employees to ensure reasonable rates for jurisdictional electric, gas, water, and sewer customers.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Developed and advocated for the agencies 2.2-million-dollar budget to ensure wages were competitive and employees receive adequate training. Administered \$75 million in COVID-19 CARES Act funds that was earmarked for rural broadband. Worked with city of Jackson and state of Mississippi officials to develop a plan to address the cities over \$100 million in past due utility accounts. Coordinated multiple utilities in participating in rental and utility assistance fairs to fully utilize nearly \$200 million in state funds provided by the American Rescue Plan. Wrote the states nearly 30-million-dollar grant application for National Telecommunications and Information Administration funds to enhance broadband services in rural Mississippi.

EDUCATION

Master of Science, Economic Development, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS.

Bachelor of Arts, International Studies, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS.

JONATHON ALFORD



Jonathon.alford@mpus.ms.gov

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

NOVEMBER 2020 - CURRENT

UTILITIES ANALYST, MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC UTILITIES STAFF

- Analyze financial statements from municipalities and public utility companies in order to establish fair water and sewer rates for the utilities' customers.
- Review filings for rates, area certifications and facilities certificates.
- Conduct expense reviews

JANUARY 2015 – NOVEMBER 2020

DETECTIVE SERGEANT, BROOKHAVEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

- Investigate felony and misdemeanor crimes.
- Prepare incident reports and prosecution reports
- Supervise officers and other employees and aid as needed
- Special Response Team Tactical Commander and Sniper.
- Write and administer grants for Local, Federal and Corporate Grant programs, and oversee the fulfillment of the grants.
- Obtain property from State and Federal surplus and maintain inventory of those properties.
- Served as department purchasing officer.

JANUARY 2000 – CURRENT

FIREFIGHTER, SECRETARY/TREASURER, ZETUS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Department Training Officer providing training and maintain records for the department.
- Served as Lieutenant and Captain in supervisory roles
- Secretary/Treasurer, maintained the department's financial records
- Write and administer grants for State, Federal and Corporate Grant programs and oversee funding disbursement.
- File annual reports for IRS 501(c)(3) status

EDUCATION

2012

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER CERTIFICATION, MS FIRE ACADEMY

2005

LAW ENFORCEMENT, MS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TRAINING ACADEMY

1999-2000

JOURNALISM, COPIAH-LINCOLN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

1999

HONOR GRADUATE, WEST LINCOLN ATTENDANCE CENTER

Budget Narrative:

The state of Mississippi's application represents 8 different companies and 10 different projects. These projects will be owned by the eight companies that are part of the state application. The state of Mississippi will not be constructing or maintaining any projects.

As shown in the "Detailed Project Budget Spreadsheet", the total cost of these broadband systems is \$36,329,258.39 and the project partners are providing a match of 10%, or \$3,632,925.84. The request for federal funding is \$32,696,332.55, and the Mississippi Public Utilities Staff asks that each project be evaluated individually if funding is not available for the entire amount. We would be happy to assist in prioritizing projects in the event of a partial award.

Below is an explanation of each cost category. We encouraged our partners to prioritize expenses related to customer connections, and over 99 percent of our request is for expenses related to engineering, construction, and equipment. Please note that two projects, C Spire Mayersville and C Spire Livingston, only requested funding for distribution fiber and engineering costs because they have already incurred the costs of some materials.

SF-424C Cost Categories:**Electronic Equipment**

The projects in Mississippi's application require \$2,933,989.43 for electronic equipment. This includes GPON modules and cards, optical splitters, ONT equipment, fiber NIDs, remote access equipment, and fiber cabinets. All items are required for the deployment of service in the proposed areas.

Outside plant (Fiber)

The cost of fiber for all projects is \$17,249,640.36. This includes distribution fiber for the applicants but does not include fiber splices to the individual households.

Administrative and Legal Expenses: The \$82,000 is associated with two companies and three projects. These costs are related to salaries for a construction manager, two construction coordinators, and other personnel.

	NEW ALBANY	PONTOTOC	UPLINK	TOTALS
ADMIN	\$ 25,816.00	\$ 14,184.00	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 82,000.00

Land, Structures, Rights-of-Way, Appraisals: The \$53,000 requested by Franklin Telephone results from their need to acquire additional rights-of-way or easements in their project locations.

	FRANKLIN	TOTALS
LAND ROW	\$ 53,000.00	\$ 53,000.00

Architectural & Engineering fees: All funds requested under this line item are for engineering purposes. Several of our projects fall around state or federal highways and the required engineering and permitting will be most of the cost. Engineering represents \$3.3 million or 9.2% of our ask.

	WE CONNECT	BRUCE	NEW ALBANY	PONTOTOC	BAYSPRINGS
ENGINEERING	\$ 219,780.00	\$ 1,245,090.00	\$ 251,279.00	\$ 138,427.99	\$ 841,428.00

	COLLINS	FRANKLIN	TOTALS
ENGINEERING	\$ 267,500.00	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 3,341,304.99

Inspection: The \$232,425 is associated with two companies and three projects and is directly related to oversight of third-party contractors. These costs are combined with “Architectural and Engineering Fees” to create “Engineering Fees” on the Detailed Project Budget spreadsheet.

	FRANKLIN	MAYERSVILLE	LIVINGSTON	TOTALS
INSPECTION	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 13,900.00	\$ 18,525.00	\$ 232,425.00

Site Work: Site work costs are related to expenses necessary to place new pedestals during the boring and construction process.

	FRANKLIN	TOTALS
SITE WORK	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00

Construction: Each of the 8 applicants are current internet service providers. They have existing relationships with contractors and construction companies. We believe the stated cost of construction from each company is reasonable and easily justified.

	WE CONNECT	BRUCE	NEW ALBANY	PONTOTOC	UPLINK	BAYSPRINGS
CONSTRUCTION	\$848,851.98	\$4,840,149.25	\$2,998,594.18	\$1,656,916.90	\$5,080,386.20	\$4,972,100.00

	COLLINS	FRANKLIN	MAYERSVILLE	LIVINGSTON	TOTALS
CONSTRUCTION	\$1,412,550.00	\$4,831,000.00	\$ 653,300.00	\$ 870,675.00	\$ 28,164,523.51

Equipment: The second largest expense in our application is equipment. Our application allows for the installation of any necessary cabinets, huts, electric needs, remotes, fiber/cable splicing, wifi equipment, and all other necessary equipment.

	WE CONNECT	BRUCE	NEW ALBANY	PONTOTOC	UPLINK	BAYSPRINGS
EQUIPMENT	\$416,813.84	\$2,387,067.61	\$137,981.69	\$ 71,965.75	\$ 276,870.00	\$ 306,300.00

	LIVINGSTON	COLLINS	FRANKLIN	TOTALS
EQUIPMENT	\$105,000.00	\$269,950.00	\$474,056.00	\$4,446,004.89

Company Name
Project Name

Bruce Telephone

Project Budget

BUDGET	No. of Units	Unit cost	Total	Grant	Cash Match	Allocation of Engineering	Total by Account	Category Reference (see Detailed Equipment Sheet in this file)	Description
BROADBAND SYSTEM									
Electronic Equipment (FTTH)	38	\$ 202.47	\$ 7,693.75	\$ 6,924.38	\$ 769.37	\$ 1,325.46	\$ 9,019.21		GPON SFP (optical transceiver module)
Electronic Equipment (FTTH)	54	2,065.59	111,541.68	100,387.51	11,154.17	19,216.17	130,757.85		SFP
Electronic Equipment (FTTH)	27	8,346.84	225,364.65	202,828.19	22,536.46	38,825.36	264,190.01		GPON Cards
Electronic Equipment (FTTH)	13	3,096.77	40,258.06	36,232.25	4,025.81	6,935.58	47,193.64		Pole mounted 1:32 Distributed Optical Splitters (distributed)
Electronic Equipment (FTTH)	13	20,645.16	268,387.10	241,548.39	26,838.71	46,237.18	314,624.28		Calix Electronic Remotes (E-7 and E-7-2)
Electronic Equipment (FTTH)	719	750.42	539,550.00	485,595.00	53,955.00	92,952.56	632,502.56		ONT/Router/Fiber Jumper
Outside plant (fiber) - Distribution fiber	154	2,217.60	341,510.00	307,359.00	34,151.00	58,834.64	400,344.64		Core fiber
Customer premises equipment	719	204.11	146,757.60	132,081.84	14,675.76	25,283.10	172,040.70		CPE
Outside plant (fiber) - Drop	719	981.93	706,004.77	635,404.29	70,600.48	121,629.04	827,633.81		Drops and Plowing
Outside Plant (Splicing)	719	825.29	593,381.86	534,043.67	59,338.19	102,226.60	695,608.46		
Administrative									
Other Work Equipment									
Construction	1	4,246,767.39	4,246,767.39	3,822,090.65	424,676.74	731,624.32	4,978,391.71		Based on estimates from recent construction quotes for similar jobs.
Engineering			1,245,090.00	1,120,581.00	124,509.00				Includes staking, design, right-of-way permits, prints and as-builts
Total Broadband System			\$ 8,472,306.86	\$ 7,625,076.17	\$ 847,230.69	\$ 1,245,090.00	\$ 8,472,306.86		
SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES									
Broadband System			\$ 8,472,306.86	\$ 7,625,076.17	\$ 847,230.69				

	Bay Springs Smith County	Bruce Telephone	C Spire Issaquena (Mayersville)
1 Admin and Legal expenses			
2 Land, Structures, ROW			
3 Relocation Expenses			
4 Architectural and Engineering Fees	\$ 841,428.00	\$ 1,245,090.00	\$ 27,800.00
5 Other Arch. And Engineering Fees			
6 Project Inspection Fees			\$ 13,900.00
7 Site Work			
8 Demolition and removal			
9 Construction	\$ 4,972,100.00	\$ 4,840,149.25	\$ 653,300.00
10 Equipment	\$ 306,300.00	\$ 2,387,067.61	
11 Miscellaneous			
12 Subtotal			
13 Contingencies			
14 SUBTOTAL	\$ 6,119,828.00	\$ 8,472,306.86	\$ 695,000.00
15 PROJECT INCOME			
16 TOTAL COST	\$ 6,119,828.00	\$ 8,472,306.86	\$ 695,000.00
17 FEDERAL ASK	\$ 5,507,845.20	\$ 7,625,076.17	\$ 625,500.00
	\$ 611,982.80	\$ 847,230.69	\$ 69,500.00

C Spire Madison Co (Livingston Rd)	CableSouth Media 3 Collins	Franklin Telephone	MaxxSouth New Albany	MaxxSouth Pontotoc	Uplink Coahoma
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		\$ -	\$ 25,816.00	\$ 14,184.00	\$ 42,000.00
		\$ 53,000.00			
	\$ 267,500.00	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 251,279.00	\$ 138,427.99	
\$ 18,525.00		\$ 200,000.00			
		\$ 10,000.00			
\$ 870,675.00	\$ 1,412,550.00	\$ 4,831,000.00	\$ 2,998,594.18	\$ 1,656,916.90	\$ 5,080,386.20
\$ 105,000.00	\$ 269,950.00	\$ 474,056.00	\$ 137,981.69	\$ 71,965.75	\$ 276,870.00

\$ 994,200.00	\$ 1,950,000.00	\$ 5,918,056.00	\$ 3,413,670.87	\$ 1,881,494.64	\$ 5,399,256.20

\$ 994,200.00	\$ 1,950,000.00	\$ 5,918,056.00	\$ 3,413,670.87	\$ 1,881,494.64	\$ 5,399,256.20
\$ 894,780.00	\$ 1,755,000.00	\$ 5,326,250.40	\$ 3,072,303.78	\$ 1,693,345.18	\$ 4,859,330.58
\$ 99,420.00	\$ 195,000.00	\$ 591,805.60	\$ 341,367.09	\$ 188,149.46	\$ 539,925.62

We Connect
Calhoun County

	\$	82,000.00	0.2%
	\$	53,000.00	0.1%
	\$	-	0.0%
\$ 219,780.00	\$	3,341,304.99	9.2%
	\$	-	0.0%
	\$	232,425.00	0.6%
	\$	10,000.00	0.0%
	\$	-	0.0%
\$ 848,851.98	\$	28,164,523.51	77.5%
\$ 416,813.84	\$	4,446,004.89	12.2%
	\$	-	0.0%
	\$	-	0.0%
	\$	-	0.0%
	\$	-	0.0%
\$ 1,485,445.82	\$	36,329,258.39	
	\$	-	0.0%
	\$	-	0.0%
	\$	-	
\$ 1,485,445.82	\$	36,329,258.39	
\$ 1,336,901.24	\$	32,696,332.55	
\$ 148,544.58	\$	3,632,925.84	

Corporate Headquarters

12 S. Third Street
P.O. Box 922
Bay Springs, MS 39422



101 Public Square
Bruce, MS 38915
(662) 983-4343
www.brucetelephone.com

Ms. Evelyn Remaley
Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Letter of Commitment

Dear Ms. Remaley:

Please be advised that, in the event that the Bruce Telephone Company NTIA Fiber Expansion Project grant funding is approved, I hereby commit the Corporation's resources of at least 10% of any grant funding awarded. Bruce Telephone Company commits to partnering with the Mississippi Public Utilities Staff in order to construct an underground fiber optic network in parts of northern Calhoun County in rural north Mississippi.

We are excited to participate in this grant funding opportunity in order to help boost job growth and economic development in rural Mississippi through broadband expansion. Bruce Telephone Company is a Mississippi family-owned business with strong connections to the community. Bruce Telephone Company has an experienced management team with decades of experience. This enables us to handle each portion of the network rollout including planning, engineering and construction, network management, and technicians for 24/7 response and support after completion.

If funded, we commit to beginning this project immediately and will have the capacity to service these customers with speeds up to a symmetrical gig (1GB/1GB) immediately upon completion. The network provided will be ultra-resilient to weather and pests as well as completely scalable and futureproof. The proposed service area is ripe for economic growth with plenty of industries ready to benefit from this project, and with this grant funding we commit to partnering with the MPUS to ensure that the area benefits from all growth aspects related to broadband expansion.

Thank you for your consideration and time.

Sincerely,

Christa L. Alexander

Christa L. Alexander

Vice-President of Operations and Secretary
Bruce Telephone Company

O: 601-764-3463 (b) (6)

christa@failinc.com



Dear Madam/Sir,

I am writing to express our commitment to the NTIA Broadband Grant request for the Collins Mississippi project. Cable South is committed to the project of overbuilding the current one-way coax network with a 100% Fiber to the home GPON network that will be constructed to all homes and businesses within the proposed service area. We are also committed to the 10% cost sharing total of the project and have the funds available to do so without need to secure them from 3rd party/bank financing. Should the project be approved we are ready to begin immediately.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Drew Cannon'.

Drew Cannon

COO



VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

July 20, 2021

Mississippi Public Utilities Staff
ATTN: RFI Response to NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Program
501 N. West Street
Suite 301B
Jackson, MS 39201

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to serve as documentation that Telepak Networks, Inc (d/b/a C Spire) is willing and able to provide a 10% match on all proposed grants in the attached application. The proposed projects will bring all fiber services to residents and community anchor institutions who desperately need improved connectivity. C Spire is willing and able to begin construction on all proposed projects as soon as the grant application is approved and will complete construction by the required date of December 1, 2022.

Should you have additional questions or need further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Ben Pace
Chief Financial Officer
bpac@cspire.com
601-974-7151



FRANKLIN TELEPHONE COMPANY

1018 Highland Colony Parkway, Suite 700
Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157
Telephone: 601-355-1522 Fax: 601-353-0950

July 20, 2021

VIA EMAIL TO angel.stenmark@mpus.ms.gov

Mississippi Public Utilities Staff
ATTN: Angel Stenmark
50 N. West Street, Suite 31
Jackson, MS 39216

Dear Ms. Stenmark:

This letter is to serve as documentation that Franklin Telephone Company, Inc. ("Franklin") is willing and able to provide a 10% match on all proposed grants in the attached application. The proposed projects will bring all fiber services to residents and businesses who desperately need improved connectivity. Franklin is willing and able to plan and promptly begin construction on all proposed projects as soon as the grant application is approved and will complete construction by the required date of December 1, 2022.

As a privately held company, Franklin does not have any labor agreements in place and work will be completed through a variety of in-house employees and independent contractors, depending upon the job requirements.

Should you have additional questions or need further assistance, please feel free to contact me at wgoings@telapexinc.com or 601-487-5264

Sincerely,

Wesley Goings

cc: Tom Griffin, Franklin Telephone Company



September 9th 2021

Brian Smith
President, CEO Uplink LLC
1315 Industrial Park Dr.
Clarksdale, MS 38614

Re: Letter of Commitment to Deploy Broadband internet infrastructure to rural communities in Mississippi, Coahoma County.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen

I am writing to express my commitment that Uplink LLC, if awarded the NTIA grant, will build broadband infrastructure to the rural communities as laid out in the NTIA Project Narrative.

Uplink LLC has a commitment from the Coahoma County Board of Supervisors to provide a 10% matching funds to the NTIA grant.

Below is the Executive Summary of the Project Narrative.

Uplink LLC is proposing a broadband project in Coahoma County Mississippi. The planned project will include two main technologies. We propose to run fiber from our Network Operation Center at 1315 Industrial Park Dr. Clarksdale Mississippi to five towns and one community. This fiber network will be capable of delivering 1+ gigabit of data to homes and businesses. These towns include Rena Lara and surrounding communities, Friars Point, Coahoma, Jonestown, and Lula as well as the community of Viney Ridge outside of Clarksdale. We also propose to use a tower network of 35+ towers spread across Coahoma County capable of delivering 150+ MBPS symmetrical data to homes across the rural areas of Coahoma county.

Sincerely,
Brian Smith
CEO Uplink LLC

Re: BCI Mississippi Broadband LLC Application—Commitment Affidavit as to NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Program

I, John Wuerdeman, having personal knowledge of the following and being first duly sworn according to law, do state and declare as follow:

1. I am the Vice-President and General Manager for BCI Mississippi Broadband LLC, doing business as MaxxSouth Broadband.
2. I make the statements herein based on my personal knowledge, and those statements are true, accurate, and made under oath.
3. This affidavit is provided as support with respect to MaxxSouth Broadband's application for NTIA funding on a broadband expansion project in and around Benton, Union and Pontotoc County, MS.
4. MaxxSouth Broadband provides services in the State of Mississippi and the State of Alabama, but it does not provide services in the area at issue in this application because it does not have the necessary infrastructure in place.
5. Overall, MaxxSouth Broadband's operations, and particularly its construction of broadband infrastructure, has been impacted by supply line issues in the technology industry which have pushed delivery of necessary equipment out as far as twelve months from purchase.
6. This issue is not specific to MaxxSouth Broadband; based on industry information and news, the issue is national in scope and is affecting not only internet service providers but the automotive industry and other industries that need access to chips and other computing technology.

7. As Vice President and General Manager of MaxxSouth Broadband, I am an officer of that company and am authorized to make binding statements and commitments on its behalf.
8. Consistent with this authority, I authorize the application for NTIA funding with which this affidavit is submitted.
9. Further, I have reviewed the overall project plan and budget, and confirm that the plan and budget are authorized.
10. Further, I have reviewed and approved MaxxSouth Broadband's 10% matching funding for this project.
11. MaxxSouth Broadband plans to construct the project as described in this application on its own, and it does not intend to involve any third-party collaborators or partners.
12. While MaxxSouth Broadband plans and intends to complete the project as described in the budget and plan, I acknowledge that the overall project timeline may be impacted by the failure of suppliers to deliver necessary equipment in a timely manner.
13. With respect to the project plan and budget, I confirm that MaxxSouth Broadband has budgeted and otherwise committed the resources necessary to execute the project plan and budget if the grant is provided and accepted, subject to the proviso that the overall project timeline is contingent upon the availability of fiber and necessary equipment to complete the build.
14. Included in the grant application are maps of the areas we proposed to service using the subject project.

15. In addition, attached hereto are documents reflecting pro forma financial information and analyses relevant to the proposed project.



August 12, 2021

Ms. Evelyn Remaley
Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Ms. Remaley:

Bay Springs Telephone Company, Inc., dba: TEC is applying for the NTIA grant in a partnership with the Mississippi Public Utilities Staff (MPUS) for the Smith County Community Broadband Project. MPUS is representing the State of Mississippi in the partnership for the application. If the funding is awarded, the State of Mississippi would then award the funding to TEC to build the proposed network. All documentation would be submitted by TEC to MPUS to support the construction costs and if there is any excess funding, it will be reimbursed to the state at the end of the project.

TEC will manage the Smith County Community Broadband Project from start to finish, by acquisition of certain material and electronics, engaging an engineering firm to stake and create plans and specifications, bidding or negotiating contractor rates for core construction as well as fiber drops and managing these contractors to the proposed timeline. TEC will also market the service during construction, presell service with a sales team, engage internal customer care and plant technicians to provide maintenance and support of the network as it is lit. TEC will own and support the network after the project is completed.

TEC also commits a 10% cash match up to \$612,000 for the proposed \$6,119,828 project.

Sincerely,



Lisa Wigington
Vice President of Strategic Operations

A P.O. Box 409
382 Highway 18
Bay Springs, MS 39422

P 800.832.2515

F 601.764.2051

W www.tec.com



Corporate Office:

We Connect Communications, LLC
P.O. Box 922
Bay Springs, MS 39422
601-764-3463

Ms. Evelyn Remaley
Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Letter of Commitment

Dear Ms. Remaley:

Please be advised that, in the event that the We Connect, Inc. Hopewell NTIA Fiber Expansion Project grant funding is approved, I hereby commit the Corporation's resources of at least 10% of any grant funding awarded. We Connect Communications commits to partnering with the Mississippi Public Utilities Staff in order to construct an underground fiber optic network in parts of northern Calhoun County in rural north Mississippi.

We are excited to participate in this grant funding opportunity in order to help boost job growth and economic development in rural Mississippi through broadband expansion. We Connect Communications is a Mississippi family-owned business with strong connections to the community. We Connect Communications has an experienced management team with decades of experience. This enables us to handle each portion of the network rollout including planning, engineering and construction, network management, and technicians for 24/7 response and support after completion.

If funded, we commit to beginning this project immediately and will have the capacity to service these customers with speeds up to a symmetrical gig (1GB/1GB) immediately upon completion. The network provided will be ultra-resilient to weather and pests as well as completely scalable and futureproof. The proposed service area is ripe for economic growth with plenty of industries ready to benefit from this project, and with this grant funding we commit to partnering with the MPUS to ensure that the area benefits from all growth aspects related to broadband expansion.

Thank you for your consideration and time.

Sincerely,

Christa L. Alexander

Christa L. Alexander

Vice-President of Operations and Secretary
We Connect Communications
O: 601-764-3463 · christa@failinc.com

ROGER F. WICKER
MISSISSIPPI

ARMED SERVICES
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION
COMMISSION ON SECURITY
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

SUITE 555
DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224 - 6253
www.wicker.senate.gov

August 12, 2021

The Honorable Evelyn Remaley
Acting Assistant Secretary
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20230-0001

Dear Acting Assistant Secretary Remaley,

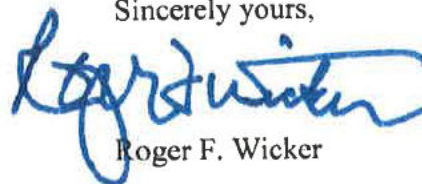
I would like to express my strong support for the application submitted by the Mississippi Public Utilities Staff (MPUS) for a Broadband Infrastructure Program (CFDA Number 11.031) grant.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of expanding broadband's reach to rural America, and the MPUS proposal would increase access to critical broadband services in underserved areas of Mississippi. This application would fund the following projects: Lincoln; Mayersville; Livingston-Vernon Road; Broadband Deployment to Coahoma; Smith County Community Broadband Phase 1; Tylertown; Collins; New Albany Light, Gas, and Water Rural Broadband; Pontotoc EPA Rural Broadband; Bruce Telephone Company; and WeConnect Hopewell.

These projects would enable Mississippians to work, learn, and receive vital healthcare services in their communities. I hope that you will give the Mississippi Public Utilities Staff's application every consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide additional information.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,



Roger F. Wicker

RFW/MAB

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

August 12, 2021

The Honorable Evelyn Remaley
Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Acting Assistant Secretary Remaley:

We write in strong support of the application submitted by the Mississippi Public Utilities Staff (MPUS) for the National Telecommunication and Information Administration's Broadband Infrastructure Program (CFDA Number 11.031).

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of expanding broadband's reach to rural America, and the MPUS proposal would increase access to critical broadband services in underserved areas of Mississippi. This application would fund projects titled Lincoln; Mayersville; Livingston-Vernon Road; Broadband Deployment to Coahoma; Smith County Community Broadband Phase 1; Tylertown; Collins; New Albany Light, Gas, and Water Rural Broadband; Pontotoc EPA Rural Broadband; Bruce Telephone Company; and WeConnect Hopewell.

These projects would enable Mississippians to work, learn, and receive vital healthcare services in their communities. We ask that you give the MPUS application every consideration, consistent with applicable rules and regulations. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Steven Palazzo
Member of Congress



Trent Kelly
Member of Congress



Michael Guest
Member of Congress

BRANDON PRESLEY

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER

August 11, 2021

Ms. Evelyn Remaley
Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

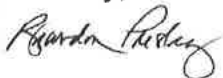
Dear Ms. Remaley,

Please accept the letter as a demonstration of the Mississippi Public Service Commission – Northern District's support of the four projects by MaxxSouth (New Albany Light, Gas, and Water Rural Broadband and Pontotoc EPA Rural Broadband), UpLink (Broadband Deployment to Coahoma), WeConnect (WeConnect Hopewell) and Bruce Telephone (Bruce Telephone Company) submitted as a part of Mississippi's application to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Broadband Infrastructure Program Notice of Funding Opportunity. These proposed projects will bring high-speed, fiber-based broadband internet services to residents and community anchor institutions who desperately need improved connectivity.

This will have an immense impact in the northern region of Mississippi, and it will be extremely beneficial for our state. It cannot be overstated how important it is for all Mississippians to have access to reliable broadband internet and these areas will not likely receive service under any other typical economic models for expansion.

Residents in unserved areas of Mississippi reach out to the Commission on a regular basis inquiring about fiber-to-the-home services and lamenting the lack of internet access. While there is still much work to be done to expand internet access in the state, this is a great step in the right direction. For these reasons, I request the NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Program to fund C-Spire's two proposed broadband expansion projects.

Sincerely,



Commissioner Brandon Presley
Mississippi Public Service Commissioner
Northern District

DISTRICT OFFICE: 431 WEST MAIN STREET, SUITE 306, TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI 38804
TELEPHONE: 1-800-637-7722

Supplemental Information for WeConnect's Hopewell NTIA Project Proposal

- (1) Latency Information: 95% or more of all peak period measurements of network roundtrip latency will be at or below 100 milliseconds. The proposed project anticipates super low latency upon completion and will provide broadband capacity more than sufficient to support real-time, interactive applications.
- (2) Part of the NTIA application analysis attempts to determine the capacity of the proposed networks. For GPON networks as proposed in the Mississippi application typically capacity is determined by the Optical Line Terminals (OLTs). Please provide the number of OLTs proposed to be deployed and the associated capacity of each OLT for the following markets:
 - a. Calhoun County

1 Calix E7-2 shelf – 2 10gig uplinks

2 Calix GPON-8r2 Cards (redundant uplinks to Bruce) capable of 16 PONs

6 GPON Optics = 192 capacity

1. Question from NTIA: Part of the NTIA application analysis attempts to determine the capacity of the proposed networks. For GPON networks as proposed in the Mississippi application typically capacity is determined by the Optical Line Terminals (OLTs). Please provide the number of OLTs proposed to be deployed and the associated capacity of each OLT for the following markets:

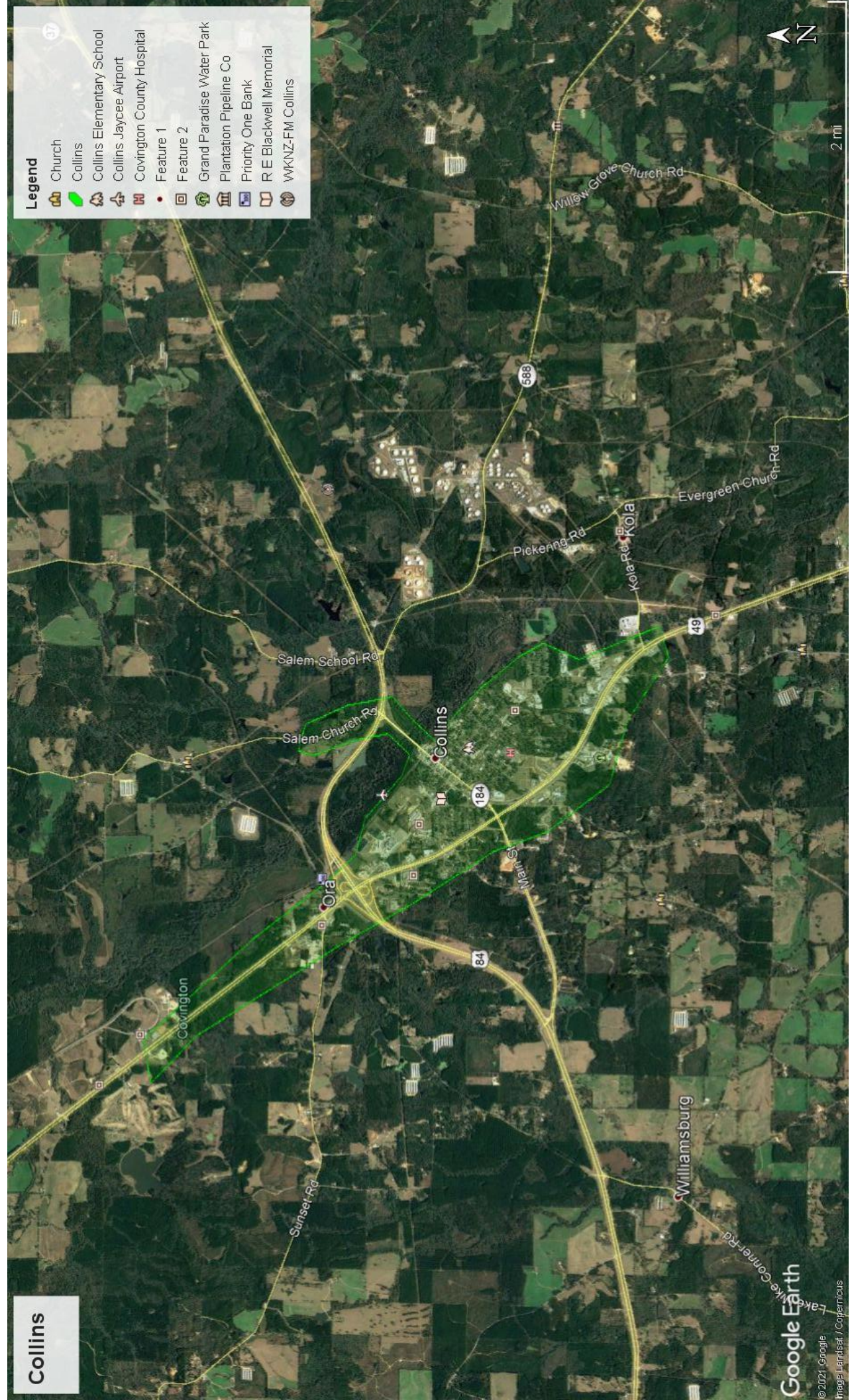
- Issaquena County -
 - 120 residential and 10 small businesses proposed to be passed
 - Madison County
 - 101 residential and 32 small businesses proposed to be passed
- ANSWER to Question:

Project	Number of Potential Customers	Customers Per Port	OLT Ports Required	Spare Port	Total OLT Ports Required	Capacity
Issaquena County	130	32	5	1	6	2.5 GB per OLT port
Madison County	133	32	5	1	6	2.5 GB per OLT port

Collins

Legend

- Church
- Collins
- Collins Elementary School
- Collins Jaycee Airport
- Covington County Hospital
- Feature 1
- Feature 2
- Grand Paradise Water Park
- Plantation Pipeline Co
- Priority One Bank
- R E Blackwell Memorial
- WKNZ-FM Collins



Google Earth

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