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Organization: Buggs Island Telephone Cooperative

Project Name: BIT Wireless Broadband Initiative

Project Type: Infrastructure

State(s): Virginia

Federal Award: \$18,983,648

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The BIT Wireless Broadband Initiative project plans to bring high-speed affordable broadband services to 15 underserved counties and the cities of Emporia and Franklin in South Central Virginia by expanding and enhancing its existing high-speed broadband and voice communications wireless network. The BIT Wireless project intends to offer wireless broadband at speeds of up to 10 Mbps to as many as 100,000 households, 14,800 businesses, and 800 community anchor institutions. In addition, the project will promote broadband adoption by discounting the cost of the equipment necessary to subscribe at home.

The BIT Wireless Broadband Initiative project also proposes to:

- Offer discounted rates to all critical community facilities and anchor institutions, including 73 fire departments and rescue squad facilities, and 47 police departments and sheriff offices.
- Provide enhanced telemedicine capabilities to healthcare professionals by providing a managed, private network that will securely transfer medical files and facilitate remote medical consultation.
- Deliver the bandwidth necessary to provide distance learning and live digital classroom experiences.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The Buggs Island Telephone Cooperative, located in Bracey, Virginia was founded as in 1951 and has been providing telephone and broadband services to households in Southern Virginia for 59 years. The company currently operates a traditional wireline network and manages 18,000 telephone access lines in parts of Mecklenburg and Brunswick counties. It currently provides local, long distance, broadband and other communications services to more than 4,000 subscribers. It launched its wireless broadband service in an adjacent area of Virginia in early 2010. The match for the project is made possible by the Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- AirSpan
- Mid-Atlantic Broadband Cooperative
- Neonova Network Services
- Southside Virginia Community College
- Southside Planning District Commission
- Stutler Technologies

Data provided in the project description is based on information supplied by the applicant. An executive summary of this application can be found on www.broadbandusa.gov.

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