

Public Notice Submission

Provider Name: Mulberry Cooperative Telephone Co., Inc.

Summary: The census tracts listed in this Service Provider Response are currently served by Mulberry Cooperative Telephone Co., Inc (Mulberry) in accordance with the broadband definition in the NOFA. Mulberry responds by providing documentation to prove that these proposed overlapping areas currently served by Mulberry are in fact adequately served. All households located in the designated overlapping census tract areas that are served by Mulberry have access to adequate and affordable middle mile transport facilities as well as last mile broadband service. Mulberry offers middle mile services to connect their exchange areas to other communities in Indiana. Mulberry is part of the Indiana Fiber Network (IFN) which has diversely routed fiber optic cable throughout the state of Indiana. IFN has deployed a number of transport network rings, each with a capacity of 2.5 Gbps or 10 Gbps. The IFN network provides high reliability and resiliency from a potential fiber optic cable cut. This existing fiber optic cable infrastructure and transport network electronics provide adequate transport facilities to serve the needs of Mulberry service territory as well as the other locations within Indiana. Mulberry also offers last mile services in and around towns of Mulberry and Dayton, as well as the rural portions of the exchange. In their service territory, Mulberry has deployed technology capable of providing broadband access to 100 percent of their subscribers. Specifically, the end customers are provided broadband services via either ADSL2+ or VDSL2 technology over twisted-pair copper plant or via Fiber to the Premises technology. Mulberry advertises 5 Mbps service to their subscribers. In addition, it should be noted that virtually all locations within their service territory are currently capable of being served with a minimum of 12 Mbps of broadband access. Some subscribers may be able to receive data rates of 100 Mbps or more depending on the technology that is used to serve them and their proximity to the Central Office or remote cabinet electronics. In conclusion, Mulberry has made substantial investments to serve both the town and rural subscribers in their service territory. These locations cannot be considered either underserved or unserved and if funding is provided in the area would only be building unnecessary facilities. Mulberry currently provides (and will continue to provide) highly reliable, state-of-the-art services to the businesses and residents of these areas. The proposed service areas contained in the BTOP applications that are currently served by Mulberry should not be eligible for funding.