

Public Notice Submission

Provider Name: Northeast Service Cooperative (NESC)

Summary: NESC is a USDA RUS Round 1 awardee (reference "NESC Middle Mile Fiber Project" - EasyGrant: 1928. Our project consists of 915 mi of middle mile fiber and connects; 8 counties, 38 communities, 3 tribal reservations, 85 townships and connect at least 221 critical service institutions. Service Tiers are limited to "Critical" service institutions; Education, Emergency Services; Police, Fire, HealthCare, Federal, State and local government. We are connecting ALL sites with 1Gbps fiber loops connecting to 3 rings with 100Gbps redundant capacity. We have identified the Point of Presence by community where interconnection and points of presence will be available in the region. We are concerned that many if not all Community Connect projects proposing service in the areas will result in funding duplication and jeopardize the public sector funding mechanisms for the awarded middle mile project. Applicants of the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure should not be proposing any new construction within our project region. We were engaged by one middle mile project but they failed to provide requested detail that would identify any leveraging of the funded round 1 project. We have been working with 3 providers along with the State of MN to secure a dark fiber IRU from Duluth to Minneapolis and there is at least one private construction project already underway to build the Minneapolis to Duluth fiber route. Public Computing Center applications should reflect their connectivity to the NESC Middle Mile Fiber Project as part of their application. We would hope that PCC's would be encouraged to work with the Middle Mile project.

We have identified the following County/Tracts to have potential overlap with the funded Round 1 Middle Mile Project.

Carlton County; 27017970100-27017970500, Pine County; 27115950100-27115950700, St Louis County; 27137000100 -

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