



**Broadband Infrastructure Application
Submission to RUS (BIP) and NTIA (BTOP)**

Submitted Date: 8/19/2009 6:13:18 PM	Easygrants ID: 2259
Funding Opportunity: Broadband Initiatives Program and Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: North Florida Broadband Authority
Task: Submit Application - Infrastructure Programs	Applicant Name: Mr. Patrick Lien

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A. General Application Information

1. Applicant Information	
1-A. Name, Address, and Federal ID for Applicant	
i. Legal Name:	North Florida Broadband Authority
ii. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):	300574690
Street 1:	1500 Mahan Drive
Street 2:	Suite 250
City:	Tallahassee
County:	Leon
State:	FL
Country	United States
Zip/Postal Code:	32308-5177

1-B. Name and Contact Information of Person to be Contacted on Matters Involving this Application:	
Prefix:	Mr.
First Name:	Patrick
Middle Name:	
Last Name:	Lien
Suffix:	
Telephone Number:	407-701-9037
Fax Number:	
Email:	plien@govserv.com
Title:	System Manager



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1-C. Other Required Identification Numbers	
i. Organizational DUNS:	831497651
ii. CCR # (CAGE):	5MHY2
iii. Funding Opportunity Number:	1
iv. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:	BTOP CFDA Number: 11.557 BIP CFDA Number: 10.787 BTOP CFDA Title: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program BIP CFDA Title: Broadband Initiatives Program

1-D Eligible Entities

Please classify your organization. (Note: If there are multiple organizations involved in the project, designate the lead applicant that would enter into a Loan or Grant agreement with the Agency and assume operational and financial responsibility should an award be made). **Local, State, or Other Government Entity**

1-E. RUS Borrower Status

No

1-F. Applicant Federal Debt Delinquency Explanation

Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? **No**

Federal debt delinquency Explanation:

North Florida Broadband Authority is not delinquent on any Federal Debt. This is a newly created Government entity.

2. Project Description & Project Title

2-A. Project Title: Ubiquitous Middle Mile

2-B. Project Description: The North Florida Broadband Authority(NFBA)Project represents a collaborative effort from 14 rural Florida counties and several cities. This project will create a new Middle Mile infrastructure across the region to deliver high-speed broadband access to vastly improve sustainable economic development, educational resources, and access to advanced health care services.



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3. Application ID for Multiple Submissions for Identified Service Areas:
North Florida Broadband Authority is submitting an application for a single service area.

4. Rural Area Determination

At least 75 percent of the proposed service area to be funded falls within rural areas that are unserved or underserved.

Yes

5. Applications for Rural Areas: Please choose the funding program(s) to which you are submitting this application.

a) BIP broadband infrastructure category to which you are applying:

BIP - Middle Mile Project

b) Would you like this Application for Rural Areas to also be considered for BTOP funding?

Yes

c) BTOP Infrastructure category for which you are applying.

Middle Mile

6. Applications for All Other Areas: Per the NOFA, all applications to fund broadband infrastructure projects in areas that are less than 75% rural must be submitted to NTIA for consideration under BTOP.

BTOP broadband infrastructure category to which you are applying: **Middle Mile**

B. Eligibility Factors

7. Application Submission

BIP and BTOP Factors Selected By Applicant:

Applicant has submitted a completed application and provided all supporting documentation required for the application.

The Project will be substantially complete within 2nd year from the award date, and the project will be fully



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<p>complete by the end of the 3rd year from the award date.</p>
<p>For projects seeking more than \$1 million funding, the Applicant agrees to submit a certification, from a Professional Engineer, that attests that a) the system will deliver the stated performance; and b) the projected project will be substantially completed within two years, and fully completed within three years.</p>
<p>The Applicant provides two-way data transmission with advertised speeds of at least 768 kbps downstream and 200 kbps upstream.</p>
<p>Applicant understands and agrees to comply with the nondiscrimination and interconnection obligations outlined in the NOFA.</p>

<p>Additional Factors for BIP Selected By Applicant</p>
<p>At least 75 percent of the proposed funded service area qualifies as unserved and underserved rural areas in accordance with the NOFA.</p>
<p>Applicant understands and agrees that the project will be fully funded in accordance with the requirements of the NOFA.</p>
<p>Applicant understands and agrees that only projects that RUS determines to be financially feasible and/or economically sustainable will be eligible under this NOFA.</p>

<p>Additional BTOP Factors Selected By Applicant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conformity with Statutory Purposes • Cost Sharing/Matching • Reasonableness of Project Budget



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The project advances at least one of the statutory purposes for BTOP
Applicant has provided documentation that the project would not have been implemented during the grant period without federal grant assistance.
Applicant has provided a budget that is appropriate to the proposed technical solution and only includes eligible costs.

- Demonstration the Project Could not be Implemented But For Federal Grant Assistance**
 Applicant is providing matching funds of at least 20 percent towards the total eligible project costs?
No

7-k. Cost Sharing/Matching Fund Explanation
The North Florida Broadband Authority is requesting a waiver of the 20% matching funds requirement for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) pursuant to Section 6001(f) of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 (ARRA).
Space is quite limited in this section - please refer to the complete waiver request and supporting documentation contained in the supplemental documentation under "BTOP Waiver Request".

C. Executive Summary

Executive Summary of Project for BIP and BTOP:

8. Infrastructure Projects Executive Summary

8. Executive Summary of Project for BIP and BTOP

The North Florida Broadband Authority (NFBA) is applying for project funding under the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) and Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP) as part of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The NFBA project will build a new Middle Mile broadband infrastructure, which will link together



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providers of vital public sector commercial services with private sector non-profit entities for the first time. Support for this new middle mile infrastructure is unanimous across government, incumbents and new entrants alike. Further, this area has been hard hit by the recession and will remain without broadband for many years to come without this grant.

The North Florida Broadband Authority is a newly formed government entity, based on Florida Home Rule statutes which allow governments to create a single entity by interlocal agreements. The assets provided from the federal government will not be owned or controlled by commercial interest. It will be a utility like infrastructure similar to sewer, water and electrical companies, but focused on "Middle Mile" broadband. The counties included in the region are: Columbia, Baker, Bradford, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Putnam, Suwannee, Taylor and Union.

The North Florida Broadband Authority ("NFBA") project fully complies with all of the BTOP statutory goals as identified in the grant application. When completed, the project will provide the first-ever -- and only -- open, ubiquitous, Middle Mile access to broadband Internet services for both private entities and public institutions in the underserved areas of northern Florida. This area, which is composed of a 14 county RACEC (Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern), is deemed by the Governor as a priority for broadband. The NFBA will deliver up to 1,000 times the existing capacity to these counties within the stipulated 3-year time frame.

This network passes 154, 258 households, and 26,893 businesses. In addition, the project will pass 1,573 critical facilities, and 265 health care entities, according to the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration.

The NFBA Middle Mile project will spur additional private investment in Last Mile infrastructure to provide constituents of the 14-county RACEC with new, enhanced and/or redundant multi megabit broadband access to critical broadband services. In fact, there is a RUS funded last mile provider, Main Street Broadband, who has already received \$8 million in funding for 12 of the 14 counties. They have not been able to launch due to lack of middle mile access. Our deployment will not only allow this to occur but will speed up their deployment by 50-75% and perhaps insure the RUS loan provided by USDA. Most importantly, NFBA will accomplish these goals at a reasonable cost and in an open-network, neutral-network fashion in accordance with the rules spelled out in the NOFA and following



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FCC principles.

The NFBA project will support community anchor institutions, such as schools, hospital, clinics, public safety, libraries and community colleges by bringing very high speed ubiquitous broadband to these areas. These institutions will be able to provide area residents, including those who do not own a computer, with access to a variety of services including virtual learning, online vocational and technical training, formal education courses and awareness programs. In addition, new online K-12 education level courses for children can be offered with full access to the same resources found in a “normal” classroom, such as specialized book collections, course materials, and library resources.

The NFBA project is designed to be the backbone supporting a range of e-government deployments, which connect government entities with constituents in the county and the region. Low-income, unemployed, aged and otherwise vulnerable populations in the area will have online access to support agencies, such as American Red Cross, Department of Education, Department of Health and Human Services, Environmental Protection Agency, Association of Health Care Administrators and other organizations at the Federal, State, and Local level.

In addition, the NFBA project will greatly expand broadband access to public safety/first responder agencies. Specifically, the project design incorporates a secure multi-megabit connection for intranet and internet connectivity. The network will give public safety organizations the ability to leverage vertical assets while its architecture accommodates the likely future deployment of fleet mobile broadband connectivity.

The IP-based system has been designed to allow for secure, prioritized LAN connectivity including the potential ability to interface land mobile radios (LMRs) directly into the NFBA IP network. Further, this IP based system will be the groundwork for the recently allocated 700 MHz spectrum data network of the future. This feature, which will allow first responders to make voice calls and talk groups from LMR systems and new 700 MHz data systems to anywhere in the world, means that emergency relief efforts can be quickly coordinated in response to catastrophic events, such as flooding, tropical storms, hurricanes, and power outages, which are common to the north Florida region.

This project will also greatly stimulate the demand for economic growth and job creation. For



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example, the number of employees to be hired directly for this project within the 14-county area is estimated at more than 100 over the next five years. These will be high technology network and IT engineering positions, along with several management positions. With a majority of these positions based in the 14-county RACEC, the NFBA project will bring the additional benefit of improving living conditions for area residents and families. Lack of broadband infrastructure has hindered recent developments to lure new industry to the area.

Another significant impact will be realized in the form of job growth through access to Last Mile broadband services in both the private and public sector. For example, Main Street Broadband will be requiring an estimated 10-15 employment positions in each county, covering Internet-based employment and remote telecommunications, with specialists in the areas of telemedicine, virtual learning and online sales.

Description of BTOP Project Purpose (BTOP Applicants Only Next Three Questions)

9. BTOP Statutory Purpose:



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Provide access to broadband service to consumers residing in “unserved” areas of the United States.
Provide improved access to broadband service to consumers residing in “underserved” areas of the United States.
Provide broadband education, awareness, training, access, equipment, and support to schools, libraries, medical and healthcare providers, community colleges and other institutions of higher education, and other community support organizations by or through these organizations.
Provide broadband education, awareness, training, access, equipment, and support to organizations and agencies that provide outreach, access, equipment and support services to facilitate greater use of broadband service by low-income, unemployed, aged, and otherwise vulnerable populations.
Provide broadband education, awareness, training, access, equipment, and support to job-creating strategic facilities located within a defined economic zone, or community as designated by a State authority, Department of Commerce , HUD or USDA.
Improve access to, and use of, broadband service by public safety agencies.
Stimulate the demand for broadband, economic growth, and job creation.

10. Description of BTOP Project Purpose:

In 2003, former Governor Jeb Bush created the third and largest of Florida’s three Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern (RACECs). The North Central Florida RACEC (designation re-certified in 2008) encompasses 14 counties including Baker, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Putnam, Suwannee, Taylor and Union. The area is home to more than 350,000 Floridians and contributes resources to five metropolitan statistical areas.

As suggested by its RACEC designation, this 9,197-square mile area is characterized by socio-economic, economic development, and quality of life metrics that demand improvement:

- High unemployment and underemployment
- Low per capita income



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- Low wages compared to more urban areas and the state average
- Among the highest percentages of families living below the poverty level and receiving public assistance
- Lower housing values compared to the state average
- Lack of volume, diversity, and access to higher wage/quality business, industry jobs and economic development
- Highest percentage of underperforming public schools, including 2 of the 3 lowest graded districts;
- Largest ratio of eligible families for free and reduced lunch program services in the state;

While meeting all 5 of the statutory goals identified in the BTOP/BIP grant application, the North Florida Broadband Authority (NFBA) project will for the first time provide ubiquitous Middle Mile broadband Internet access to residents, private entities, public institutions and the business community in unserved, underserved and remote areas of North Florida in the North Central RACEC.

At the end of the three-year buildout period, the NFBA project will deliver up to 1000 times the existing capacity within the coverage area. The Middle Mile project will spur private investment in Last Mile infrastructure, which will provide RACEC residents and businesses with access to critical broadband services.

The NFBA project will enable local organizations and governments to introduce online education, training, awareness and other programs as broadband becomes available. By connecting critical strategic community anchor institutions, such as schools, libraries and community colleges, even residents who do not own a computer will have access to virtual learning resources.

With the NFBA broadband infrastructure in place, online K-12 education level courses for children, which include full access to the same resources found in any standard classroom, such as book collections, course materials, library and other research sources, can be offered.

The NFBA project will also serve as the backbone for deployment of e-government services, which are designed to interconnect government with constituents. Low-income, unemployed, aged, and otherwise vulnerable populations in these rural areas will have access to



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organizations and agencies that provide outreach and support services, such as the American Red Cross, Department of Education, Department of Health and Human Services, Environmental Protection Agency, and many other organizations at the Federal, State, and local level.

In addition, the NFBA project will greatly expand broadband access to public safety/first responder agencies. Specifically, the project design incorporates a secure multi-megabit connection for intranet and internet connectivity. The network will give public safety organizations the ability to leverage vertical assets while its architecture accommodates the future deployment of fleet mobile broadband connectivity.

The NFBA's IP-based system will lay the groundwork for the recently allocated 700 MHz spectrum data network of the future. This development will allow first responders to make voice calls and talk groups from LMR systems and new 700 MHz data systems to anywhere in the world. That means emergency relief efforts can be quickly coordinated in response to catastrophic events, such as flooding, tropical storms, hurricanes, and power outages, which are common to the north Florida region.

The NFBA project will also stimulate economic growth and create jobs. During the next five years, the estimated number of direct-hire employees for this project within the 14-county area is more than 100. Many of these jobs require high technology network and IT engineering skills; others are management and administrative positions. The majority of these jobs will be based in the 14-county RACEC covered by the NFBA project.

While some quality of life, economic and growth indicators are in need of dramatic improvement, the North Central Florida region is expected to grow exponentially over the next few decades. The NFBA project presents an opportunity to enhance the economic profile of every county and city in the area.

11. BTOP Enhanced Services for Health Care Delivery, Education, and Children:

With its high speed ubiquitous broadband network, the NFBA project will support community anchor institutions, such as schools and, hospitals, physical and mental health clinics, public safety organizations, vocational, technical community colleges. Even RACEC residents who do not own a computer, will have access to a variety of online educational, training and health awareness services, through libraries, community centers, and outreach



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facilities, most of which have not had access, as ubiquitous high-speed broadband service was previously unavailable in the region.

- **Health care facilities:** Hospitals, clinics, long-term care facilities, radiology, clinical laboratories and home health care providers will benefit from the performance capabilities of the NFBA project broadband infrastructure. Real-Time Access to specialists, Labs, Medical Research Facilities, and teaching hospitals is enabled. Hospitals and clinics, in particular, which routinely send large files, such as x-rays and MRI scans, should be connected at the highest bandwidth available (100 Mbps recommended). Today, ARRA funding is available for Electronic Health Record Systems, which require broadband access to achieve full functionality.
- **Volume of hospital inpatient and emergency department encounters:** As the number of patients seen in emergency departments and admitted to hospitals rises, the potential volume of records transferred in a health information exchange setting climbs in tandem. Real time availability of a patient's history and test results will greatly improve the quality of health care. With the NFBA broadband infrastructure in place, health care providers will have the latest in technology and information at their fingertips.
- **An increasing number of doctors and the health care workforce, including all licensed health care practitioners, need access to broadband to do their jobs.** Access to broadband can provide not only online training for children grades K-12, recent studies have shown it can exert a positive impact on high school graduation rates. High School grads receive approximately \$1,600 per month in additional income, according to national research data. Additionally, expansion of broadband access opens opportunities to work from home and remote offices, creating job opportunities well beyond company relocations and expansions.

With the availability of broadband, anchor institutions can help mitigate conditions of persistent poverty by providing Internet access to job seekers, as well as streamlining access to governmental services, health care and elderly care. Less dramatically, but nevertheless important to the health of any community, the NFBA project can lessen the deleterious effects of isolation due to lack of transportation and direct contact with the outside world by providing a communication channel to virtually every



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resident in the coverage area.

D. Proposed Funded Service Area

12. Proposed Funded Service Area Maps:

12-A. Service Area Map (Reference Number): **B0D8-E436-40FF-9A34**

12-B. Is the applicant is seeking a waiver for providing less than 100% coverage of a census block. **No**

13. Proposed Funded Service Area (BIP - Last Mile Projects):

Please refer to section M at the end of document.

14. Proposed Funded Service Area (BTOP - Middle Mile Project):

Please refer to section M at the end of document.

15. Non-Funded Service Area(BIP Only):

North Florida Broadband Authority (NFBA) is not an existing Internet Service Provider in Northern Florida, therefore we do not have any existing service areas. Additionally, NFBA will not be covering areas that will not be funded by these Program(s).

16. Coverage Waiver:

Applicant is seeking a waiver for providing less than 100% coverage of a census block.

No

For Response of "Yes" please refer to upload section for additional supporting documentation.

17. Methodology for Area Status:

In order to determine the areas of need for broadband infrastructure and adoption, Rivada Sea Lion used a proven and defined five-step process to gather and analyze supporting data for the focus market(s). In Stage 1 we identify and create the source data related to availability, adoption and "at risk" populations. Next, in Stage 2 we evaluate the Proposed Service Area in relation to identified Census Blocks/Tracts along with borderline serving areas. In Stage 3, we review and validate the data using an established business review database which has conducted field tests and surveys. Stage 4 consists of correlating and analyzing the findings to identify differences and to evaluate possible impact. Finally, in Stage 5, we categorized and validated the proposed service area to positively identify "unserved" and "underserved" areas related to provision of broadband internet service.



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Data Collection

To determine the percentages of broadband availability, adoption and vulnerable populations in the market, we leveraged Mediamark Research and Intelligence (MRI), Pew Data, Carrier Data, Demographics Now and other survey data as independent sources of information. Each provides differing metrics and granularity as well as certain overlapping information that allows us to achieve comparative results verification.

Relative to adoption of broadband, we used MRI database data to provide the following metrics at the CENSUS BLOCK level based on their information gathering:

The MRI data on Broadband/High Speed Internet cited in this NTIA/RUS application is derived from the Mediamark Research and Intelligence (MRI) Survey of the American Consumer™. The Survey of the American Consumer™ collects information from 26,000 adult consumers on media choices, product usage, demographics, lifestyle and attitudes. Usage of nearly 6,000 product and service brands across 550 categories are measured, along with the readership of hundreds of magazines and newspapers, Internet usage, TV viewership to the program level, national and local radio listening, Yellow Pages usage and Out-of-Home exposure. The MRI Internet portion of the data from this survey was accessed through Demographics Now, a product of SRC Company and an aggregator of in-depth demographic data. Information about the survey can be found at <http://www.mediamark.com>.

Evaluation of Target Data

The information used to classify the 2000 Census Blocks as unserved or underserved for broadband, or at least 75% rural, per the NOFA, made use of a comprehensive data mining method. Data available from multiple commercial and public sources were combined to create a Broadband Indicator to as fine a level of granularity as possible. These Broadband Indicator results were then mapped and compared using GIS software to the 2000 Census Block areas. Figures 8 and 9 of the Supplemental Submission of Figures file depict the completed overlay of the Proposed Service Areas on the actual GIS Map of the Census Areas.

A Broadband Indicator was determined by data analysis for: cable companies, DSL providers, Independent Wireless Internet Service Providers and fixed- and mobile-data providers (i.e., Cellular and PCS Carriers). Per the NOFA, each Census Block is further classified as rural,



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non-rural, remote and non-remote.

Review and Validation

Self-reported consumer information included internet registrations, survey cards, online surveys, registrations, and marketing solicitation data (this includes mail, telephone and in-person interviews). Input sources are continuously compiled and the Broadband Indicator was constructed using these aggregated inputs.

18. Middle Mile Benefits

It is imperative that the North Florida Broadband Authority (NFBA) build and maintain a Middle Mile infrastructure network in order to provide high-speed access to the region. This has particular significance in this area, which has been labeled a Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC), and deemed by the Governor to have the highest priority for investment in stimulating economic development, in this case, through the establishment of critical Middle Mile infrastructure. This is a region where the incumbent service providers have not found it economically feasible to extend services beyond the metro area boundaries.

Potential Service Providers

Main Street Broadband, who has already received \$8 Million in funding for 12 of the 14 counties, has thus far not been able to launch their last mile services due to lack of Middle Mile access. Our deployment will not only allow this to occur but will speed up their deployment by 50-75% and increase the implementation of the last mile networks contemplated by the RUS loan provided to Main Street. Further, based on our public meetings, we anticipate that other incumbents like Townes Telecom and others will use this infrastructure for existing and emerging commercial business endeavors.

Critical Community Facilities

This network passes 153,237 households, and 26,893 businesses. In addition, the project will pass 1,573 critical facilities (including hospitals, clinics, sheriff's departments, police stations, fire and rescue facilities, emergency management operations centers, schools, colleges, libraries, Internet Service Providers, airports, correctional institutions, and government agencies). The overwhelming support, evidenced by the 65+ letters received (all provided in the supplemental information package), has indicated enthusiastic the residents, anchor tenants,



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and service providers are to have access to high-speed broadband from the NFBA network.

FACILITY TYPE	Total	***	BUILDING TYPE	TOTAL
Airports	91	Chamber	1	
Beach	1	City Hall	4	
Bridges	10	Club	1	
Churches	837	Community Center	8	
Core Bldgs ***	205	Community Hall		2
Hospitals	17	Court / Criminal	3	
Military	9	EMS	4	
Mines	3	Fire	25	
Parks	67	Institution	15	
Post Offices	35	Library	29	
Schools	184	Medical Center		3
Towers	114	Misc	35	
Grand Total	1,573	Museum	4	
		Police	22	
		Power	4	
		School	3	
		Sheriff	19	
		Substation	18	
		Town Hall	5	
		Grand Total	205	

E. Proposed Service Offering

19. Broadband Service Offerings for Last Mile Project:

Please refer to upload section at the end of the document.

20. Service Offerings for Middle Mile Project:

Please refer to upload section at the end of the document.

Competing Service Providers



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21. Existing Broadband Service Providers and Services Offered:

Please refer to upload section at the end of the document.

Non-Discrimination, Interconnection

22. Description of Network Openness:

Regarding non-discrimination, our project will apply and enforce all NOFA non-discrimination and network interconnection obligations. Our approach adheres to all the non-discrimination requirements as set forth in the NOFA. We will display all non-discrimination practices in a prominent location on our web site and we will provide notice to customers of any changes to these policies. We are fully committed to offering wholesale access to the project facilities at reasonable rates and terms. We are also committed to binding private arbitration for any disputes concerning these interconnection obligations. Our network management practices and policies will:

- Adhere to the principles contained in the FCC’s Internet Policy Statement.
- Not show favoritism to any lawful Internet applications and content over others.
- Display any network management policies in a prominent location on the service provider’s web page and providing notice to customers on any changes to these policies.
- Connect to the public Internet directly, so that the North Florida Broadband Authority project is not a private closed network, but open to accessing all Internet resources.
- Offer interconnection, where technically feasible without exceeding current or reasonably anticipated capacity limitations, on reasonable rates and terms to be negotiated with requesting parties.

We are fully aware of all the obligations addressed in Section V(C)(2)(c) of the NOFA and have reviewed this section in its entirety to ensure we fully understand and exceed the requirements.

Non-Discrimination and Interconnection (BTOP applicants only for next three questions)



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23. Non-Discrimination Obligations (applicable to Last Mile and Middle Mile Applicants):

Adhere to the minimum non-discrimination requirements as set forth in the NOFA.
Display the nondiscrimination practices in a prominent location on the service provider's web page, and provide notice to customers of changes to these policies.

24. Interconnection Obligations (applicable to Last Mile Applicants):

--

25. Interconnection Obligations Middle Mile Applicants:

Adhere to the minimum interconnection requirements as set forth in the NOFA.
Display the interconnection policies in a prominent location on the service provider's web page, and provide notice to customers of changes to these policies.
Commit to offering wholesale access to network components and services such as wavelength or fibers at reasonable rates and terms.
Commit to binding private arbitration of disputes concerning interconnection obligations.

Cost Effectiveness and Affordability

26. Cost per Household (BTOP only):

The North Florida Broadband Authority Project - Ubiquitous Middle Mile Project, is not a last mile provider.

27. Affordability

The affordability of our service offerings are based on comparable pricing in urban



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markets. Instead of using existing copper or attempting to build a prohibitively expensive fiber optics network, we have chosen to use Microwave as the primary transport mechanism. As a general rule, the pricing will be \$100 per Mbps per month for direct internet access and \$75 per Mbps per month for basic transport service between sites within our “Middle Mile” transport network.

Within our 14 County RACEC, we have not been able to identify ANY advertised Middle Mile services. With the exception of a few State-owned facilities and a few metro fiber rings, we have found no advertised or voluntarily provided commercial Middle Mile assets in the region. We have concluded that this proposed network will not compete with any existing service provider, rather incumbents are very likely to become substantial users of the proposed NFBA Middle Mile network.

Further evidence to support our affordability is supported in a recent 2009 study on what libraries pay for internet access in our region.

TOP 5 MOST COSTLY FLORIDA COUNTIES FOR BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY

	Annual Cost per Mbps	Monthly Cost per Mbps
1. Dixie County	\$23,763	\$1,980.25
2. Union County	\$8,910	\$742.50
3. Gilchrist County	\$7,129	\$594.08
4. Putnam County	\$6,256	\$521.33
5. Osceola County	\$4,016	\$334.67

Four of the five Counties in Florida that have the most costly Internet access lie in the 14 North Florida Counties that make up our RACEC.

Further competitive pricing was provided by the State of Florida’s Department of Management Services. The attached spreadsheet indicates the current annual cost of direct Internet access to schools. We have concluded that our transport pricing is very competitive. Further, this network will deliver substantially higher speeds and reliability than is currently available to these Districts. Compared with the traditional infrastructure that is being used to reach



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portions of the region, our proposed network will operate at speeds between 65 and 650 times faster than the existing circuit switched copper facilities. To date, we have received more than 65 letters of support from State and Local leaders, economic development agencies, academic institutions, sheriff's, police and fire departments, hospitals and health care facilities, and from other governmental agencies. All have expressed an interest in utilizing the capacity of this network, when it becomes available.

See list below for all 14 RACEC Counties within the NFBA service area:

City	County	ISP	Speed	No of Connections	Annual Cost
MACCLENNY	BAKER	AT&T	9 MBPS	1	\$27,946.44
STARKE	BRADFORD	AT&T	6 MBPS	1	\$19,019.28
LAKE CITY	COLUMBIA	AT&T	12 MBPS	1	\$30,536.04
CROSS CITY	DIXIE	AT&T	9 MBPS	1	\$27,946.44
TRENTON	GILCHRIST	AT&T	9 MBPS	1	\$27,946.44
JASPER	HAMILTON	AT&T	6 MBPS	1	\$19,019.28
MONTICELLO	JEFFERSON	AT&T	3 MBPS	1	\$10,328.64
MAYO	LAFAYETTE	AT&T	6 MBPS	1	\$19,019.28
BRONSON	LEVY	AT&T	15 MBPS	1	\$32,154.60
MADISON	MADISON	AT&T	10 MBPS	1	\$29,452.92
PALATKA	PUTNAM	AT&T	15 MBPS	1	\$32,154.60
LIVE OAK	SUWANNEE	AT&T	6 MBPS	1	\$19,019.28
PERRY	TAYLOR	AT&T	14 MBPS	1	\$31,343.88
LK BUTLER	UNION	AT&T	6 MBPS	1	\$19,019.28

The average cost per megabit for direct Internet access is \$228 per Month. Our average cost per megabit will be around \$100 per Mbps per month and we will work to make this even more affordable in the future as cost and technologies improve using mostly Microwave Technology.

F. Technology Strategy



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28. Technology Type:

Wireless - Terrestrial Fixed

Other:

29. System Design

Key Components

The key network components involved in this project are Mid-stage Access, the Microwave Ring Backbone and the Microwave Point To Point (PTP) Customer Premise. This is a Greenfield deployment to areas which currently don't have public high capacity bandwidth options. Funding is required for Mid-Stage Access, Microwave Ring Backbone and some Microwave PTP customer premises. The Fiber hubs and routes through the counties already exist and do not require funding.

Mid-Stage Access

The backbone of the worldwide web is primarily comprised of a fiber network of which a section runs through our 14 county service area. Along this route there are fiber regeneration facilities that were initially designed to regenerate light transmission. Our design will tap into these facilities and place a core router capable of delivering at least 5.9Gbps. It is designed for ultra reliable operation with a meantime between failures of over 110,000 hours. We have also engineered redundancy in the power supply and a tertiary redundancy with a secondary router using the same configuration in standby mode. The facilities will include both battery back up and diesel generators in case of prolonged power failures. These units are housed in a hardened concrete structure with vandal resistant features. We have designed a self-supporting tower to be attached to these fiber huts in a process we call Mid-Stage Access. On the tower is where we will mount the microwave radios. The design utilizes seven of these Mid-Stage Access sites capable of injecting a gross aggregate of 7Gbps into the Microwave Backbone Ring.

Microwave Backbone Ring

The Microwave Backbone Rings use the licensed frequencies of 11, 18 and 23 GHz, which are determined by the distances of each link and the bandwidth requirements. Frequency and Spectrum availability is readily available at these frequencies. These radios will distribute the



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bandwidth among the fourteen counties using a ring topology. This topology creates a highly available bandwidth because if one link goes down for some reason, the network will automatically switch to the other link. At these microwave tower sites we have engineered battery backup for a minimum of eight hours without power as well as the vandal resistant and hardened concrete features mentioned in the POP. After evaluating the morphology clutter data, the FCC tower sites with clear line of site, ability to look over tall trees and other obstructions were selected to create an unobstructed fresnel zone. We have used the industry standard tool, Pathloss, to engineer 99.999% availability at a minimum of 100Mbps full duplex.

Customer Premise (end user)

The microwave PTP customer premise will vary based on customers data rate requirements but we have engineered the spacing of the tower sites to create high availability to any site within the 14 county footprint. As we are a middle mile project, our focus is providing a robust, reliable infrastructure into which the client can connect. Our CPE meets the critical needs demanded by carrier class customers delivering a wireless GigE/100bT connection of up to 500 Mbps full duplex over licensed or unlicensed frequency allocation in an indoor or all-outdoor environment. The equipment can scale from 10 to 500 Mbps in 10 Mbps increments via a simple software configuration. Typical transmit power of these devices will not exceed 26dBm. This is a fixed broadband wireless Internet access system designed to deliver Ethernet speeds.

Advantages of this Technology

Wireless Ethernet is the lowest cost transport mechanism per linear mile to deliver the speeds required for middle mile. This technology with two routes minimum at every tower site provides great redundancy and for some a secondary backup link to their primary in case of an emergency. Another advantage of using an Ethernet packet based delivery mechanism is the flexibility; it is easy and relatively inexpensive to operate and maintain, especially when compared to a traditional Telco TDM based solution.

Upgrades

There are numerous paths to upgrade this system. One is to add more Mid-Stage Access injection points. This would be as simple as adding a PTP link to the Backbone Ring. The Backbone Radios are software license upgradeable to higher speeds as well as are routing



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technology in the core of each site can also allow additional links between towers to aggregate the bandwidth.

30. Network Diagram:

Please refer to upload section at the end of document.

31. Certification by Professional Engineer:

Please refer to upload section at the end of document.

32. Buy American Waiver Request:

Is the applicant seeking an individual waiver of the Buy American provision? **No**

Buy American Waiver Request – Legal Justification

The North Florida Broadband Authority IS NOT requesting a waiver for the Buy American Policy.

33. Choice of Service Provider:

Does the project’s Infrastructure and the Company’s business plan allow more than one provider to serve end users in the proposed funded service area?

Yes

G. Project Milestones and Completion Factors

Timeline & Milestones

34. Infrastructure Build-out Timeline:

Please refer to upload section at the end of the document.

35. Licenses, Regulatory Approvals and Agreements:

State Authorizations:

State of Florida Business License – in place, approved.



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FCC Authorizations:

FCC Microwave Spectrum – initial pathing determined 11 and 18GHz availability. Application for licensing will commence upon project funding and typically takes between 15 and 60 days to complete processing.

Interconnect Agreements:

Level 3 Communications and Gainesville Regional Utilities, known as GRUCOM have both provided good faith estimates.

Land Use Leases:

Community land use and public-owned easement and assets have been verbally pledged in forum with 14 counties for specific asset analysis/coordination upon project funding.

Equipment Leases:

N/A

Service Leases:

Core Optical Transport Services (Lease of ILA and fiber termination negotiated and ready contingent upon grant award with Level3. Others in process as well).

Office Leases:

Government Services Group, Inc. (existing office in place)
District Office
1500 Mahan Drive, Suite 250
Tallahassee, FL 32308

36. Construction and Vendor Contracts

The deployment of network facilities will rely on third party telecommunications consultants, local government and internal staff.

Telecommunications and data networking-specific contractors will be used during the turn-up of network devices as and will be held accountable for the product performing as marketed and engineered. Experienced contractor teams will accelerate the learning curve and introduce strategic relationships. We have a full process for provisioning and product sign off so we can monitor and implement corrective measures if necessary.



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Program and business management contractors will be involved for negotiating construction permits, access to tower and other rights of way, managing the project time lines and liaise with the UDSA and/or NTIA and other entities such as first responders, public safety and governmental IT departments. This mix will bring a balanced approach to the diverse issues that arise during deployment. Our teams are experts in telecommunications and wireless data infrastructure, building operation, support systems, IP routing, and have a deep applied knowledge of the products that will be utilized in the network.

We felt it was crucial to build a public-private partnership with the local government to insure the success of this program. The North Florida Economic Development Partnership will continue to provide strategic business development guidance and the area Chambers of Commerce will connect us with area businesses and services. Each local government also brings to the table vertical assets and serves as an anchor tenant for the business, in most cases providing in-kind assets to make the project a sustainable long-term success.

One key element of this Program is to provide jobs. We are committed to having local technicians, operations people and management staff. Vendors will train local employees. Once the project schedule is complete and the funds have been expended, the local team will be in position to run a profitable venture with lasting economic impact.

Attached are firm and hard quotes provided by manufacturers, distributors, and contractors. We have done reference checks and have received competitive bids from numerous vendors capable of delivering in a timely manner consistent with our 2-year build plan. We also have written correspondence from several vendors and are prepared to engage in signed contracts.

All parties are engaged, capable and shovel ready to start this project.

Qualification of Management Team and Organizational Readiness



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37. Management Team Resumes:

Please refer to upload section at the end of the document.

38. Organizational Readiness:

The North Florida Broadband Authority (NFBA) was conceived and established for a single purpose; to deliver high-speed Broadband Middle Mile access across a 14 county region (the NF RACEC). Because of the rural and economically depressed nature of these counties, traditional financing and other private funding sources were not available. The counties, and several cities, collaborated to form an Authority that would be eligible to pursue, receive, and effectively leverage Federal grant funding for building a Middle Mile network throughout the region. The NFBA Board of Directors sets policy and approves all contracts.

The NFBA, has hired the most experienced, and capable Management Firm in the State. The Government Services Group (GSG) led the team that won a nationwide procurement contract by the North Florida Economic Development Partnership (NFEDP). GSG has been engaged to provide grant and contract compliance, oversight, and reporting on behalf of the Authority, and to assist in the communication on the project status to its members, as well as the support services for the Board of Directors.

The Authority has engaged Nabors, Giblin, Nickerson, PA (NGN) as General Counsel. NGN is the leading authority in the State of Florida for the establishment and operation of single purpose government entities. They have appointed one of the firm's partners, Crystie Carey, as counsel to the authority. NGN will provide counsel on all legal matters pertaining to the Authority, contracts, obligations, and grant requirements.

Wireless Infrastructure and Network Services (WINS) is a Florida C Corp developed for the sole purpose of meeting the design, build and operating goals of the NFBA. The principals of this group have over 45 years experience building similar networks for clients like the Department of Homeland Security, CenturyTel, Clearwire and others. WINS has been selected to provide the NFBA with the design, construction and operation of the network, including the provision of specific business case modeling, radio frequency selection and modeling, Point to Point/Point to Multi-Point BWA Technology Roadmap Selection, Fiber or other Technology Roadmap decisions.



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WINS has developed the operational competencies that will enable it to monitor the specific network capacity for proactive subscriber management; and has network engineers to maintain and upgrade the performance and quality of service within the network.

Tier 1 Support: Consists of routine, daily customer support issues from end users. This service will be distributed virtually using a Wireless and Virtual Network Operations Center (WaVE-NOC). Multiple shift schedules create 24/7/365 support and response. This center will leverage the use of the rXg automated billing and customer care system that provides automated provisioning and network monitoring system. Customers will have three methods of support; 1) VoIP 2) web portal and 3) e-mail. Tier 1 support will also include trained technicians who live and work in proposed service area

Tier 2 Support: Issues that cannot be solved by Tier 1 support within 24 hours will be escalated to Tier 2 personnel. Tier 2 will have extensive network hardware, software and engineering skills. Tier 2 personnel support customer and Tier 1 personnel in solving more complex issues. Tier 2 personnel may also be required to mobilize to a remote location to resolve network issues.

Tier 3 Support: WINS has established relationships with over 28 vendors who will assist as required in order to resolve complex issues such as network, protocol, and vendor specific troubleshooting. These vendors will be called upon in the rare instance that WINS cannot resolve and issue.

Other



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39. Organizational Chart:

Please refer to upload section at the end of document.

40. Legal Opinion:

Please refer to upload section at the end of document

41. Government and other Key Partnerships:

The North Florida Broadband Authority (NFBA) represents a collaborative effort from 14 rural Florida counties and several cities. This project will create a new Middle Mile infrastructure across the region to deliver high-speed broadband access to vastly improve the sustainable economic development, educational resources, vital government services, and access to advanced health care services.

An integral part of this effort, will be to partner with key partners in the region to leverage their resources, information, and business and governmental networks. Key outside partners include:

Authority Membership – tower and facility assets, community leadership, local gov’t agencies
North Florida Economic Development Partnership - Education, promotion, educational resources

Workforce Florida – Use of Broadband network, job training, employer matching

State Agencies – (AHCA, DOE, etc), Anchor customers, promotion of Broadband awareness, outreach

Non-Profits – Anchor customers, Training, Community Awareness

Chambers of Commerce – Marketing, business development, job/business recruitment

Economic Development Councils – Recruitment of new business

School Systems/Libraries – Anchor customers, training, awareness, public access

42. Recovery Act and Other Governmental Collaboration.

The North Florida Broadband Authority (NFBA) is applying for project funding under the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) and Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP) as part of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The NFBA project will build a new Middle Mile broadband infrastructure, which for the first time will deliver ubiquitous middle mile connectivity to both public and private entities.

In 2003, the Governor of Florida created the third and largest of Florida’s three Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern (RACECs). The North Central RACEC (recertified in 2008)



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encompasses 14 counties including Baker, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Putnam, Suwannee, Taylor, and Union. It is home to over 400,000 Floridians and contributes resources to five metropolitan statistical areas.

The regional economic development interests and activities of the North Central RACEC are supported and implemented by the North Florida Economic Development Partnership (NFEDP), which is a 501c (6) not-for-profit corporation created to develop, coordinate, and foster high-quality partnerships and initiatives that promote and attract sustainable economic development.

NFEDP serves as a regional resource for (1) coordinating and marketing regional assets to attract economic development; (2) increasing knowledge and awareness about economic development programs, activities, and opportunities; (3) communicating and disseminating important information on opportunities for economic development; (4) enhancing the leadership capacity of all individuals and organizations engaged in economic development in the region; and (5) facilitating the identification of critical issues and potential solutions impacting sustainable economic development and job creation and retention in the region.

NFEDP provided the leadership and mechanism with which to create the NFBA. The success and sustainability of the NFBA depends on the continuing support of the NFEDP and its partners and resources.

For example, a number of county and municipal entities in the NFBA coverage area and at least two community colleges have indicated plans to utilize the middle mile access to broadband for education and training programs. Moreover, these entities have committed to offering assets and facilities to the NFBA for expanding high-speed connectivity throughout the region.

Other local county entities have provided numerous tower, rooftop, rights of way, office space and other resources to further enable the NFBA “Middle Mile” access and transport network. These relationships are critical to developing future employment opportunities in the industries that will be created and sustained through the development of the NFBA broadband infrastructure within both the public and private sector as this network will serve both equally with preference on critical times of needs like hurricanes and forest fires. Public safety entities



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will need this middle mile resource to enable video surveillance and other 700 MHz data mobile wireless network initiatives that will not be possible in our 14 county area without the grant funding.

The NFBA will work closely with other RUS borrowers including Main Street Broadband (MSB), who has been unable to implement their build out in the region (their funded service area is 12 of the 14 counties in the RACEC) because there have been no Middle Mile assets available for transport. They have issued a strong letter of support for this project.

Community Involvement (BTOP Applicants Only)

43. Partnering with Disadvantaged Businesses

The North Florida Broadband Authority has no current partners that are classified as disadvantaged businesses.

H. Project Budget

44. General Overall Budget



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Budget	Loan Request	Grant Request	Equity	Debt	Bond	Other
Network & Access Equipment (switching, routing, transport, access)		12,242,500				
Outside Plant (cables, conduits, ducts, poles, towers, repeaters, etc.)		6,289,576				
Buildings and Land – (new construction, improvements, renovations, lease)		559,000				
Customer Premise Equipment (modems, set-top boxes, inside wiring, etc.)		6,270,000				
Billing and Operational Support Systems (IT systems, software, etc.)		100,000				
Operating Equipment		1,191,000				



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(vehicles, office equipment, other)						
Engineering/ Professional Services (engineering design, project management, consulting, etc.)		3,216,000				
Testing (network elements, IT system elements, user devices, test generators, lab furnishings, servers/computers, etc.)		274,600				
Site Preparation						868,000
Other						
TOTAL BROADBAND SYSTEM		30,142,676				868,000



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Total Budget: \$ 31,010,676

45. Detailed Budget:

Please refer to upload section at the end of the document.

Sustainability

46. Reasonableness

The project management team has several decades of combined experience designing and developing telecommunication systems and as such, we have extensive experience pricing the units offered and estimating the total units required specifically for projects in Florida. As contained in the network diagram and system design, we have already identified the specific equipment and vendors that will provide the highest level quality of service and equipment, and through which vendors will offer NFBA the most competitive prices.

As described in the answer to question 27, there are no commercial carriers providing middle mile service in the North Florida RACEC service area. NFBA has established our monthly subscriber per megabit price at \$100 per month, compared to the limited cable and incumbent local exchange carrier broadband providers in the area, which currently charges \$200-2000 per month. NFBA has also conservatively estimated a subscriber take rate of the total population in the service area of just 15%. Our letters of interest have been overwhelming and beyond our anticipated interest so we should get to 20-25% of critical infrastructure either directly or via our commercial last mile providers whom we provide the critical middle mile.

The population of the 14 counties in the service area to be covered by the North Florida Broadband Authority network is 357,000. This network passes 154,258 households, and 26,893 businesses. In addition, the project will pass 1,573 critical facilities, and 265 health care entities, according to the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration as of the latest census estimate for 2008. Both business and technology engineering are based on industry standards and our prior experience operating and consulting to hundreds of rural operators. With this, we have created several different tiers for pricing that fit the model of our immediate critical community facilities and anchor commercial tenants. Despite the extreme lack of middle-mile solutions and even speedy broadband, we conservatively estimate our uptake in the business model, even with the significant number of potential customers.



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Using our competitive pricing structure and experience in rural telecommunications projects, it is estimated that by the end of the first operational year, 148 unique public and private sector subscribers will be added to the middle mile network. An additional 88 subscribers will then be added during year two while the network nears the target completion date in year 3, and 324 total unique subscribers by the end of year three when the build out of the network covering the 14 counties will be completed. During years four and five, a total of 456 subs are estimated to be using the NFBA network. That is just about 34 unique subscribers on average per county in the service area using between 10 and 100 Mbps of capacity. We based these take rates upon data gathered from previous experience, written commitments and verbal commitments during meetings and town halls.

In addition, NFBA does not dig or run cable for any portion of its network, which is a major issue in hurricane and protected land areas such as in North Florida. Incumbent Service Providers must incorporate their legacy costs, designs, methods, and solutions, thereby making their solutions much more costly, less efficient, and slow to rollout to remote rural areas and residents. In contrast, NFBA can provide the first systems to these Florida communities three months after funding under this Grant Program. NFBA's system is well suited for the geographic area/terrain/weather conditions.

47. Historical Financial Statements:

Please refer to upload section at the end of the document.

48. Broadband Subscriber Estimates:

Please refer to upload section at the end of the document.

49. Other Services:

Please refer to upload section at the end of the document.

50. Pro Forma 5-Year Financial Forecast and Assumptions:

Please refer to upload section at the end of the document.

51. Commitment of Capital Funding Support

The North Florida Broadband Authority has been provided a term sheet from Mercantile Bank, in Lake City, Florida, which outlines the basic terms and conditions for a line of credit intended to finance the short term working capital needs of the Authority. This term sheet is



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Funding Opportunity: Broadband Initiatives Program and Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	Applicant Organization: North Florida Broadband Authority
Task: Submit Application - Infrastructure Programs	Applicant Name: Mr. Patrick Lien

contingent upon grant award and a satisfactory review of the financial condition of the borrower and guarantors.

Borrower: North Florida Broadband Authority

Guarantor: To be determined

Loan Amount: Up to \$500,000

Purpose: Proceeds will be used to support short term working capital needs of Authority during initial installation and collection of receipts for user services.

Interest Rate/Maturity: A floating interest rate equal to Prime plus 1.0% with a floor of 5%. Advances under the line of credit may be made at any time during the life of the loan. the loan will require monthly interest paymetns on any outstanding balance. Pricipal will be due in full, twelve months from origination of the loan.

Collateral: A first security interest in all receivables, inventory, contracts and assets.

Other Conditions: Open and maintain primary operating deposit account with Mercantile Bank.

BTOP Requirements

52. Matching Funds:

- a. Cash: \$.00
- b. In-Kind: \$ 868,000.00
- c. Percent of Total Project Cost: 3

53. Demonstration of Financial Need:

The North Florida Broadband Authority (NFBA) project is not economically feasible without Federal grant funding. This 14 county area has been declared a Rural Area of Critical



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Economic Concern (RACEC) by the Governor of the State of Florida and each of these counties has also been designated as “fiscally constrained” pursuant to Florida Statutes. The NFBA’s member governments are struggling to provide essential public services such as law enforcement, fire protection and emergency medical services within their communities. Despite the incredible need for broadband infrastructure within the region, these governments simply do not have the financial resources to invest in the deployment of broadband without the assistance of federal funding.

Further, as a newly formed entity without assets, documented revenues or a demonstrated financial history, the NFBA’s project fails traditional underwriting guidelines and is incapable of obtaining conventional financing. The attached letter from Mercantile Bank provides that despite the benefits the project would bring to the region, the bank was unable to approve the project for traditional financing.

Unlike many other applicants, the NFBA is an unaligned organization without any assistance from private investors. The Authority is composed entirely of local government members from throughout this struggling region. The expenditure of any awarded grant funds and the strategic deployment of broadband infrastructure throughout the region will be controlled by the NFBA’s Board of Directors, composed of representatives from each member government, rather than by private investors or incumbents.

These communities are among the poorest in the nation. Five out of fourteen counties are designated Empowerment Zones. The annual income of the people in these counties stands at 33% under the national average, and these communities get poorer every year. Part of the problem with expanding middle mile facilities within the region is that the existing carriers have little economic incentive to open up existing access and build middle mile infrastructure due to the poor economy within the region. The stagnancy of the local economy is exacerbated by the inability to attract new businesses to the region due to the lack of broadband internet access. Further, the geographic expanse/terrain, poor economic climate, the current and expected prolonged recession and seasonal weather conditions within the 14 counties is difficult enough, but when you factor in the limited population in the cities and towns; there is not a large enough customer base, over which to allocate the costs of such an investment for a private carrier to receive an adequate return on their investment. Due to a lack of “Middle Mile” broadband infrastructure in the NFBA region, economic development and progress will



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remain stagnant with limited hope of change. Since a private carrier cannot make the required investment in the infrastructure needed to serve the area, 19 local governments within the region have banded together for a regional solution to the problem of limited broadband access in their communities.

This project is necessary if the region is to have the same opportunities as the rest of America to thrive, create clean jobs, provide high quality education and healthcare services, and provide public safety and governmental services at the nationally acceptable levels. However, neither the Authority nor its member governments are able to fund or obtain financing to build this much needed infrastructure. As a result, the NFBA's member governments and their citizens are relying on the funding for this worthwhile project to come from the federal government in the form of a grant. Without federal assistance this project could not otherwise be constructed.

54. Unjust Enrichment

The North Florida Broadband Authority is not receiving any Federal support for non-recurring costs, nor has the Authority applied for any other Federal funding.

55. Disclosure of Federal and/or State Funding Sources

The North Florida Broadband Authority has received no other Federal or State funding whatsoever. This is a newly created government entity and as such has neither applied for nor received any funding.

I. Self Scoring – BIP Only Self Scoring

56. Self Scoring Sheet



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Criteria	Method	Points	Self Scores
<u>PROJECT PURPOSE</u>			
Proportion of Rural Residents Served in Unserved Areas	1 point for every 10,000 unserved households	Up to 5	5
Rural Area Targeting	1 point for every 5% increase in the rural service area up the minimum 75% rural area requirement	Up to 5	2
Remote Area targeting	1 point for every 50 miles a service area is located from a non-rural area	Up to 5	1
Title II Borrower	If you are or were a Title II borrower	5	0
Recovery Act and other governmental collaboration	1 point will be awarded for each governmental or Recovery program the applicant is partnering with	Up to 5	5
<u>PROJECT BENEFITS</u>			
Performance of the offered services	If a last mile wireline project delivers 20M to household – if a last mile wireless projects delivers 2M to end-user – if a middle mile projects delivers 100M to end points	10	10
Affordable of services offered	Points awarded based on the proposed rate structure and the logistics of the proposed service area	Up to 5	5



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Choice of service provider	If the proposed infrastructure is available to be used by multiple service providers	5	5
Critical Community Facilities	If discounted rate packages at least 25% lower than advertise rates are available to critical facilities	5	5
<u>PROJECT VIABILITY</u>			
Applicant's organizational capability	Points will be awarded on the strengths and accomplishments of key management	Up to 12	12
Community Support	If a letter of support has been received from a designated representative of the community for every community in the proposed service territory	2	2
Ability to promptly start project	If the applicant can demonstrate that all licenses and regulatory approvals have been received, contractors and vendors are ready to enter into contracts, and equity has been deposited into applicant accounts	10	10
Socially and economically disadvantaged small businesses (SDB), as defined by section 8(a) of the Small Business Act, 15 U.S.C. §637.	If the applicant is a Section 8(a) entity	1	0
<u>PROJECT BUDGET AND SUSTAINABILITY</u>			
Reasonableness of the budget	Points will be awarded based the	Up to 5	5



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	adequacy of the proposed budget		
Leverage of outside resources (outside funding/financing requested)	(i) 10 points if this ratio is greater than 100% (ii) 7 points if this ratio is between 100% and 75% (iii) 5 points if this ratio is between 75% and 50% (iv) 3 points if this ratio is between 50% and 25% (v) 1 points if this ratio is lower than 25%	10	1
Extent of grant funding (Grant funds/loan funds)	(i) 0 points if this ratio equals 100% (ii) 1 points if this ratio is between 100% and 75% (iii) 3 points if this ratio is between 75% and 50% (iv) 5 points if this ratio is lower than 50% (v) 10 points if no grant funds are requested	10	0
Total Points		100	68



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J. BTOP Certification Requirements

Certification (Requested for BTOP)

Please refer to upload section at the end of the document regarding following uploads.

1. U.S. Department of Commerce, Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
2. SF-424D Assurances—Construction Programs (Schedule N)
3. CD-511, Certification Regarding Lobbying (Attachment O)
4. SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (Attachment P)
5. CD-512, Certification Regarding Lobbying—Lower-Tier Covered Transactions (Attachment Q) This certification will not be required until the time of the grant award, because it applies to subcontractors, etc.

K. BIP Certification Requirements

Certification (Requested for BIP)

Please refer to upload section at the end of the document regarding following uploads.

1. Equal Opportunity and Nondiscrimination Certification
2. Certification Regarding Architectural Barriers
3. Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition - Policies Act of 1970 Certification
4. Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters – Primary Covered Transactions
5. Certification Regarding Lobbying for Contracts, Grants, Loans, and Cooperative Agreements



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6. Network Design and Implementation Plan Certification (to be complete for projects requesting more than \$1 million in federal assistance)

L. Schedules

Schedule: A-1 Congressional Districts

1. State the Congressional District of the Applicant's headquarters

Florida - 2

2. State the Congressional District for each area covered by the Project.

Florida - 2

Florida - 3

Florida - 4

Florida - 5

Florida - 6

Florida - 7

M. Proposed Funded Service Area Details (BIP & BTOP)

13. Proposed Funded Service Area (BIP - Last Mile Projects):

Proposed Funded Service Area Name:

Census Blocks in Proposed Funded Service Area:

Community Name:

Rural Classification of the Community:

BIP - Service Status:



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BIP - If Service Status is "Underserved" please select at least one applicable option from this list.

BTOP – Service Status:

BTOP - If Service Status is "Underserved" please select at least one applicable option from this list.

- Total Square Miles of Community:**
- Total Population :**
- Total Number of Households:**
- Total Number of Businesses:**
- Total Number of Critical Community Facilities, Anchor Institutions and Public Safety Entities:**

14. Proposed Service Area (BTOP - Middle Mile Project):

Middle Mile Span Name: North Florida Broadband Authority - Ubiquitous Middle Mi
Census Blocks in Middle Mile Span: 22,752
Last Mile Service Area Name: North Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (NF RACEC)
Community Name: North Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (NF RACEC)
Rural Classification of the Community: Rural
BIP – Service Status: Underserved

BIP - If Service Status is "Underserved" please select at least one applicable option from this list.
The rate of broadband subscribership for the census-designated community [or other area] is 40% of households or less.

BTOP - Service Status: Underserved

BTOP - If Service Status is "Underserved" please select at least one applicable option from this list.
The rate of broadband subscribership for the proposed funded service area is 40% of households or less.



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Total Square Miles of Service Area: 9,197
Total Population : 357,523
Total Number of Households: 154,258
Total Number of Businesses: 26,893
Total Number of Critical Community Facilities, Anchor Institutions and Public Safety Entities: 1,573

N. Uploads

In order to improve system performance and help ensure that all applicants are able to complete their applications by the deadline, we have changed the way your application PDF is created. This PDF contains all of the information you entered throughout the Easygrants data entry screens. PDF copies of all documents that have been uploaded can be viewed and printed separately from the **Main page of the application after you submit**. These will continue to be available to you in read-only format after your application has been submitted.