



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

<b>Submitted Date:</b> 8/19/2009 12:31:32 PM		<b>Easygrants ID:</b> 643	
<b>Funding Opportunity:</b> Broadband Initiatives Program and Broadband Technology Opportunities Program		<b>Applicant Organization:</b> First Step Internet, LLC	
<b>Task:</b> Submit Application - Infrastructure Programs		<b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr. Kevin Owen	

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## A. General Application Information

### 1. Applicant Information

#### 1-A. Name, Address, and Federal ID for Applicant

<b>i. Legal Name:</b>	First Step Internet, LLC
<b>ii. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):</b>	820491573
<b>Street 1:</b>	1420 S. Blaine St #10
<b>Street 2:</b>	
<b>City:</b>	Moscow
<b>County:</b>	Latah
<b>State:</b>	ID
<b>Country</b>	United States
<b>Zip/Postal Code:</b>	83843

#### 1-B. Name and Contact Information of Person to be Contacted on Matters Involving this Application:

<b>Prefix:</b>	Mr.
<b>First Name:</b>	Kevin
<b>Middle Name:</b>	
<b>Last Name:</b>	Owen
<b>Suffix:</b>	
<b>Telephone Number:</b>	208-882-8869
<b>Fax Number:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	kowen@fsr.com
<b>Title:</b>	President & CEO



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**1-C. Other Required Identification Numbers**

<b>i. Organizational DUNS:</b>	787589290
<b>ii. CCR # (CAGE):</b>	3YQB9
<b>iii. Funding Opportunity Number:</b>	1
<b>iv. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:</b>	<b>BTOP CFDA Number:</b> 11.557 <b>BIP CFDA Number:</b> 10.787 <b>BTOP CFDA Title:</b> Broadband Technology Opportunities Program <b>BIP CFDA Title:</b> 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). **For-Profit Corporation**

**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:**

**2. Project Description & Project Title**

**2-A. Project Title:** Central North Idaho Regional Broadband Network Expansion

**2-B. Project Description:** Multi-user regional broadband network backbone designed to expand capacity to schools, libraries, hospitals, safety agencies and medical facilities throughout several un-served and under-served areas and communities in the Counties of Latah, Nez Perce, Lewis, Idaho and Clearwater impacting 46,308 residents, 21,228 households, 13,125 square miles and 8,925 census blocks.





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**3. Application ID for Multiple Submissions for Identified Service Areas:**

First Step Internet has submitted only one application, however, we would like to reference the application submitted by the Nez Perce Tribe. Originally they were planning to submit an application for a WAN that would be utilized to distribute service via a 4.9ghz network to the Nez Perce Tribal Police and first responders, etc. After receiving permission by NBTEC, the tribal council, on August 5th, the Nez Perce Tribe IT director contacted First Step about our middle mile backbone project which had been widely published throughout the region by CEDA. They have decided to partner with First Step and utilize the backbone network. They are applying for a last mile project to install 4.9ghz access points throughout our WAN & extend it further into areas we were not going to reach this round. Thus our applications are complimentary and our networks will interconnect and provide additional redundancy.

**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:

## **B. Eligibility Factors**

**7. Application Submission**





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**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 complete by the end of the 3rd year from the award date.**

**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.**

**The Applicant provides two-way data transmission with advertised speeds of at least 768 kbps downstream and 200 kbps upstream.**

**Applicant understands and agrees to comply with the nondiscrimination and interconnection obligations outlined in the NOFA.**

**If applying for a last mile Broadband Infrastructure project, applicant understands and agrees to comply with the last mile coverage obligations as outlined in the NOFA.**

**Additional Factors for BIP Selected By Applicant**

**At least 75 percent of the proposed funded service area qualifies as unserved and underserved rural areas in accordance with the NOFA.**

**Applicant understands and agrees that the project will be fully funded in accordance with the requirements**



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of the NOFA.

Applicant understands and agrees that only projects that RUS determines to be financially feasible and/or economically sustainable will be eligible under this NOFA.

**Additional BTOP Factors Selected By Applicant**

- **Conformity with Statutory Purposes**
- **Cost Sharing/Matching**
- **Reasonableness of Project Budget**

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?  
**Yes**

**7-k. Cost Sharing/Matching Fund Explanation**

## C. Executive Summary





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**Executive Summary of Project for BIP and BTOP:**

**8. Infrastructure Projects Executive Summary**

The opportunity of the proposed project is to construct a multi-user wide area licensed microwave network to serve un-served and under-served hospitals, schools, businesses, libraries, safety agencies and other critical community institutions in north central Idaho and connect them to the Internet, each other and to the Idaho Regional Optical Network (IRON). In addition, service capacity will be greatly increased for thousands of homes and businesses.

One of our key partners in this project is the Idaho Regional Optical Network (IRON). It is their charter "to facilitate advanced networking among institutions in Idaho and the Northern Tier States. Participants include institutions of research, education, health care, state government, and partner organizations that support research, education, and economic development in Idaho and the States of the Northern Tier." According to IRON, "world events are putting the state of Idaho, Idaho National Laboratories, and Idaho universities at the center of a nuclear renaissance. The intellectual contribution that Idaho will be able to make in this "rebirth of nuclear energy" is dependent upon a robust network infrastructure."

IRON also observes: "In today's global marketplace, high-speed network access is imperative to economic opportunities in all areas, specifically in information and technology growth. Economic expansion is realized by the increasing number of new commercial endeavors that are created in technology parks where reliable, cost-effective, high-speed network connectivity is critical. Without this infrastructure, Idaho will continue as one of the few remaining states on the wrong side of the "digital divide" and will be at a disadvantage in sustaining existing technology businesses and attracting new high-tech businesses to the region..."

So the above information from IRON describes what is happening on a State level, but unfortunately much of the investment and development of network infrastructure and capacity has occurred in southern Idaho where fiber is widely deployed and in the northern part of Idaho near Coeur d'Alene and over into Spokane, WA.

With the construction of the proposed high capacity microwave network, the high capacity infrastructure available in Moscow and Lewiston will be extended throughout the entire region and these communities will be able to participate in the developments occurring on the State





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level. This project is the single most important initiative that will positively impact our region for years to come,” says CEDA Director Christine Frei. (CEDA is the planning organization for the US Department of Commerce EDA-designated Clearwater Economic Development District).

Another key partner in the project is the Nez Perce Tribe. We have both agreed to an MOU which is included in our letters of support. It is the Tribe’s intention to extend the backbone to a few areas within the reservation where First Step does not have service. They also plan to installed wireless Access Points on their towers and First Step towers, particularly in the 4.9ghz frequency, that will bring service to the Tribal Police and other first responders and public safety personnel. First Step and the Tribe will cross connect networks for redundancy and “open access” sharing.

b. The proposed funded service area includes the counties of Latah, Clearwater, Nez Perce, Lewis and Idaho in rural Idaho. This region has been primarily involved in the farming, timber and mining industries. The University of Idaho and Lewis Clark State College are the premier educational institutions in the region. Moscow and Lewiston, where these institutions are located, are classified as served communities. The surrounding areas, however, are classified as under-served. Potlatch, Princeton, Deary, Bovill, Elk River, Troy, Orofino, Weippe, Cottonwood, Ferdinand, Grangeville, Kamiah, Nez Perce, Craigmont, Winchester, Lapwai, Culdesac and Kooskia.

c. Households and businesses passed

	Total Pop.	HouseHolds	SqMiles	Census Blocks
Total Serv Area:	46,685	21,383	13,205	8,985
Underserved Area:	46,308	21,228	13,125	8,925
Businesses passed	720			

Total Businesses in 5 county area 10,889 If Moscow and Lewiston are excluded (83843, 83501) there are 1367 businesses

d. Community anchors





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e. The proposed services and applications will include high speed Internet access, transport access to the IRON network, IP transport services, video teleconferencing over IP, direct access to both LCSC and the University of Idaho, Voice over IP through 3rd party VoIP providers, and inter-facility access.

f. Non-discrimination and interconnection obligations will be met through the establishment of interconnect points throughout the network. A fiber POP has been established at Moscow City Hall that will enable providers to connect and provide service throughout the entire WAN. At the XO POP in Lewiston a similar set up is available. At various tower sites throughout the microwave network, providers will be able to negotiate collocation arrangements to attach to the network and provide service. Communications standards such as IP transport, MPLS and BGP and PPPOE will be employed so as to provide a consistent service methodology.

g. First Step Internet will deploy a broadband system that utilizes high capacity licensed microwave links to form the core of the backbone. There will be a number of redundant loops in the network to present alternate paths for data flow to increase reliability & aggregated capacity. We will be using 11 & 18ghz DragonWave Horizon radios for the core and Redline AN-80i links for spur extensions and anchor institutions. The backbone will utilize existing FS tower infrastructure with the addition of new towers where more antenna capacity is required. The WAN will connect to existing fiber in both Moscow and Lewiston.

h. First Step Internet (FS) is a regional Internet Service Provider (originally First Step Research) that has been building networks for 21 years and providing Internet services for over 12 years via dial up, Frame Relay and DSL. In the past 9 years we have utilized microwave technology to begin to bridge the digital divide and extend broadband service to dozens of previously unserved rural communities in the region and now serve 40 communities across 10





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counties with 3000+ square miles of coverage and 600+ miles of point to point microwave links. We currently have over 3500 wireless subs, 800 DSL subs, 2300 dial up subs and a dozen direct fiber clients including Gritman Medical Clinic, City of Moscow, Pullman Regional Hospital, Schweitzer Engineering Labs and others. Throughout the region we provide service to a majority of the City and County governments, hospitals, schools and libraries in our service areas. We also provide redundant Internet service to the University of Idaho. FS has also partnered with the RUS for over \$600k in Community Connect Broadband grant projects and with the State of Idaho for \$27k in broadband grant funds.

In addition to the above, FS has forged strategic relationships with key partners such as CEDA, LCSC, University of Idaho, the five regional hospitals, numerous schools, the Nez Perce Tribe and finally, IRON. Given these strategic relationships, we are confident we will be in the position to implement the proposed WAN and extend this service to the proposed partners in the region. With this project, First Step Internet will be deploying most of the three phases of the multi-user WAN schematic and plan developed by CEDA and the NCITC completed in conjunction with the 16 of the rural communities of the region in 2007. A copy of the study has been included.

i. \$2.9 million

j. Minimum 426 households, 48 businesses and 20+ anchor institutions including hospitals, libraries, schools and public safety agencies.

k. Clearwater Valley Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital – 400 jobs preserved

Using the Idaho Department of Labor statistical information, CEDA estimates that approximately 1,367 businesses with 7,520 employees in the benefit area will be served by the First Step project. These numbers do NOT include the significant number of self-employed individuals (such as farmers, loggers, etc.) that are in this area.

Because the majority of our rural region is either un-served and under-served, it is safe to say that the majority of the existing businesses and self-employed individuals are dependent on high speed internet for business communications and that the FS project will assist in retention of these jobs. In addition, the FS project will directly impact the ability for businesses to





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expand and new business to be established. We are hopeful that it could directly contribute to 500 new jobs over the next five years.

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

**9. BTOP Statutory Purpose:**

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:**

a) This project described above addresses the compelling problem of limited or no access and reliance on last generation service in several areas. In our opinion, it addresses all five statutory purposes to one extent or another. Statutory purpose 1 – The proposed service plan does extend service to the unserved area of Elk City.

Statutory purpose 2 – The proposed service plan provides service to the underserved areas of



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Troy, Potlatch, Princeton, Deary, Bovill, Orofino, Grangeville, Cottonwood, Winchester, Craigmont, Nez Perce, Weippe, etc. The regional backbone will bring reliable, high bandwidth options and connectivity to IRON. With the cross connection to the Nez Perce Tribe at Orofino, Teakean Butte, Nez Perce and Grangeville, the network will indirectly extend service to the unserved and underserved areas of Culdesac, Lenore, Peck, Lapwai and Kooskia.

Statutory purpose 3 - the proposed project will provide service to schools in the region, both for access to the Internet and access to IRON. It will also connect the 5 regional hospitals to each other, to the Internet and to IRON. In addition it will connect them to the clinics supported by those hospitals. As explained in another section, this network will support the telemental health video system by connecting the regional hospitals directly to one another and providing the bandwidth required for that system. It will also facilitate

It will connect LCSC educational outreach to LCSC directly.

Finally, it will connect each of the libraries to the Internet, to IRON and to LCSC and University of Idaho.

According to Anne Cheadle, director of the Latah Library District, "The Idaho Department of Labor has teamed up with the Idaho Commission for Libraries to make the Career Information System (CIS) available to Idaho public libraries. Beginning 9/01/09, CIS will be accessible for free through the Latah County Library District website. CIS is a comprehensive online information system for career exploration and planning, tailored for Idaho residents. This joint project offers career development, employment, and unemployment benefits resources to the citizens of Idaho via public libraries by providing access to CIS and IdahoWorks databases." This network will support this project.

According to Joyce Dearstyne of Framing Our Community in Elk City, "We are in the process of procuring a Idaho State Commerce grant for workforce training center facility construction and two full time staff in an effort to bring improved workforce training and small business development." This network will support this project as well.

According to CEDA, "The First Step Internet Project will serve the unserved and under served communities of all five counties of the US Department of Commerce EDA-designated,





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Clearwater Economic Development District. At the 2003 North Central Idaho Economic Summit, "Think Like a Region," rural telecommunication and high speed internet access was established by over 150 community leaders as the "highest priority" need. Our organization, Clearwater Economic Development Association, then worked sought and secured the help of USDA Rural Development to help our region conduct a telecommunication needs assessment and strategic plan to address our rural telecom issues and established a consortium of users to help promote telecom build out. The proposed First Step project will implement most of all three phases of our community-established plan for a multi-user Wide Area Network."

Statutory purpose 4 – The proposed regional WAN will be used by the Latah County Sheriff, the Nez Perce Tribal Police, the Idaho County Sheriff, and bring service to Elk City where no access currently exists. The WAN will improve access to the Clearwater County Sheriff's office and will provide the backbone to support the access equipment to be installed by the Nez Perce Tribal Police force throughout the areas of the network that are on the Nez Perce Reservation.

Statutory purpose 5 – The Clearwater Economic Development Association and the Clearwater County EDC have heard from businesses and manufacturers over the past five years who have repeatedly stated that telecommunications infrastructure development is at the top of their list for needed services. The proposed project will address this expressed need and no doubt drive demand, economic growth and job creation. First Step has seen the demand grow continuously as we have brought service to communities in the region.

"D8 Inc., located in rural Northern Latah County manufacturers industrial molds for customers in the automotive and aerospace industries, which requires a high level of internet traffic to move large CAD data files. The only available and reliable internet connectivity is copper based phone lines which puts us at an extreme disadvantage when we are competing for work in a global economy. This project is critical to bringing our telecommunication infrastructure to industry standards so we can improve our competitiveness and grow our business." Barry Ramsey, Owner, D8, Potlatch, ID, currently employing 15 people

"Today's modern manufacturer relies heavily on reliable broadband Internet access and manufacturers that don't have it are at a significant disadvantage to their competitors that do. From product design, to manufacturing, to purchasing, to marketing and sales, Hilco





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Technologies is in constant use of the Internet for the transmission of critical information between our suppliers and customers. First Step's efforts to improve broadband availability and reliability to rural business, especially manufacturers, are key to the economic growth of these businesses and to our region as a whole." Lenny Hill, President, Northwest Intermountain Manufacturers Association & Owner, Hilco Technologies, currently employing 35 people

"Pacific Cabinets Inc. and Scientific Environments relies heavily on the communication to the rest of the world for its existence. We are required by contract in most projects to have electronic correspondence for relaying day to day communications between the contractor architect and subcontractors. Many of these documents contain drawings that are larger in size so it is imperative to have a faster download and upload of information. In addition to the job specific transfer of information all of, our plan centers are online. We download and print out very large files containing architectural drawings and specifications in order for us to estimate these projects in house. Our market area has now expanded to Idaho, Washington, Oregon, California, Alaska, Montana and Utah. As you can see it would not be reasonable to belong to local plan services to review plans in this entire market area." Steve Frei, Owner, Pacific Cabinets, Inc. & Scientific Environments, currently employing 50 people.

CEDA also states: "Almost 100 small manufacturers, employing 2 to over 50 employees, are scattered throughout the proposed project area. As a region so heavily dependent on timber, agriculture, and government employment, these manufacturers are, in the vision of CEDA and Northwest Intermountain Manufacturers Association, the "key" to the region's ability to diversify the economy. Although transportation in this region is difficult without an interstate, these "grassroots" manufacturers stay in our region because of family, lifestyle, low taxes, and the available workforce. The poor telecommunication system makes it increasingly difficult for these manufacturers to communicate and send electronic files to their customers and suppliers. Cost affordable, high speed internet is critical to the future of the manufacturing industry and its ability to expand and create jobs in our region.

CEDA and NIMA have been working with manufacturers to expand their customer based through exporting. Again, telecommunication is absolutely essential to the international trade.

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

The proposed regional network would connect the 3 regional hospitals in Orofino, Cottonwood and Grangeville to each other, the IRON network, to LCSC and to the University of Idaho. Clearwater Hospital (CVHC) in Orofino and St. Mary's SMHC in Cottonwood both





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have T-1 Internet service. Syringa in Grangeville has DSL from Qwest. The clinics each have basic broadband service via wireless or DSL in their respective communities.

An ongoing challenge for these three hospitals is to obtain sufficient affordable bandwidth to facilitate communications between them as well as to St. Joseph's in Lewiston and Gritman in Moscow.

This is most clearly illustrated by the ongoing challenge confronted by CVHC and SMHC. The first challenge was in Orofino (CVHC) where Verizon was running out of capacity completely and were not able to accommodate the hospital's request for a DS3 between the hospitals. After they began to run out of basic phone line capacity and with pressure from the State Public Utilities Commission, Verizon finally ran fiber from Moscow to Orofino to their CO. After that, though, it was determined that the local loop capacity to the hospital was not capable in either Orofino or Cottonwood and would cost \$225,000 to further upgrade. So after a number of years of waiting, the hospitals turned away in frustration from the telcos to innovative providers to build high capacity microwave between the facilities. This network meets that need.

In addition to the above issue, there is also a regional video conferencing system in place between all five of the regional hospitals that was funded through a Telemental Health grant. The goal is to leverage limited mental health professionals through the video system. The central hub is at St. Joseph's in Lewiston. Through the implementation of the proposed network, the hospitals will essentially be on the same network with plenty of bandwidth to the hub, and then beyond via IRON. First Step is currently in the process of establishing a direct fiber link between St. Joseph's Hospital and our POP in Lewiston from XO. The gigabit fiber link to IRON will also terminate at our POP there as well. Then we already service Gritman Medical via direct fiber in Moscow. The proposed network will support their video requirements for telehealth, provide bandwidth to send and receive Xray images that are serviced at Gritman and St. Joseph's and it will connect all 5 regional hospitals to the IRON network and thus the hospitals and medical health professionals in southern Idaho.

In addition to healthcare, the proposed network will connect each of the schools to IRON as well as provide better bandwidth options for commodity Internet service. Particularly on the Camas Prairie (Grangeville, Kamiah, Kooskia, Craigmont, Cottonwood) schools are limited to



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expensive and slow T-1's or Qwest DSL in some areas. Even Qwest, though providing 7meg downloads, is very limited in upload speed to under 1mbps. For video and two way data communications, this bandwidth is quite limited. With the proposed network, schools will have access to 10 – 60mbps full duplex options if desired. From the CEDA study mentioned earlier, schools reported that "they will need broadband connectivity between all the schools in a District to support student database applications, distance learning applications and centralized facility and security monitoring."

Libraries are the other key component in these areas. For the unemployed, low income and others, their only access to broadband service may be their local library. The proposed network would provide libraries with the same options available to schools and hospitals, as well as connectivity to the IRON network.

Last, the network would provide service to the Nez Perce Tribe in that a majority of the southern part of the network is located on the reservation. The details of this relationship are described in other sections.

## **D. Proposed Funded Service Area**

### **12. Proposed Funded Service Area Maps:**

**12-A.** Service Area Map (Reference Number): **E0CF-A3C8-4F61-841B**

**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):**

In general, service to the community as a whole will not be funded since this is a middle mile project. Service is included for Community Anchor institutions, excepting Moscow and Lewiston.





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For service in each community, here are the numbers for the 5 county area that this regional WAN will serve. These areas will be open to other providers to bring in additional services.

	Total Pop.	HouseHolds	SqMiles	Census Blocks
Total Serv Area:	46,685	21,383	13,205	8,985
Underserved Area:	46,308	21,228	13,125	8,925

The communities of Moscow and Lewiston are the end points for the network and will not be funded per se, but will serve as the termination points for the WAN.

In Moscow there are 8689 households listed in the service area for our middle mile segment from West Twin and a redundant path from Paradise Ridge to our NOC. The population listed is 22782. New service is not planned for Moscow, rather this is the path in to our fiber infrastructure. Businesses in Moscow are approximately 1800. Our current subscriber count in Moscow is 890.

In Lewiston there are 13812 households listed and a population of 31905. Again, new service is not planned, but this is the path in to the fiber infrastructure in Lewiston and from there via fiber to the IRON POP in Clarkston. Businesses in Lewiston are 1894 according to City Hall. Our current subscriber count in Lewiston is 320.

**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:**

We utilized data from self reported consumer use of Broadband services:

Sources: self reported consumer information including Internet registrations, survey cards, online surveys, registrations, and marketing solicitations data (this includes mail, telephone and in person interviews).

Frequency of Updates: Input sources are continuously compiled and the Broadband Indicator is constructed using those sources quarterly.

Sample Size: National, 19 million household records contain information indicating Broadband use.



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**Statement of Methodology:**

The Broadband Indicator is constructed using the data described above with the following assumptions.

1. All addresses are geo coded to the highest level of precision possible using multiple geocoding databases
2. Addresses containing a broadband consumption indicator which geocodes to a Zip+4, street segment, or parcel point (Precise Point) are included.
3. Census blocks containing a Precise Point are considered a "served" block and all other addresses in that block are considered served.
4. Additional indicators and flags on the file will provide additional insight for blocks not considered "served" from above including:
  - Blocks with Precise Points but no indication of broadband consumption
  - Blocks with no Precise Points but households are known to be present
  - Blocks with no Precise Points and no households known to be present

Data from Brian Webster of [www.wirelessmapping.com](http://www.wirelessmapping.com).

The determination of under-served was made for the entire 5 county region we are serving. Elk City is unserved. Individual communities along a particular middle mile segment fall within served areas. Potlatch is one in particular that has DSL from Verizon now and "may" be considered served in town (within DSL range) though our mapped path is mostly outside of town. There are underserved and unserved areas along the path outside of town. The reason for going through this town has to do with the creation of a redundant WAN ring as well as bringing better service to the anchor institutions. Other areas where there is now DSL (in town) would include Troy (TDS), the Qwest areas of Kamiah, Grangeville, Cottonwood, Craigmont and the Verizon area of Orofino. Again, the entire region qualifies as under-served when considered as a whole. The other challenge on creating the middle mile service details is Moscow and Lewiston. These are just end points to get to our fiber network. They are served areas and the network is not intended to serve them but to leverage their infrastructure and extend it out.

## **18. Middle Mile Benefits**

First Step has three connections to the Internet - 100mbps fiber connection to Time Warner in Moscow (scalable to gigabit), 100mbps fiber connection to 360 Networks in Pullman (also scalable) and a third 100mbps fiber connection to XO in Lewiston. Each of





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these Internet pipes are currently interconnected via either direct leased fiber (gigabit between Moscow & Pullman) or via microwave (45mbps DS3 currently). With the new proposed network, the Lewiston Internet pipe will now be connected to the northern pipes with a 200mbps microwave link. It will also connect to IRON via fiber from our Lewiston POP to Clarkston via XO fiber. The ongoing cost of the fiber lease will be funded by IRON.

In addition, if they are funded, we will be cross connecting with the Nez Perce Tribe network at Teakean, Orofino, Nez Perce, Kamiah and Grangeville. They will also be extending the network to areas not currently served by First Step or others. Last, the Tribe will be placing access points on FS towers to provide service to the Nez Perce Police and other first responders. An MOU has been established with the Tribe and is included in our letters. We have also included a map showing the complimentary nature of our networks.

Other providers that could connect are as follows: Mt. IDA of Grangeville, Cactus Internet of Moscow, Elk River Cable, TDS in Troy, Qwest, Verizon, Time Warner, Cell Companies (Sprint, AT&T, Verizon) or even Clearwire who has service in Moscow and Lewiston. Out in Elk River, there is a community network funded by an RUS grant for which we are providing backbone service. This network would improve that service and provide the additional bandwidth they have been requesting but we have not been able to deliver. In Deary, First Step is providing backhaul service for Elk River Cable that currently has over 50 subs in Deary. Their bandwidth requirements are also growing.

We anticipate that at least a couple of the providers above will connect to the network and thus expand their service area. This will provide competition in communities where there is a single provider and perhaps provide additional last mile distribution via cable, dsl or wireless to reach out to un-served or underserved areas outside each of these areas.

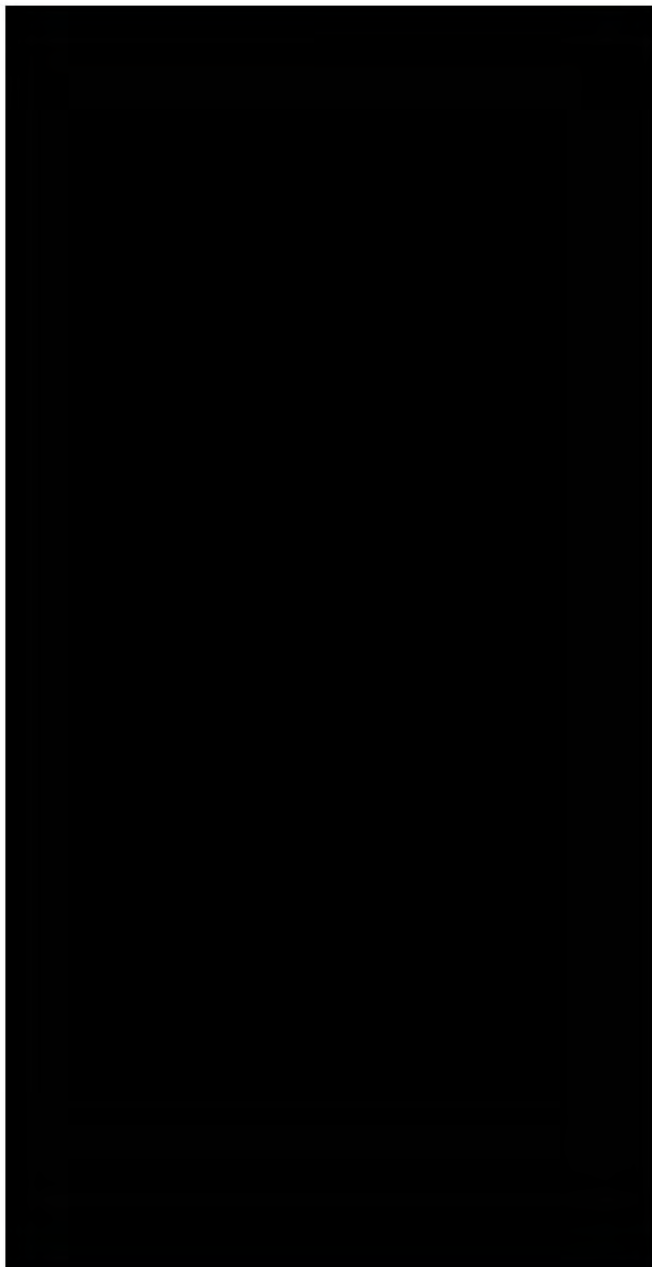
The following entities are anchor institutions that we anticipate connecting to the network. Those with a star are entities that are currently served by First Step, mostly with 2mbps/500kbps service. The new network would provide the expanded bandwidth capability that some are requesting as well as connect them to other regional and state wide networks like IRON. In addition, it will provide competitive choice for those in areas with limited options.





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In the service areas for the project, excluding Moscow (721 subs) and Lewiston (209 subs), First Step is currently serving approximately 994 subscribers. In addition to these, we are projecting a minimum of 426 additional households to be served and 216 businesses. These estimates are conservative and would revise upwards should a Clearwire or other such entity utilize the WAN.

## **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**

### **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:**

Given the system design and the use of open standards, the proposed network will be open to other wireless providers, cable Internet providers, DSL providers and cell phone providers. The network will provide Internet IP transit as well as MPLS-based Ethernet transport.

From our system design section, our engineer states: "Network topology will be maintained by OSPF, with end-to-end bandwidth reservation and usage optimization controlled by OSPF-TE. Ethernet transport emulation will be provided by VPLS, and ports can be broken out at any location in the network. Thanks to the reservation capabilities of OSPF-TE, dedicated



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bandwidth pseudo-wires can be partitioned from any point in the network to any other point, without having to follow any particular path. For example, a virtual Ethernet switch can be created with dedicated 30 Mbps ports at all clinics in the area served can be created, for the support of tele-medicine. Additionally, the usage of MPLS in this manner will allow the network to be used as a platform to support the eventual build out of last-mile access networks by ourselves, or by any other provider. For example, this would allow the LEC in a remote area served by this network to deploy DSL service, without the need to build additional backhaul facilities, and without the need to purchase IP transit service from us.

Currently First Step is supporting other providers on our network, namely Elk River Cable TV. We are providing backhaul service for them to Garfield, WA and Deary, ID where we also offer wireless service in both communities. We also provide backhaul for them in Rosalia, WA and all traffic for the three communities is routed across our network.

Other providers such as Cactus Internet of Moscow, Mt. IDA of Grangeville, Sudden Link Cable of Orofino and others could connect at numerous places throughout the network - tower sites, fiber collo sites in Moscow and Lewiston, etc.

One entity that will be utilizing the network if funded by this program is the Nez Perce Tribe based in Lapwai, ID. They will be connecting to the FS network at Teakean Butte and FS will be providing transport across our network. We will also be cross connecting with them in Orofino and Grangeville and Nez Perce so as to provide additional redundant loops in the backbone and to deliver service across their network as well. They are applying for a last mile grant that will bring service to the Nez Perce Tribal Police and to first responders and other safety agency personnel.

Last, a number of cell providers do not deliver service out in these areas due to the lack of backbone facilities and transport. This network will provide them an opportunity to do so without having to build their own dedicated network out to remote areas.

As for network management practices, the current system employed by First Step will be extended to the proposed backbone system as well. This includes wholesale pricing, system monitoring, online, email and phone technical support, priority dispatch of technical personnel, escalation procedures, customer call logging and support, etc.





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

**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**



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**26. Cost per Household (BTOP only):**

We are applying for a middle mile project.

**27. Affordability**

As can be seen from the attached service offerings tables and the competitor tables, our Metro Ethernet service is much less than what competitors charge. Our dedicated full duplex Internet access service for anchor Institutions is also less than competitors that offer T-1 or bonded T-1 services.

For the schools that are having to use a T-1 or bonded T-1's, they will be able to get a 10mbps/10mbps pipe for \$1000/month that will give them transport to IRON. For \$25/meg for Internet from IRON, they will then be able to get commodity Internet service as well as transport service for \$1250/month. The same options apply to hospitals and other anchor institutions that are approved IRON members.

For third party providers that want to offer service across the network, our pricing model gives them an affordable and flexible model that can be scaled up as they go. Since it is based on an bandwidth model as opposed to a telecom model, they will not be required to buy an OC-12 like First Step did when we moved into our facility nine years ago. Even though we were only using a DS3 of Internet capacity at the time, we had to pay a huge local loop cost of thousands of dollars to Verizon in order to have the capacity to grow and add bandwidth with our upstream provider, AT&T, at a later time. Instead, this model will enable providers to grow incrementally and add capacity as they require it.

## **F. Technology Strategy**

**28. Technology Type:**

Wireless - Terrestrial Fixed

**Other:**

**29. System Design**





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We propose to build a fixed wireless network, with a fully redundant core composed of fully licensed 11 and 18 Ghz microwave links, and a number of branch networks composed of 11 and 18 Ghz licensed links, 3.65 Ghz semi-licensed links, and 5 Ghz unlicensed links. This network will provide Internet IP transit, along with MPLS-based Ethernet transport.

Internet bandwidth for this new system will be provided through our existing networks, which currently has 200 Mbps of Internet IP transit in Moscow ID, and an additional 100 Mbps of Internet transit in Lewiston ID. In addition to the Internet bandwidth, we also have a 100 Mbps peering connection with the University of Idaho in Moscow. We will be adding new connections to the IRON network in both Moscow and Lewiston, for the purpose of providing transport services between IRON and their eligible customers covered by our network.

The 11 and 18 Ghz microwave links will be based on Dragonwave Horizon Compact radios, initially licensed for 200 Mbps full-duplex, and key upgradable to 400 or 800 Mbps. These units may also be doubled up on the same antenna, to provide a final potential bandwidth of 1.6 Gbps per link. The 3.65 Ghz and 5 Ghz links will be based on Redline AN-80i radios, with their maximum capacity already unlocked. Should bandwidth requirements exceed the capacity of those radios, additional units can be added in parallel, or they can be replaced with 11 or 18 Ghz Dragonwave systems.

In the core, there will be at least two of the Dragonwave links at each site, linking to additional diverse core locations. All fifteen of the core middle paths have been mapped out in the middle mile service detail section. No core site will be entirely dependent on any other, and each site will have substantial internal redundancy. Within each core site, each radio will connect via Ethernet to one of two interconnected Dell Powerconnect 5424 gigabit Ethernet switches. The radios will be divided as evenly as possible between the two switches to prevent the failure of one switch taking down the entire site. Both switches will in turn connect to both of two MikroTik RB1000 routers, which will perform the MPLS switching and signaling, along with IP routing. The two routers will be fully redundant, and the loss of one will not impact service. There will also be a DLI remote reboot device at each location, able to automatically power-cycle the equipment should contact with other core sites be lost.

Regarding power at core locations, sufficient battery capacity will be provided to operate all equipment for several days. In those locations where backup generators are already



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in place and available, they will be used, and battery capacity will be adjusted accordingly.

From the core, branch networks will be built out to anchor tenants in each of the targeted communities. At intermediate sites along these branch networks, all radios will connect to a single Dell Powerconnect 5424 gigabit Ethernet switch. Also connected to the switch will be a DLI reboot device, along with two MikroTik RB450G routers, which will perform MPLS switching and signaling, along with IP routing. Sufficient battery capacity will be provided to operate all equipment for several days, and additional backup power as available will be used.

At the end nodes of the branch network, the radio link will connect directly to a single MikroTik RB450G router, which will also connect to a DLI reboot device. The router will provide MPLS switching and signaling, along with IP routing. Battery backup sufficient to last several hours will be provided.

Network topology will be maintained by OSPF, with end-to-end bandwidth reservation and usage optimization controlled by OSPF-TE. Ethernet transport emulation will be provided by VPLS, and ports can be broken out at any location in the network. Thanks to the reservation capabilities of OSPF-TE, dedicated bandwidth pseudo-wires can be partitioned from any point in the network to any other point, without having to follow any particular path. For example, a virtual Ethernet switch can be created with dedicated 30 Mbps ports at all clinics in the area served can be created, for the support of tele-medicine.

Additionally, the usage of MPLS in this manner will allow the network to be used as a platform to support the eventual build out of last-mile access networks by ourselves, or by any other provider. For example, this would allow the LEC in a remote area served by this network to deploy DSL service, without the need to build additional backhaul facilities, and without the need to purchase IP transit service from us.

The advantages to using this particular technology are three-fold. First, the geography of the region is rugged and not conducive to extensive runs of fiber. One of the reasons a number of these towns still have no fiber to even their central office is just this reason. Also closely tied to the geography is the relatively sparse population. Wireless provides a much more cost effective methodology for reaching these areas. And last, wireless microwave has evolved to





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such a point where speeds and reliability are such that the cost to benefit ratio between microwave and fiber, given these other factors, are even harder to justify when current population numbers are factored in.

In summary:

Key components: Towers, Radios, Routers, Switches, Backup power.

Wireless frequency: 3.5Ghz, 5.4Ghz, 5.8Ghz, 11Ghz, 18Ghz, others as needed.

Spectrum availability: Unknown at the moment, but given the sparse nature of the area, it should be plentiful.

Technology used: Dragonwave, Redline.

Morphology/Topology: Various. Mostly open prairie, river canyons and valleys, and forested mountains.

Power levels: No higher than 30dBm TX for <6Ghz, as per license for >6Ghz (quite low).

Mobile: no.

Capacity/Speed: Very high for wireless/microwave systems.

Reliability: Quite good. I think we have yet to see a DW fail, and Redline failures are uncommon.

Cost effectiveness: Extremely good.

Upgrade paths: Software keys, additional parallel radios sharing the antennas, entire additional paths. Scalable as needed.

**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**



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**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:**

Deary - Spud Hill - new tower - the Idaho Department of Lands acquired the land on the top of Spud from the State this past year and has expressed a desire to put in a road and provide power to the top of Spud Hill within the next 12 months. They initiated contact with us in June about interest in constructing a tower on that site.

Paradise Ridge - new tower - First Step is partnering with the Latah County Sheriff's office and is negotiating with the land owner on Paradise Ridge. Our senior wireless engineer met with the owner, Jim Givan, in July and agreed on a plot for the tower. We are prepared to enter into a lease agreement should an award be granted. We currently lease space on a smaller tower at this site that could be used temporarily in needed. FS and the County require a taller tower with generator backup at this site, hence the new tower.

West Twin – new tower – First Step currently leases land for a tower on West Twin. With the additional antenna capacity required for this project, a new tower is needed. West Twin is primarily a tower location with a collection of towers from various providers and we do not





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anticipate any issues.

Grangeville - First Step has collocation facilities on the Idaho County Courthouse and the Columbia Grain elevator in Grangeville. For this project we will be putting up a new tower on Mt. Idaho where other towers are currently located. We have spoken with another Wireless ISP in Grangeville that is located here who has a collocation tower facility that could be used temporarily, but we anticipate that the capacity will require a new tower for the long term.

Winchester Grade - the State of Idaho currently has a tower here that we have requested collocation space on. State Representative Trail has made a formal request for FS and we are awaiting their response. We received communication from Bill Shawver, Director, Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security on August 12th that our request to be on their tower is being processed at the State. He anticipates we will have a decision within the next three weeks. We also have the option of using land near there for a tower if need be. We have contacted the land owner, Jim Hanna, and he has agreed to lease land for a tower in the event the State does not let us use theirs. This site has already been zoned for a tower by the County and is ready to go. A radio station was all set to install a tower there this summer and ended up locating in a different place.

First Step realizes that for each tower site we will need to go through a process with each County for approval, submit tower plans for approval, obtain building permits, etc. We have gone through the process and installed towers and are familiar with the requirements. Each County is fully supportive of this project and we do not anticipate any significant delays.

FCC Licenses for 11 & 18ghz Dragonwave shots - these licenses are obtained at the time of equipment acquisition. We are in the process of licensing 5 links at present and have licensed four others in the recent past and have not had issues.

Existing towers - each of the following sites already has a FS tower and a long term lease in place with the land owner.

West Twin, Potlatch, Princeton, McGeary Butte, Teakean Butte, Lewiston Hill, Lewiston AIA building downtown, Gilbert Grade tower above Orofino, Cottonwood Butte, Columbia Grain elevators in Cottonwood, Grangeville, Craigmont, & Nez Perce, Water towers in Craigmont &



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Winchester & Troy

### **36. Construction and Vendor Contracts**

First Step Internet has network engineers and wireless technicians on staff and will be doing most of the work on the project. The only area that we anticipate using contractors is for the construction of new towers. On our recent RUS Community Connect grant project for Ferdinand, First Step used Rathbun Communications of Moscow, Idaho. They provide the two way radios communications for Latah County and others throughout the region and have their own towers as well. Keith Rathbun coordinated the project to construct a tower on Teakean Butte: his activities included obtaining a building permit from Clearwater County, supervising the excavation for the foundation, building the rebar cage, supervising the pouring of concrete for the foundation, putting together and erecting the tower on site, installing the equipment building and backup generator, and coordinating with the power company to install power. We plan to use Rathbun Communications or another contractor of his caliber for the construction of the proposed towers in the application.

## **Qualification of Management Team and Organizational Readiness**

### **37. Management Team Resumes:**

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

### **38. Organizational Readiness:**

First Step Internet is a functioning ISP and has been in business since 1989, originally First Step Research. We have been providing Internet service since 1994 and have all the systems in place for sales, operations, technical support and billing. With this grant request, we are looking to implement a new billing system that will enable us to combine some aspects of our process that are being handled by separate applications.

First Step Internet has over 3500 wireless clients, 800 DSL subs, over 10 direct fiber clients and over 200 dial up subs. We currently install an average of 70 new wireless clients every month. We manage hundreds of access points, dozens of towers/tower structures, fiber connections, and pre-installed Ethernet and wireless networks in over 4000 apartments rooms in Moscow and Pullman. We also manage hundreds of routers and switches and other





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networking gear throughout the enterprise. Last, we manage our central NOC in Moscow with dozens of servers, over 500 hosted websites, routers, switches and other networking equipment in our air-conditioned, generator backup, secure facility.

At First Step, we currently employ 36 people and will add further personnel as required.

2 receptionist/billing support- Leslie Rounds & Jessica Reed,  
Billing manager- Lori Middleton,  
CFO- Shannon Owen,  
CEO- Kevin Owen,  
CTO- Bill Moore,  
Sales Manager- Mike Hall,  
Technical support manager- David Camden-Britton,  
Tech2 – Andrew Morris,  
Sysadmins & Network Engineers- Mike Harshbarger, Eric Flannery, Nathan Anderson, Sam Naugler, Tony Burt (also purchasing),  
Sales- Pete Weidert, Aaron Stenzel,  
Technical support/wireless sysadmin liaison- Aaron Bronson,  
Web development- Alisa Bozer, Dustin Thomas, Joe Savoy (also sales)  
Wireless Network technicians- Mike French, Brian Renfro, Matt Renfro, Steve Bacon, Jordan Smith, Robert Culbreth  
Network Engineer/Tower specialists – Jason Frawley, Nick Alexander  
Technical support- Aaron Westgate, Brian Hensley, Eric Henson, Jace Wrigley, Joseph Gentry, John Kirkland, Matt Cernik, Tabitha Simmons

From the above staff, First Step currently handles the sales, billing, provisioning, technical support, network management and network expansion of our existing enterprise. The proposed network grant project would enable First Step to take the service to the next level and provide the needed bandwidth and service to underserved and unserved areas in the region.

**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:**

There are several partnerships involved in this project. It is a regional effort that has been developing for a number of years. Each of these groups have been integral to the planning of the project and the aggregation of support. They are listed below and further information is provided with the upload section. Additionally, there are a number of Counties and Cities in support of the project and their letters are included in the letter upload area.

Clearwater Economic Development Association (CEDA)

Idaho Regional Optical Network (IRON)

Clearwater County Economic Development Council (CCEDC)

Nez Perce Tribe

North-Central Idaho Telecommunication Consortium (NCITC)

Anchor tenants:







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**42. Recovery Act and Other Governmental Collaboration.**

The Nez Perce Tribe is also applying for a grant with BIP for areas of the region that First Step was not planning to cover at this time, nor did we have the resources to do another application for last mile. In their application they are going to build the backbone to other areas along the Clearwater River and over to their headquarters in Lapwai. They are also extending out to Kooskia as well as closing the loop on the south eastern end of our network for further redundancy. Last, they are applying for equipment to install last mile access points, particularly in the 4.9ghz band that will service the Tribal Police, will be available for the Idaho County Sheriff, Lewis County Sheriff and other safety agencies and first responders. We have already signed an MOU with the Tribe and will be sharing our towers and the backbone for these uses. In addition, we will be able to provide service via their access points in these additional areas as well.



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The Elk City folks have also informed us of a grant they will be getting from the State of Idaho Department of Commerce for a workforce training facility. Getting broadband service out to them will enable them to make this facility more functional. That grant is for \$130,000.

The regional telecom WAN study that led to this project proposal was commissioned by CEDA and was funded with a \$13,500 USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG). Their original Telecom assessment study was also funded by a grant.

These are just three examples of leveraging projects in the region.

### **Community Involvement (BTOP Applicants Only)**

#### **43. Partnering with Disadvantaged Businesses**

First Step Internet is partnering with the Nez Perce Tribe of Lapwai, Idaho. Some of the details of the Memorandum of understanding are pasted below. A copy is included in our support letters.

I. **PURPOSE AND GOAL:** The purpose of this memorandum of understanding between the Nez Perce Tribe (Tribe) and First Step Internet (First Step) is to outline the parameters for cooperation on their complementary applications for grant funds from the Rural Utilities Services(RUS)/National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA) due 8/14/09. Further, it is to outline the manner in which the parties will work together as partners in the use of the telecommunications and technology network services in the event that grant funds are awarded to First Step and the Tribe.

The goal of this MOU is to cooperate in the application and implementation for RUS/NTIA funds that will be used to increase infrastructure for reservation communities for high speed communications and access to the internet.

Though cooperating as mutual-interest partners, each entity remains independent in operation and ownership.

First Step Internet (FSI) agrees:

1. To make available the FSI network to help serve the various service needs of the Nez Perce Tribe (Tribe) particularly in the areas of law enforcement, emergency/first response, education and healthcare. With this in mind, First Step agrees to apply only for a middle mile project (application due 8/14/09) that will provide a regional high speed wide area network





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covering the following areas: Orofino, Kamiah, Grangeville, Craigmont, Cottonwood, Winchester, and Nez Perce. First Step will also be including areas to the north that outside the exterior boundaries of the Nez Perce Reservation.

2. To provide labor, expertise, materials and equipment to build out and expand the First Step network serving the region with funds provided by RUS/NTIA grant. Also to provide technical assistance in design and development if needed to the Tribe

## **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)	306,985	306,985				
Outside Plant (cables, conduits, ducts, poles, towers, repeaters, etc.)	169,115	169,115				
Buildings and Land – (new construction, improvements, renovations, lease)	35,000	35,000				
Customer Premise Equipment (modems, set-top boxes, inside wiring, etc.)	188,000	188,000				
Billing and Operational Support Systems (IT systems, software, etc.)	40,000	40,000				
Operating Equipment	30,000	30,000				





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(vehicles, office equipment, other)						
Engineering/ Professional Services (engineering design, project management, consulting, etc.)	85,450	85,450				
Testing (network elements, IT system elements, user devices, test generators, lab furnishings, servers/computers, etc.)	7,500	7,500				
Site Preparation	10,000	10,000				
Other	623,964	623,964				
<b>TOTAL BROADBAND SYSTEM</b>	<b>1,496,014</b>	<b>1,496,014</b>				



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**Total Budget:** \$ 2,992,028

**45. Detailed Budget:**

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

**Sustainability**

**46. Reasonableness**

First Step is proposing a middle mile project that includes the necessary point to point microwave links to create a licensed 200mbps full duplex network throughout the region. Only the necessary radios, antennas, routers, switches, towers and power equipment necessary is specified in the project. For the anchor institutions, we are specifying Redline equipment in the licensed 3.65ghz band and unlicensed 5ghz band. These radios will provide the necessary bandwidth to support metro-Ethernet service up to 40-80mbps. The cost of these radios is a third of the licensed DragonWave units. Nevertheless, they will provide the necessary bandwidth and reliability that is needed for this service and will provide a growth path for increased use for the short to mid-term, and for some entities, the long term.

The original plan by CEDA for a regional WAN specified parallel radios at each site for redundancy, but their design was mostly a single backbone with spurs off the main path. Our strategy is to create redundant loops in strategic points throughout the WAN that will automatically reroute traffic should there be a failure on one leg or the network. Also in the plan commissioned by CEDA funded with a \$13,500 USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG), the price tag that was estimated for the regional WAN project was \$22.4 million. Given our infrastructure investment in the region and the reasonableness of our design and equipment specification, the project has come in at \$3 million.





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**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**

First Step Internet has received pledges of match funding from the following entities.

First Step Internet – Program revenues and \$150,000 line of credit – cash match – infrastructure - 5%

First Step Internet - \$360,000 – in kind match, indirect costs – variable use - 12%



Last, First Step will make up any additional match required under the project through cash contributions from revenues as needed.

Letters of commitment for the cash matches have been included with our application. The letter supporting the line of credit is also included in our application.



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## **BTOP Requirements**

### **52. Matching Funds:**

- a. Cash: \$ 246,000.00
- b. In-Kind: \$ 339,000.00
- c. Percent of Total Project Cost: 20

### **53. Demonstration of Financial Need:**

First Step Internet has presented this plan to Zion's Bank with a request for \$3 million to fund it and have been rejected. Please see the included rejection letter. The reason for the rejection is that there is not a high enough level of business and population to support this amount of investment due to the rurality of the area.

Second, in a note from our accountant, he states:

Under the BIP scenario of financials, it is clear to see that this is not a viable option as the cash flow does not support the project. The 50% loan from year two of the project just cripples the operations of the company and there are not sufficient revenues in future years to make this an option that the company can afford.

However, the BTOP scenario, where there is a grant of 80% of the funds and the company commits the additional 20% in "matching funds", works well within the operations of the company. Even though "the project" creates negative cash flow for a couple of years, that shortfall is recouped from revenue in years three, four, etc.

In conclusion, First Step Internet, LLC, through its commitment of matching funds, is not only capable through a service standpoint, but also through a financial standpoint, to complete this project to the satisfaction of all concerned through the BTOP scenario of funding.

Last, this region has been historically neglected by the major telcos for infrastructure investment. In 2001 when First Step began deploying fixed wireless broadband service, DSL had been deployed in Moscow and Pullman by Verizon. A few years later they deployed it in Orofino. In 2007 they received a grant from the State of Idaho and deployed DSL in Potlatch.





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Meanwhile, First Step had been pushing out wireless broadband throughout the region one community at a time and serving small communities like Deary, Bovill, Genesee, Farmington, WA, Princeton, Harvard, etc. and large areas of rural countryside outside of city limits. Bandwidths are limited however, due to the high cost of licensed equipment.

Down in Idaho, Clearwater, Nez Perce and Lewis Counties it has been much the same. Small providers like Connect Wireless were the first to bring broadband wireless service to Grangeville, Kamiah, Craigmont, Cottonwood, Nez Perce and Winchester. These networks were supported by T-1's. The telcos would not deploy DSL. Then in 2007 after demand had been built up by the small guys, Qwest also received funds from the Idaho State grant and deployed DSL in a number of these communities, just in town though. Neither Qwest nor Verizon have been willing, however, to deploy Metro ethernet or to provide these kinds of services from facilities in Moscow and Lewiston. They may eventually do this "some day" in the distant future, but meanwhile, this proposed project will bring the regional WAN and the needed bandwidth to these areas. The cost is prohibitive for First Step to undertake the cost on our own, but hope the NTIA will partner with us to bring this network to fruition.

#### **54. Unjust Enrichment**

In 2009, First Step Internet applied with the RUS for funds to bring service to the unserved area of Elk City in Idaho County. The recipients of that grant have not yet been announced. If this project is funded through the Community Connect program, we would remove that part of the project from this plan and go with the Community Connect grant.

In 2008, First Step Internet was awarded \$213,000 under the RUS Community Connect program to bring service to Ferdinand, Idaho. These funds are currently being used to build a tower on Teakean Butte (completed) and to build the licensed backbone link from Teakean to Cottonwood Butte and to outfit Cottonwood with power backup, etc. The rest of the funds will be used within the next month to build links down into Ferdinand and provide service in town. The facilities for Teakean and Cottonwood mentioned above are going to be leveraged in this project and are not being duplicated in this application.

Last, starting in 2002, First Step was awarded approximately \$608,000 for three RUS Community Connect grants to bring service to previously unserved communities of Potlatch, Deary and Bovill. Those programs have been completed and First Step is not receiving any further funds from these at present.



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Other than that, First Step is not receiving federal funds for non recurring costs.

**55. Disclosure of Federal and/or State Funding Sources**

First Step Internet services the following schools, hospitals or libraries who use USAC funds to pay for part of their service costs. The amounts vary and are submitted by the institutions themselves directly to USAC.

Clearwater Memorial Public Library  
Potlatch High School & Jr High School  
Kamiah School District  
Weippe Library & Discovery Center  
Whitepine JT School Dist #288  
Genesee JT School Dist No 282  
Latah County Free Library Dist  
Whitman County Library (not part of service area)  
Asotin County Library (not part of service area)  
Moscow School District (not part of service area)  
Moscow Alternative School (not part of service area)  
Garfield Cnty Pub Hosp Dist No 1 (not part of service area)  
Pullman Regional Hospital (not part of service area)

First Step received approximately \$25,000 from the State of Idaho in 2007 to bring service to the previously unserved community of Weippe, Idaho. Part of this funding was used to purchase the tower on Gilbert Grade above Orofino that will be used as a connection point for this project.

The only other funding from State or Federal sources are the Community Connect Grants mentioned in the previous section.

First Step does not receive USF funds at present.

## **I. Self Scoring – BIP Only Self Scoring**





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**56. Self Scoring Sheet**



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Criteria	Method	Points	Self Scores
<b><u>PROJECT PURPOSE</u></b>			
Proportion of Rural Residents Served in Unserved Areas	1 point for every 10,000 unserved households	Up to 5	2
Rural Area Targeting	1 point for every 5% increase in the rural service area up the minimum 75% rural area requirement	Up to 5	4
Remote Area targeting	1 point for every 50 miles a service area is located from a non-rural area	Up to 5	2
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
<b><u>PROJECT BENEFITS</u></b>			
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	<b>10</b>	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	<b>5</b>	5
Critical Community Facilities	If discounted rate packages at least 25% lower than advertise rates are available to critical facilities	<b>5</b>	5
<b><u>PROJECT VIABILITY</u></b>			
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
<b><u>PROJECT BUDGET AND SUSTAINABILITY</u></b>			
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	3
<b>Total Points</b>		100	71





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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**

Idaho - 1

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

Idaho - 1

## 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:**

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:**





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**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:** WestTwin-Potlatch

**Census Blocks in Middle Mile Span:** 160570052001004, 160570055003009, 160570055003032, 160570055003036, 160570055003040, 160570055003041, 160570055003051, 160570055004001, 160570055004002, 160570055004007, 160570055004025, 160570055004043, 160570055004049, 160570055004050, 160570055004050, 160570055004058, 160570055004060, 160570055004062

**Last Mile Service Area Name:** Potlatch area

**Community Name:** Potlatch

**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.

**Total Square Miles of Service Area:** 63

**Total Population :** 2,140

**Total Number of Households:** 907

**Total Number of Businesses:** 20

**Total Number of Critical Community Facilities, Anchor Institutions and Public Safety Entities:** 4



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

<b>Submitted Date:</b> 8/19/2009 12:31:32 PM		<b>Easygrants ID:</b> 643	
<b>Funding Opportunity:</b> Broadband Initiatives Program and Broadband Technology Opportunities Program		<b>Applicant Organization:</b> First Step Internet, LLC	
<b>Task:</b> Submit Application - Infrastructure Programs		<b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr. Kevin Owen	

**Middle Mile Span Name:** Potlatch-Princeton  
**Census Blocks in Middle Mile Span:** 160570055001116, 160570055001116, 160570055001116, 160570055001119, 160570055001135, 160570055001136, 160570055001137, 160570055001142, 160570055001153, 160570055001154, 160570055001159, 160570055001159, 160570055001161, 160570055003009, 160570055003034, 160570055003055  
**Last Mile Service Area Name:** Princeton area  
**Community Name:** Princeton  
**Rural Classification of the Community:** Rural  
**BIP – Service Status:** Underserved

<b>BIP - If Service Status is "Underserved" please select at least one applicable option from this list.</b>
No more than 50% of the households in the census-designated community [or other area] have access to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service at greater than the minimum broadband transmission speed;
No fixed or mobile broadband service provider advertises broadband transmission speeds of at least 3 mbps downstream in the census designated community [or other area]; or
The rate of broadband subscribership for the census-designated community [or other area] is 40% of households or less.

**BTOP - Service Status:** Underserved

<b>BTOP - If Service Status is "Underserved" please select at least one applicable option from this list.</b>
No more than 50% of the households in the proposed funded service area have access to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service at greater than the minimum broadband transmission speed;
No fixed or mobile broadband service provider advertises broadband transmission speeds of at least 3 mbps downstream in the proposed funded service area;
The rate of broadband subscribership for the proposed funded service area is 40% of households or less.

**Total Square Miles of Service Area:** 26  
**Total Population :** 1,452  
**Total Number of Households:** 632  
**Total Number of Businesses:** 7





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

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<b>Task:</b> Submit Application - Infrastructure Programs		<b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr. Kevin Owen

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**Total Number of Critical Community Facilities, Anchor Institutions and Public Safety Entities:**

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**Middle Mile Span Name:** Princeton-Deary  
**Census Blocks in Middle Mile Span:** 160570055001116, 160570055001214, 160570055001217, 160570055001218, 160570055001219, 160570055001220, 160570056001078, 160570056001082, 160570056001083, 160570056002000, 160570056002002  
**Last Mile Service Area Name:** Deary Area  
**Community Name:** Deary  
**Rural Classification of the Community:** Rural  
**BIP – Service Status:** Underserved

<b>BIP - If Service Status is "Underserved" please select at least one applicable option from this list.</b>
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No fixed or mobile broadband service provider advertises broadband transmission speeds of at least 3 mbps downstream in the census designated community [or other area]; or
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**BTOP - Service Status:** Underserved

<b>BTOP - If Service Status is "Underserved" please select at least one applicable option from this list.</b>
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No fixed or mobile broadband service provider advertises broadband transmission speeds of at least 3 mbps downstream in the proposed funded service area;
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**Total Square Miles of Service Area:** 101

**Total Population :** 1,456

**Total Number of Households:** 609

**Total Number of Businesses:** 10

**Total Number of Critical Community Facilities, Anchor Institutions and Public Safety Entities:** 2

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**Middle Mile Span Name:** FSI-WestTwin  
**Census Blocks in Middle Mile Span:** 160570052001004, 160570052001007, 160570052001007, 160570052001008, 160570052001008, 160570052005000, 160570052005006, 160570052005006, 160570052005007, 160570052005011, 160570052005020, 160570052005021, 160570053001018, 160570053001019, 160570053001020, 160570053005015, 160570053005016  
**Last Mile Service Area Name:** West Twin



**Broadband Infrastructure Application  
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<b>Funding Opportunity:</b> Broadband Initiatives Program and Broadband Technology Opportunities Program	<b>Applicant Organization:</b> First Step Internet, LLC
<b>Task:</b> Submit Application - Infrastructure Programs	<b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr. Kevin Owen

**Community Name:** Moscow - West Twin  
**Rural Classification of the Community:** Rural  
**BIP – Service Status:** Served

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

**BTOP - Service Status:** Underserved

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

**Total Square Miles of Service Area:** 55  
**Total Population :** 22,782  
**Total Number of Households:** 8,689  
**Total Number of Businesses:** 950  
**Total Number of Critical Community Facilities, Anchor Institutions and Public Safety Entities:** 30

**Middle Mile Span Name:** WestTwin-Troy  
**Census Blocks in Middle Mile Span:** 160570052001001, 160570052001001, 160570052001002, 160570052001004, 160570052001024, 160570052001026, 160570056003028, 160570056003029, 160570056003031, 160570056003034, 160570056003034, 160570056003039, 160570056003040, 160570056003041, 160570056003042, 160570056003043, 160570056003057  
**Last Mile Service Area Name:** Troy area  
**Community Name:** Troy  
**Rural Classification of the Community:** Rural  
**BIP – Service Status:** Served

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

**BTOP - Service Status:** Underserved

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





**Broadband Infrastructure Application  
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<b>Task:</b> Submit Application - Infrastructure Programs		<b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr. Kevin Owen

**Total Square Miles of Service Area: 55**  
**Total Population : 1,349**  
**Total Number of Households: 562**  
**Total Number of Businesses: 23**  
**Total Number of Critical Community Facilities, Anchor Institutions and Public Safety Entities: 3**

**Middle Mile Span Name:** Deary-McGeary  
**Census Blocks in Middle Mile Span:** 160570056001097, 160570056001098, 160570056001117, 160570056001128, 160570056001128, 160570056001130, 160570056001140, 160570056002000  
**Last Mile Service Area Name:** McGeary area  
**Community Name:** McGeary Butte  
**Rural Classification of the Community:** Rural  
**BIP – Service Status:** Underserved

<b>BIP - If Service Status is "Underserved" please select at least one applicable option from this list.</b>
No fixed or mobile broadband service provider advertises broadband transmission speeds of at least 3 mbps downstream in the census designated community [or other area]; or
The rate of broadband subscribership for the census-designated community [or other area] is 40% of households or less.

**BTOP - Service Status:** Underserved

<b>BTOP - If Service Status is "Underserved" please select at least one applicable option from this list.</b>
No fixed or mobile broadband service provider advertises broadband transmission speeds of at least 3 mbps downstream in the proposed funded service area;
The rate of broadband subscribership for the proposed funded service area is 40% of households or less.

**Total Square Miles of Service Area: 61**  
**Total Population : 654**  
**Total Number of Households: 278**  
**Total Number of Businesses: 2**  
**Total Number of Critical Community Facilities, Anchor Institutions and Public Safety Entities:**



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<b>Task:</b> Submit Application - Infrastructure Programs	<b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr. Kevin Owen

**Middle Mile Span Name:** WestTwin-Teakean  
**Census Blocks in Middle Mile Span:** 160359701004569, 160359701004576, 160359701004576, 160359701004579, 160359701004579, 160359701004579, 160359701004580, 160570052001001, 160570052001001, 160570052001002, 160570052001004, 160570052001024, 160570052001025, 160570052001026, 160570056003028, 160570056003029, 160570056003031, 160570056003032, 160570056003057, 160570056004001, 160570056004001, 160570056004002, 160570056004003, 160570057001019, 160570057001019, 160570057001020, 160570057001020, 160570057001023, 160570057001028, 160570057001034, 160570057001070, 160570057001072, 160570057001073, 160570057001079, 160570057001085, 160570057001087, 160699902001000, 160699902001004  
**Last Mile Service Area Name:** Teakean  
**Community Name:** Teakean - Cavendish  
**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.

**Total Square Miles of Service Area:** 101

**Total Population :** 667

**Total Number of Households:** 309

**Total Number of Businesses:** 3

**Total Number of Critical Community Facilities, Anchor Institutions and Public Safety Entities:**

**Middle Mile Span Name:** Troy-McGeary





**Broadband Infrastructure Application  
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<b>Task:</b> Submit Application - Infrastructure Programs		<b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr. Kevin Owen	

**Census Blocks in Middle Mile Span:** 160570056001128, 160570056001128, 160570056001136, 160570056001136, 160570056001138, 160570056001138, 160570056001139, 160570056001140, 160570056001144, 160570056002015, 160570056002016, 160570056002016, 160570056002020, 160570056002021, 160570056002062, 160570056002063, 160570056003057, 160570056004000, 160570056004001, 160570056004001, 160570057001073

**Last Mile Service Area Name:** McGeary Butte  
**Community Name:** McGeary Butte  
**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.

**Total Square Miles of Service Area:** 45

**Total Population :** 825

**Total Number of Households:** 352

**Total Number of Businesses:** 3

**Total Number of Critical Community Facilities, Anchor Institutions and Public Safety Entities:**

**Middle Mile Span Name:** FSI-ParadiseRidge  
**Census Blocks in Middle Mile Span:** 160570053001020, 160570053004000, 160570053004001, 160570054006001  
**Last Mile Service Area Name:** Paradise Ridge  
**Community Name:** Paradise Ridge  
**Rural Classification of the Community:** Rural  
**BIP – Service Status:** Served

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



**Broadband Infrastructure Application  
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<b>Task:</b> Submit Application - Infrastructure Programs	<b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr. Kevin Owen

**BTOP - Service Status:** Underserved

<b>BTOP - If Service Status is "Underserved" please select at least one applicable option from this list.</b> 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:** 57

**Total Population :** 23,510

**Total Number of Households:** 8,980

**Total Number of Businesses:** 950

**Total Number of Critical Community Facilities, Anchor Institutions and Public Safety Entities:** 30

**Middle Mile Span Name:** McGeary-Gilbert

**Census Blocks in Middle Mile Span:** 160359701004549, 160359701004550, 160359701004553, 160359701004554, 160359701004569, 160359701004590, 160359702001000, 160359702001001, 160359702002000, 160359702002000, 160359702002008, 160359702002009, 160359702006002, 160359702006008, 160359702006014, 160359702006021, 160570056001128, 160570056001130, 160570056001135, 160570056001136, 160570056001160, 160570056001160, 160570056001171, 160570056001172, 160570056001190, 160570057001000, 160570057001048, 160570057001049, 160570057001051

**Last Mile Service Area Name:** Gilbert Grade

**Community Name:** Orofino

**Rural Classification of the Community:** Rural

**BIP – Service Status:** Served

<b>BIP - If Service Status is "Underserved" please select at least one applicable option from this list.</b>
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**BTOP - Service Status:** Underserved

<b>BTOP - If Service Status is "Underserved" please select at least one applicable option from this list.</b> 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:** 64





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<b>Task:</b> Submit Application - Infrastructure Programs	<b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr. Kevin Owen

**Total Population :** 4,509

**Total Number of Households:** 1,903

**Total Number of Businesses:** 280

**Total Number of Critical Community Facilities, Anchor Institutions and Public Safety Entities:** 3

**Middle Mile Span Name:** ParadiseRidge-LewistonHill

**Census Blocks in Middle Mile Span:** 160570054006001, 160570054006006, 160570057003007, 160570057003012, 160570057003014, 160570057003020, 160570057003022, 160570057003082, 160699903001013, 160699903001017, 160699903001018, 160699903001021, 160699903001025, 160699903001028, 160699903001034, 160699903001035

**Last Mile Service Area Name:** Lewiston Ridge

**Community Name:** Upper Lewiston

**Rural Classification of the Community:** Rural

**BIP – Service Status:** Served

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

**BTOP - Service Status:** Underserved

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

**Total Square Miles of Service Area:** 58

**Total Population :** 1,125

**Total Number of Households:** 516

**Total Number of Businesses:** 8

**Total Number of Critical Community Facilities, Anchor Institutions and Public Safety Entities:**

**Middle Mile Span Name:** LewistonAIA-LewistonHill

**Census Blocks in Middle Mile Span:** 160699903001035, 160699903001038, 160699903001040, 160699903001043, 160699903001045, 160699903002039, 160699903002040, 160699903002041, 160699903002052, 160699903002059, 160699903002060, 160699903003002

**Last Mile Service Area Name:** Lewiston AIA



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<b>Task:</b> Submit Application - Infrastructure Programs		<b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr. Kevin Owen

**Community Name:** Lewiston  
**Rural Classification of the Community:** Non-Rural  
**BIP – Service Status:** Served

<b>BIP - If Service Status is "Underserved" please select at least one applicable option from this list.</b>
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**BTOP - Service Status:** Underserved

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

**Total Square Miles of Service Area:** 61  
**Total Population :** 31,905  
**Total Number of Households:** 13,812  
**Total Number of Businesses:** 1,894  
**Total Number of Critical Community Facilities, Anchor Institutions and Public Safety Entities:** 50

**Middle Mile Span Name:** Teakean-LewistonHill  
**Census Blocks in Middle Mile Span:** 160359701004569, 160359701004584, 160359701004585, 160699901001004, 160699901001006, 160699901001010, 160699901001075, 160699901004000, 160699901004000, 160699901004001, 160699901004001, 160699901004014, 160699901004018, 160699901004019, 160699901004027, 160699901004029, 160699901004030, 160699901004031, 160699902001022, 160699902001023, 160699902001025, 160699902001032, 160699902001033, 160699902001034, 160699902001045, 160699902001049, 160699902001049, 160699902001050, 160699902001052, 160699902001054, 160699902001055, 160699903001021, 160699903001034, 160699903001035, 160699903001036, 160699903001048, 160699903001049

**Last Mile Service Area Name:** Teakean Butte  
**Community Name:** Teakean - Cavendish  
**Rural Classification of the Community:** Rural  
**BIP – Service Status:** Underserved

<b>BIP - If Service Status is "Underserved" please select at least one applicable option from this list.</b>
No more than 50% of the households in the census-designated community [or other area] have access to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service at greater than the minimum broadband transmission speed;





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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.**

No more than 50% of the households in the proposed funded service area have access to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service at greater than the minimum broadband transmission speed;

The rate of broadband subscribership for the proposed funded service area is 40% of households or less.

**Total Square Miles of Service Area:** 43

**Total Population :** 147

**Total Number of Households:** 92

**Total Number of Businesses:** 3

**Total Number of Critical Community Facilities, Anchor Institutions and Public Safety Entities:**

**Middle Mile Span Name:** LewistonHill-Winchester

**Census Blocks in Middle Mile Span:** 160699901003010, 160699901003026, 160699901003029, 160699901003031, 160699901003033, 160699901003077, 160699901003086, 160699901003087, 160699901004063, 160699901004063, 160699901004094, 160699901004094, 160699901004095, 160699901005015, 160699901005039, 160699901005039, 160699901005040, 160699901005045, 160699901005064, 160699901005065, 160699901005109, 160699903001035, 160699903001038, 160699903001038, 160699903001038, 160699903001039, 160699903001047, 160699903001047, 160699903001048, 160699903001051, 160699903001062, 160699903001065, 160699903002003, 160699903002004, 160699903002013

**Last Mile Service Area Name:** Winchester grade

**Community Name:** Winchester grade

**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.**

No more than 50% of the households in the census-designated community [or other area] have access to



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facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service at greater than the minimum broadband transmission speed;

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.**

No more than 50% of the households in the proposed funded service area have access to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service at greater than the minimum broadband transmission speed;

The rate of broadband subscribership for the proposed funded service area is 40% of households or less.

**Total Square Miles of Service Area:** 33

**Total Population :** 775

**Total Number of Households:** 332

**Total Number of Businesses:** 4

**Total Number of Critical Community Facilities, Anchor Institutions and Public Safety Entities:**

**Middle Mile Span Name:** Cottonwood-Winchester

**Census Blocks in Middle Mile Span:** 160499603001082, 160499603001082, 160499603001084, 160499603002061, 160499603002074, 160619502004088, 160619502004089, 160619502004093, 160619502004096, 160619502005011, 160619502005011, 160619502005013, 160619502005022, 160619502005023, 160619502005030, 160619502005030, 160619502005034, 160619502005035, 160619502005035, 160619502005037, 160619502005038, 160619502005087, 160619502005116, 160619503001000, 160699901005015, 160699901005015, 160699901005016, 160699901005017

**Last Mile Service Area Name:** Cottonwood Butte

**Community Name:** Cottonwood area

**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.





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**BTOP - Service Status:** Underserved

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

**Total Square Miles of Service Area:** 29

**Total Population :** 644

**Total Number of Households:** 115

**Total Number of Businesses:** 182

**Total Number of Critical Community Facilities, Anchor Institutions and Public Safety Entities:** 5

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## 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.