

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: NTCH, Inc.

Public Notice Submissions

-----**Service Area:** Illinois

Submitter: Utopian Wireless Corporation

Comment: Proprietary data regarding actual service provider broadband penetration in the proposed service area for this application demonstrates the area is already served by broadband options and therefore this application is ineligible for funding pursuant to the requirements of the Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP) and Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP).

Submitter: NewWave Communications

Comment: NewWave currently serves multiple areas within this proposed service area along with various other providers. So, service is already widely available. NewWave offers 3 MG or higher to all. Percentage of data customers vs. homes passed: Greenville 21%, Taylorville 10%, Vandalia 8%, and Brownstown 14%. In addition, according to data compiled by the Media Business Corporation, an independent research firm, NewWave and its digital subscriber line competitors serve over 40% of homes passed in this particular market. As a result, this market is adequately serviced by NewWave and its competitors.

Submitter: Comcast Cable

Comment: Attached is a summary of the Comcast Cable homes passed, subscriber and advertising information related to the service areas encompassed by this application.

Submitter: Consolidated Communications

Comment: Consolidated Communications serves as a rural incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC) in the proposed funded service area defined by this applicant. As such, a significant number of the households that are within Consolidated's ILEC footprint in the proposed funded service area have access to Consolidated's facilities-based terrestrial broadband service as defined in the Notice of

Funding Availability (NOFA). In addition to Consolidated, the proposed funded service area also has access to broadband service as defined in the NOFA through 9 other providers. Furthermore, as evidenced by the materials provided with this submission, Consolidated advertises broadband services of 3 Mbps and higher in the proposed funded service area. Finally, as described herein, Consolidated's subscribership rate for its own customers in the applicant's proposed funded service area is in excess of 40%. Therefore, the applicant's classification of this proposed serving territory as "underserved" is completely unjustified.

Submitter: CenturyLink

Comment: CenturyLink is submitting data that shows the application's proposed service area is not underserved or unserved, under program guidelines. Accordingly, the application must be denied as ineligible. With limited funding and a large pool of applications, program grants and loans must be directed only to areas that are truly underserved or unserved, as stipulated in the program guidelines.

CenturyLink can certify that its affiliates currently offer broadband service in some or all of the applicant's proposed service areas. We attach a representative sample of areas where the application overlaps our existing broadband deployment. This data is not exhaustive; the application may include other areas also currently served with broadband by CenturyLink or other providers. We will provide additional information on request if that will further assist the agency's review.

CenturyLink also provides data showing broadband availability in local telephone exchanges within the proposed service areas. This includes areas served by CenturyLink and/or other broadband providers. This data further shows the applicant would duplicate and overlap existing broadband services in the proposed service areas.

Submitter: Tel-Star Cablevision Inc

Comment: We are a communications company providing video, phone and high speed internet to some of the rural areas included in the NTCH Inc proposed service area application. Our service offering rivals those of much larger communities with an above average take rate.

Submitter: Oneida Telephone Exchange

Comment: NTCH, Inc. proposed project covers approximately 100% of the exchange served by Oneida Telephone Exchange. We currently serve the exchange over a copper twisted pair network that extends from our corporate headquarters in Oneida, IL. In the public notice response Oneida is providing; 1) a map of the overlapping area Oneida provides broadband services, 2) Oneida's DSL high speed internet advertising 3) the number of residential households and business establishments capable of receiving broadband services, 4) the number of residential households and business establishments subscribing to our broadband, 5) the advertised download and upload speeds and service rates, and 6) comments addressing the existing services offered within the proposed funded service area.

Submitter: Wisper ISP Inc.

Comment: We are a High Speed Wireless company that has been serving the mapped area for 6+ years with great success. We advertise packages ranging from 1Mbps to 5Mbps in every town we service. We also do custom links up to Gigabit speeds which have been done successfully for several businesses. We have a network of over 130 towers ranging in height from 30 ft to 1,500 ft in our coverage areas and this number is ever growing. We work with many

city governments and have provided private wireless links for several city Police, Fire, water and park departments. When considering the numbers we have submitted please remember that the overall percentages of coverage will look low because our network covers metro as well as rural towns. In Metro areas we are a small competitor with the major telco and cable providers. We also have several wireless competitors in the rural areas including Celerity

Wireless, Tin Cans, HTC to name a few. Our Customer statistics show 10 to 65% subscription rate with Wisper ISP alone in these rural areas. They also show that over 85% of rural homes in these areas have access to our towers as well as the towers of our competitors. As our tower numbers grow and technology gets better our converge area expands dramatically. We therefore submit that our area is not Unserved and/or Underserved. Wisper ISP Inc. has

already been providing high speed wireless internet to the rural communities of our area with a 6+ year track record of success. Wisper has 21 dedicated employees and their families providing service to 3,500+ customers. The Federal money would be better used in other areas that are truly unserved/underserved.

Submitter: Veloxinet, Inc.

Comment: This grant application's area partially overlays our existing service area.

Submitter: McDonough Telephone Coop.

Comment: NTCH, Inc.'s proposed project covers portions of the exchanges served by McDonough Telephone Coop. We currently serve the exchange areas by an existing Fiber-to-the-Node and Fiber-to-the-Home network. In the public notice response McDonough Telephone Coop is providing; 1) a map of the overlapping area McDonough provides broadband services, 2) McDonough's DSL high speed internet advertising 3) the number of residential households and business establishments capable of receiving broadband services, 4) the number of residential households and business establishments subscribing to our broadband, 5) the advertised download and upload speeds and service rates, and 6) comments addressing the existing services offered within the proposed funded service area.

Submitter: Citizens Telecommunications Company of Illinois

Comment: A portion of the applicant's territory is already served by the respondent. 3MG speed or higher is available and advertised.

Submitter: Suddenlink Communications

Comment: This response conclusively demonstrates that Suddenlink and its competitors already offer broadband service within the mapped area of the applicant's proposed funded service area and that this mapped area is not unserved. Additional information is provided in the uploaded document, including (1) sample marketing material; (2) a guide on how to read the data we entered in the "Existing Broadband Subscribers" section of this response; (3) a summary of the vendor and methodology used for estimating competitive-service subscribers in the mapped area; (4) Suddenlink contact information, should one or more federal agencies have questions or require additional information; and (5) a summary of concerns with the response process and the limitations that process has placed on our ability to provide NTIA/RUS with relevant, timely data.

Submitter: KeyOn Communications

Comment: KeyOn Communications currently provides access at speeds of at least 768kbps downstream and at least 200kbps upstream to more than 50% of the homes in the designated area.