

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: PRIDE Network, Inc.

Public Notice Submissions

-----**Service Area:** PRIDE #1

Submitter: South Plains Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Comment: South Plains Telephone Cooperative serves the Arnett, Edmonson, Halfway, Happy Union, and Cotton Center exchanges, portions of which are included in the proposed funded service area of Pride Networks. Because the Cooperative provides access to broadband service to 100% of households and businesses throughout these exchanges, it exceeds 50% of broadband availability to households and businesses and therefore the area does not meet the criteria for underserved.

Submitter: Poka Lambro Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Comment: Poka Lambro is a member-owned provider and has been providing quality telecommunications services within the proposed funding area since 1950. Poka Lambro currently provides both terrestrial and wireless broadband service that is ubiquitous throughout its service area.

Submitter: Windstream

Comment: Windstream's data strongly suggest that the proposed funded service area likely does not qualify as an underserved area. Windstream offers facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service (meeting the definition set forth in the Notice of Funds Availability) to some of the households in the proposed funded service area, and such households can readily subscribe to Windstream's broadband service upon request. Windstream also has reason to believe that competitive broadband offerings are available in exchanges overlapping the proposed funded service area. Given this information, agency officials should further investigate existing broadband offerings within the proposed funded service area, so that officials can be sure that the area, in fact, qualifies as underserved.

Windstream is a communications and entertainment company with more than 1 million broadband customers in 16 states. Investing more than \$200 million in broadband deployment over the last several years, Windstream now offers approximately 89% of its 3 million voice customers access to quality and affordable broadband service.

The agencies define an “underserved area” as follows: “Underserved area means a proposed funded service area, composed of one or more contiguous census blocks meeting certain criteria that measure the availability of broadband service and the level of advertised broadband speeds. These criteria conform to the two distinct components of the Broadband Infrastructure category of eligible projects- Last Mile and Middle Mile. Specifically, a proposed funded service area may qualify as underserved for last mile projects if at least one of the following factors is met, though the presumption will be that more than one factor is present: 1. No more than 50 percent 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 (set forth in the definition of broadband above); 2. No fixed or mobile broadband service provider advertises broadband transmission speeds of at least three megabits per second (“mbps”) downstream in the proposed funded service area; or 3. The rate of broadband subscribership for the proposed funded service area is 40 percent of households or less. A proposed funded service area may qualify as underserved for Middle Mile projects if one interconnection point terminates in a proposed funded service area that qualifies as unserved or underserved for Last Mile projects.”

Submitter: Suddenlink Communications

Comment: Suddenlink already offers robust broadband service within the mapped area of the applicant’s proposed funded service area and we are confident this mapped area is neither unserved nor underserved. 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) Suddenlink contact information, should one or more federal agencies have questions or require additional information; and (4) 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: Stelera Wireless, LLC

Comment: The applicant’s proposed service area does not qualify as unserved or underserved as defined by the BIP or BTOP programs. Stelera Broadband provides broadband access to the service area with peak speeds of 9-10 mbps. The towns of Lamesa and Brownfield are served by Stelera Broadband, a broadband service provider which advertises and delivers broadband transmission speeds in excess of 3 mbps downstream. Over 50% of the households in the proposed service area have access to terrestrial broadband service at greater than the minimum broadband transmission speed.

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.