

## Broadband USA Applications Database

**Applicant Name:** Global Wireless Communications

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### Public Notice Submissions

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**Submitter:** The Home Town Network Inc

**Comment:** The Home Town Network Inc. (HTN) was founded in 1997 and has focused on providing Internet Access for Highlands County. We have evolved from Dial-up to DSL resale to Facilities based Fixed Wireless Service. In January of 2005 we began providing Fixed Wireless service and have steadily expanded our network to cover most of Highlands County with the exception of the extreme North and South (See service area map provided). We are an S corporation registered in the State of Florida and have not received outside funding. All of our towers are currently capable of providing 3Mbps internet service to the end user and several towers are capable of end user speeds of 10Mbps. Our tower locations are densely located to provide almost 100% coverage. In addition we can provide custom solutions to meet the special needs of almost any organization or end user. Most internet customers in Highlands County have multiple choices for Broadband Internet service providers. The following is a list of other service providers who have significant coverage areas in Highlands County: Vistanet Wireless, Embarq DSL, Comcast Cable, and Several Cellular Providers. Collectively these providers including HTN have almost complete coverage to Highlands County residents and businesses. Highlands County has a large population of seasonal residents.

**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:** Myakka Technologies, Inc.

**Comment:** Myakka Technologies, Inc. has served Myakka City, Florida and surrounding areas for the past 8 years. We are continuing to upgrade and expand our system as we get more demand. We current offer download speed of up to 3mpbs and upload speeds of up to 768kbps.

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**Submitter:** Bright House Networks, LLC

**Comment:** In support of NTIA and RUS' efforts to optimize the distribution of the scarce resources available under the ARRA Broadband NOFA, Bright House Networks is providing additional data related to this Applicant's planned service areas. This application includes service areas which are not unserved nor underserved.

**Submitter:** Hometown Broadband Orlando (HBO), LLC

**Comment:** Hometown Broadband Orlando, LLC

RUS Project Designation: New Jersey 1103-A35

#### SUMMARY

Hometown Broadband Orlando, LLC is a current RUS Broadband Borrower under that certain Loan and Security Agreement and Note dated January 28, 2008 between Hometown Broadband Orlando, LLC ("HBO") and the United States of America acting through the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service ("RUS").

Our service territories were filed under our RUS loan application in accordance with RUS Bulletin 1738-1 and were subsequently approved by the RUS. The filed service territories and the households within each service territory enable the economic viability of our project and the RUS loan. Based on our original RUS loan application our defined service area serves both underserved and un-served households. HBO has projected acquiring a total of 429 broadband subscribers during the life of the project.

Our RUS approved and planned broadband services exceed the minimum broadband transmission speeds (768 kbps down and 200 kbps up) set forth in the BTOP and BIA programs and we advertise and provide optional speeds up to 6 mbps down and 2 mbps up.

The Applicants service area overlaps the HBO service area as approved by the RUS. If the government were to approve the Applicant's service area, Applicants right to utilize these significant portions of HBO's service area would impede the ability of HBO to fully build out its service area. That impedance would result in decreased revenue for HBO, thus interfering with HBO's ability to repay its RUS loan and to operate profitably.