

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: Utopian Wireless Corporation

Public Notice Submissions

-----**Service Area:** Oneida_TN

Submitter: Highland Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Comment: Highland Telephone Cooperative's data clearly demonstrate that the proposed funded service area does not qualify as an underserved area. HTC offers facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service to households in the entire proposed service area. Any of these households may subscribe to broadband service if they so choose. HTC contends that more than 50 percent of households have access to service, downstream broadband speeds of three mbps are advertised, and subscribership rates are higher than 40 percent as defined in the Notice of Funds Availability quoted below.

An "underserved area" is defined as: "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.

In conclusion, the service area does not meet any of the definitions or criteria for an "underserved area". Simply stated, Highland Telephone Cooperative currently provides the defined broadband access to all households in the service area.

Therefore, no other organizations should receive funds to provide

broadband service in an area which is not "underserved".

F. L. Terry,

General Manager

