

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: Cumberland Cellular Inc. dba Duo County Telecom

Project Title: Cumberland Cellular Inc.

Project Type: Last Mile Remote

Executive Summary

Executive Summary Cumberland Cellular Inc. d.b.a. Duo County Telecom, Inc. requests a grant of \$15,156,773 to provide interactive communications and entertainment services to residential and business customers in underserved areas in Adair County Kentucky. Cumberland Cellular currently operates a CLEC in these counties in Kentucky, covering the City of Columbia Kentucky, providing Video, Data and Voice over a HFC network. Cumberland Cellular Inc. is proposing 50/50 funding project under the BIP program, to build a Fiber to the Home (FTTH) network in the census blocks outlined in this application, providing for greater access to Broadband. If awarded grant funding, Cumberland Cellular, Inc. will use the funding to build-out and deploy a cutting edge Last Mile Fiber-to-the-Home system in four census tracks in the Adair County Kentucky proposed funded service areas for the provision of broadband Internet services at speeds ranging from 2 to 12 mbps download speeds initially that will allow customers to quickly download video, audio, and graphic files as well as provide for medical imaging and other types of advanced services. There is a need to increase the Broadband capabilities in this area as described in the BIP for “underserved”. This proposed service area is clearly ‘Rural-Remote’ since the nearest large city is well over 80 miles from the Columbia city limits. Cumberland Cellular is supported by a strong management team that has been in place for over 15 years, from the very start of the company, with decades of experience operating data networks. The Company provides a full suite of video, voice and data services today so is experienced in the management and operations of identical type networks to the one being proposed here. At the completion of development, 3,513 households will be passed. The project will also pass 12 community anchor institutions and 8 critical community organizations, including the Westlake Primary Care Clinic, Westlake Regional Hospitals, one fire establishment and 3 schools. Cumberland Cellular estimates that it will produce approximately 1,790 high speed internet subscribers. Cumberland Cellular will also promote the ubiquitous deployment of broadband by permitting other service providers the ability to offer services over the top of the funded broadband data network on a negotiated basis. Cumberland Cellular Inc is shovel-ready and, if funded, will proceed in deploying 1.0 G Gigabit Active Optical Network (GigE) technology. This Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTN) network will be able to meet the current and future demands for bandwidth. The proposed construction would take place along existing utility corridors posing the least impact to the environment possible. Currently all the necessary back office systems (customer service software, billing, order flow, etc.) are in place and being used with the existing HFC network, so none of these systems will need to be purchased or upgraded. Cumberland cellular currently has all the necessary regulatory permits and or approvals to operate in the city of Columbia and Adair County Cumberland Cellular Inc is committed to meeting all non-discrimination and interconnection obligations established

in the NOFA and pursuant to the FCC's Internet Policy Statement (FCC 05-151), adopted August 5, 2005. Cumberland Cellular Inc will promote the openness and interconnection of the public Internet, encourage broadband deployment and will not use stimulus funding toward any entirely private closed network. Cumberland Cellular Inc will offer interconnection to parties requesting access when technically feasible on reasonably negotiated rates, terms and conditions. Cumberland Cellular Inc will not favor any lawful Internet applications or content over others and will take steps to ensure that all of its consumers have access to the lawful Internet content of their choice without unfair or discriminating bandwidth restrictions. In addition, Cumberland Cellular Inc is committed to displaying all of its network management policies prominently on its website and will notify its Internet subscribers in writing via email if there are any changes made to these policies.