

## Broadband USA Applications Database

**Applicant Name:** MCG PCS of Charleston, Inc.

**Project Title:** Bringing Affordable Wireless Broadband to East-Central PA

**Project Type:** Last Mile

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### Executive Summary

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The east-central region of Pennsylvania is an ideal location for implementing a broadband network under the Recovery Act. This application provides a robust low-cost solution using advanced cellular technology to bring high-speed affordable broadband to this economically depressed area. MPoC will use the funds to deploy a wireless mobile broadband system that provides up to 3 Mbps and operates on our licensed frequencies. The Opportunity the Proposed System Seeks to Address: Deployment of broadband wireless in Pennsylvania has been limited by very low-density population and the economics of rural systems. This MPoC project will address the critical needs of this depressed region. • Providing end users with a choice of providers at a very affordable cost (less than \$15/month), thus enabling low income residents with the opportunity to afford true, broadband data access • Providing end users with access without long-term contracts, without credit checks, and without burdensome "financial gateways" based on low credit scores, which will allow those who have been previously denied service with a means to "bridge the digital gap!" • Providing a 20% match for the implementation • Creation of jobs for local residents • Provide increased opportunity for education, awareness, training, and non-discriminatory access to the internet • Improve public safety through better communications over this data network ... a proven necessity for first responders, police/fire and hospitals • Stimulate economic growth and enhance the quality of life for over 79,000 households in the proposed service areas. The Proposed Funded Service Areas: MPoC has identified four unserved and underserved sites for implementation of broadband in BTS 412 and BTS 181. Number of households and business passed • Approximately 1.2 million people • Approximately 400,000 households Number of community anchor institutions, public safety entities, and critical community organizations passed and/or involved with project. There are numerous anchor institutions, public safety entities, and community organizations involved in supporting this project. Key stakeholders include: • Emergency Responders - Currently, there is a very limited voice application system and, to our knowledge, zero mobile data broadband within the region. • Schools - Every school district in the region needs mobile and fixed broadband connectivity for students. All schools have high-speed connections, but none are able to share with students other than in classrooms. This solution will provide home and mobile access for all students, including home-schooled students and those in private schools. • Community Centers - Mobile application means that within the centers and their grounds, as well as anywhere within the community, residents can have access to the many services offered by community centers and libraries. Proposed services and applications for the proposed funded service areas and users: Proposed services and applications include: • High Speed Data - This will be the region's first and only low cost, non-discriminatory mobile high speed data facility. • Text Messaging (SMS) - Will provide location-based messaging services which

will enable emergency communications for local government and first responders, along with targeted emergency messages during natural or man-made disasters. • Voice Services- The proposed system will provide low cost, non-discriminatory mobile voice services for the region Approach to addressing the non-discrimination and interconnection obligations: The proposed system is fully compatible with all internet service providers and sites, giving our subscribers and users a choice of content and application providers. This meets the non-discrimination and interconnection obligations in the Recovery Act and NOFA. Type of broadband system that will be deployed (network type and technology standard): The technology type is Terrestrial Mobile Wireless. We will deploy these services in the licensed 1900/1700 MHz frequencies, thus enabling mobile high speed data services in excess of 2 Mb/S. The operator currently holds an FCC license in the designated service area, and has spectrum available for use. Qualifications of the applicant that demonstrate the ability to implement and operate a broadband infrastructure and/or be a sustainable broadband services provider: Recognizing that harder-to-reach rural areas are often overlooked by the larger internet providers, MPoC stands out in its commitment to providing high quality, low-cost, full spectrum Internet access to all of the communities in northwest and central Pennsylvania. MPoC provides free, local technical support to all its customers, with no limits on how many times a customer may call. MPoC is proposing key team partners: Versar, Inc. - as the systems integrator for this effort Lemko, Corp. - as the key technology partner for this effort Overall infrastructure cost of the broadband system. Overall infrastructure cost for the project is approximately \$7.5 million. The hardware costs associated with this effort are waiver compliant with the "Buy American" provisions of the ARRA. Overall expected subscriber projections for the project: We expect to have 25,000 new, unserved and underserved subscribers added to our network. Already, companies associated with MPoC management provide high quality jobs for Pennsylvanians, serving approximately 20 communities in New York and Pennsylvania. We expect a net gain of up to 50 high quality, stable jobs through this program, in addition to over 25 jobs associated with installation and checkout of the systems.