

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: Trillion Communications Corporation

Project Title: Sustainable Adoption - eCommunity Programs

Project Type: Sustainable Adoption

Executive Summary

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To unlock broadband service's full and unlimited potential in unserved and underserved communities, the broadband infrastructure, from conception, must be universally available and affordable to all levels of users. This will eliminate the physical access issues of those who understand the benefits of broadband and are willing to make the required financial sacrifice to access it. However, to truly eliminate the digital divide, the gateway (to essential public services) must always be free of cost and the gatekeeper must always be locally identifiable, accountable and independent. This will allow those who do not have access because they either do not have the necessary in-home tools and skills necessary to utilize broadband services or are simply unable or unwilling to dedicate the time and financial resources necessary to participating in the Information Revolution.

To sustainably solve the digital divide throughout the Southern Black Belt Region of the U.S., Trillion Communications, Inc formed a collaborative team of Public and Private Partners to implement multiple "eCommunities" operating over a Converged Broadband Infrastructure™

The eCommunity program was created to close the digital divide in economically distressed urban and rural communities where access to the broadband is either limited or unaffordable. The Trillion Team has formed multiple Public/Private Partnerships throughout the target region to ensure everyone has access to the broadband-based services they need and want regardless of their household income.

eCommunity is a broadband based community empowerment initiative that levels the digital divide playing field by providing the following:

- **Community Platform:** A community-owned, service-provider-neutral, all fiber-to-the-home with wireless overlay, Converged Broadband Infrastructure™ that provides maximum transmission speed, lowest costs, and symmetrical connections both locally and to the world.
- **Resources:** Creates a public/private partnership with in-community leaders to recruit, channel and deliver content and other support from local, state, regional and national non-profit, government and corporate organizations to ensure that each household has the necessary tools and training they need to adequately utilize and benefit from broadband-based services.
- **Support Services –** Provides no-cost, subscription independent access to local data, voice & video support services, as well as no-cost access to public institutional domains (.gov, .edu & .org.)
- **Provider Choice –** Enables multiple service providers to COMPETE for customers, which increases quality and decreases subscriber cost for fee-based services.

The Trillion Team's Converged Broadband Infrastructure with eCommunity Program will deliver a community-influenced, service provider neutral, broadband connection to every household. As a result, families that are unable to afford to learn how to become broadband users can now participate without fear of being disconnected from their local local community resources. The Trillion Team will establish at least one Community Technology Center per Cluster Community that includes a publically accessible computer center, a community-outreach program staff, and the network operations center. The Trillion Team will then form a partnership with a local non-profit organization to lead the efforts in making sure that every household is connected, receives the in-home resources they need to utilize the connection and the applicable training and community-based eServices.

Each eCommunity Cluster will initially employ a team of at least 30 per community cluster to establish an aggressive presence within the community. As the Converged Broadband Infrastructure's Public/Private Partnership begin to make money, the eCommunity team will reduce to a sustained work force funded by a combination of Partnership dues and supplemental grants. In addition to the direct hire eCommunity staff, the eCommunity Program Office will establish partnerships with other community-based organizations and for-profit organizations who are interested in delivering eServices to the community.

The Trillion Team estimates that it will deliver a community-owned connection to 85% of the households within each community where 40% will become broadband users because of their ability to participate and learn at no-cost. The Trillion Team will utilize seasoned, local non-profit organizations to directly

interface with the populous. This way there is a sustained rate of broadband adoption. For qualification of team leaders, please see the attached community-partner matrix.

The total combined Sustainable Adoption budget for 5-years is \$18,690,123.58 whereas the Trillion Team is requesting only \$14,952,098.86. Below is a summary of the proposed eCommunity Clusters that are strategically located throughout the Southern Black Belt regions:

West End Atlanta, Georgia

South Central Georgia

South West Georgia

South East Alabama

South West Alabama

West Central Mississippi

South West Mississippi