

## **Broadband USA Applications Database**

**Applicant Name:** CITY OF MOOSE LAKE

**Project Title:** Moose Lake Community Broadband Network Expansion

**Project Type:** Public Computer Center

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### **Executive Summary**

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The City of Moose Lake, Minnesota wireless broadband network is struggling to meet the growing demand for access to high speed connectivity. Outdated technology and inadequate delivery systems are creating a lack of capacity, restricting our ability to reach vulnerable populations and jeopardizing public safety. Resources to expand the network are limited. We have developed a four part strategy to address these problems: - Build a service/training facility and equip it with a state of the art exchange server, - Remodel our community center/public library to increase access and to facilitate a distant learning/internship education program from our tribal college, - Upgrade and digitally connect the emergency response center to county, state and federal law enforcement communications systems, - Provide education opportunities for adults and students and expand our outreach to vulnerable citizens who cannot afford or have limited access to broadband services. The outcomes of this strategy will be to add 42 stationary and mobile workstations to six community public computer centers, educate students, improve access to and train low income residents, job seekers, physically disadvantaged individuals and senior citizens, enhance the community's ability to provide public safety during manmade or natural incidents, create jobs and increase customers to strengthen the network's sustainability. The area to be served is in southern Carlton County and northern Pine County and includes the City of Moose Lake with approximately 2,400 people in 2008. The total population of that area is more than 27,600 people. At the outset of the project, a broadband oversight committee will be appointed to assist the city's implementation of the project's strategy. The new service/training center will have an immediate impact on citizens seeking to improve their computer skills. In a community survey conducted in 2001 before the broadband network was built, 68% of the respondents indicated that public access sites should be available; 47% stated that they needed high speed Internet at their location. The potential customers in the survey were residential, business, housing complex and institutional. The new center will house nine (9) workstations, a domain/exchange server and software in a Virtual Machine (VM) environment, a data center for the city's information sharing network including GIS Mapping, and a garage to house network installation equipment and one of two broadband service vehicles. The building will be used primarily for training, but will be available for general public access when no training is scheduled. Staff will be hired to accommodate extended hours. The community center/public library currently provides seven (7) workstations for the general public to access during regular library hours. This project will add eight (8) new workstations and a SMART board for both public access and education classes. The renovated community center will house a new digital control room complete with fiber, T1 and wireless connections, a Public Education Government Access channel, the community center LAN, the public library LAN, security/fire alarms, surveillance cameras, a satellite system for remote public access to the

state legislature and an upgraded computer server. Moose Lake's emergency response center will be retrofitted with a digital base station with a direct wireless link and required frequencies to the county emergency dispatch system. Moose Lake has two state-operated correctional facilities housing a combined population of 1,560 inmates. Currently the city is not digitally connected to those facilities, one of which is planning to expand. Police officers, ambulance crews and fire fighting personnel will have access to eight (8) broadband backpacks with a laptop, digital camera, handheld digital radios (upgraded to 800 MHz), rescue truck and ambulance mobile video and broadband access, all to coordinate communications in the event of a significant emergency. Working in tandem with city staff, instructors at Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College (FDLTCC) will provide internships and off-campus class work for as many as 60-75 persons per year. City staff and FDLTCC instructors will also customize a training program for citizens seeking help at each of the public computer centers. That program will be heavily promoted to all anchor institutions and through the community's public access channel, city Web sites and local radio and newspaper. Customized outreach programs will be developed to engage vulnerable populations housed at Hillside Manor, Mercy Assisted Living, Oakview Assisted Living, two home transition/group homes, the Moose Lake Historical Society building, the state operated community service facility for the handicapped and the online portal for the Minnesota Workforce Center. The promotion strategy will include facilitating a series of community events to promote the city and college partnership opportunities, including improved and affordable access to the city's public computer centers. Along with the FDLTCC program, it is expected a combined 1103 people will be utilizing the public computer centers annually. The Moose Lake Community Broadband (MLCB) project team is highly qualified to implement this expansion. Mayor Ted Shaw is retired from the Federal Aviation Administration, where he managed and supervised staff, worked as an electronic technician with expertise in maintaining, modifying, repairing and certifying navigation, communications, data and radar equipment. He supervised the installation of radar, runway lighting systems, video security and several other equipment improvement projects at the Duluth International Airport. City Administrator Dave Talbot has successfully secured funding, completed construction and project management and operated and maintained several infrastructure and building projects throughout his public sector administrative career. Bill Carlson is the public access and technical coordinator for the community. The retired educator is an electronic technician and consultant and works closely with the Moose Lake School District on its interactive classroom and Mercy Hospital on its teleconferencing equipment. Mr. Carlson was a driving force behind and designer of the community's broadband network. Maury Coughlin was chair of the Moose Lake Water & Light Commission when the community started running fiber to start the network in 2001. Dr. Ann Fellegly is vice president of academic affairs at Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College. She oversees the program and course offerings outlined in this application. She has been an educator at the collegiate level, primarily in English and Creative Writing. Business partners Mary Lodin and Jeff Mankie have successfully built a wireless network throughout East Central Minnesota. Genesis Wireless currently manages the fiber and wireless infrastructure for the Moose Lake broadband network under the direction of the public utility. The city is projecting that six (6) direct jobs and 50 indirect jobs will be created and two (2) jobs saved because of this project. Four (4) of the new jobs will be at the new service/training center, one (1) will be at the emergency response center and one (1) new job will be created at FDLTCC. The 50 indirect jobs will be from the construction trades. The

project cost is \$3,196,133 and will take three years to complete. Project partners will provide matching support totaling \$1,313,685 or 41% of the total project.