

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: MID-STATE EDUCATION DISTRICT 6979

Project Title: Minnesota Community Collaborative Broadband Project (MCCBP)

Project Type: Comprehensive Community Infrastructure

Executive Summary

The Minnesota Community Collaborative Broadband Project (MCCBP) is designed to expand Mid- State Education District's existing core fiber backbone to a redundant, middle mile fiber network serving anchor institutions of K-12, Higher Education, Health Care, Public Safety, Tribal Lands, Government Institutions and Libraries in the counties of Morrison, Mille Lacs, Todd, Aitkin, and Crow Wing. In addition, through partnerships with local ISP's, this network will also serve as the backbone for a public 4G broadband wireless overlay and Fiber to the Home; bringing broadband Internet access to over unserved and underserved rural communities. In this service area of over 1,600 square miles, broadband access supported by the MCCBP middle mile network will reach 86,000 residents in over 40,000 households, 3700+ businesses and will provide mobility aspects for law enforcement and first responders. Core to MCCBP is the public-private partnership. Through this collaboration, MCCBP will deliver network access for business and consumer Internet applications, enable direct and indirect job creation through market expansion and the development of IT enabled services (ITES) industries, decrease community Government operating costs and lay the foundation to implement advanced broadband solutions for government, education, public safety and cultural organizations. The middle mile fiber network will be operated by MidCom, a non-profit entity comprised of MSED, Counties, Cities and Schools. MidCom brings together more than 20 years of fiber network operating experience, managing more than 150 miles of fiber optic network serving schools, health care facilities and higher education in the community today. Under MCCBP, MidCom will bring broadband services to 39 County and Local Government facilities, 47 Schools (k-12 & Higher Ed, including one Community College and one Tribal College), 11 libraries, 3 hospitals, 12 Primary Healthcare Centers, 11 Police Departments, 3 Sheriff's Offices, 17 Fire Departments. In addition to the core members, MidCom maintains an advisory board of Health Care facilities and Higher Education institutions which provide valuable insight to the drivers of the healthcare and user communities. Through their experience and active engagement of key stakeholders across the community, MidCom is well positioned to effectively manage the service relationships necessary to maximize network monetization. The revenues generated through MidCom will contribute to future network expansion, upgrades and advanced applications for the user communities including Government, MLB Ojibwe, education, healthcare providers, libraries, public safety agencies and the subscriber community. Our private partners, including three local Internet Service Providers, will deliver last mile services and accelerate access and use by residents, businesses and others across central Minnesota under a Community Benefits Agreement, leveraging their community brand awareness. Partnerships with the Regional Economic Development Councils (Region 5 and East Central RDC) will also facilitate opportunities to promote economic development through

shared awareness campaigns and outreach efforts. Solution Logix, a woman-owned SDB enterprise with over two decades of telecommunications design and operations experience, will manage the network deployment and provide industry expertise for network design, operating strategy and long term feature and functionality evolution. Critically, MSED's proposed service area includes broadband services for two Tribal Lands of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, which are currently underserved and unserved communities. A significant portion of the proposed coverage area is considered remote, including one of the Tribal Lands; the most remote point of the network stands at almost 100 miles from an urban area. MSED is driving broadband adoption through applications supporting our Institutional Subscribers. By bringing together an innovative blend of broadband applications, the key to the improved operations of our healthcare, government, and critical infrastructure services in our communities. The five county area will realize economic benefits in the following areas: 1) Streamlined delivery of government services for County and City Government, leveraging a 21st century infrastructure to promote regional economic development that reduces cost and future cost avoidance; 2) Educational advantages of Distance Learning and the educational and social benefits of Community Broadband access for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe; 3) Expanded educational technology reach for both K-12 and Higher Education Interactive TV (ITV) from 10 to 47 schools, almost a 5-fold increase; 4) Network interconnection points to neighboring school districts, allowing for exponential increase in access to ITV services to thousands of students; 5) Improved remote access to Health Care, and enhanced patient care outcomes by increasing the data and video capabilities of healthcare providers such as eRecords and telemedicine; 6) Increased public safety through improved Broadband connectivity to facilities and vehicles and through enhanced data and video transfer among public safety agencies; and 7) Community broadband access and adoption through improved e-Government applications and increased civic participation with on-line access to libraries and community, cultural and Arts programming. MSED is committed to maintaining neutrality and providing an unbiased approach to service partners based on our non-profit ownership through MSED and our operational management by Mid-Com. Through this organizational structure of public and private entity partnerships, transparency and stakeholder involvement will foster an open network environment to provide choice among last mile service providers, end user services and applications available to the five-county coverage area. Mid-Com will be the entity for engaging and contracting for both wired/wireless service providers and application providers. MSED has two service providers currently engaged to provide last mile broadband wireless services to the entire broadband footprint. In summary, the Five-County area of Morrison, Todd, Mille Lacs, Aitkin, and Crow Wing is considered an economically distressed area. With an unemployment rate in 2009 ranging from 9% to 13%, the counties rank in the top tiers of disadvantaged counties in the nation. Average income for the service area is reflected at 69% of the per capital income across the US. Under the MCCBP program, 121 additional jobs are anticipated to be created with the \$25MM in funding requested under this application. In addition, in-kind contributions for other initiatives interwoven with MCCBP will bring another \$18MM in capital investment for broadband services to the Five-County area, leveraging the Mid State fiber backbone. This investment will foster economic development and advanced technology capabilities for the anchor institutions and consumers alike; laying the foundation to bring the five-county technologies well into the 21st century.