

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: Florida Public Broadcasting Service, Inc.

Public Notice Submissions

-----**Service Area:** S Central Florida

Submitter: The Home Town Network Inc

Comment: The Home Town Network Inc. (HTN) was founded in 1997 and has focused on providing Internet Access for Highlands County. We have evolved from Dial-up to DSL resale to Facilities based Fixed Wireless Service. In January of 2005 we began providing Fixed Wireless service and have steadily expanded our network to cover most of Highlands County with the exception of the extreme North and South (See service area map provided). We are an S corporation registered in the State of Florida and have not received outside funding. All of our towers are currently capable of providing 3Mbps internet service to the end user and several towers are capable of end user speeds of 10Mbps. Our tower locations are densely located to provide almost 100% coverage. In addition we can provide custom solutions to meet the special needs of almost any organization or end user. Most internet customers in Highlands County have multiple choices for Broadband Internet service providers. The following is a list of other service providers who have significant coverage areas in Highlands County: Vistanet Wireless, Embarq DSL, Comcast Cable, and Several Cellular Providers. Collectively these providers including HTN have almost complete coverage to Highlands County residents and businesses. Highlands County has a large population of seasonal residents.

Submitter: CenturyLink

Comment: CenturyLink has an extensive broadband footprint today, and has committed to extend that service even further. As part of its merger commitments to the Federal Communications Commission, CenturyLink committed to offer retail broadband Internet access service to 100% of its broadband eligible access lines by July 1, 2012. Consequently, virtually no areas served by CenturyTel or Embarq local operating companies, in any state, will be underserved or unserved at the end of three years.

CenturyLink also agreed to meet targets for minimum download speeds. CenturyLink will ensure availability of retail broadband Internet access service with a download speed of 1.5 Mbps to 87% of the broadband eligible access lines by July 1, 2011. It will ensure availability with a download speed of 3 Mbps to 75% of broadband eligible access lines by July 1, 2010, to 78% of broadband eligible lines by July 1, 2011, and to 80% of broadband eligible lines within 3 years of the close date. Nationwide, our

average tele-density is 23 customers per square mile. This commitment ensures availability of broadband even to very rural consumers.

The agency should consider the importance of this commitment, as CenturyLink's continuing investment inevitably will make applications that overlap CenturyLink service areas less viable. CenturyLink has proven, industry-leading experience in deploying broadband networks and services using both wireline and wireless technology, and a strong commitment and focus on rural areas. Today, it serves 7 million access lines and 2.1 million broadband customers in 33 states.

Submitter: Comcast Cable

Comment: Attached is a summary of the Comcast Cable homes passed, subscriber and advertising information related to the service areas encompassed by this application.

-----**Service Area:** N Central Florida

Submitter: Cox Communications Inc.

Comment: Cox Communications, Inc.(Cox) is a broadband communications and entertainment company, providing advanced digital video, Internet, telephone and wireless services over its nationwide IP network. The third-largest U.S. cable TV company, Cox serves over 6.2 million residences and businesses.

Cox operates in hundreds of communities in 18 states and has invested over \$16 billion in private capital in its network over the last ten years. Cox provides its customers in Florida with 21st century infrastructure that provides advanced broadband, video and telephone services. More than 99.5 percent of the households in our service areas have access to Cox high-speed Internet, at some of the fastest broadband speeds available in the nation.

Cox supports the goals of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to extend broadband to parts of the country that are unserved or underserved. We appreciate the efforts of the Rural Utilities Service

and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration in making sure that the limited amount of broadband stimulus funding available under the ARRA is targeted toward those consumers in greatest need, rather than to areas that already have access to broadband service.

To assist your agencies in ensuring that ARRA funds are directed to truly unserved and underserved areas, Cox is providing supplemental information that demonstrates, for the above-referenced application, the following: the location of Cox's broadband infrastructure; broadband service levels provided; number of customers served; pricing for each service tier; and marketing materials which demonstrate service availability. Consistent with the statutory requirement to expend funds only for projects in eligible areas, we trust that your agencies will use this information -- along with information from other broadband providers -- to obtain a clear picture of service availability in the area covered by the application. We encourage the use of independent due diligence to determine the extent of other broadband service offerings in the proposed funded service area covered by this submission, if other providers fail to submit information prior to the submission deadline.

We request that this data be treated as confidential and proprietary. Much of the information provided with this letter constitutes trade secrets or commercial information that is privileged and confidential and therefore exempt from public disclosure under 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4). Cox does not disclose this information to the public, and release of this information could cause competitive harm, by enabling other broadband providers to tailor their business strategies to unfairly compete with Cox.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this information. We trust that it will be helpful in your analysis, and will inform your final decision concerning the application.

Submitter: James Cable LLC

Comment: James Cable LLC provides 8Mb broadband service to the communities of Alachua, High Springs, and Alachua County, Florida. We provide 3Mb service to the communities of Micanopy, Cross City, Dixie County, Levy County, Chiefland, Branford, and Steinhatchee, Florida.

Submitter: Windstream

Comment: Windstream's data strongly suggest that the proposed funded service area likely does not qualify as an unserved area. Windstream offers facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service at

advertised speeds of greater than 768 kbps downstream and 200 kbps upstream to some of the households within the proposed funded service area, and such households can readily subscribe to Windstream's broadband service upon request. Windstream also has reason to believe that competitive broadband offerings are available in exchanges overlapping the proposed funded service area. Given this information, agency officials should further investigate existing broadband offerings within the proposed funded service area, so that officials can be sure that the area, in fact, qualifies as unserved.

Windstream is a communications and entertainment company with more than 1 million broadband customers in 16 states. Investing more than \$200 million in broadband deployment over the last several years, Windstream now offers approximately 89% of its 3 million voice customers access to quality and affordable broadband service.

The agencies define an "unserved area" as follows: "Unserved area means a proposed funded service area, composed of one or more contiguous census blocks, where at least 90 percent of households in the proposed funded service area lack access to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service, either fixed or mobile, at the minimum broadband transmission speed (set forth in the definition of broadband above). A household has access to broadband service if the household can readily subscribe to that service upon request."

Submitter: Nefcom

Comment: Northeast Florida Telephone Company (NEFCOM) demonstrates that it provides broadband service to 98.9% of its service area, which is encompassed in the proposed funded Service Area in the Florida Public Broadcasting Service application; that no interconnection point identified in the proposed project and no part of the proposed project that terminates in NEFCOM's service area qualifies as unserved or underserved for Last Mile projects; and Last Mile areas to be served identified in the application that overlap NEFCOM's service area are served with broadband service by NEFCOM. Further, NEFCOM demonstrates that in addition to providing its own last mile broadband services, NEFCOM has middle mile broadband facilities providing sufficient capacity to support the provision of broadband service to end users.

As demonstrated, 98.9% of households in NEFCOM's service area are able to readily subscribe upon request to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband services at a minimum transmission speed of greater than 768 kbps downstream and 200 kbps upstream from NEFCOM; 98.9% of the households in the proposed funded Service Area that overlaps NEFCOM's service area have access to facilities-based,

terrestrial broadband service at greater than the minimum broadband transmission speed as set forth in the definition of broadband; NEFCOM advertises broadband service at broadband transmission speeds of at least 3 megabits per second downstream throughout its service area.

Submitter: Comcast Cable

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-----**Service Area:** N West Florida

Submitter: Cox Communications Ins.

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Cox supports the goals of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to extend broadband to parts of the country that are unserved or underserved. We appreciate the efforts of the Rural Utilities Service and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration in making sure that the limited amount of broadband stimulus funding available under the ARRA is targeted toward those consumers in greatest need, rather than to areas that already have access to broadband service.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit this information. We trust that it will be helpful in your analysis, and will inform your final decision concerning the application.

Submitter: Bright House Networks, LLC

Comment: In support of NTIA and RUS' efforts to optimize the distribution of the scarce resources available under the ARRA Broadband NOFA, Bright House Networks is providing additional data related to this Applicant's planned service areas. This application includes service areas which are not unserved nor underserved.

-----**Service Area:** Panhandle

Submitter: CenturyLink

Comment: CenturyLink has an extensive broadband footprint today, and has committed to extend that service even further. As part of its merger commitments to the Federal Communications Commission, CenturyLink committed to offer retail broadband Internet access service to 100% of its broadband eligible access lines by July 1, 2012. Consequently, virtually no areas served by CenturyTel or Embarq local operating companies, in any state, will be underserved or unserved at the end of three years.

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The agency should consider the importance of this commitment, as CenturyLink's continuing investment inevitably will make applications that overlap CenturyLink service areas less viable. CenturyLink has proven, industry-leading experience in deploying broadband networks and services using both wireline and wireless technology, and a strong commitment and focus on rural areas. Today, it serves 7 million access lines and 2.1 million broadband customers in 33 states.

Submitter: Bright House Networks, LLC

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Submitter: Comcast Cable

Comment: Attached is a summary of the Comcast Cable homes passed, subscriber and advertising information related to the service areas encompassed by this application.

-----**Service Area:** South Florida

Submitter: Atlantic Broadband

Comment: The application of Florida Public Broadcasting for South Florida attempts to characterize as 'underserved' numerous communities where Atlantic Broadband provides high speed data to businesses and residences. These include: Miami Beach, Aventura, Sunny Isles, Surfside, North Bay Village, Bal Harbor, Bay Harbor Islands, Fisher Island, Golden Beach, South Miami and Pinecrest. High speed broadband is available to well over 50% of the residents and businesses in each of these communities, at speeds far in excess of the minimum threshold of 768/200 kpbs. Speeds well in excess of 3mpbs are offered and advertised. (Documentation attached). The subscription rate for Atlantic Broadband's high speed Internet service is approximately 40%. In addition other providers, including the incumbent telephone company and other ISP's, offer high speed broadband service in these areas, so the cumulative existing penetration rate clearly exceeds that specified as the third prong of the standard for 'underserved.'

Submitter: Comcast Cable

Comment: Attached is a summary of the Comcast Cable homes passed, subscriber and advertising information related to the service areas encompassed by this application.