

Submitted Date: 8/20/2009 2:19:26 AM **Easygrants ID:** 333 **Funding Opportunity:** Broadband Initiatives Program and Broadband Technology Opportunities Program **Applicant Organization:** DigitalBridge Communications Corp. **Task:** Submit Application - Infrastructure Programs **Applicant Name:** Mr. William Wallace

C. Executive Summary

Executive Summary of Project for BIP and BTOP

8. Infrastructure Projects Executive Summary

Overview: Smith County, Tennessee ("County") is rural and underserved. DigitalBridge Communications Corp. ("DBC") proposes to bring affordable, fourth-generation broadband services to customers and key anchor institutions within the rural, underserved portions of the County. As a proven WiMAX operator with operations in six states covering 600,000 people, DBC brings the track record and management team needed to deploy within 6-12 months, generate jobs, and ensure financial sustainability. Its very low cost-per-household will enable far more households to receive broadband services per network dollar spent than competing technologies. DBC will be assisted in these efforts by its partners, including Intel, Clearwire Communications, Level 3, four state agencies, and TeleWorld Solutions. Anticipated project benefits over the 5-year planning period include the following:

- [REDACTED] new broadband subscribers added.
- [REDACTED] new jobs created.
- \$ [REDACTED] network capital cost per household served.
- [REDACTED] years for DBC to reach cash-flow positive

a) Opportunity the proposed system seeks to address:

All constituencies in the County – residents, schools, libraries, healthcare and public safety facilities – need better broadband access and the opportunity to experience the transformative impact of broadband. DBC proposes a last mile infrastructure project, including middle mile components, to improve access to broadband for consumers, institutions, and government throughout underserved portions of the County where today just [REDACTED]% of consumers have subscribed to broadband services.

b) A general description of the proposed funded service areas (location, number of communities, etc.)

DBC's proposed funded service area is 100% rural and encompasses 665 contiguous census blocks. (DBC is committed to serving 100% of each census block within its proposed funded service area map, even if the BIP/BTOP mapping tool suggests partial coverage due to imprecision of the initial RF design or the mapping tool itself.) The proposed funded service area includes 4 census-designated communities.

The proposed funded service area covers 175 square miles. The service area's total population was [REDACTED]. County-wide the median income was \$581,000, 15% the national average, and its household density averaged 24. Such low household density often makes broadband service uneconomic even at very high subsidy levels, which is why federal funding is critically needed to build out broadband networks.

c) Number of households and businesses passed

DBC's network is designed to cover the proposed funded service area in the County and will pass [REDACTED] households and [REDACTED] businesses.

d) Number of community anchor institutions, public safety entities, and critical community organizations passed and/or involved with project (e.g., health care, education, libraries, etc.)

The proposed funded service area covers a number critical community facilities, community anchor institutions, and public safety entities. Specific counts can be found in the Supplemental 3 section of this application. DBC's proposal for the County includes providing free broadband access, education, awareness,

i) Overall infrastructure cost of the broadband system

[REDACTED]

j) Overall expected subscriber projections for the project

[REDACTED]

k) Number of jobs estimated to be created or saved as a result of this project

It is estimated that a total of [REDACTED] new jobs will be created as a result of DBC's deployment of broadband in the County in the following areas:

[REDACTED]

In addition, other jobs will be created as a result of the increase in broadband penetration throughout the County. According to a July 2007 Study by the Brookings Institution, every 1% increase in broadband penetration is projected to yield a .2%-.3% increase in non-farm employment.