Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name:  iWispr, LLC

Project Title:  Northwest Georgia Broadband Project

Project Type:  Last Mile Remote

_______________________ Executive Summary _______________________

iWispr Executive Summary

a) Opportunity the proposed system seeks to address. The proposed fixed wireless system will address the lack of broadband in the Chattooga and Walker county areas. iWispr plans to deploy a fixed wireless system that will provide broadband to the unserved and underserved residents, providing wide area coverage much faster and at a lower cost than wired line systems. iWispr will address the crucial need of enhanced communications for the residents and businesses as well as public safety, education, and healthcare. The project will not only create a number of jobs during the period of infrastructure installation, it will provide residual employment opportunities for the local citizens. The project will provide the services necessary for the residents and businesses to strive in the 21st century while attracting new business to the area, further stimulating economic growth.

b) A general description of the proposed funded service areas (location, number of communities, etc.) The proposed funded service area is located in Northwest Georgia along the US Hwy 27 corridor. The service area covers 720 square miles including all of Chattooga County, a small Eastern portion of Gordon County, the Northern tip of Floyd County that divides Gordon and Chattooga, and the southern half of Walker County. The service area encompasses 51 census blocks including six census designated communities and eighteen undesignated communities.

c) Number of households and businesses passed.
26,235 Households
2,252 Businesses
28,487 Totals

See attached for a detailed breakdown of the households and 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.). Walker County has 86 facilities that are eligible for internet service, including 21 fire stations, 3 police stations, & 14 schools. Walker County has 14 federal government facilities, 27 State facilities, and 31 County facilities. Chattooga County has 49 facilities that are eligible for internet services, including 11 fire stations, 2 police stations, and 6 schools. Chattooga County has 6 federal government facilities, 15 state facilities, and 22 local facilities.

e) Proposed services and applications for the proposed funded service areas and users. iWispr will offer Wireless Broadband Internet, Internet Domain Hosting, Email, VoIP, and Remote Backup services to residential, municipal and commercial customers.

f) Approach to addressing the non-discrimination and interconnection obligations iWispr has adopted the principles defined by the FCC’s Broadband Statement.

• To encourage broadband deployment and preserve and promote the open and interconnected nature of the public Internet, consumers are entitled to access the lawful Internet content of their choice.

• To encourage broadband deployment and preserve and promote the open and interconnected nature of the public Internet, consumers are entitled to run applications and use services of their choice, subject to the needs of law enforcement.

• To encourage broadband deployment and preserve and promote the open and
interconnected nature of the public Internet, consumers are entitled to connect their choice of legal devices that do not harm the network. • To encourage broadband deployment and preserve and promote the open and interconnected nature of the public Internet, consumers are entitled to competition among network providers, application and service providers, and content providers. g) Type of broadband system that will be deployed (network type and technology standard). Broadband internet service is provided by Dual Band (900MHz and 2.4GHz) Point to Multipoint Wireless Motorola Canopy System. Additional infrastructure equipment will be provided by hardware from Cisco Systems and Dell Computers. h) Qualifications of the applicant that demonstrate the ability to implement and operate a broadband infrastructure, and/or be a sustainable broadband services provider. iWispr is a fixed wireless internet service provider that has been providing high speed internet in the Northwest Georgia area since 2004. Over the past five years iWispr has expanded their network throughout Gordon County and parts of Bartow County with a coverage area of over 500 square miles. iWispr has a total of ten tower sites and has built an extremely reliable network using Motorola equipment. The owner’s have assembled a team of professionals remarkably trained in the deployment and operation of fixed wireless telecommunications. Each member of the team will play an important role in the implementation and success of the project. i) Overall infrastructure cost of the broadband system. The overall total cost for the system is $4,261,929.00 j) Overall expected subscriber projections for the project. 10,876 subscribers iWispr collected the population and household data for the service area from the US Census Bureau for each census block inside the service area and used a penetration rate provided by the FCC of 38%. k) Number of jobs estimated to be created or saved as result of this project. iWispr estimates this project will immediately generate 25 to 30 in-house jobs and create approximately 50 job opportunities with contractors involved with the infrastructure installation. Since iWispr is a locally owned company, the jobs will benefit local residents. The project will drastically increase the number of subscribers which will increase sales allowing iWispr to continue their efforts to expand broadband services to unserved communities at a much faster rate thereby creating additional jobs.