Sandoval County is requesting funding to expand & operate a Middle Mile wireless broadband network that offers uniquely diverse communications paths which serve the communities in Sandoval County, which is titled BTOP: Sandoval County Broadband Middle Mile Deployment. This network was designed to provide carrier-class, high speed broadband interconnection with multiple last mile providers to provide service to underserved areas & with input from the community solving the unbudgeted needs of community anchor institutions, public safety entities & critical community organizations. The Sandoval County project will satisfy all key BTOP statutory purposes with a budget of $198,000.00, & we will demonstrate our ability to accomplish these objectives not only here but throughout this entire funding application. First, Sandoval County will be extending Middle Mile broadband access to consumers in Sandoval County's underserved areas to include Zia and Jemez Pueblos. Census data was carefully analyzed to create a demographic-based model to establish that each of the targeted areas are underserved. Second, Sandoval County will be providing broadband connectivity to community anchor institutions & critical community organizations such as schools, libraries, outreach agencies, medical & health care related facilities, and city & county government facilities. Third, Sandoval County will connect to & improve interoperability for public safety entities. Fourth, Sandoval County will stimulate investment in last mile broadband access by making available broadband access to the home. These communities have an aggregate population of 122,298, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The Sandoval County proposed wireless broadband backbone in the proposed communities passes a total of approximately 50,038 homes, 11% of which are low income households, & approximately 1,699 businesses employing about 29,687 employees, over 60 first responder & other public safety agencies, over 20 schools, 5 municipal facilities & 26 hospital & medical center or health related entities. Upon the initial announcement of stimulus funds being allocated for the proliferation of broadband services, Sandoval County identified & met with key local leaders, tribal leaders & community anchor institutions. We were provided with address information of what locations in the Sandoval County project area the community felt were most important for the extension of broadband coverage. Sandoval County has identified over 90 key target locations that we propose to interconnect with, including: local Indian American tribes, Public Safety locations, K-12 schools & administration buildings, local libraries, & County, City, Courts, DOT & Community Service buildings. This project delivers significant advantages to children & assists in making the learning process efficient & effective while also maintaining a high degree of engagement. To ensure maximum broadband penetration levels in each community, Sandoval County will draw on its previous experience of working collaboratively with community anchor institutions, enterprises, & carriers. Sandoval County will continue to reach out & assess their specific
broadband requirements & enter into agreements to provide high speed broadband service. Sandoval County fully expects that this strategy will result in penetration rates as high as 50% of businesses passed by our networks within 2 years of offering service & market share levels as high as 70% of available qualified customers. This project will quickly stimulate the economy in the Sandoval County area by creating new 4 jobs in the categories of construction, professional service, operations, marketing/sales & management. The wireless broadband fiber links have purposefully been designed to include State-designated zones for economic stimulus & job creation. To the best of our ability, Sandoval County has completed each application item thoroughly & with proper due diligence. It should be noted, however, that the NOFA language, supporting FAQs, & application directions in some cases are unclear. We feel we have made reasonable interpretations where appropriate within the spirit of the Recovery Act & NOFA. Should the reviewing panel determine that Sandoval County has misinterpreted an application item request; Sandoval County is prepared to clarify or update any information provided, upon request.