The City of Cocoa has defined and developed a much needed plan to build, upgrade, extend, and deliver high-speed broadband connectivity to community anchor locations throughout the City and surrounding areas. As a coastal Florida community, the importance of critical communications infrastructure to ensure hurricane preparedness is one of the many benefits the City of Cocoa and surrounding public entities will receive from this network, justly named the Cocoa Critical Community Network, or 'C3 Network'. It will allow for remote monitoring of key evacuation routes, such as State Road 520 and 528 and will have the capability to interface with State and Federal agencies to share public safety and first responder information. It will also allow interconnection with multiple Emergency Operations Centers in both Brevard County and among the various municipalities in Brevard. Consistent with the FCC's newly released position emphasizing the importance of gigabit connectivity to community anchor institutions, the C3 Network will offer line-rate Gigabit Ethernet services to all community anchor institutions, with options for tiered services where necessary. The core of this network will be equipped to handle multiple 10 Gigabit Ethernet connections and have the scalability to support 100 Gigabit Ethernet when required. This will create one of the only full Gigabit community networks with multiple public, private and non-profit partners in the State of Florida. Further, it will provide added benefit to healthcare organizations in Brevard County, connecting Wuesthoff Health System a non-profit healthcare provider that will have direct broadband access to the C3 Network for nearly 10 of its sites in the local area. Affiliate doctors offices will also benefit from the network, and C3 Network's Steering Committee has identified over 10 of these affiliate offices that will be able to receive enhanced broadband to support healthcare applications such as radiological imaging, virtual medicine and connection into hospital information systems. At a minimum, The City of Cocoa's community broadband network will pass 12 municipal sites, at least 10 Brevard County schools, including Brevard Community College, Cocoa's University of Central Florida campus, at least 5 County locations and at least 10 healthcare facilities. This will allow community anchor institutions in Northern Brevard County to share resources to improve services and at the same time reduce cost. There is strong potential to develop educational programs between institutions on the network, with Cocoa having a high concentration of schools, community colleges and higher education. Some of these benefits will include: ' Audio and video distance learning between institutions ' Adult education/training programs with access to information and research ' Joint development of online programs between institutions in the local area and strong reach into research and education networks, such as Internet2 and LambdaRail To bolster the growth of broadband in the area, the City has planned key middle-mile routes penetrating through specific areas of economic and social need within the City, including: ' The City's HUBZone in Census Tracts 623 and 626, as defined by
the US Small Business Administration. The HUBZone promotes job growth, capital investment, and economic development to historically underutilized business zones, referred to as HUBZones, by providing contracting assistance to small businesses located in these economically distressed communities. The City's Florida Enterprise Zone EZ 501, as defined by Enterprise Florida. Florida Enterprise Zones encourage economic growth and investment in distressed areas by offering tax advantages and incentives to businesses locating within the zone boundaries. The City's Three CRA areas, with specific strategies to enhance broadband by providing broadband services to low-income and disadvantaged businesses and residents, through incentive programs to competitive service providers. The network will provide the required middle-mile infrastructure to allow third-party, last-mile and other middle-mile service providers to deliver advanced telecommunications services into these currently underserved areas. The 3C network will be built from the ground up as an open-access network, founded on the principles of neutrality, interconnection and nondiscrimination. The C3 Steering Committee, composed of public, private and non-profit partners, understand the direct link between broadband growth and open access. C3 has already begun negotiations with last-mile service providers to deliver advanced broadband services across the network. The project will enable delivery of broadband telecommunications services, including: Gigabit and multi-Gigabit interconnect services between municipal sites; Gigabit and multi-Gigabit interconnect services between schools; Gigabit and multi-Gigabit interconnect services between County facilities; Gigabit and multi-Gigabit interconnect services between Healthcare facilities; Scalability of services to enable 10-Gigabit connectivity when required; Interconnection with Internet2, Florida Lambda Rail and National Lambda Rail, directly or through interconnection with Brevard County Public Schools and other anchor institutions; Gigabit and multi-Gigabit interconnection services on City of Cocoa's open-access network for broadband service providers; Full capabilities to meet NTIA's definitions of broadband for business and residential services, through City of Cocoa's open-access network; Public access at specific points in the network to Internet and government-to-citizen applications; Disaster recovery/Emergency Operations Center applications for hurricane preparedness, through interconnection with remote data centers; Enhanced public safety applications through deployment of a municipal camera system and interconnection with Florida Department of Transportation camera systems; Enhanced public safety services and data sharing with Florida Department of Law Enforcement and other public safety agencies; Open access for additional community anchors such as schools, community colleges, healthcare organizations and higher education. We believe that the City of Cocoa's plan and grant application has been developed in the true spirit of the requirements for funding under the BTOP grant program. We respectfully request your favorable consideration of the grant funding requested to assist in the implementation of our community broadband network.