Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: ONE BROWARD, INC.

Project Title: OneBroward -Digital Network Access (1B-DNA)

Project Type: Comprehensive Community Infrastructure

_______________________ Executive Summary _______________________

OneBroward (1B-DNA) is an innovative broadband solution that supports the five core purposes outlined in Section 6001 of the Recovery Act. Over the past three years, the work of the OneBroward Consortium has been focused on addressing the digital divide and the associated problems facing many underserved individuals living in Broward County and throughout Southern Florida. Eight key community institutions including K-12, higher education, public safety, local government and healthcare formed OneBroward in 2007. Since then the Consortium has been actively engaged in identifying and supporting opportunities to expand broadband access and services throughout the County and the communities they serve. Broward County consists of 30 municipalities, covers a populated area of almost 500 square miles, and serves a total population of nearly two million people. This network plan will use innovative technology to cover the entire populated area of the County. OneBroward also intends to create a regional network by linking with the FiberNet Miami-Dade Broadband Coalition and the Palm Beach Broadband Network if NTIA funds those projects. OneBroward is a connected community initiative seeking to leverage innovative technology and valuable community assets to build a high capacity affordable broadband network. By linking anchor institutions, the new broadband network can improve access to education, healthcare, public safety and government services and accelerate economic recovery and development. Much has already been done to realize these benefits and the Consortium’s partners stand ready to contribute existing assets and resources to achieve their common objective. However, the nation's economic downturn and the financial constraints now facing each of these institutions make it impossible to deliver this viable and necessary network solution without broadband stimulus funding. The introduction of the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) by Congress in 2009 can provide funding now crucial to achieving OneBroward’s vision. The proposed architecture is a multi-layer broadband data transport network that connects consortium members and anchor institutions to each other and to the community. Utilizing 44 miles of existing single-mode fiber, 1B-DNA will add 35.9 miles of new fiber to existing conduit and construct 78 .1miles of new fiber. The resulting 158-mile fiber backbone will have an overlapping ring topology, connecting 37 nodes and two hubs. Anchor institutions and last mile carriers will connect through the 39 fiber nodes. Existing vertical assets, both towers and buildings, will facilitate the deployment of a combination of Point-to-Point and Point-to-Multipoint wireless technology. It will deliver up to 10 Mbps to any location within the county's more populated areas. Initial plans include 10 locations that target small nonprofit operations and community anchor institutions. This new wireless network will connect more than 400 additional schools, libraries, healthcare locations, government sites and nonprofit organizations to the OneBroward Broadband Network. With a federal grant of only $17.97 million, the Consortium will be
able to leverage $9.06 million of existing assets and 1.2 million of cash match for construction of the proposed network. Keeping new capital investment costs low (re-purposing existing assets) will allow OneBroward to construct its new broadband network at a total estimated cost of $28.27 million. Just the replacement cost of the fiber and tower assets the Consortium is committing to this network solution would be many times the in-kind value being attributed to this application. 1B-DNA’s network will deliver services ranging from basic broadband to huge transport capacity. Its design focuses first on locations that can provide service to the most users. OneBroward’s Consortium includes Broward County Schools, Broward College, Florida Atlantic University, Nova Southeastern University, Broward County Government, Broward County Sherriff’s Office, Broward Health (North Broward Hospital District) and Memorial Healthcare (South Broward Hospital District). Other facilities that will be able to connect to the network, include public libraries, other medical facilities, the Health Department, public safety organizations (municipal police departments, sheriff, state troopers, fire department, emergency management), the Court System and Government offices, community service locations (water management, public works, economic development, workforce development human services, tax collector, elections supervisor), and transportation management (public roads, Florida Turnpike, Tri-Rail commuter rail service, Ft. Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, Port Everglades, and the County's bus system.) OneBroward also plans to serve four underserved locations (consistent with NTIA's definition of underserved and as referenced in the Network sections of this Application) delivering service with speeds of 1 Gbps and higher and connecting three of the four locations directly to the proposed fiber route. OneBroward also plans to provide wireless broadband connectivity in these locations by constructing wireless sites using WiMAX technology. Once the 1B-DNA network is deployed, OneBroward plans to act as a reseller of commercial mobile broadband services. In 2000, there were 654,445 households and 58,909 businesses with employees operating in Broward County, and 1,150 Community Disadvantaged Business Enterprise firms. As a countywide network, 1B-DNA expects to serve 232 communities anchor institutions directly by the end of year three ' calendar 2013. Partners like the County Government, the Broward Sherriff's Office and the County's Public Schools will become 1B-DNA subscribers serving all 1.8 million Broward County citizens, directly or indirectly. OneBroward will operate an open network with no discrimination between the types of content that may be passed or the relative priority of traffic on the fiber network. Its policies will comply with the March 9, 2009 letter from the Open Internet Coalition to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and adhere to the principles of nondiscrimination and interconnection outlined in the FCC's Internet Policy Statement. Under this open network policy, last mile service providers will be able to access the 1B-DNA network and are forecasted to serve more than 100,000 additional subscribers. In addition to creating more than 150 design and construction jobs over the next two years (post funding), another 53 jobs should be created by the manufacturers and suppliers indirectly supporting the OneBroward network. Operating the 1B-DNA system will create 36 new employee and contractor positions in Broward County, bringing the total new job opportunities to 239. Economists would estimate that 231 new jobs would indirectly create an additional 96 jobs, bringing the grand total to 335 new positions nationwide and equating to 792 job years. As a collaborative nonprofit corporation with a strong foundation already in place to support this initiative, OneBroward is 'shovel ready' to leap into the construction and deployment of this new broadband network. To date, it has: o Executed a partnership agreement with the eight Consortium members which includes a governance model and an
operating strategy, oFormulated a comprehensive list of capital assets relevant to broadband capacity needs, oConducted extensive network and business planning sessions, oIssued a RFI and a RFP and analyzed the resulting vendor proposals, and oEvaluated existing business relationships that can support planning, construction and operations. Funding OneBroward's 1B-DNA network development will oDramatically improve service to the underserved areas of Broward County, including 32,560 residents, 1268 businesses and 11,044 households. oConnect OneBroward's partners and community service institutions for delivery of faster, more fully connected services to vulnerable and unconnected residents. oAllow the Nation's 6th largest K-12 School District to extend the learning day and offer students, parents and teachers 24/7 access to existing education programs. oProvide the means for Higher Ed to share educational research and provide greater community access to the underserved. oConnect local government, including all of its service agencies, with other community service organizations and residents. oEnsure the major hospital systems serving Broward County will rapidly and securely transfer medical imaging and detailed records. oEnable the Sherriff's office and other public safety agencies to improve communications and reduce costs. oFacilitate improved public access to government, education and healthcare information and services. oForm the Broward portion regional network that also encompasses Miami Dade and Palm Beach counties.