Applicant Name: CITY OF EVANSVILLE

Project Title: Greater Evansville Broadband Alliance - (GEBA)

Project Type: Comprehensive Community Infrastructure

_______________________ Executive Summary _________________________

A) To deploy a middle mile broadband infrastructure that will have an immediate impact and benefit to our community and the region. Funding will support our vision of affordable and reliable broadband access to residents, businesses, community anchor institutions and public safety entities; create and retain jobs and stimulate the long-term economic growth through out the entire SouthWest Indiana Region. Without the support of the grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) our vision will never become a reality. B) The City of Evansville and Vanderburgh County are located in Southwestern portion of the state of Indiana. There are over 35 villages, townships and burroughs located in the county. Unfortunately this area is part of the rural/urban digital divide where broadband penetration has not been uniformly deployed either geographically or demographically. The region lacks the communication infrastructure needed to provide affordable broadband access to its residents and businesses. Some areas of the region is either unserved or underserved because private, for profit companies have found them to be economically unfeasible because they use a Return on Investment (ROI) formula that deters them making capital expenditures in these areas, while other areas have limited broadband choices which makes service unaffordable for many. C) Based on the 2000 Sensus Bureau Data, there are 70,623 households in the City of Evansville and Vanderburgh County, of which 66,473 or approximately 94% will have access to our network. We have calculated there are 4430 businesses, including large corporations, medium and small businesses, mom and pop businesses as well as growing segment of home based internet businesses located in the City of Evansville an Vanderburgh County and based on our propagation analysis there will be approximately 4164 or 94% of them that could connect to our network. D) We have identified 607 community anchor institutions throughout the City of Evansville and Vanderburgh County, we estimate that over 575 will have access to the network. A significant number of those are publicly supporting the project and have expressed an interest in connecting onto the network for various applications or services. E) To make this a truly sustainable project we are using a business model in which we would provide both middle mile services to local internet service providers who will pay wholesale connection rates for our excess bandwidth capacity and we would provide last mile services such as; mobile data, mobile and fixed video surveillance, ARM, Traffic Synchronization and/or Public Safety Backhaul, AVL and VoIP services to any and all government bodies, agencies or community anchor institutions in the coverage area. F) Approach to addressing the non-discrimination and interconnection obligations: GEBA is designed for multiple operators and will allow residential and commercial customers, government, public safety, education and medical facilities to acquire broadband services from a wide variety of service providers. It is specifically designed to seamlessly interface with all major communication
carriers in North America and worldwide. Existing deployments of the proposed network carry critical medical records, backhaul cellular carriers, provide wholesale long distance connections as well as direct connections to the peering points to the robust broadband pipes of the Tier 1 Internet carriers. G) The system deployed will be a region-wide, 622 Mbps backbone using a redundant-ring configuration to create multiple points of access. It will connect into the national communication framework and will enable service providers to provide last-mile services to end users in currently under-served and unserved areas of the region; deliver wireless fixed and mobile broadband solutions for public safety applications, such as high-speed data in police and fire apparatus, video surveillance applications and connections to police and volunteer fire departments; and provide high-speed connectivity to schools, local and county government buildings and other important community locations. It will also have the capability to provide high-speed, secure connections between hospitals, clinics, doctors and ambulances. The network includes robust, proven equipment and carrier-grade architecture, as well as a comprehensive and effective management platform to simplify and improve network operation and a business model to ensure sustainability. The award-winning architecture has been operating as AllCoNet (Alleghany County, MD) since 2003 and as Cambria Connected (Cambria County, PA) since 2008. This will be a fiber/wireless hybrid system using MPLS, Gigabit Ethernet, Fast Ethernet, ANSI, OFDM, OC3, DS3, and T1 at each middle mile connection point. The network security capabilities meet the stringent security standards required for Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and National Crime Information Center (NCIC) standards with Layer 2 data separation for diverse customers and service providers. It includes carrier-grade telecommunications infrastructure for high availability, high reliability and redundancy. It also provides availability of complete communication services, including IP, TDM and data packet services. It offers support for Legacy applications such as public safety trunked radio and voice T-1s and an experienced network engineering team for design and network construction oversight. The quality network support personnel and carrier-class network management framework to ensure efficient network operation and support with an open-access platform that will enable Armstrong and Indiana counties to solve digital and economic divide issues with capabilities to invite competition H) GEBA is based on more than 14 years of community network builds that date back to 1994. The architecture is currently in operation in more than 80 communities and provides critical network connections to tens of thousands of users. The system partner is one of the few integrators with both the knowledge and experience to build sophisticated networks of the size and scope required. Their networks have received numerous awards including the PA Governors Award in 2009 and the 2009 Association of Public-Safety Communication Officials 911 Center of the year. They have been recognized as a NIMS Smart Practice by DHS/FEMA and selected as the Best Practice by major consulting groups. The sustainability of the proposed network is proven by successful operational installations in Cambria County, PA (www.cambriacommunications.net) and Alleghany County, MD (www.allconet.org. I) The infrastructure costs of our network is right around $3,810,000 and the overall project costs are $5,090,140. J) GEBA has the support of local Internet Service Providers (ISP's) who will provide services to their customers with last-mile wireless broadband Internet services using the proposed middle-mile backbone. At the end of the first year of operations, it is estimated that 3-6% of all households, 6-8% of all businesses, and 24-28% of all community anchor institutions will adopt dedicated broadband access. In addition, it is estimated that 35+% of all public safety locations will utilize the network. A conservative estimate projects that after 5 years of operation (year 6) the middle mile network will provide services
to 12-16% of all households, 10-14% of all small or commercial businesses, and 28-32% of all community anchor institutions will be connected to our network. K) It is conservatively calculated that more than 350+ jobs will be created or saved by GEBA including network technicians, installers, marketing personnel, management, public safety specialists, and application design and development. The GEBA anticipates accelerating the construction and installation in year 1, to further enhance the impact of these jobs. In addition, more jobs will be created by the high quality, high speed broadband connections to homes in the community as the network allows citizens to become remote contact center agents, programmers and developers as well as web-based entrepreneurs.