Applicant Name:  CITY OF FARGO

Project Title:  City of Fargo’s Broadband Infrastructure Initiative

Project Type:  Comprehensive Community Infrastructure

Executive Summary

This project seeks to enable each participating community anchor institution to have high speed communication with its outlying facilities. The project covers five cities and a rural school located in four North Dakota counties. This is a Middle Mile project that does not provide any service directly to households or businesses. The project includes almost 150 community anchor institution locations. Thirty two locations are K-12 schools (metro and rural); nine are community college locations; 28 are health care locations; and, 17 are public safety locations. The primary purpose of this project is to provide all partners with high speed connectivity between facilities. In addition, those agencies with authorization to use the state network will have alternate connectivity options for state connections. All Community Anchor Institutions with multiple locations were considered and included for participation in the grant process. The system is designed around a single mode fiber infrastructure and will enable 1 Gbps Ethernet connectivity between locations, with potential to expand to 10 Gbps Ethernet capabilities in the future. The City of Fargo has supported fiber connectivity between downtown locations and some outlying locations for several years. This includes experience in configuring and deploying end-point devices, contracting for splice case changes in underground vaults and responding to system emergencies caused by backhoes. The most significant issue with an underground infrastructure is to ensure fiber locates are done prior to digging. The plan includes hiring an outside firm to handle the fiber locate issues. The project is projected to cost $5,055,125. We expect to deploy the network to 146 locations and support 12 different Community Anchor Institutions, and a small amount of system growth to accommodate expanding needs of present partners and additional Community Anchor Institutions. Based on the Council of Economic Advisor’s methodology, this project will create 55 direct/indirect/induced job-years for North Dakota.