Applicant Name:  WORCESTER HOUSING AUTHORITY

Project Title:  Worcester Housing Authority's Connect and Protect Project (CPP)

Project Type:  Comprehensive Community Infrastructure

_______________________Executive Summary_______________________

Worcester Housing Authority's Connect and Protect Project ("CPP") consists of security system upgrades for 100 buildings on a 60 acre site and includes approximately 116 CCTV cameras. The proposal is for a Network Video Recording System running on Single Mode Fiber utilizing converters coming back to network video servers in order to process various IP carriers and mega pixel cameras. This project addresses a compelling public safety problem consistent with the BTOP statutory goals and additionally will serve a low-income and vulnerable population. Public safety is a critical concern for this service area, Great Brook Valley (‘GBV’). GBV is a large family public housing development that is its own US Census tract. Over 2,000 people live in the neighborhood, all of whom are low-income and considered 'at-risk.' The population is 85% Hispanic and predominantly single female head of household. While the WHA has worked to reduce crime in the neighborhood in recent years, the crime rate is still higher than its surrounding communities. The WHA works with the local police gang unit to patrol this neighborhood and reduce crime. One tool the WHA Public Safety office and local police use is surveillance cameras. However, these cameras are limited to the WHA management buildings and do not cover a significant portion of the development property. Therefore, it is critical that a fiber network be installed throughout GBV so that cameras may be deployed throughout the property. These cameras will be accessed on site, and remotely, by local police and WHA Public Safety. In addition to crime prevention, the WHA is seeking this system for another public safety benefit. The main road running through GBV, Tacoma Street, is straight and long and often cars speed down the street. There are over 1,000 children living in this development and speeding and traffic hazards are a concern for their welfare, as well as adult resident welfare. The proposed software system and cameras will allow for identification of license plates and can be used to control traffic and increase public safety. Additionally, this broadband infrastructure will allow the WHA to set up an Energy Management System that will affect the reliability of the control equipment by eliminating the susceptibility to lightening induced power surges over the serial communications links connecting the 91 boiler rooms throughout the Great Brook Valley development. This will provide a living improvement for the many residents of the development. In addition to the local police benefiting from this project, other community anchor institutions should benefit as well. Currently, the Worcester Public Library has a branch in GBV, as does the Boys and Girls Club and there is also the presence of the Great Brook Valley Health Center- the region's largest provider of low income health care. All of these institutions will be able to use and benefit from this fiber network. Lastly, as part of this project, the WHA will be linking Lakeside Apartments, a family public housing development, to its network. Recently, Lakeside had a camera surveillance system installed and this system needs to be linked to WHA headquarters at GBV so that the police and WHA Public Safety
officers can respond to crime as quickly as possible when spread over the large geographic area that is the City of Worcester. The WHA maintains a network policy that complies with the grant guidelines. The system is a closed one that is indirectly connected to the public internet. There are public internet terminal at the library and in the community centers. At Lakeside, there is a computer room accessible to residents to access the internet. The WHA is exploring ways to increase offerings at these public centers to provide more network accessibility to its residents. WHA's resident demographic is largely Hispanic, and this fiber network will provide greater access to anchor institutions such as the police, library and local health center that serve this at-risk population. The proposal consists of construction of a fiber infrastructure, installation of a CCTV System, IP Cameras, Switches and a Network Video Server. All of this is described in detail in the System Design essay answer. The WHA expects up to 25 jobs to be created in connection with this grant proposal for the installation work involved. The project is expected to cost $983,188 with the Lakeside connection component being budgeted for just under $18,000. WHA commits to a 20% contribution for this grant proposal. The projected subscriber projection for the project is initially just the WHA. However, there is a possibility of direct police access in the future if the local police build a substation in the service area. There are over 3,000 households in the service area. While this proposal does not put forth residential service, it does not preclude future proposals from service providers to use this system to provide services. As such, the proposal contains a blank Income Statement, as there is no forecasted revenue or recurring costs requested for in this grant, other Attachments that do not apply to this middle mile grant proposal that necessarily must remain blank due to the fact they apply to competition pricing, or network service provider information which is inapplicable.