Applicant Name: COUNTY OF ESCAMBIA

Project Title: Gulf Coast ONE.net (ONE.net)

Project Type: Comprehensive Community Infrastructure

Executive Summary

Escambia County's Gulf Coast ONE.net will provide much needed high-speed middle-mile infrastructure in the rural northern part of our County. Key to the long-term financial sustainability of this rural infrastructure is the fiber-optic network build-out in the southern largely urban area that will connect over 190 of our key community anchor institutions including all the campuses of our community college (Pensacola Junior College), all the public schools (including over 30 significantly under-served schools), all the campuses of the University of West Florida as well as the vast majority of our public safety entities (Sheriff's office, fire service, emergency medical services and the emergency operations center).

A unique entity in this community is the Pensacola Innovation Network (PIN) that has committed to use our network to fulfill their mission of providing very high-speed access (LambdaRail and Internet2) to our local hospitals and military installations. Another unique aspect of our proposal is that the ONE.net will provide the necessary infrastructure for implementing an Intelligent Transportation (ITS) system in coordination with the Florida Department of Transportation which has committed to being a key financial sustaining partner. Our service area comprises all of Escambia County, Florida and along Hwy 90 into the neighboring county of Santa Rosa. Escambia County is geographically long and narrow, stretching approximately 50 miles north to south and at the narrowest 8 miles east to west and is the western-most county in Florida, bordered on the west and north by Alabama and to the south by the Gulf of Mexico. This geography has contributed to a technological disparity between the north and south areas creating a largely under-served rural north county. The ONE.net project will bridge this disparity and bring enhanced educational and public safety services to these citizens including a proportionally large vulnerable population. ONE.net will link approximately 52 anchor institutions in the rural areas, including bringing Internet access to our community centers and schools which have historically been under-served relative to other schools located in the south and support the addition of a new community library. To provide the critical financial sustainability ONE.net also extends throughout the southern part of the county and the City of Pensacola linking approximately 140 community anchor locations. We estimate that initially we will serve about 50% of the total number of anchor institution locations.

We have been approached by a regional provider of last mile services and have included their letter of interest with this application. Inherent in the design of the network is the inclusion of 19 points of interconnection; this includes 6 points that are geographically dispersed along the major arterial highways that are designed to allow easy physical connections to other regional networks. Additionally, we are purposely near the central offices and headends of the incumbent providers and fully support their interconnect to provide last mile services. To connect our partners and their respective anchor locations, we have designed 14 logical Ethernet-based rings using standard off-the-shelf switching
equipment over 246 miles of buried fiber-optic cable. Another unique and critical aspect of our network design is the development of a flexible 'intranet' architecture that will allow the deployment of community-of-interest collaborative networks, for example, the interconnecting of the public schools system with the community college and university to form a 'k-20' network. Our architecture will also allow many other such networks as un-foreseen opportunities arise. The ONE.net partners bring many decades of experience to this project in all aspects of information technology management and network management, for instance, one of our key partners, the Escambia County School district has operated a local fiber-optic network in the southern part of the county for over a decade. The ONE.net will form a Governance Team comprised of the senior technical management of each of our partners that will provide oversight for the projects detailed design and construction and in an ongoing capacity as overseers of the network growth, operations and management. This governance team will also oversee several private-sector contracts that will be let by the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners for the maintenance and repair of the physical plant as well as management of the collaborative networks and the future marketing to our service offerings. The anticipated cost of the ONE.net project is approx. 25.5 million dollars with the partners demonstrating their commitment in the form of over an 8 million dollar match. Using the Council of Economic Advisor's methodology, we anticipate that 122 job-years will be created by our project with 56 indirect jobs and 100 induced jobs. A key factor of outsourcing the fiber-optic maintenance, management and marketing is to also induce demand in the private-sector for long-term, highly-skilled and high-paying opportunities for our citizens.