Applicant Name: HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

Project Title: Parris Towers Community Connection

Project Type: Comprehensive Community Infrastructure

Executive Summary

Infrastructure Projects Executive Summary

a) Opportunity the proposed system seeks to address. The Little Rock Housing Authority's objective is to provide Internet access to its clientele and give them the ability to pick the Broadband service and provider of their choice. The clientele within the selected census block will have full access to high-speed internet service and clientele with less developed computer skills will be offered classes in an effort to familiarize them with the benefits that the Internet has to offer. For instance, clientele will be taught how to set up and check email, how to communicate with the Housing Authority, and how to search and navigate the Internet. According to speedmatters.org, 'High speed Internet is essential for economic growth, job creation, and global competitiveness. The United States ' the country that invented the Internet ' has fallen from 1st to 15th in high-speed Internet penetration. High-tech innovation, job growth, telemedicine, distance learning, rural development, public safety, e-government and solutions to our environmental problems require truly high-speed, universal networks.' Although many areas in Little Rock have access to high-speed internet there are still pockets in the underserved areas that do not have access at all. For many of these residents, going to an off-site facility is not a viable option so their ability to reap the benefits of high-speed internet connectivity is non-existent. The Housing Authority's proposed system will supply the needed infrastructure to provide end-user internet connectivity to residents in four areas of Little Rock. It is in these underserved areas that the access will provide opportunities that include, but are not limited to online courses and/or degree completion, job search and employment resources, medical care information, social service applications and research capabilities. Without high-speed access many of the aforementioned opportunities will not be available to residents within the affected census blocks.