Broadband USA Applications Database

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

Project Title: Granite Mountain Community Connection

Project Type: Comprehensive Community Infrastructure

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.

b) A general description of the proposed funded service areas (location, number of communities, etc.) The Homes at Granite Mountain is located in Little Rock, AR 72209. This subsidized housing development is designated for elderly, disabled, and low income persons. The Homes consists of 26 Duplexs and is currently 97% occupied. The average household income for persons living in the complex is less than $1,000 per month. The primary source of the income for these families is social security and supplemental social security. After paying rent, for food, medications, transportation and other basic living expenses there is nothing available for broadband service.

c) Number of households and businesses passed. 250 households are in this census block.

d) Number of community anchor institutions, public safety entities, and critical community organizations passed and/or involved with project (e.g., health care, education, libraries, etc.). The targeted census block is comprised of the 14 story, 250 unit public housing apartment complex. It is the anchor for the community. Senior Citizens Activities Today (SCAT) and the Little Rock Housing Authority are the primary organizations that are involved with the project.

e) Proposed services and applications for the proposed
funded service areas and users. Provide improved access to f) Approach to addressing the non-discrimination and interconnection obligations The LRHA commits to adhere to the principles contained in the FCC’s Internet Policy Statement (FCC 05-151, adopted August 5, 2005): WE WILL NOT favor any lawful Internet applications and content over others; WE Will display any network management policies in a prominent location on our web page and provide notice to customers of changes to these policies, including purchasing and maintaining industry developed software to limit access to areas that are harmful or inappropriate. WE WILL connect to the public Internet directly or indirectly, such that the project is not an entirely private closed network; and WE WILL offer interconnection, where technically feasible without exceeding current or reasonably anticipated capacity limitations, on reasonable rates and terms to be negotiated with requesting parties. This includes both the ability to connect to the public Internet and physical interconnection for the exchange of traffic. h) Qualifications of the applicant that demonstrate the ability to implement and operate a broadband infrastructure, and/or be a sustainable broadband services provider. The Consortium has the organizational capacity and local experience needed to carry out the proposed NSP2 activities. LRHA was chartered in 1940 and is the largest Public Housing Agency in the State of Arkansas, serving low to moderate income families through its Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program. LRHA has a total of 670 traditional public housing units, with an additional 157 apartments in two mixed finance complexes. The LRHA administers 2,025 section 8 vouchers and serves as the contract administrator for a HUD financed senior development. Combined, LRHA provides housing assistance to some 8000 individuals. Since 2006, LRHA has aggressively repositioned its Public Housing portfolio.