Executive Summary

Statement of problem -- The City of Hudson is an exceptionally poor community of 7,524 persons (2000 Census) with a median household income of only $24,279. As such, many community residents simply cannot afford broadband service. Warren Street, as the central corridor of the business district, also is home to many microenterprises for whom the cost of broadband service cost-challenging. Overall approach -- Supporting a mesh style wifi network, a series of transmitters and repeaters will deployed along Warren Street, (the spine of the business district) and along the waterfront using city-owned properties or public areas to site equipment. A second wifi 'enclave' will be created at the base of Warren Street using the soon-to 'be-restored historic Washington Hose firehouse. The approach is innovative due to the overall economy that is achieved while simultaneously: [1] Reaching many vulnerable citizens; [2] Fostering economic development and job creation; and, [3] facilitating services by city and not-for-profit agencies. Areas to be served -- the project will generally serve most persons in the City of Hudson. The demographic characteristics of this population are as follows: -- 7,524 persons -- only 61% (persons 25+) have a high school diploma -- only 8.9% (persons 25+) have a bachelors degree -- 25% of residents are below poverty level -- household income less than 60 % of US household income.

Qualifications of the applicant -- the applicant has successfully administered many state and federal grant programs. A qualified consultant will be hired to implement the program under the supervision of the Superintendent of Public Works Jobs -- the quantification of jobs created through this project is computationally intractable given their indirect nature. It is, however, appropriate to state that the project will serve to generate job creation by serving the many small businesses along Warren Street and, perhaps more importantly, serve to preserve the existing employment base. Cost -- based upon a two-year model ($135,000)