

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Tekstar Communications, Inc. (TCS), dba Arvig Communication Systems (ACS) has been providing competitive broadband services in nine Minnesota communities including three around Naytahwaush since 1998. We have never been able to create a business plan to reach this sparsely populated remote and rural community. Naytahwaush is defined as Unserved, a small Minnesota town where no wired broadband infrastructure is available. TCS has identified this area as first-in-line to receive and maximize the use of the broadband stimulus dollars provided by the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) and Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP).

Naytahwaush is located in rural Mahnomen County 15 miles east of the county seat on the White Earth Indian Reservation. A successful broadband project here would serve; [REDACTED] households, a tribal government building called The Family Investment Center, medical facilities, the school, and eighteen businesses. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and part of Naytahwaush [REDACTED]. The cost of this project is [REDACTED] and would cover roughly [REDACTED] square miles while providing the first wired broadband service for this depressed, isolated area.

The township of Twin Lakes, which covers a large portion of the area in the proposed project, consists of 86.2% Native American residents. Native American's are considered a very vulnerable population. Only 54.6% of this township's population is in the labor force. The median household and family income is \$26,250, which is 63% below the State's median household income of \$41,994. Per capita income is only \$8,914 compared to \$21,587 for the State. Many families can not afford to own a reliable vehicle, which is vital for their employment due to the long distances one must travel to worksites. The mean travel time to work for the township is 30.7 minutes.

Twin Lakes Township contains the community of Naytahwaush, which is the second largest community in Mahnomen County. This community's population is 93.7% Native American. Only 40.1% of its population has graduated high school and 51.4% has some type of government assistance income. 27.1% of families with children under the age of 18 have females as the head of the household.

The Family Investment Center houses the offices of White Earth Employment and Training, Human Services and Vocational Rehabilitation. The White Earth Reservation Down on Violence Everyday (DOVE) Program and the White Earth Reservation Boys and Girls Club is also headquartered in this facility. The DOVE Program provides domestic and sexual abuse and general crime victim advocacy and support services. There are also satellite sites for the White Earth Reservation Elderly Nutrition, Substance Abuse and Prevention, and Community Health Representatives programs located in this building. Mahnomen County and White Earth Police departments also operate a public safety office out of this building.

The delivery system TCS will use to offer communication services is Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) based on a Calix C7 GPON system. Residential or business customers can be served per passively split fiber driven by a GPON port on a card in the Calix C7 shelf housed by a cabinet. Each customer can receive up to 100 Mbps of data that can be voice, video or data and can transmit an equal amount. FTTH provides the highest data capacity, reliability, and long term growth of any technology platform. TCS technicians, construction and network personnel are highly trained and vastly experienced in this quality delivery system.

In addition to broadband internet service, we would be able to provide video and phone service along with the possibility of a symmetrical Ethernet service to the critical and anchor institutions. With this service, institutions and individuals alike can start to address the compelling problem that the Naytahwaush project will address and is what the core of the broadband stimulus is meant to do; provide high speed internet service to an unserved area. With no broadband access available, this area cannot take advantage of opportunities that are available on-line. That's not limited to education, but also includes jobs, business opportunities, healthcare, wellness and public safety.

The benefits of this stimulus project speak volumes to a community like Naytahwaush; a community which is extremely rural economically challenged with mainly low-income, unemployed, aged and otherwise a vulnerable population. With this grant and the stimulated demand for broadband, we would be able to achieve both economic growth and job creation. The service would provide education and employment opportunities to every recipient, with benefits being far reaching. Schools will be able to work more efficiently with students and educational opportunities will abound on-line. Enhanced service for healthcare delivery, medical care, and information will be at one's fingertips and public safety will improve. People will have the chance to be employed on-line without traveling great distance to support their families and these communities will thrive and grow.

High speed internet services will provide for a wealth of educational, economic and health opportunities for the area's low income, unemployed and aged population through the above institutions. Improved health services, both physical and mental, will be provided to residents. A wealth of training and education services will be provided to residents also.

Public safety services for the residents and the safety of police officers will also be greatly improved with the establishment of broadband services in the area. Currently, the White Earth Police Department is hampered with technical difficulties when dealing with reports, mandated information, and access to important information via the internet. Another problem is that their current Computer Aided Dispatching System will allow for mobile data terminals in squad cars, but there is no way to talk to other police officers in many of the areas of the proposed site except for an internet connection. The proposed rural area does not have reliable cell phone and radio coverage. The White Earth Police officers are currently unable to access vital information from their squad computers and

