Cedar Networks will deploy middle mile broadband infrastructure to 63 community anchor institutions, including 4 community colleges and 19 public safety entities, and 2 third-party last-mile broadband service providers in Colorado. The project will: 1) allow these entities to provide enhanced services such as High Definition Video for conferencing, distance learning, and remote monitoring; 2) provide access to resources on the public Internet that require higher bandwidth services and provide a method for community anchor institutions to deploy remote systems to aid in disaster recovery; and 3) third-party last-mile broadband service providers will be able to offer higher bandwidth services to their customers within the proposed funded service area. The proposed funded service area contains the City of Aspen, Town of Basalt, Town of Carbondale, City of Glenwood Springs, Town of New Castle, Town of Silt, and City of Rifle in Colorado. These communities fall within Garfield, Eagle, and Pitkin Counties. The Roaring Fork Valley Middle Mile Fiber Project will pass 17896 households and 2652 businesses, and 63 community anchor institutions. Glenwood Springs' Community Broadband Network, Colorado Mountain College, Roaring Fork School District and the Mayor of Glenwood Springs have provided letters of support whereas many others have expressed verbal support for the project. The Roaring Fork Valley Middle Mile Fiber Project will solve the problem of bandwidth inadequacy within the Proposed Service Area. Many of the community anchor institutions within this area are unable to utilize their resources efficiently due to lack of bandwidth between locations and lack of bandwidth to the internet. These utilization problems include: - Colorado Mountain College is unable to offer distance learning programs due to lack of bandwidth at the campus facilities and within the Proposed Service Area. This project would provide the bandwidth necessary at the campus to provide the distance learning programs and the bandwidth required at local libraries and other community institutions to participate in the programs. End-users would also be able to participate by connecting to the network via LEC local loops, the Glenwood Springs Community Broadband Network (CBN), or via third-party last-mile providers. - The City of Glenwood Springs was able to provide bandwidth to a handful of its offices via the CBN, but is still unable to connect the majority of its offices to the network. The City requires a larger network that passes all of its facilities either directly or via LEC local loops. This project would solve that problem. It would also provide the citizens of Glenwood Springs with LEC local loops and other methods to connect to the CBN to utilize the City's resources effectively. - The Roaring Fork School District is also unable to offer distance learning programs for its students. This has become problematic for the District because it consists of schools in three separate counties and is required to spend each tax dollar in the county it was collected. This creates a disparity across the district where students in a wealthier county are provided more resources than students in the other two counties. This project would solve this...
problem for the School District. The District could hire more teachers in the more affluent areas and share those teachers across county lines via distance learning and High Definition Video Conferencing. The Garfield County Correctional System has been able to install High Definition Video cameras within its facilities with funds from a previous grant, but are unable to view the video feeds remotely due to bandwidth limitations. This project would solve this problem by providing additional bandwidth to the correctional facilities and the administration facilities to allow for remote monitoring. The Roaring Fork Valley Middle Mile Fiber Project will deploy a fiber backbone that connects the various communities in the Proposed Service Area. It will offer ethernet-based ports to subscribers at initial speeds of 5 megabits per second up to 100 megabits per second. The consumer can then choose to purchase Ethernet Virtual Connections (EVCs) to other consumers on the network or to the public Internet. Consumers will be able to choose from a variety of port speeds and can limit and prioritize traffic at their port without affecting other consumers on the network. Cedar Networks will meet all interconnection and non-discrimination obligations expressed in the NOFA, including compliance with all FCC rules and guidelines. Cedar Networks will accomplish this by providing ethernet-based services where all traffic is treated equally. Managed services utilizing EVCs will be offered to allow interconnecting entities the ability to prioritize their own traffic without affecting the traffic of other entities on the network. Cedar Networks is providing interconnection points at seven Qwest Central Offices as well as several Remote Terminals to allow entities to connect to the network via LEC local loops, private wireline circuits, or wireless technology. The project will also interconnect with the City of Glenwood Springs Community Broadband Network (CBN) which will allow entities with existing CBN connections to interconnect to the new network without modifying their existing interconnection. Cedar Networks has demonstrated its ability to implement and operate broadband infrastructure since its inception in 2002. Applicant currently operates middle mile broadband infrastructure that connects 11 Qwest Central Offices and 36 remote locations including Remote Terminals (RT)s and multi-tenant buildings in Colorado. Applicant currently leases LEC circuits to connect the last-mile to end-users in its current service area. Applicant's model is currently successful in southwest Colorado because the applicant is able to utilize the fiber network constructed in that area with the State of Colorado's "Beanpole" project funds. Applicant aims to build a similar network in the Proposed Funded Service Area, which did not receive such funds. Applicant is and has been a sustainable broadband service provider since its inception. The overall infrastructure cost of the proposed broadband system is $12,108,667. It is expected that 144 business subscribers, and 96 community anchor institutions will purchase services on the network by year 8. It is further expected that 3276 additional subscribers will connect to the system via a third-party provider in the same time-frame. It is estimated that 47 jobs will be created or saved as a result of this project.