

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: SYRACUSE METRONET INC

Project Title: Broadband Oswego County

Project Type: Comprehensive Community Infrastructure

Executive Summary

The Broadband Oswego County project, developed in partnership between Syracuse MetroNet and Fibertech, Inc. of Rochester, New York, and Cedar Path Solutions Group of Baldwinsville, New York, will enable schools, hospitals, city and county government, and non-profit entities throughout the region to improve the quality and quantity of services provided to citizens throughout the region. This middle-mile project will initially connect up to forty-six anchor institutions along the planned thirty mile route. Syracuse MetroNet has been operating an institutional network in Onondaga County for more than thirteen years. Fibertech has been an independent network developer and operator with facilities in twenty mid-size markets throughout the country. They have a significant presence in New York and are building an expanded institutional network in Pennsylvania funded by round one of the broadband stimulus funds. By expanding its network Syracuse MetroNet will provide an affordable alternative for broadband connectivity to organizations and agencies that have been and will likely continue to be severely impacted by state and Federal budget cuts during the current recession. In an effort to become more efficient, these agencies are digitizing many services and functions. The ability to utilize high speed private networks and Internet connections is critical to the future of these agencies and the citizens they serve. However, in order for these new services to be successful, sufficient and affordable broadband connectivity is essential. Oswego County has only two broadband providers ' Verizon and Time Warner Cable. Although these providers off an array of broadband services, the costs are often five to ten times higher than services provided through a non-profit, institutional network provider such as Syracuse MetroNet. Syracuse MetroNet will provide the anchor institutions connected to its expanded network to access to the commodity Internet as well as MetroNet's established community VLAN. The connections to the community VLAN are particularly important for agency to agency networking such as telemedicine and telepresence applications. Although Syracuse MetroNet's mission is dedicated to serving educational, governmental, health care, and non-profit entities, the MetroNet board realizes the value and opportunity provided to Oswego County through this project. Any of the anchor institutions are eligible to extend MetroNet services within their own network footprint. Additionally, other entities may want to connect to MetroNet's fiber backbone to access services that terminate in Syracuse. Whether through the existing corporate structure of MetroNet or through a new subsidiary organization, the MetroNet board is committed to making broadband resources available to any entity in Oswego County that might benefit. The MetroNet board believes the expanded network has been designed with sufficient capacity to support many diverse applications from remote data centers to future economic development initiatives. The total cost to expand Syracuse MetroNet into Oswego County is \$5,821,000. This figure includes the cost of acquiring rights of way, network design, fiber

construction, and optronics for the forty-six anchor institutions. Maintenance and operating costs will be paid by Syracuse MetroNet from revenue derived from the forty-six anchor institutions and other entities that may wish to join the network. Syracuse MetroNet has received verbal commitments from nearly all of the forty-six anchor institutions and formal written commitments are being collected at the time of this submission. Given the affordability of the proposed network and services, Syracuse MetroNet expects all forty-six anchor institutions to subscribe to the network as soon as it is operational. It is extraordinarily difficult to project how many jobs may be saved through the implementation of this project. However, it is clear this project will provide full time employment for 10 individuals during constructions and 2 individuals when the network is operational. Additionally, 20 individuals will be have some role to play in supporting the network thus reinforcing the stability of their jobs.