Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: DETEL WIRELESS LLC

Project Title: Detel Broadband Partnership

Project Type: Comprehensive Community Infrastructure

_______________________ Executive Summary _____________________

Detel Wireless, LLC in collaboration with its partners of 14 K-12 schools, 6 public libraries, 4 health care facilities, 3 public safety office and 9 locally owned businesses seek to provide middle mile fiber optic access to 9 communities in Avoyelles Parish. Detel, a for profit company, is a regulated telecommunications provider headquartered in Avoyelles Parish. The company has been providing fiber optic and wireless services since 2002. Detel provides broadband connectivity to more 350 anchor institutions in Louisiana. This is a high-value Middle Mile Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Project because it leverages Louisiana’s Round 1 BTOP funding to expand reasonably priced broadband services to unserved and underserved communities in Avoyelles Parish. The project will provide 100 Mbps to multiple gigabits parishwide, including the new BTOP Computer Centers. This project has the support of the 6 Louisiana State Agencies receiving the middle mile BTOP award in Round 1. Furthermore, Avoyelles Parish libraries are partners of this project and are included in the Louisiana State Libraries Round 1 Computer Center award. The Detel Broadband Partnership proposes to utilize middle mile fiber optic cable previously funded in Round 1 as tie points to interconnect 82 anchor institutions, 6 Tunica-Biloxi Tribal and 15 businesses in rural Avoyelles Parish (see letters of commitment) The community support for the proposed project has been overwhelming. Detel received over 94 letters of support and approximately 328 residents signed online petitions. Some posted links on Facebook pages to the petition and other websites with more information. The idea of broadband and the talk about ‘high-speed Internet’ spread quickly throughout the parish. Opportunity the proposed system seeks to address: -Deliver a Middle Mile Network solution that expands the fiber optic route previously funded in Round 1. The dense fiber optic backbone will be powered by next-generation transport technologies and the network is designed to provide a fully route diverse system that will enable economical broadband expansion throughout Avoyelles Parish. -Improve the effectiveness of Avoyelles Parish anchor institutions to fulfill their missions by providing reasonably priced broadband speeds of 100 Mbs to multiple gigabits. -Increase Broadband services to Avoyelles Parish residents living in unserved and underserved areas by providing interconnect agreements with local last mile providers - Create competition and choice for all End-User subscribers throughout the area by offering affordable broadband access for last mile providers Description of the proposed funded service areas This project will put in place 120 miles of very high capacity broadband fiber that cuts through 14 rural and or urban cluster communities in unserved and underserved areas of Avoyelles Parish. The strategic placement of the fiber network is designed to provide services to the majority of the anchor institutions and Tribal facilities in Avoyelles Parish. Additionally, the route follows well traveled highways to encourage investment and strengthen competition among last-mile providers. This expands broadband access at
reasonable prices for all consumers in presently unserved and underserved areas. The proposed service area includes the communities of Marksville, Bunkie, Moreauville, Simmesport, Plaucheville, Cottonport, Hessmer, Mansura, Evergreen, Effie, Brouillette, Fifth Ward, Bordelonville and Dupont. The route will pass approximately 3,233 businesses, 26,098 homes and 143 anchor institutions. There are more than 97 supporters and partners of the project. They are presented in the following categories: (14) K-12 public schools (6) Libraries (7) Medical and Health Care (23) Public Safety (2) Community Colleges (5) Public Housing (4) Other Higher Education (11) Other Community Supporters (10) Other Government (1) Farmer (14) Locally owned banks The communities of Evergreen, Effie, Brouillette, Fifth Ward and Bordelonville are unserved, Simmesport, Moreauville, Plaucheville, Cottonport, Hessmer and Mansura are considered underserved. Marksville, Bunkie and Simmesport communities currently do not have access to available dedicated speeds of more than 3 Mbps. The Detel Broadband Partnership project will operate a nondiscriminatory open network by allowing last mile providers' customers: 1) to access lawful Internet content of their choice, 2) run applications and use services of their choice 3) to connect to their choice of legal devices that do not harm the network and 4) to allow competition among network providers, application and service providers, and/or content providers. Detel will not favor any lawful Internet application and content over others. Detel will post its network management policies on the company website. Detel will offer interconnection to other service providers, where technically feasible as long it does not exceed reasonable anticipated capacity limitations. The Detel Broadband Partnership project partners have secured interconnection agreements with last mile service providers for all proposed service areas. All interconnection parties understand and agree to adhere to the minimum interconnection requirements set forth in the NOFA, as well as, the non-discriminatory policies as stated above. The proposed fiber network will consist of a 144 strand fiber system. the network will support speeds of 100 Mbps to multiple gigabits. Detel Wireless, LLC agrees to provide the same level of services to anchor institutions and others that are currently provided over its current systems. The Detel Broadband Partnership project is forecasted to cost $12.02 million over the next three years. Using the CSE Freedom Foundation's formula which was developed for the state of Arkansas, the expected subscriber projections for the first five years are 8,120. Detel Wireless, LLC is providing a 30% cash match and E-Rate funds will be leveraged for schools and libraries reoccurring funds. We estimate the number of jobs to be created and saved by this project is approximately 112 jobs.