Grant Request Number	GRN-000844
Funding Program Name	Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program
Funding Request Name	Commerce, Kansas Department of - Middle Mile - GRN-000844
Applying Organization	Commerce, Kansas Department of
Applicant Name	Jade Piros

Primary Applicant Type

Identify the primary applicant type:

Single Entity

———

Primary Entity Type

Type of entity: Primary entity type, (A) a State, political subdivision of a State, Tribal government, technology company, electric utility, utility cooperative, public utility district, telecommunications company, telecommunications cooperative, nonprofit foundation, nonprofit corporation, nonprofit institution, nonprofit association, regional planning council, Native entity, or economic development authority; or (B) a partnership of two (2) or more entities described in (A).

What is the primary applicant's entity type?

State

———

Is parent/owner of applicant a foreign entity?

No

———

Managerial Capability

Applicants shall submit to the Assistant Secretary one-page resumes for (a) all key management personnel and (b) all key personnel of subcontractors or other entities that will play substantial roles in building, managing, or operating the middle mile network built using Middle Mile Grant (MMG) Program funding.

Key Personnel - Bradley Hook; Commerce, Kansas Department of; Executive Director;

[redacted]

KeyPersonnel_Resume_Bradley_Hook

———

Managerial Capability

Applicants shall submit to the Assistant Secretary one-page resumes for (a) all key management personnel and (b) all key personnel of subcontractors or other entities that will play substantial roles in building, managing, or operating the middle mile network built using Middle Mile Grant (MMG) Program funding.

Key Personnel - Brent Legg; Commerce, Kansas Department of; EVP, Connected Nation; [redacted]

———

Managerial Capability

Applicants shall submit to the Assistant Secretary one-page resumes for (a) all key management personnel and (b) all key personnel of subcontractors or other entities that will play substantial roles in building, managing, or operating the middle mile network built using Middle Mile Grant (MMG) Program funding.

Key Personnel - Carlee Parker; Commerce, Kansas Department of; Strategy & Intelligence Coordinator, IdeaTek; [redacted]

———

Managerial Capability

Applicants shall submit to the Assistant Secretary one-page resumes for (a) all key management personnel and (b) all key personnel of subcontractors or other entities that will play substantial roles in building, managing, or operating the middle mile network built using Middle Mile Grant (MMG) Program funding.

Key Personnel - Cory Davis; Commerce, Kansas Department of; Director of Multimodal Transportation and Innovation, KDOT; Cory.Davis@ks.gov

———

Managerial Capability

Applicants shall submit to the Assistant Secretary one-page resumes for (a) all key management personnel and (b) all key personnel of subcontractors or other entities that will play substantial roles in building, managing, or operating the middle mile network built using Middle Mile Grant (MMG) Program funding.

Key Personnel - Craig Tyler; Commerce, Kansas Department of; Director of Strategic & Financial Analysis, Ideatek [redacted]

———

Managerial Capability

Applicants shall submit to the Assistant Secretary one-page resumes for (a) all key management personnel and (b) all key personnel of subcontractors or other entities that will play substantial roles in building, managing, or operating the middle mile network built using Middle Mile Grant (MMG) Program funding.

Key Personnel - Hunter Newby; Commerce, Kansas Department of; Consultant; [redacted]

———

Managerial Capability

Applicants shall submit to the Assistant Secretary one-page resumes for (a) all key management personnel and (b) all key personnel of subcontractors or other entities that will play substantial roles in building, managing, or operating the middle mile network built using Middle Mile Grant (MMG) Program funding.

Key Personnel - Jade Piros de Carvalho; Commerce, Kansas Department of; Director of Broadband Development ; jade.piros@ks.gov
KeyPersonnel_Resume_Jade_Piros de Carvalho

———

Managerial Capability

Applicants shall submit to the Assistant Secretary one-page resumes for (a) all key management personnel and (b) all key personnel of subcontractors or other entities that will play substantial roles in building, managing, or operating the middle mile network built using Middle Mile Grant (MMG) Program funding.

Key Personnel - Jerrod Reimer; Commerce, Kansas Department of; President & CEO, IdeaTek; [redacted]

———

Managerial Capability

Applicants shall submit to the Assistant Secretary one-page resumes for (a) all key management personnel and (b) all key personnel of subcontractors or other entities that will play substantial roles in building, managing, or operating the middle mile network built using Middle Mile Grant (MMG) Program funding.

Key Personnel - Jonny Fosnight; Commerce, Kansas Department of; Solutions Architect, IdeaTek; [redacted]

———

Managerial Capability

Applicants shall submit to the Assistant Secretary one-page resumes for (a) all key management personnel and (b) all key personnel of subcontractors or other entities that will play substantial roles in building, managing, or operating the middle mile network built using Middle Mile Grant (MMG) Program funding.

Key Personnel - Thomas Garrett; Commerce, Kansas Department of; Director of Business Development; [redacted]

———

Organizational Charts

Each applicant shall submit any necessary organizational chart(s) detailing all of its parent companies, subsidiaries, and affiliates.
This upload section should also be used for any letters of support from the organizations that will be involved in the project as a community stakeholder.

KNET org chart-09-29-2022 12-02-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.png, kdotHighLevelChart-WOUT-BUREAUS-09-29-2022 12-03-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.pdf, KDOT Org Chart-09-29-2022 12-03-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.pdf, IDEATEK_ OrgChart (1)-09-29-2022 12-03-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.pdf, 09-09-29-2022 09-22-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.29.2022 - KS delegation letter of support to NTIA for Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure program application.pdf, KanREN MMF Letter of Support-09-29-2022 09-23-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.pdf

———

Organizational Details

Each applicant must also provide a narrative describing the applicant's readiness to manage a middle mile broadband network. This narrative should describe the experience and qualifications of key management set to undertake this project, the applicant's experience undertaking projects of similar size and scope, recent and upcoming organizational changes including mergers and acquisitions, relevant organizational policies, and ownership information consistent with 47 CFR § 1.2112.

This narrative shall denote who will own the assets at the end of award period. This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

The State of Kansas Departments of Commerce (the applicant) and Transportation (a subrecipient) (hereinafter, "Commerce" and "KDOT") propose to work with competitively selected private partners to design, build, maintain, and operate an open-access statewide middle-mile network ("KNET") that will serve multiple key goals: First, it will accelerate last-mile expansion in unserved and underserved areas of the State; second, it will support anchor institutions statewide, including higher education and public safety; and third, it will meet the needs of KDOT for next-generation communications services for public safety, transportation management, automated vehicle connectivity, and other innovations related to the use of communications services by KDOT.

Significantly, through the State's competitively selected open-access partners, this network will deliver open-access opportunities at all layers of the broadband technology stack: conduit (microduct), dark fiber, and lit services. This plethora of open-access opportunities will enable and incentivize last-mile ISPs of all sizes to make use of the new middle-mile network.

To deploy this 682-mile network, Commerce is requesting approximately $42.8 million in middle-mile grant funding. The application team will contribute approximately $30.2 million in non-federal match (i.e., 41.34 percent of the total project cost) comprised of approximately $26.5 million in cash and approximately $3.7 million of in-kind contributions.

If awarded, Commerce and KDOT will work with their competitively selected private vendors, IdeaTek and Connected Nation, to achieve the goals of KNET: IdeaTek will design, build, maintain, and operate the proposed fiber network on an open-access basis to maximize use of the new fiber facilities by a wide range of ISPs, anchor institutions, and other users, while Connected Nation will, in a neutral manner, market and lease the open-access microduct, connected to open exchange points. The network will be owned and controlled by KDOT, with substantial fiber assets retained by KDOT for State and public purposes, including those of the Kansas Research & Education Network (KanREN), which will have access to dark fiber to meet the needs of the education sector.

The following are the key public and private partners that are part of the plan for KNET:

Commerce houses the Kansas Office of Broadband Development (OBD), led by Director Jade Piros de Carvalho, who will oversee all elements of this program and serve as the Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR). To implement KNET, OBD and KDOT released a competitive request for information (RFI) to select one or more private partners with extensive experience building, operating, and commercializing middle-mile communications networks. Based on the responses to the RFI, a committee of State leaders selected the proposal of IdeaTek and Connected Nation to design, build, operate, and maintain KNET while maximizing its potential to serve the public policy goals set out by Congress for the Enabling Middle-Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program.

KDOT shares OBD's mission to catalyze new last-mile deployment throughout the State, particularly in unserved and underserved areas. KDOT will provide a cash match of approximately $26.5 million, as

well as technical oversight of IdeaTek and Connected Nation. Additionally, KDOT will use fiber strands on the new network to support its core functions of transportation management, State-level public safety communications, emergency response, and intelligent transportation communications. KDOT Director of Multimodal Transportation and Innovation Cory E. Davis will be the department's lead project coordinator.

KanREN, which is led by Executive Director Bradley Hook, operates an existing circuit-based research and education network that serves the needs of more than 80 higher education entities, including the State's research universities, community colleges, and Native American institutions of higher education such as Haskell Indian Nations University. KanREN will use some of the KDOT fiber to serve the needs of the education sector over robust, reliable, redundant fiber facilities.

IdeaTek is an established and highly experienced Kansas-based middle-mile and last-mile ISP with more than 22 years of operations. Led by co-founder and Chief Innovation Officer Daniel Friesen, it has a proven track record of success and has built more than 4,000 miles of fiber optic infrastructure in Kansas. It has a 100 percent compliance record as a recipient of both federal and state broadband grants, including, most recently, a $14 million CARES Act grant it completed in just four months. IdeaTek's experienced project management and network teams will design, build, and maintain KNET. Furthermore, IdeaTek's established sales and service delivery teams will market and provide both lit and dark fiber services to anchor institutions, last-mile ISPs, and enterprise customers based on their long experience operating open-access middle-mile facilities.

Connected Nation is an experienced nonprofit that will administer and facilitate open-access leasing of the newly constructed network to serve last-mile providers (ISPs) and anchor institutions. Chris Pedersen, Connected Nation's Executive Vice President for Development and Planning, will lead the effort. The nonprofit has more than 21 years of experience solving broadband challenges for state and local government agencies across the country. Connected Nation's focus as a nonprofit adds unique value in its commitment to universal broadband access.

The State of Kansas will own 100% of the assets at the conclusion of the grant award period and therefore none of the ownership situations (1-7) referenced in 47 C.F.R. Section 1.2112(a) apply. The State Departments of Commerce and Transportation will assist in operating and managing the network.

———

Form CD-511 (Certification Regarding Lobbying)

The applicant must upload a completed form that certifies that Federal funds have not and will not be used for lobbying in connection with this request for Federal financial assistance. A fillable Form CD-511 can be found in the MMG ZIP folder.

CD511-09-20-2022 01-30-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.pdf

———

SAM.gov Registration

Applicants are asked to upload a screenshot of their SAM.gov registration.

SAM Registration verification-09-20-2022 01-28-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.pdf, KASAS_SAM screenshot20230320 (1)-04-04-2023 01-16-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.PNG

———

Additional Waiver Upload

Please upload, as applicable.

waiver request-09-29-2022 12-05-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.pdf

———

Executive Summary

Please describe how the applicant's proposal will advance the objectives of the MMG Program, as well as the specific objectives of outlined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO);

An overview of the proposed route or service area(s), including information regarding rurality and socio-economic indicators in the area to be served by the proposed project.
This response is limited to 12000 characters as an open field narrative.

The State of Kansas Departments of Commerce (the applicant) and Transportation (a subrecipient) (hereinafter, "Commerce" and "KDOT") are working together with their highly experienced private and nonprofit partners to create a 682-mile open-access middle-mile fiber optic and microduct network, with plans to connect multiple new internet exchange points throughout the State. Commerce is requesting $42.8 million in middle-mile grant funding to deploy this $73.0 million network and will contribute a non-federal matching share of $30.2 million (cash and in-kind) for a 41.34 percent match. This contribution exceeds NTIA's requirement of 30 percent non-federal share for this program.

The proposed network will support the needs of last-mile service providers, increase capabilities for anchor institutions, enable connections to unserved and underserved households, and increase competition in local markets, thereby creating more affordable service options. The project area includes substantial numbers of residents that qualify for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income, and USDA Community Eligibility Provision.

But for the funds awarded in this grant, the proposed middle-mile network will not be built and the barrier to deployment of last-mile facilities in rural Kansas will remain persistently high.

This open-access middle-mile network will significantly expand network capacity throughout urban,

suburban, and rural regions across Kansas. Operated on a non-discriminatory basis, the network will support interconnections with qualified entities seeking access to deliver last-mile broadband services. The proposed network will incorporate three primary open-access middle-mile facilities to facilitate broadband access deployment across the state for all scopes and sizes of broadband deployments. First, the project will support access to middle-mile microducts for the deployment of last-mile service providers' fiber optic cables. Second, the facilities will support leased access to dark fiber for last-mile service providers that have the capabilities to light the fiber and need the scalability associated with dark fiber access. Third, the network will provide lit service access to support smaller ISPs as well as other providers with smaller project scopes that prefer lit services to deploying their own fiber or electronics.

The proposed network will bring fiber into to unserved and underserved areas and will be a communications pathway for connection opportunities to anchor facilities throughout the State—52 of which are located within 1,000 feet of the proposed network path.

The proposed route will pass within 5 miles of about 27,000 underserved premises (i.e., lack access to broadband at a minimum of 100 Mbps download, 20 Mbps upload). Of these premises, roughly 300 are unserved (i.e., lack access to a minimum of 25 Mbps download, 3 Mbps upload). The network is expected to promote competition and reduce the cost of delivering service to these locations (and those beyond that 5-mile buffer) by offering last-mile providers open-access middle-mile connectivity at non-discriminatory rates and terms. The proposed project will have a direct impact on the market offerings for the communities it traverses by creating access to middle-mile fiber on a non-discriminatory basis where no such infrastructure currently exists.

The network will be owned and managed by KDOT, with competitively selected partner IdeaTek serving as the vendor to design, build, maintain, and operate the network. Connected Nation, which also was selected by Kansas based on a competitive RFI process under Kansas procurement rules, will work with IdeaTek to administer and facilitate leasing of the newly constructed microduct network to serve ISPs and anchor institutions. Through these commercialization partners, the State will make available middle-mile services to commercial and nonprofit last-mile service providers. The network will promote competition and enable a wider range of affordable last-mile service offerings throughout the State.

An added benefit of this network will be enhanced resilience and reliability of government services and anchor services across the State through route diversity. This network will be constructed entirely underground, protecting against adverse weather impacts, including those influenced by climate change.

———

Level of Need

A description of the level of need in the proposed service area(s), including but not limited to

communities considered unserved and/or underserved in the proposed service area(s), discussion of the competitive landscape in the area, variations among service areas if there are any, or the general economic conditions in the proposed funded service area.

This response is limited to 12000 characters as an open field narrative.

The proposed network is a 682-mile deployment along KDOT state highway routes designated as critical freight corridors, with open-access middle-mile connectivity that will reach close to internet exchange points and anchor institutions throughout the State. To the Applicant's knowledge, no open-access middle-mile fiber currently exists within proximity to the proposed network routes.

The proposed middle-mile network will connect a large portion of Kansas and pass through a range of locales with varying economic conditions. The primary drivers for the design of the network were to deliver resilient and redundant service to as many unserved, underserved, and low-income areas of the State as possible, while also including as many anchor institutions and key government facilities as possible within 1,000 feet of the proposed build.

The proposed network will bring open access middle-mile infrastructure across the State on east-west and north-south routes, creating opportunities for new last-mile market entrants to deliver services at lower costs for residential and business customers. The network will also connect internet exchange points, leading to better performance, more resiliency, and lower costs for regional providers and their customers.

The proposed open-access middle-mile network is designed to pass regularly spaced facilities that will serve as carrier-neutral interconnection points. The network will pass within 5 miles of approximately 27,000 underserved locations and about 300 unserved locations. In addition, 52 anchor institutions are within 1,000 feet of the proposed network paths.

A significant portion of the fiber will go through counties that have higher poverty rates than the national average.

According to the latest data available (July 2021) from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), 16,846 households across the 28-county project area participate in SNAP.

80,043 residents of the 28-county project area were estimated to be uninsured and reliant on Medicaid, according to the latest data from the U.S. Census Bureau Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE) Program in 2020.

30,860 residents of the 28 counties that make up the project area received Supplemental Security Income (SSI) according to the latest SSI data published by the Social Security Administration in December 2020.

The network will also meet KanREN's need for scalable middle-mile infrastructure. KanREN serves Kansas' world-class institutions, including the state's public and private universities—but KanREN is among the few statewide research and education networks (REN) in the country that still predominantly relies on lit (or leased) circuits. The proposed open-access middle-mile infrastructure will enable KanREN to cost-effectively scale its capacity; in turn, it will enable Kansas' institutions of higher education to deepen their capacity to collaborate and share resources, improving the competitiveness of each institution as well as the State's economy as a whole.

———

State Collaboration Acknowledgement

NTIA strongly encourages prospective non-state applicants to coordinate and consult with the State Broadband Office or other coordinating body located in the jurisdiction in which the eligible entity proposes to deploy middle mile infrastructure to ensure that the proposal is consistent with the state's broadband plan and priorities. Please confirm collaboration and consultation.

Do you confirm collaboration and consultation with the appropriate organization?

Yes

———

State and Local Collaboration Narrative

Please provide information on the applicant's coordination with applicable State, Territory, Tribal, and local governments, including their awareness of the proposed project and any potential impact to respective service areas; and

Information regarding the applicant's involvement and coordination with community organizations or other relevant partners in the proposed service area.

This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

The State of Kansas Departments of Commerce (the applicant) and Transportation (a subrecipient) (hereinafter, "Commerce" and "KDOT") are working together with their highly experienced private partners to create a 682-mile open-access middle-mile fiber optic and microduct network, connecting multiple new internet exchange points throughout the State.

The application team is led by State public entities (KDOT and Commerce), with direct coordination across state departments and the governor's office. KanREN will use fiber on the network to serve the needs of the education sector including the State's research universities, community colleges, and Native American institutions of higher education such as Haskell Indian Nations University.

Other adjacent state entities have also been consulted on the project. The Office of the Governor and the Office of Apprenticeships are both supportive of the project and its direct and indirect impacts on

the state. Both offices have filed letters of support which are attached.

Furthermore, this coordination extends to the development of internet exchange points in local jurisdictions. In addition to local governments, the project will empower anchor institutions and private sector entities across the State.

———

Will the project connect middle mile infrastructure to last mile networks that provide or plan to provide broadband service to households in unserved areas?

Yes

———

Is the project connecting non-contiguous trust lands?

No

———

Do you commit to offering wholesale broadband service at reasonable rates on a carrier-neutral basis?

Yes

———

The eligible entity adopts fiscally sustainable middle mile strategies. This strategy should be described in the Budget Narrative.

Do you attest to this?

Yes

———

The eligible entity commits to offering non-discriminatory interconnect to terrestrial and wireless last mile broadband providers and any other party making a bona fide request. This policy will be described in the Interconnect Policy.

Do you attest to this?

Yes

———

The eligible entity identifies specific terrestrial and wireless last mile broadband providers that have(i) expressed written interest in interconnecting with middle mile infrastructure planned to be deployed by the eligible entity; and ii) demonstrated sustainable business plans or adequate funding sources with respect to such interconnection. This may be demonstrated in the Level of Need narrative of the Exec Summary.

Do you attest to this?

No

———

The eligible entity has identified supplemental investments or in-kind support (such as waived franchise or permitting fees) that will accelerate the completion of the planned project. Such acceleration may be described in the Project Timeline narrative.

Do you attest to this?

Yes

———

The eligible entity has demonstrated that the middle mile infrastructure will benefit national security interests of the United States and the Department of Defense. The benefits may be explained in the Benefitting National Security Interests Narrative.

Do you attest to this?

Yes

———

Please describe:

The State of Kansas Departments of Commerce (the applicant) and Transportation (a subrecipient) (hereinafter, "Commerce" and "KDOT") are working together with their highly experienced private partners to create a 682-mile open-access middle-mile fiber optic and microduct network, connecting multiple new internet exchange points throughout the State.

The proposed middle-mile infrastructure will increase the redundancy and resiliency of telecommunications networks that support broadband services and other commercial telecommunications services across Kansas. The network will also connect internet exchange points, which are key points for critical internet traffic both within the State and traversing the State.

KDOT has also committed to allowing access to other state and government entities including the Department of Defense, to aid in national security efforts.

This network will also directly support more reliable communications for a wide range of federal facilities that play a role in national security, including:

The U.S. Department of Energy's Kansas City National Security Campus (https://kcnsc.doe.gov/)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of Homeland Security's planned National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) in Manhattan, Kansas (https://www.usda.gov/nbaf)

Fort Riley in Junction City, Kansas

Fort Leavenworth in Leavenworth, Kansas

McConnell Air Force Base in Sedgwick, Kansas

Wolf Creek Nuclear Generating Station in Burlington, Kansas

U.S. Army University/Command and General Staff College in Leavenworth, Kansas

———

Project Duration

Number of Years

5

———

Project Timeline Narrative

The narrative requires the Applicant to describe a project with critical path, including key milestones for implementation of the project, preparations, and risk factors; and a capital investment schedule evidencing that the applicant will complete build-out and the initiation of service within five years of the date on which the entity receives the grant and will meet interim buildout requirements set forth herein and in any other binding document.
If the project is able to be accelerated with supplemental investments or in-kind support to meet a statutory purpose, this should be explained.

This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

In order to accelerate the timeline and completion of the proposed project, Commerce has already completed their partner procurement. IdeaTek and Connected Nation were selected by the State of Kansas through a competitive process as the open-access commercialization partners for this effort and will enable access to neutral exchange points statewide. In addition to pre-marketing the project's services, Ideatek is bringing $3.7M in IRU value to supplement the project. The applicant, the Kansas Department of Commerce, is providing over $26M in cash match as supplemental investment in the project. These funds are readily available to begin pre-construction work as soon as an award is made.

The project timeline was designed to ensure that all NTIA construction objectives for the middle mile program are met. 40% will be complete after 24 months, 60% after 36 months, 80% after 48 months, and 100% at 60 months.

From funding award date to completion of the network construction, the application team anticipates

a 60-month (five-year) timeline to deploy the proposed 682-mile network. This timeline is a conservative estimate based on IdeaTek's extensive experience building middle-mile fiber infrastructure in Kansas. Immediately following the award, IdeaTek will engage workstreams comprising construction engineering, supply chain management, permitting, construction, and project administration

The timeline and successful implementation of this project will be aided by the fact that KDOT and IdeaTek have a strong working relationship and have previously partnered in a 2021 fiber optic deployment project where similar construction synergies were leveraged to deploy KDOT's Intelligent transportation system (ITS) infrastructure. In that 25-mile network project, as in this one, IdeaTek deployed middle-mile infrastructure that enabled the connection of anchor institutions (four public school locations in south central Kansas).

The capital investment schedule for the Kansas Project is as follows: for each of the five years in which the project is constructed, $8,558,565 of grant funding will be invested in construction. The applicant is matching that with an additional $6,032,764 to support the network construction. In addition, for the five-year period in which the project is constructed, there is total estimated revenue of $7,788,563. For further information, please see the Pro Forma attachment.

The Ideatek team will spend the first 3-6 months of the project completing detailed physical network engineering and design and base mapping will be completed within the first four months. Construction staking will begin in month four; construction is expected to begin in month nine and continue without pause until the network is complete prior to month 60.

Electronics will be installed beginning in month six. The first fiber splicing and testing is projected to begin in month 12, and the final field design will be completed soon after the first year. In addition, throughout the entire project timeline, coordination with KDOT will occur to ensure all permitting or physical barriers to construction are managed appropriately.

In parallel, one month of this time will also be spent on material procurement. Once detailed designs are complete, Ideatek will initiate licensing, permitting (including NEPA and section 106 requirements), and other relevant agreement negotiations, estimated to take 12 months. Hub site installation and site preparation will begin in month 12 of the project and overlap with licensing and permitting. Also in month 12, the Applicant intends to begin inside and outside plant deployment, with 40% complete by the end of month 24, 60% complete by the end of month 36, 80% complete by the end of month 48, and 100% of inside/outside plant deployed by the end of month 60. The Applicant will ensure its contracted administrator deploys business and operational support systems in parallel with plant

installation. In the final year of the five-year project timeline, Ideatek will perform network testing of all segments and commence operations.

———

Project Timeline File

Applicants are asked to upload a timeline which will denote key milestones for implementation of the project, including but not limited to field survey, network design, equipment/material procurement, environmental assessment, permitting, construction, network testing, network activation and completion.

IMG_2172-09-09-2022 02-34-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.jpg, IdeaTekProjectTimeline-11-16-2022 12-23-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.zip

———

Is an extension being requested?

No

———

Special Rules for Tribal Governments and Native Entities

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act permits the Assistant Secretary, in consultation with Tribal governments and Native entities, to waive, or specify alternative requirements, in connection with most directives governing the MMG Program if the Assistant Secretary finds that waiver or modification of the requirement is necessary for (a) the effective delivery and administration of middle mile grants to Tribal governments or (b) the construction, improvement, or acquisition of middle mile infrastructure on trust land.

Is a waiver or alternative requirements requested?

No

———

Fair Labor Practices

Applicants must have a demonstrated record of and plans to be in compliance with federal labor and employment laws as described in III.H in the NOFO. This will help ensure that projects are carried out in accordance with the law, assist NTIA in ensuring that a prospective awardee is capable of carrying out activities funded by an award in a competent manner in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws; and promote the effective and efficient completion of high-quality middle mile broadband infrastructure projects by ensuring a reliable supply of skilled workers and minimizing disruptive and costly delays.

This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

Commerce and KDOT are committed to compliance with federal and state labor and employment laws.

Construction labor will be carried out by IdeaTek, a private contractor that has been competitively selected by the State through a request for information (RFI) process. IdeaTek's workforce meets high safety and training standards, including through professional certification and/or robust in-house training. IdeaTek has had no violations of federal or State labor, workplace safety and health, or employment laws within the past three years. IdeaTek hires locally and prioritizes hiring Kansans. IdeaTek pays prevailing wages and benefits to its employees.

When determining employee salaries, IdeaTek considers variables including local market wage data, as well as candidate experience and education as related to the position being considered. Included in IdeaTek's compensation package are medical and 401(k) benefits, as well as free IdeaTek internet (or reimbursement of service if the area is not yet available) and gym membership reimbursement. These hiring and total rewards management practices have proven successful, as IdeaTek's average turnover rate for 2022 is less than 6 percent. IdeaTek has grown its workforce from 34 employees to 130 as of September 2022, adding much-needed rural, competitively compensated positions to the Kansas economy during the Covid-19 pandemic. A majority of IdeaTek's employees are locally based in Buhler, Hutchinson, Wichita, and southwest Kansas.

IdeaTek maintains high professional standards concerning minimum job requirements. The company hires first based on cultural alignment, and second based on skills required (as defined by specific job requirements). Employees are expected to meet or exceed expectations in their roles. As a result of such expectations, along with competitive pay (also based on performance), IdeaTek sees lower turnover and a fulfilled, productive workforce. IdeaTek complies with state and federal labor regulations. Specific practices can be found and are outlined in IdeaTek's employee handbook.

KDOT has policies and practices in place to ensure contractors and subcontractors meet high labor standards. The Applicant will require its contractors to comply with the Davis-Bacon Act.

The Applicants' binding commitment to strong labor standards and protections for the project workforce also includes commitments to union neutrality, use of an appropriately skilled workforce, and use of an appropriately credentialed workforce.

———

Officer Certification

In order for NTIA to evaluate an applicant's demonstrated record of and plans to be in compliance with federal labor and employment laws, each applicant must provide examples of items described in III.H in the NOFO. Applicants are asked to upload a Certification from an Officer/Director-level employee (or equivalent) of the applicant evidencing consistent past compliance with federal labor and employment laws by the applicant, as well as contractors and subcontractors.

Certification of Past Labor Law Compliance-09-29-2022 12-06-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.pdf

———

Highly Skilled Workforce

To ensure that applicants have the technical and operational capacity to carry out the project, applicants must submit a plan for ensuring that the project workforce will be an appropriately skilled and credentialed workforce (including by the applicant and each of its contractors and subcontractors). The plan for a highly skilled workforce should include the information described in III.I in the NOFO.

This response is limited to 6
000 characters as an open field narrative.

The application team will ensure that it has the technical and operational capacity to carry out the project by deploying a workforce that, along with those of its contractors, possesses the necessary skills and credentials.

IdeaTek's ability to ensure its workforce possesses the necessary skills and credentials was considered a criterion in the State's competitive selection process. IdeaTek is a qualified contractor for KDOT and has already completed a project where it constructed 22 miles of infrastructure to the same specifications outlined in this application. All construction partners of IdeaTek utilized under this project have a specified minimum experience level, insurance level, labor capabilities, and equipment capabilities. The work will be a combination of vibratory plowing, directional boring, and (where needed) rock saw and heavier excavation work. Additional implementation work and service support will be completed in-house by IdeaTek. IdeaTek is very familiar with the State's right-of-way permitting and work safety practices and will ensure all construction is completed in accordance with these standards.

Splicing will be completed by IdeaTek's in-house splicing crews who are fully qualified and regularly practiced in splicing the single-mode fiber being utilized by the State. (All splicing is required to be bi-directionally tested using an OTDR under KDOT's standard specifications.) IdeaTek has complied with these construction and splicing specifications in a previous deployment along the Highway 254 corridor between Keechi and Eldorado.

In addition, the Connected Nation team is comprised of highly skilled individuals who have worked on broadband projects throughout the country. Additionally, the Connected Nation team is focused on the nonprofit mission and creating a broadband ecosystem that ultimately and substantively advances the access, adoption, and use of technology for everyone.

———

Advancing Workforce Development

A skilled workforce is critical to meeting infrastructure buildout timelines under the Infrastructure Act and connecting households across the country to reliable, affordable, high-speed broadband. A well-trained workforce will also allow for the safe deployment of sustainable networks. To meet the workforce needs of the MMG Program, applicants must make appropriate investments to develop a skilled, diverse workforce. Each applicant must provide as part of its application examples of items described in III.J in the NOFO.

This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

Commerce and KDOT believe that an educational pipeline is needed to create a skilled, diverse workforce that can work not only on this project in the eastern portion of the state but anywhere in the state. The State is committed to furthering policies and supporting curriculum development that will sustain a workforce with 'quality jobs' that can build and maintain broadband networks in a safe and effective manner. The State will facilitate programs that develop strong and diverse workforces.

Currently, the State operates the Kansas Registered Apprenticeship Program to support the development of broadband infrastructure jobs. The Office of Registered Apprenticeship, housed within the Workforce Development Division of the Kansas Department of Commerce, exists to expand the State's workforce; to evaluate and report annually on the extent, quality, and impact of registered apprenticeships in Kansas; and to develop and advocate for registered apprenticeship program policies that place a special focus on veterans, women, and people of color. Through collaboration with the Office of Registered Apprenticeship, the applicant team, including IdeaTek, will develop a workforce that can complete the project in a "safe and effective" manner, while promoting diversity in the workforce.

———

Climate Resiliency

Please demonstrate that the applicant has sufficiently accounted for current and future weather- and climate-related risks to new MMG Program infrastructure projects. In particular, each applicant should clearly demonstrate how it is conducting the items listed in III.K in the NOFO.

This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

The proposed 682-mile middle-mile network will be built with an eye toward resiliency and to consider the most common and significant climate threats facing Kansas (flood, fire, tornadoes, winter weather, drought, and extreme heat). This network will be constructed underground, protecting against adverse weather impacts, including those influenced by climate change. The buildings housing equipment will include a generator to supply backup power in the event of power loss. The buildings' landscaping will also be minimal (rock) to prevent fire encroachment. The resiliency of the proposed network will be reevaluated annually over the life of the project as updated information regarding risks facing Kansas evolves.

When it comes to climate resiliency and disaster recovery, a redundant system of fiber and broadband are critical in rapidly deploying emergency communications systems. The ability to connect to wireless broadband in a time where existing communication methods have been depleted and or destroyed is key for critical services such as EMS, Fire, Police, and medical institutions allow for continued operations. The ability to connect with other locations and regions that are not impacted and connect to their resources can be critical in disaster response and recovery. This project will expand connections to key locations across Kansas providing greater coverage in case of Kansas' more typical natural disasters such as flooding, severe storms, fire, and wind.

In addition, KDOT has a Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Plan. The purpose of the plan is to provide immediate response and subsequent recovery from any unplanned business interruption, such as a loss of a critical service (computer processing, telecommunications), loss of building access (contamination, etc.), or physical catastrophe (fire, smoke, etc.). The goal is to minimize the extent of any disruption to KDOT operations, thus reducing the impact on essential services.

———

Civil Rights and Nondiscrimination Law Compliance

Prior to distributing any MMG Program funding to a prospective awardee, NTIA will require the prospective awardee to agree, by contract or other binding commitment, to abide by the non-discrimination requirements set forth in III.J in the NOFO.

Do you agree to abide by the non-discrimination requirements?

Yes

———

Certification of Technical Capability

Each applicant must supply a certification attesting that it is technically qualified to complete and

operate the proposed project.

IMG_2172-09-09-2022 02-37-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.jpg, Technical Capability Certification _ MMG-11-16-2022 12-28-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.pdf

———

Interconnect Policy

The Applicant must describe in detail the nondiscrimination, interconnection, and network management practices that would be adopted for the project facilities. The Applicant should describe how it will comply with nondiscrimination and interconnection obligations, particularly with connectivity to the public Internet and physical interconnection for the exchange of traffic. In addition to describing network management practices, the Applicant should disclose any practices in place to block access to illegal or harmful content.

This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

The application team attests that it will operate an open-access network and will:

Enter into good-faith negotiations with any entity making a bona fide offer to access the network

Offer interconnection products at reasonable rates, terms and conditions, where technically feasible without exceeding current or anticipated capacity limitations

Offer open-access connections to the public internet directly or indirectly, and physical interconnection for the exchange of traffic

Agreements and policies related to interconnection are in process. The applicant team will provide interconnection points in each of its regional points of presence. Last-mile providers (including incumbent local exchange carriers, multiple system operators, competitive local exchange carriers, energy cooperatives, and independent telecom companies) may interconnect with the network at reasonable rates and terms for the purpose of exchanging traffic. These interconnection points will also allow commercial wholesale participants to serve last-mile providers with wholesale access, at reasonable rates and terms. This interconnect policy will be in place in perpetuity.

———

Technical Overview

Please describe targeted last mile service objectives, including last mile service provider letters of commitment, agreements, or contracts; and a description of the proposed service offerings, including the pricing of the services to be offered over the proposed facility.

This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

The proposed network is a 682-mile deployment along KDOT interstate corridors designated as critical infrastructure paths, with middle-mile connectivity that will reach close to internet exchange points and anchor institutions throughout the State. The network will be constructed entirely underground with the vast majority inside KDOT right-of-way. The network will encounter 30 railroad crossings and approximately 59 highway interchanges; the complexity and cost of permitting and constructing these crossings will make the open-access infrastructure even more valuable to potential last-mile providers in reaching unserved and underserved residents and anchor institutions.

The proposed physical plant will consist of a sheath with seven microducts. Two microducts will be reserved for KDOT; one of those will include a 96-count fiber optic backbone cable. One microduct will be reserved for IdeaTek, which will use the microduct to deliver open-access dark fiber and lit services. The remaining four microducts will be managed by Connected Nation and will be available on an open-access basis for use by ISPs and other users to accelerate last-mile expansion.

The proposed network will incorporate three primary open-access middle-mile facilities to facilitate broadband access deployment across the state for all scopes and sizes of broadband deployments. First, the project will support access to middle-mile microducts for the deployment of last-mile service providers' fiber optic cables. Second, the facilities will support leased access to dark fiber for last-mile service providers that have the capabilities to light the fiber and need the scalability associated with dark fiber access. Third, the network will provide lit service access to support smaller ISPs as well as other providers with smaller project scopes that prefer lit services to deploying their own fiber or electronics.

The design includes handholes every 2,500 feet to allow for access by ISPs that wish to leverage the infrastructure in order to deploy or expand last-mile services, including to reach the roughly 27,000 underserved and 300 unserved premises within 5 miles of the routes (and the additional unserved and underserved premises beyond that distance). The network will also pass within 1,000 feet of 52 anchor institutions. Additionally, it will serve KDOT's needs in terms of highway safety and technology, including smart vehicles and highway messaging, by allowing ample access along the route for use by KDOT infrastructure such as intelligent traffic systems, cameras, and digital signs. The network might also support connectivity for the Kansas Rural Transit Assistance Program at the University of Kansas.

The network will benefit educational facilities throughout Kansas by enabling KanREN to expand its bandwidth and geographic reach. KDOT has also committed to allowing access to other state and government entities including the Department of Defense and the Department of Agriculture to aid in national security efforts and smart-farm initiatives in Kansas.

Last-mile providers will interconnect to the open-access middle-mile network at the access points, which are located within highway rights-of-way throughout the network route. Access points every 2,500 feet will ensure that this infrastructure is flexible and can be adopted by various providers with different needs.

Private providers will have multiple options at different layers of the network whether utilizing lit services, dark fibers, or microduct. Providers would be responsible for their own installation of fiber assets on the route if utilizing the microduct paths. This will significantly reduce the providers' deployment costs. Access to the duct infrastructure will be administered by Connected Nation, which will accommodate all providers in an open-access and neutral method. Similarly, IdeaTek will offer its dark fiber and lit services in a non-discriminatory fashion.

The network's service offerings are intended to include microduct access, dark fiber, and lit transport services. Full details are included in the rate card submitted with this application; pricing can be summarized as follows:

Microduct access assumes a 10-year lease, with pricing per foot that decreases as the amount of upfront payment increases (i.e., pricing with 10 percent upfront payment is higher than pricing with 90 percent upfront payment). Pricing is also segmented into four geographic categories, from lowest price to highest price: rural, rural high cost, urban, super urban. The lowest per-foot cost is rural with 90 percent upfront payment ($1.29); the highest is super urban with 10 percent upfront ($20.50). For each of these categories, access point fees are $5,000 per location.

Projected dark fiber pricing is per fiber per mile with a two-fiber minimum (and a minimum monthly charge of $500). As with microduct access, pricing is segmented into four geographic categories, from lowest price to highest price: rural, rural high cost, urban, super urban. Pricing decreases as the term increases (i.e., a one-year agreement is more costly than a five- or 10-year agreement). Prices range from $10.20 per fiber mile for a 10-year rural agreement to $80.00 per fiber mile for a one-year super urban agreement.

Lit transport for long-haul transport is available at 10G, 20G, 50G, and 100G, and beyond; within each category, pricing is set for one-, five-, and 10-year agreements (with prices decreasing as the term increases). Prices range from $610 per month (10G, 10-year agreement) to $5,000 per month (100G, one-year agreement). For any lit transport agreement, a $500 circuit installation fee applies.

———

Applicants are encouraged to upload supplemental documentation.

OneDrive_2022-09-29 (3)-09-29-2022 12-08-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.zip

———

Competitive Landscape

The Applicant should describe existing middle mile offerings in the area, if any, including competitor data if applicable. This should include a description of the proposed service offerings, including the pricing and technology of the services to be offered over the proposed facility. Where possible, Applicant's project should be able to demonstrate a decline in middle mile costs that are likely to

flow through to consumer broadband prices.

This response is limited to 6000 characters as an open field narrative.

The proposed network is a 682-mile deployment along KDOT interstate corridors designated as critical infrastructure paths, with open-access middle-mile connectivity that will reach close to internet exchange points and anchor institutions throughout the State. To the Applicant's knowledge, no open-access middle-mile fiber currently exists within proximity to the proposed network routes; the proposed infrastructure will cross existing middle-mile at its western and eastern end points and in the vicinity of Wichita – enabling potential interconnections that will increase the value of this new infrastructure.

The missions of the State's partners, IdeaTek and Connected Nation, align with the project's plan to create new middle-mile access and new competition – and to enable and catalyze last-mile broadband expansion to unserved and underserved areas. Both IdeaTek and Connected Nation work to improve lives by providing innovative solutions to closing the digital divide by supporting access, adoption, and competition of high-speed internet to Kansas.

IdeaTek, as a private ISP, brings a vision of an open-access network even when that means new competition will be created. Connected Nation, as a non-profit, has a long history of providing solutions to public interest matters in the broadband space; it brings an important focus on mission and neutrality to this grant application to ensure true open access is accomplished.

Connected Nation will be the administrator of equal access to the new infrastructure, similar to its work developing seven new neutral internet exchange points in Kansas. Adding these fiber routes will help the Kansas City Internet Exchange and a new Wichita Internet Exchange meet Kansas' growing digital demands. A stronger network will allow customers to better cross connect and share traffic – ultimately extending performance, resiliency, and cost-effectiveness to last-mile providers and residents.

———

Type of technology to be used in proposal:

Fiber Optic Technology

———

Each applicant of an award to build middle mile infrastructure using fiber optic technology shall certify that the proposed project, upon completion, will include direct interconnection facilities that will facilitate the provision of lit broadband service, at speeds not less than 1 Gigabit per second for downloads and 1 Gigabit per second for uploads to anchor institutions located within 1,000 feet of the middle mile infrastructure, as detailed in the Template CAI below.

Do you agree to certify to the above?

Yes

———

Upload Template CAI. Required for Fiber Optic Technology, optional for Wireless or Other.

MMG Community Anchor Institution Final-09-29-2022 12-10-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.xlsx

———

An eligible entity applying for a middle mile grant may seek, and the Assistant Secretary may grant, a waiver of the requirements set out in the previous paragraph, in full or in part, to the extent the eligible entity demonstrates that the requirement is not technically or economically feasible.

Do you plan to apply for a waiver? If yes, please attach the waiver application in the Application Workspace, the Application Information section, Required Documents under Required Document Question 4 "Additional Waiver Upload".

No

———

Network Route Maps

Applicants should provide a physical network map that includes the following (if applicable):

The Project Area and those unserved and underserved areas which it will enable.
Applicant‘s pre-existing service area that demonstrates current service levels.
The physical path of the network‘s transmission medium (e.g., backbone and lateral cable routes, microwave links), transmission type, technology, operating bandwidth, capacity (e.g., dark vs. lit strand count), and cable placement (e.g., aerial, burial) should be displayed.
Points of interconnection (purely passive and non-environmentally controlled nodes, e.g., splice points are optional):Provider Facilities
Collocation Facilities
Private Interconnection Points with partnering service provider/private network

Wireless towers and associated coverage areas.
Anchor institutions within 1,000 feet, if desired.
Additionally, the maps should delineate between network and facilities that are:Part of the Applicant's/key partners' existing network;
Proposed as part of this project;
Leased from a third party;
Utilized under some alternative arrangement; or
Relevant to interconnection with either Last Mile or Middle Mile service providers.

PLEASE NOTE: Only ESRI Shapefiles will be accepted and uploaded.

EMMBI - IdeaTek GIS (2022-09-26) (1)-09-29-2022 12-11-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.zip, Service Locations Passed-09-29-2022 12-12-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.xlsx, Project Map v2-09-29-2022 12-12-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.5.png, Project Map v3-04-04-2023 04-24-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.0.png, EMMBI - IdeaTek GIS (2023-04-04)-04-04-2023 04-25-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.zip

———

Data Submission Specification

There is a template "Upload Template Data Submission Specification" which shall be uploaded. Applicants must complete the table with information for all interconnection points proposed for the network. This table has three required fields: Point Name, Latitude and Longitude. This should accommodate all of the points of interconnection (passive, non-environmentally controlled points of interconnection, e.g., splice points, may be excluded), collocation facilities, central offices, head ends, and other centralized facilities, network access points to Last Mile service providers, Internet peering points, and towers.

Interconnection List (2022-09-26)-09-29-2022 12-13-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.csv

———

Network Diagram

The Applicant must provide a high-level network diagram to be uploaded for the project that is a representation of the network, capacities, and facilities. The diagram must clearly denote which of the network elements already exist. The diagram should show:

The links between the network nodes. The types of facilities used in connecting the network elements (fiber, wireless microwave, etc.).

The points of interconnection and collocation facilities, including Internet peering points, access to local exchange carriers, central offices, or cable head ends.

The proposed aggregation node facilities that will provide the egress point(s) from the broadband backbone to the networks of the selected service provider(s), named Last Mile service providers, and the selected named Internet Service Provider(s) in the new infrastructure.

The Applicant should show which technologies are used and include bandwidth capacity constraints.

MIddle Mile West V2-09-29-2022 01-41-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.pdf, MIddle Mile East V2-09-29-2022 01-41-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.pdf, updated logical network diagram 2-04-04-2023 01-23-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.png, updated logical network diagram 1-04-04-2023 01-23-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.png

———

Environmental Narrative

Any project-related activity that may adversely affect the environment must not be undertaken prior to the completion of the environmental review process prescribed by NTIA. Doing so may jeopardize consideration of the application.

All Applicants for MMG projects must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the Endangered Species Act, and other applicable environmental regulations.

Please provide a service-area environmental description that describes the physical project area and its surroundings (e.g., disturbed or developed land vs. open space; adjacent natural resources, such as rivers, wetlands, or forestlands; and any protected lands or resources in or near the project area), including site photographs and aerial photographs (e.g., Google Earth or Google Maps images), if the project includes construction and/or ground disturbing activities.

This response is limited to 12000 characters as an open field narrative with image files to be uploaded.

The proposed network will be deployed wholly within KDOT's previously disturbed right-of-way, and therefore should have no significant environmental ramifications. Plowing and trenching are the proposed methods of construction for most of the route. Small sections of the route will be bored where the ground cannot be opened.

According to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system, there are 21 threatened (10), proposed threatened (1), endangered (9), or candidate species (1) present in the region surrounding the route.

Two critical habitats were identified in the project area by IPaC. Ten of those species have designated critical habitats but only two (the Neosho Mucket and the Rabbitsfoot) have designated critical habitats that intersect the project route. In both cases, the critical habitats can be found throughout the southeastern portion of Kansas and intersect the eastern portion of the fiber route. Despite these designations, no endangered, threatened, or candidate species are anticipated to be present in the construction area, which is made up entirely of previously disturbed right-of-way. A full list of all species and species status is available in the attachment "MMG Section 6.9-Table One."

Three National Wildlife Refuge Lands (Great Plains Nature Center, Marais Des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge, Ozark Plateau National Wildlife Refuge) were identified by IPaC as located near the project area. However, all construction will occur within the previously disturbed right-of-way and should not have any effect on the facilities. No U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-managed lands were identified by IPaC.

IPaC's wetlands identifier failed to function during information gathering, however the construction will only occur in the previously developed ROW. Therefore, there is no anticipated impact on potential wetland intersections.

The proposed route will be entirely within previously disturbed right-of-way and will not have any effects on existing waterways. KDOT has stringent policies in place to minimize or eliminate the impact of construction on existing waterways and the project team will adhere to local, State, and federal environmental regulations during the construction of this network.

KDOT will contact the appropriate offices for further review and evaluation at the direction of the NTIA.

———

Upload Map Images:

Project Map v2-09-29-2022 01-50-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.5.png, Kansas_Env-09-29-2022 02-26-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.pdf

———

Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement

This is a document published to reflect an estimate of indirect cost rate negotiated between the Federal Government and a Grantee's organization which reflects the indirect costs (facilities and administrative costs) and fringe benefit expenses incurred by the organization. This must be completed, if applicable.

NICRA Signed and Executed Submission from DOL-09-29-2022 12-32-Commerce, Kansas Department of -GRN-000844.20.22.pdf

———

Template Table of Funded Partners and Unfunded Collaborators

List all funded and unfunded project collaborators, including partners, subrecipients, match providers, major contractors/supplies, details on role/scope of work for project. A fillable Template of Funded Partners and Unfunded Collaborators can be found in found in the MMG ZIP folder.

KS - MMG Template Table of Funded Part-09-29-2022 06-13-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844. and Unfunded Collaborators - Final.xlsx, KS - MMG Template Table of Funded Part and Un-04-04-2023 04-15-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.xlsx

———

Certificate of Operational Capability

Each applicant must supply a certification from an officer-level employee (or individual of comparable rank) attesting to the applicant's operational capability to complete and operate the proposed project.

If the applicant has provided a voice and/or broadband internet access service, it must supply a certification from an officer-level employee (or individual of comparable rank) attesting that it has filed FCC Form 477s and the Broadband DATA Act submission, if applicable, to the extent required during this time period and otherwise complied with the Commission's rules and regulations. Alternatively, the applicant must explain any pending or completed enforcement action, civil litigation, or other matter in which it was alleged to have failed to comply with Commission rules or regulations.

If the applicant has operated only an electric transmission or distribution service, it must submit qualified operating or financial reports that it has filed with the relevant financial institution for the relevant time period along with a certification that the submission is a true and accurate copy of the reports that were provided to the relevant financial institution.

If applicable, the applicant must submit a certification from an officer-level employee (or individual of comparable rank) that is has operated a middle mile broadband network for at least two years or that it is a wholly owned subsidiary of such an entity and must specify the number of years the applicant or its parent company has been operating.

Certification of Operational Capabillity-09-29-2022 12-32-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.pdf

———

Certification of Financial Capability

Each applicant must supply a certification from an officer-level employee (or individual of comparable rank) attesting that it is financially qualified to meet the obligations associated with a project, that they will have available funds for all project costs that exceed the amount of the grant, and that they will comply with all MMG Program requirements, including service milestones.

Fiscal_certification-09-29-2022 12-47-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.pdf

———

Letter of Credit

During the application process, each applicant must submit a letter from a bank meeting eligibility requirements consistent with those set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.804(c)(2) committing to issue an irrevocable stand-by letter of credit, in the required form, to the applicant. The letter shall at a

minimum provide the dollar amount of credit offered and the issuing bank's agreement to follow the terms and conditions of NTIA's model letter of credit. NTIA shall publish on its website a model letter of credit substantially similar to the model letter of credit established by the Federal Communications Commission in connection with the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF - Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Order, 35 FCC Rcd at 773-77, Appx. C.).

NTIA will ensure, prior to issuing a middle mile grant award, that each eligible entity obtains an acceptable, irrevocable standby letter of credit in a value of no less than 25 percent of the award amount.

Each eligible entity shall provide with its letter of credit an opinion letter from its legal counsel clearly stating, subject only to customary assumptions, limitations, and qualifications, that in a proceeding under Title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C. § 101 et seq. (the "Bankruptcy Code"), the bankruptcy court would not treat the letter of credit or proceeds of the letter of credit as property of the winning bidder's bankruptcy estate under Section 541 of the Bankruptcy Code.

waiver request-09-29-2022 12-47-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.pdf, 75-3036 State general fund defined revenues p-11-21-2022 02-31-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.pdf, Westlaw Edge - 3 full text items for Kansas R-11-21-2022 02-30-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.pdf, Westlaw Edge - 201 full text items for Kansas-11-21-2022 02-30-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.pdf, art11constitution-11-21-2022 02-30-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.pdf, 2023-03-15-2023 02-13-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.03.08___MMG_LOC_waiver_request___US_Dept_Commerce.docx.pdf, Final NTIA Letter Signed-03-16-2023 06-10-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.pdf

———

Audited Financial Statement (Previous 3 Years)

Each applicant shall submit financial statements from the most recent fiscal year that are audited by an independent certified public accountant. If the applicant is not audited in the ordinary course of business, in lieu of submitting audited financial statements it must submit unaudited financial statements from the three prior fiscal years and certify that it will provide financial statements from the three prior fiscal years that are audited by an independent certified public accountant by an NTIA specified deadline.

***You must provide 3 years of audited financial statements.**

FY2021 Financials-09-29-2022 12-50-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.pdf, FY2019 Financials-09-29-2022 12-50-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.pdf, FY2020 Financials-09-29-2022 12-50-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.pdf

———

Historical Financial Statements (Previous 3 Years)

Each applicant shall submit financial statements from the three prior fiscal years that are audited by an independent certified public accountant. If the applicant is not audited in the ordinary course of business, in lieu of submitting audited financial statements it must submit unaudited financial statements from the three prior fiscal years and certify that it will provide financial statements from the three prior fiscal years that are audited by an independent certified public accountant by an NTIA specified deadline.

***You must provide 3 years of historical financial statements.**

FY2019 Financials-09-29-2022 12-50-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.pdf, FY2020 Financials-09-29-2022 12-50-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.pdf, FY2021 Financials-09-29-2022 12-51-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.pdf

———

Budget Narrative

Applicants will create and submit a budget narrative that adequately describes all proposed activities and costs for their grant-funded project. Applicants must complete the file template, fill in all required information, and upload the file
. The file must be uploaded as a Word file, and not converted to a PDF. You can find additional guidance in the MMG Application Guidance.

KS NTIA MM Grant Application - Budget Narrati-09-29-2022 01-07-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.docx, KS NTIA MM Key Personnel Resumes-11-21-2022 04-16-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.pdf, KS NTIA MM Grant Application - for DD- Update-11-22-2022 01-09-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.docx, KS NTIA MM Budget Narrative- for DD- Update-0-04-04-2023 04-13-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.docx

———

Template Detailed Budget Justification

The Detailed Budget Justification spreadsheet must reflect the cost categories that appear on the SF-424 and SF-424C and include itemized calculations for each cost placed under those categories. A fillable Template Detailed Budget Justification can be found in found in the MMG ZIP folder.

FINAL KS - MMG Template Detailed Budget Justi-09-29-2022 01-07-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.xlsx, FINAL KS - MMG Template Detailed Budget Justi-11-21-2022 02-52-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.xlsx, Kansas MMG Detailed Budget - Cure version 3 2-04-04-2023 04-14-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.xlsx

———

Any other funding provided for this project?

No

———

Template Pro Forma

Pro forma financial projection and analysis related to the project's sustainability, inclusive of subscriber (e.g., last mile network connections, other wholesale services), across an eight-year forecast period. A fillable Template Pro Forms can be found in the MMG ZIP folder.

Revised- MMG Template Pro Forma Final- v1-09-29-2022 01-07-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.1-CDT- 20220927.xlsx, Kansas MMG Pro Forma - Cure Version-04-04-2023 03-16-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.xlsx, Kansas MMG Pro Forma - Cure Version-04-04-2023 04-14-Commerce, Kansas Department of-GRN-000844.xlsx

———