

### Executive Summary

**High level summary of proposed project, geographic area, primary deployment model, eg. Wireline, wireless, mobile) the infrastructure complete Date and adoption completion Date of the project as applicable, and a general overview of how Applicant has/will comply with the terms, conditions and requirements of this NOFA. Additionally, applicants must explain why CARES ACT funds are necessary for the project to proceed. Finally, Applicants must explain the current status of the project, including the phase it is in, such as pre-planning, planning or that building has commenced.**

The OCIO funds will be used for the intent to provides *fast and direct* economic assistance for American workers, families, and small businesses, and preserve jobs for our American industries with a fiber build out for the city of Waukon, IA. The funds through the OCIO program will benefit American families and workers, preserve jobs, and assist small businesses by providing reliable, fast, safe access to internet for distance learning, telework and telehealth. Without these funds REC would not be able to carry out their plan for a fiber build in Waukon as quickly as needed through the pandemic. These unprecedented times have disrupted businesses with reduced sales and employee attendance, industries with supply needs and employee production, learning within educational institutions, family life with school closures, business closures, and financial concerns. All of the above-mentioned disruptions have also affected REC. Their patrons cannot support such an investment but yet this fiber investment is thread that allows for financial gain for business, industries and families.

ACEC has been in the communications business for many years, initially as a DirecTV franchisee and subsequently as a satellite-based internet provider. ACED has been providing satellite internet services from 2005 to present. Service as initially offered as WildBlue, later Exede, and currently Viasat internet. After several years of experience with satellite internet, we realized some limitations of the service and began looking at alternatives. In 2013, another ISP began providing wireless internet service from a tower in Allamakee county. We began exploring the possibility of providing the same type of wireless service. In 2013, ACEC partnered with Hawkeye Telephone to begin deployment of wireless internet.

ACEC deployed fiberoptic cable connecting from a local fiber ring to the cooperative office. ACEC began building wireless internet access points in Allamakee county.

Over the course of the last six years, ACEC has provided service to more than 600 wireless customers in Northeast Iowa.

ACEC has been looking for opportunities to provide FTTH internet service to underserved areas in Northeast Iowa. The City of Waukon began discussions on the prospect of ACEC providing fiber to their city in 2017. We have been research cost effective ways to deploy fiber and advance the community ever since. In 2014, Power Systems Engineering (an engineering firm out of Madison, WI) provide a study and cost estimate for providing FTTH to all ACEC electric customers. In 2018, we had PULSE Broadband (a fiber infrastructure company owned by a Cooperative affiliated with ACEC) provide a FTTH estimate for the city of Waukon. From both studies, it was determined that FTTH projects are cost prohibitive without some form of cost sharing by Federal or State grants, or other mechanisms.

REC was awarded Phase 1 Waukon Fiber through OCIO funding and is very grateful. The recently awarded project consists of fiber build out from South end of Waukon to Northwest corner of Waukon

covering 11.33 miles with 298 passings/units. Out of those 298 passings, there is 234 homes, 3 schools and 61 businesses included. All TSA's are included in the proposed project. The primary deployment model will be a underground fiber optic build with placed in conduit, with flush mount handholes. The model will utilize a GPON network architecture to deploy fiber optics service to the homes and businesses from the Ludlow sub-station fiber optic hut. This opens up Waukon and REC for the proposal project being applied for today.

The proposed project (Rural North Waukon) will consist of 3.71 miles and 28 passings including another seven (7) businesses. REC has pin-pointed a rural area that has a high concentration of professional folks living within this fiber build. Currently the proposed project, Rural North Waukon area has wireless options. With the proposed project REC will offer fiber optics and significantly increased bandwidth offerings to the 28 households along the route. Within the home passings there are over 31 children living within the route, and over 28 families with professional jobs such as county deputies, Iowa DNR personnel, district school teachers, college school teachers, medical professionals, attorney, economic development and planner, and more.

The proposed timeline would be:

Engineering completed – July 1, 2021

Construction begin – September 1, 2021 contingent on material acquisition

Construction completion – December 31, 2021

The proposed project is currently in the planning phase with an engineer procured.

REC will comply with all general overview of the terms, conditions and requirements of this NOFA by having an outside source Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission, a known administrator of federal and state projects within our region, administer the project. There will be cooperation with the City of Waukon and the engineer firm, R&S Fiber Optics, an experience fiber optics engineering firm.