

Executive Summary

1 Project Overview

Lehigh Valley Cooperative Telephone Association (Lehigh Valley) Rural Webster County Broadband Expansion project will provide broadband services to households, businesses, and key community organizations within the target service area. This broadband connectivity will create the potential for increased business growth, public services, public safety, telehealth, telework, and distance learning. These capabilities are urgently needed by residents of the proposed serving area due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

For this project, Lehigh Valley is proposing to construct a Fiber to the Home (FTTH) outside plant and electronics infrastructure. This architecture will allow for the highest quality and the broadest range of telecommunications services that are available today, as well as, the maximum broadband capabilities to their subscribers.

Lehigh Valley has a proven reputation of deploying applications that can reduce operating costs, increase services, improve customer satisfaction, and increase revenue generation. It is led by experienced key staff that can manage their established organization to successfully implement and operate the proposed broadband infrastructure.

The overall total cost of the project is \$389,250.00 with \$136,237.50 requested in grant funding.

2 Geographic Area

The rural broadband project will include the construction of FTTH infrastructure in rural census blocks in Webster County.

As shown in Exhibit B, the target service area includes 15 census blocks which cover 2.75 square miles and passes 43 broadband units.

3 Deployment Model

Lehigh Valley intends to build a FTTH architecture serve the subscribers within the target service area. The proposed FTTH electronics enables the provision of peak data speeds up to a 1 Gbps data service. The management system utilized for the proposed network provides Lehigh Valley with visibility into the total bandwidth utilization and Lehigh Valley will have the ability to easily update the network to ensure that the end users do not experience congestion.

4 Timeline

The Rural Webster County Broadband Expansion project is currently in the planning phase. Lehigh Valley has explored building out this area; however, the high cost to deploy broadband due to its rurality has been a deterrent. With the proposed grant funding, Lehigh Valley believes it feasible to complete this expansion. The following is an overview of the preliminary timeline milestones.

Project Objectives and Activities	2021				2022			
	Qtr. 1	Qtr. 2	Qtr. 3	Qtr. 4	Qtr. 1	Qtr. 2	Qtr. 3	Qtr. 4
OSP Design/Fielding	x							
Pre-Construction Meeting		x						
Construction			x			x		
Fiber Splice and Test						x	x	
Electronics Order			x					
Electronics Ship				x				
Miscellaneous Equipment Install				x				
Electronics Equipment Install				x				
Equipment Turn Up / Test					x	x		