

Executive Summary

Green Township Broadband Application

Application for NOFA 001

Our goal is to install a fiber optics system to the entire population of Green Township. We have waited for others to take the project on but it has not happened. We as a Township have determined to make this happen for ourselves. This grant is an excellent way to achieve our goal.

Green Township is located in the Southwest section of Wapello County which is Southwest of Ottumwa. The township is all rural with no small towns and is Southwest of Ottumwa. It is rolling farm ground which is lower in value than 90% of the farm ground in Iowa. The area does include residences of people who work in Ottumwa but the housing is average and the types of jobs the residences have are average in pay.

We will be sub-contracting with Citizens Mutual Telephone Company out of Bloomfield. They are a very progressive coop and have fiber optic in the ground up to the Southeast corner of Green Township.

Citizens Mutual Telephone, located in Bloomfield has been in existence since the phone system was first installed. They are managed by Joe Snyder who has an excellent reputation. We will be using them for the construction phase and they will deliver the service and do the billing. We are exploring the options and we could become members of the Coop. They are a key to the success of this project.

The township has 45 miles of roads with the number of residences per mile above 5. The township includes several home based business which desperately need better internet. A few examples include a trucking company, horse training, rock hauling and travel. All the farmers in the township would also benefit from higher internet speeds.

The plan is to run fiber optic direct to every home in the township. This is being pursued by the trustees of Green Township and the clerk. This includes Josh Lopshire, Cory Black, Nick Biggs and Bryan Ziegler as the clerk. Once this system is set up, it can become a model for the adjacent townships which also need better internet. The suppliers of the current internet are charging excessive amounts for very low capacity and they are all national companies. This will be a locally owned and controlled system and will increase capacity of the access by 3 times and will cost 50 % less than the current options. This will be a significant benefit to the township.

The project will be managed by the trustees and clerk of Green Township. Bryan Ziegler the clerk is a farmer and business planner. The trustees all have business experience.

The time frame will be 2019 until completion in 2022. We have been instructed that many contractors are busy and our concern is that we will have to get on the schedule in the future to get the work done.