

Harmony Telephone Company

365549 – Empower Rural Iowa Emergency Broadband Expansion Program (NOFA #003)



Executive Summary

Harmony Telephone Company (HTC) is applying for a CARES Act grant to serve Targeted Service Areas (TSA's) in portions of Northwest Winneshiek County and Northeast Howard County. The proposed system would be a next generation FTTP system capable of delivering 1 Gbps symmetrical to the subscribers. In addition, it will be capable of 10 Gbps symmetrical with just a change of customer premise equipment.

The grant amount that HTC is requesting is \$714,083.31 which is 50% of their total project cost. It consists of approximately 42 miles of buried fiber and serving 101 HSB's (Broadband Units). The project is in the immediate areas of State Highways 139 and 9 between the southern portion of the HTC exchange and the MiEnergy location in Cresco.

This project is part of a multi-phase plan to deploy FTTP to portions of the unserved and underserved areas of Howard and Winneshiek Counties. This phase will be the basis for deploying this network. In addition, it will connect/support a critical infrastructure facility with the connection to MiEnergy in Cresco. This connection will connect their two office locations with a more reliable system than the existing wireless connection. This will aid in maintaining the uptime of their network.

The primary focus for this project is to provide reliable broadband connections to a currently unserved rural area. This will improve their access to all the necessary platforms to support telework, telehealth, distance learning and other remote services currently unavailable due to lack of broadband facilities in this area. The terms, conditions and requirements of this Notice of Funding Availability have been carefully reviewed. No portion of HTC's proposed infrastructure project has commenced construction or build out. Nor does any portion of HTC's proposed infrastructure project relate to existing broadband expansion commitments or expenses that have been or will be reimbursed under any federal program or been awarded funding from prior State grant funds. HTC commits to completing this infrastructure project as soon as possible but no later than the dates set forth in the NOFA #003.

Without CARES Act funds this project will be limited to connecting company operating facilities. The CARES Act funds applied for in this application make it possible to expand this project to include fiber-to-the-premise for these potential subscribers.

Project Status

- The core route has been designed, staked, permitted, and bid.
 - Fiber is currently being sourced and should be available by the end of September.
- The distribution routes have been designed and are in process of being staked and permitted.
 - This will be completed by the end of September as well.
- Project construction is anticipated to commence by the end of September once the fiber has been received.

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- 50% of the project will be completed prior to years end to meet the requirement of the NOFA.