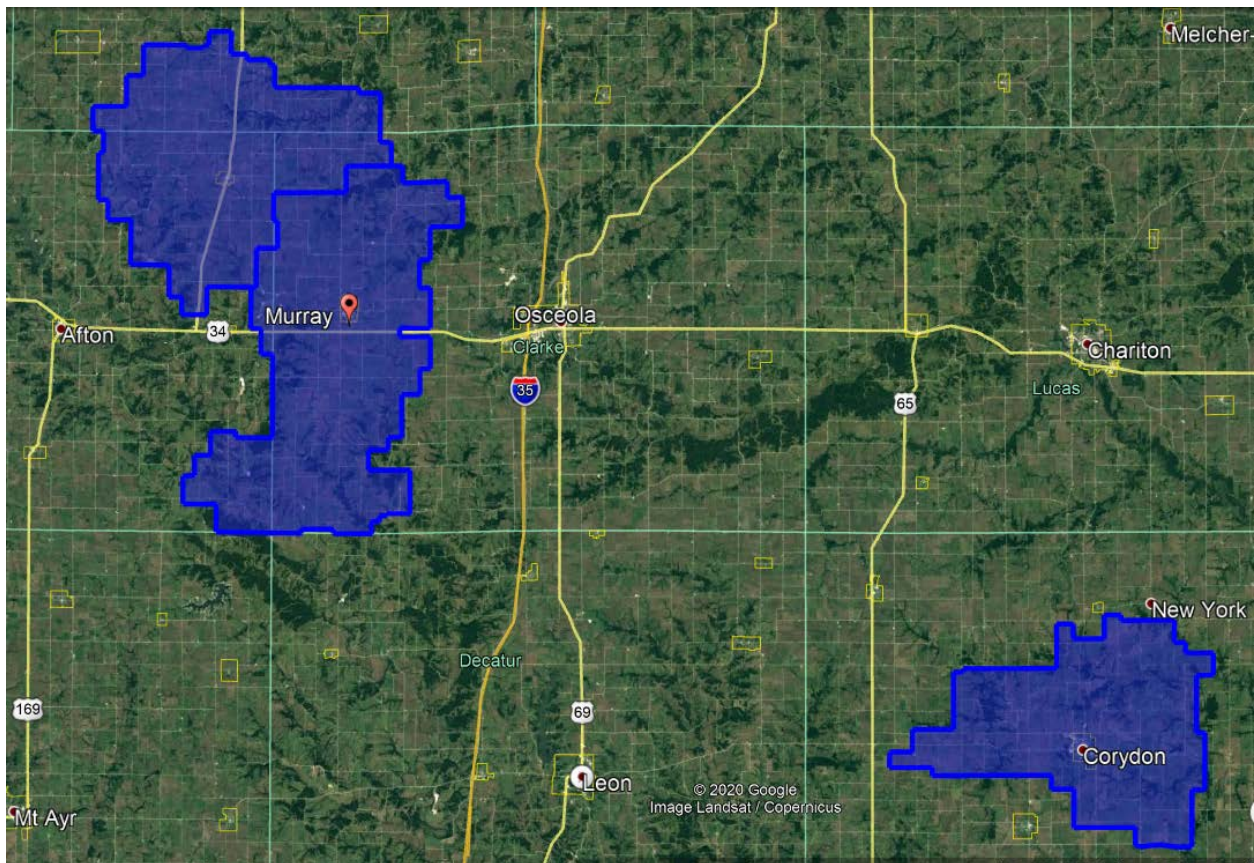




2.2.3 Executive Project Summary

The South Central Communications, Inc. Federal CARES Broadband Adoption Project proposes to offer grant funds to certified eligible Non-Adopters in all three of the South Central Communications, Inc. (DBA SCC Networks) exchanges. This includes the exchanges of Corydon, Lorimor and Murray (as pictured below). These exchanges are 100% wireline Fiber-to-the-Premise (FTTP) and are all capable of achieving speeds in excess of the required minimum 25/3 Mbps.



SCC Networks built a 100% fiber network due to its flexibility and its future-proof qualities. The buried fiber optic cable is not subject to the effects of bad weather like some wireless technologies. The buried fiber optic cable also has further reach and higher bandwidth capability when compared to twisted-copper technologies such as digital subscriber line (DSL).

Another advantage to the FTTP technology included in this network design is the ubiquity of service. Other technologies such as DSL or wireless Internet experience a reduction in data throughput as the distance from the Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer (DSLAM) or wireless base station increases. Therefore, there is a dramatic difference in the service and data throughput that a subscriber who is close to the base site will receive compared to a subscriber who is further away. With FTTP, all subscribers within a service area can receive the same data rates and the same grade of service.

If awarded grant funds, SCC Networks will apply the full amount of the award for each Non-Adopter to the customer's account for the purchase of high Internet service. The lowest speed package SCC Networks offers is 25/25 Mbps when combined with local telephone service, or 75/75 Mbps as stand-alone Internet service. SCC Networks will ensure Non-Adopters seeking funds meet the requirements of the NOFA by requiring the customer to attest they:

1. are not eligible for or participate in Lifeline,
2. have a need for the grant as described in the NOFA 1.4.8.3, and
3. have not recently subscribed to 25/3 Broadband or greater as described in the NOFA 1.4.8.4.

The project will not proceed if the requested funds are not awarded. SCC Networks cannot provide free service for the amounts of time that would be funded by this grant application. SCC Networks has made a commitment to complement and enhance the grant project. New customers with a Kindergarten through college student in the household, who sign up for service in August and September, will receive an additional two months of free Broadband service. Non-student households will receive an additional one month of free Broadband service. This promotion will proceed with or without the grant award. However, Non-Adopters will most likely feel they cannot afford the service after the free one or two months, and the grant award will be required to entice them to sign up for Broadband service. The free months of service promotion has been implemented and advertised. The grant program has been planned and is ready to implement in coordination with the free months of service promotion, should the grant funds be awarded.