



OCIO Broadband Grant Committee
Submitted via iowagrants.gov

08/04/2020

To the Grant Committee:

MTC is applying for a grant to assist in the building of Fiber to the Home in rural Wiota and rural Atlantic, Iowa. I hope this executive summary will give you a good idea of our commitment to providing broadband to our customers.

MTC has been gradually upgrading our customers to FTTH over the last five years. In 2019 we completed the migration to all our rural customers in the Massena exchange, so they are not part of this project. Planning is complete for the rural part of the Wiota exchange. The construction to rural Wiota is planned to begin at some point in the future, after other projects that are currently in build-out status are completed.

MTC is excited to use some of the proposed funding for expanding into rural areas around Atlantic which are currently unserved or underserved. We expedited our planning for these areas to complete this application. If funding is received, we will be able to complete the project according to the milestones defined in the NOFA.

We will be building fiber all the way to each customer premise, using a combination of Active Ethernet and PON technologies. Each technology will be capable of Gigabit internet.

For past projects, MTC has been using a combination of cash on hand and various forms of income to fund FTTH projects. CARES Act funding will certainly speed up the timeline for these projects. We currently do most of our work "in-house" including planning and design work, splicing, and commissioning customers onto the network. Extra funding will be able to help us hire some contractors to speed up portions of the project.

The application asked if CARES Act funds are necessary for the program to proceed. I selected "yes," however this answer needs clarification. The project as submitted does rely on CARES Act money. Parts of the project will proceed but certainly more slowly without this grant. We do not plan to build out some parts of the project unless we receive the grant.

We truly strive to provide reliable, affordable service to our customers. We take our build-out commitments seriously and spend our money wisely. I hope you will consider funding this project. If you would like to know more details about the different parts of our project, please contact me at my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Klocke", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mike Klocke
CEO

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