

*This section requires an Applicant to summarize, at a high level, its proposed Project, including but not limited to the geographic area in which the Project will occur, the primary deployment model (e.g., wireline versus wireless), and a general overview of how Applicant has/will comply with the terms, conditions, and requirements of this NOFA #3. Please explain why CARES Act funds are necessary for the Project to proceed and how the Project will or will not proceed if the requested funds are not ultimately Awarded. Finally, please explain the current status of the Project, including the phase it is in, such as pre-planning, planning, or that building has commenced.*

Martelle Communications Cooperative plans to build fiber in non-ACAM funded census blocks that are within the service area boundary. These customers are currently being served with copper facilities and/or coax cable. The speeds available with this dated technology do not support everything the customers desire to work from home, educate from home or allow access to all telehealth applications. Martelle Communications plans to deploy Fiber-to-the-Home technology in this area, with Gig capable speeds.

The board of Martelle Communications has approved this grant application and the funds needed for the build-out, given that there is a 50% match. The construction crew as well as the equipment has been researched and Martelle is able to acquire these essentials and time to complete 50% of the project by December 1, 2020 and the remaining 50% before the July 1, 2021 deadline.

If the grant is not awarded, the project will be 3-5 years in the future before we can reach these more remote locations in our southern study area. Our clients desire the higher speeds. The grant announcement launched this project from pre-planning to the planning process. We are at a point where the project can begin as soon as grants are awarded. If the grant is not won, then only a portion can begin and get to completion.