

Demonstrated Experience

This form requires information about Applicant's demonstrated experience in the provisioning of Broadband across the State of Iowa. Applicant shall include relevant information about their experience that has prepared them to deploy their proposed Project, such as, for example community partnerships and service; number of years in business; number of years' experience provide the types of services sought by this NOFA; if the Applicant is a relatively new provider/market entrant an explanation of the benefits, if any of being a newer provider. Market entrant; or the level of technical experience in providing the types of services sought by this NOFA.

Farmers Telephone Company of Batavia has extensive history of operating communications networks, including implementing fiber to the premises (FTTP) networks. Farmers Telephone has been operating since 1919 and currently maintains a 100% FTTP network for its existing service area. Over the FTTP, Farmers Telephone offers broadband internet service with speeds up to 1 Gbps, telephone service and Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) service. Additionally, Farmers provides special circuits to a range of businesses, including cell site backhaul circuits.

Farmers Telephone's current network is comprised of over 83 miles of fiber optic cable. This project, should it be awarded, is an incremental addition to their existing network and operations.

Farmers Telephone contracts management services to Citizens Mutual Telephone Cooperative (Citizens Mutual). Citizens Mutual has experience with and has received three OCIO broadband grant awards. One award is complete and the other two are currently under construction. Citizens Mutual has extensive experience in building and operating FTTP networks. Citizen Mutual is prepared and capable of managing Farmers Telephone's broadband grant award should Farmers Telephone receive the award.

The resumes of key Citizens Mutual team members are included to provide further evidence of Citizens Mutual's ability to successfully implement the proposed Libertyville Rural Fiber to the Home project. The specific broadband project team experience, which is most relevant to the proposed project, is as follows:

Management Bios:

Vince Tyson: General Manager

Vince Tyson manages the daily activities of Citizens Mutual Telephone Cooperative, a regional communication company in southern Iowa that provides services to residents throughout Davis and southern Wapello counties. Prior to Citizens Mutual, Mr. Tyson was Chief Operating Officer at Eastern New Mexico Rural Telephone Cooperative. Previously, Mr. Tyson has served as Senior Vice President – Engineering and System Integration for CHR Solutions, Chief Technical Officer for Paul Bunyan Telephone Cooperative in Minnesota and served eight years in the US Air Force. Mr. Tyson's background includes a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from Texas Tech University and an MBA from the University of Minnesota.

Trent Gregory: Outside Plant Superintendent

Trent Gregory, OSP Superintendent of Citizens Mutual Telephone Cooperative, served 4 years in the United States Air Force as a Telephone Cable Installation and Maintenance Specialist. In 1990, Mr. Gregory accepted an Installer/Repairman position with Citizens Mutual Telephone Cooperative in Bloomfield, IA. He was promoted to Combination Technician a few years later and was responsible for over 30 Business Key systems and PBX phone systems. In 1999, Mr. Gregory took a position with US West in Ottumwa, IA. He worked as a Network Technician for US West for 10 years. In 2009, Mr. Gregory returned to Citizens Mutual Telephone Cooperative at his current position of Outside Plant Superintendent. During his role as OSP Superintendent, Mr. Gregory has been responsible for 10 fiber optic build out projects totaling over 600 miles as well as maintaining both a legacy copper and a new fiber network infrastructure.

Johnathon Tuvera: Business Manager/Accountant

Johnathon Tuvera, Business Manager, received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Accounting in 2012. During the past 9 years, Johnathon has held various financial positions in various fields, including banking, non-profit, retail, public accounting, and, most recently, telecommunications. In 2016, Mr. Tuvera accepted the position of Accountant with Citizens Mutual Telephone Cooperative. Mr. Tuvera helped organize and clean up the financials of the cooperative, created efficiency within his office, and provided a clear goal for the accounting at Citizens Mutual Telephone Cooperative. Mr. Tuvera was promoted to Office Manager in 2019 helping maintain office staff and succeed in helping customers in the friendliest and most efficient way possible. Mr. Tuvera was promoted to Business Manager in 2021 to help better define his various roles within the cooperative.