



Exhibit M - Large project Worksheet (NOFA #008)

Purpose:

This form, labeled “EXHIBIT M – LARGE PROJECT WORKSHEET (NOFA #008),” requires an Applicant to justify the quantity of Eligible Service Locations to which the Applicant collectively, including all entities attached or connected to the Applicant, proposes to Facilitate Covered Speeds when that quantity is in the top 25% of all Applicants to this NOFA (“Large Project Threshold”). See NOFA #008, Section 2.2.6.10 for additional information.

It has been determined by the Office that your submitted application(s) falls within the Large Project Threshold and seeks justification for the number of Eligible Service Locations to which service will be facilitated. The Office may use the information in the determination of whether or not to disqualify an application exceeding the Large Project Threshold.

Given the limited timeframe available for project construction under this NOFA, the Office believes that buildout commitments must be of a reasonable size and distributed among various communication services providers to guarantee project completion by the end of the Project Period. Applicants who are unable to complete projects risk the reversion of funds to the federal government by the Office, leaving Eligible Service Locations without funding to construct new broadband service.

Applicants should provide additional information to the Office to justify the large number of Eligible Service Locations contained within the proposed project(s) and the ability to complete the project(s) according to the project completion requirements of this NOFA (See NOFA #008 Section 1.3).

Organization Name:

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative

Are there unique construction or project management methods that allow for rapid network deployments to large project areas?

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative (MVEC) will continue to employ contractors already working for us on other fiber projects. This Contractor have been with us for five years. If necessary we can add other Contractors that MVEC has used for electric projects who have built Hundreds of miles of FTTH for other telecommunication providers in Iowa.

MVEC has our own internal design team, as well as access to contractors that we have used in the past to complete design work on a timely basis. Several of our expansion areas will be simple extensions to our existing plant.

Does your technology or network architecture designs facilitate serving the number of Eligible Service Locations identified in the application within the identified timeline?

Yes. The NOFA8 projects are located throughout our current service territory. We have a “young” system that was designed to handle the initial subscribers we passed and be nimble enough to grow and serve new areas. We have considerable dark transport and distribution fiber to add extensions and new services and if needed can add new hubs to the system to be able to serve the new NOFA 8 homes without degrading service. MVEC also has adequate upstream bandwidth from our existing data providers to serve the new NOFA 8 areas.

Provide prior experience and/or examples of completing comparably sized broadband projects on a materially similar timeline.

From January 2017 - July 2023, MVEC built 2250 miles of fiber line for an average of 28 miles per month. We estimate that we will have 48 miles of fiber to build in our NOFA 8 application. We intend to split the build out over two construction seasons (2024 & 2025) building about 24 Miles Per Year. During our initial build out, and still happening today, MVEC has connected over 6500 fiber subscribers to our system for an average of 83 installs per month.

Provide completion timeframes on previous Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grants.

MVEC was previously awarded grant funds through Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant – NOFA 2. Work on that project was completed in April 2022. MVEC is currently working on gathering the information necessary to submit its claim for reimbursement and close out the project.

Identify any key relationships, partnerships, third-party agreements, or other resources that will allow your organization to overcome supply chain issues, labor shortages, and facilitate expeditious network deployment.

MVEC has over 130 Miles of large count fiber in stock and over 350 vaults & pedestals in stock or on order through our vendors for use on future projects. Through our previous projects MVEC has developed good relationships with multiple material vendors and have communications with them monthly to discuss any supply-chain issues that are currently effecting our build out projects. MVEC's current contractor has added employees in the past to complete larger projects. If necessary, MVEC can also add one of our experienced electric contractors who has experience in FTTH builds to also complete underground work.

Applicants may also provide any additional information, documents or data sets that might further justify the Large Project Threshold of the proposed project.

All narrative and additional information should be submitted in a single PDF format and attached in reply to this correspondence in the Iowa Grants Online system named as: "Application Number - Applicant Name – Exhibit M." Submissions outside of the Iowa Grants Online system will not be considered

Applicants should not submit proprietary or confidential information in association with Exhibit M.