PROJECT PROPOSAL
- FOR PUBLIC POSTING

Office of Broadband Development

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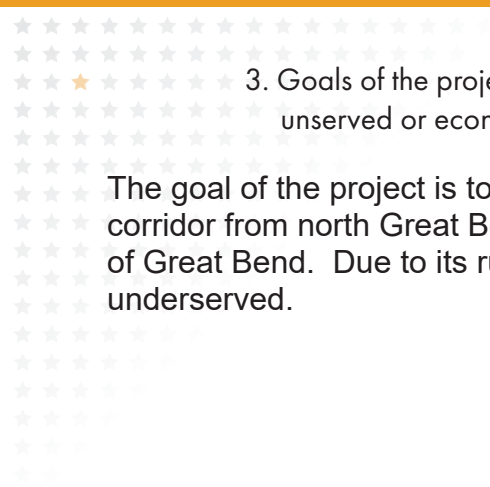**OrgName_GeographicIdentifier_PublicProposal**

Please include:

1. An executive summary of the project:

Nex-Tech is excited to propose this project focused on providing broadband to up to 774 underserved rural areas located in Barton County Kansas located in central Kansas. Headquartered in Lenora, Kansas, Nex-Tech has been providing telecommunications services to northwest and central Kansas for nearly 70 years and has been an Internet Service Provider since 1996. Nex-Tech's fiber to the premise footprint encompasses 52 different communities across Kansas. Nex-Tech also provides fixed wireless Internet service to thousands of customers in rural areas of Kansas. This fixed wireless technology has evolved and grown over the course of almost 20 years into what it is today. Nex-Tech provides a wide range of services some of which are Internet, Voice, Video, Cloud Phone, Managed IT, Security and Surveillance, Advertising, and NOC services.   Nex-Tech recently completed five Kansas CERG grants on time and within budget. Nex-Tech strives to promote economic growth, investment in and ultimately, the repopulation of rural Kansas. One of the ways we as a company do this is by continually providing new services in areas that are unserved or underserved. High speed broadband is an essential utility that ultimately is a conduit, that provides quality of life amenities needed and wanted by the residents and businesses in the communities we serve.

2. A description of the location (City(s), County(s), etc.), proposed service areas, parners involved and anticipated improvements.

The fiber routes will serve up to 46 locations with speeds ranging from 25Mbs to Gigabit symmetrical.   Fixed wireless infrastructure will be used to provide broadband to up to 728 residences and businesses in the rural areas of Barton county north of Hoisington, between Hoisington and Great Bend, and south of Great Bend with speeds ranging from 25/6Mbs to 100/10Mbs. Nex-Tech will be partnering with RVW Engineering for this project.

3. Goals of the project and community need to address including whether the proposed area is unserved or economically distressed or what the compelling need is, if served.

The goal of the project is to deploy fiber to the premise connections along the Highway 281 business corridor from north Great Bend to south Hoisington and along the Highway 56 business corridor east of Great Bend. Due to its rural location and low population density, this service area is currently underserved.

4. The proposed infrastruture and access improvements planned, including the number of proposed connected premisees and community anchor institutions, businesses, or other organizations and the recipients to be served by the project.

Located in this area are 635 residential households and 139 businesses and anchor institutions. Fiber to the premise will be deployed to approximately 46 locations within the project service area. Fixed wireless will be deployed to the remaining rural locations.   Approximately 46 fiber customers are expected to take service using an initial fiber adoption rate of 100% and approximately 233 wireless subscribers are expected to take service using an initial wireless adoption rate of 30%.

5. The short and long-term investment benefit to the community and service area proposed.

Short and long-term investment benefit to the community and service area proposed includes positive contribution to economic and community development of this area in a variety of ways. Due to the increase of service in areas that are lacking infrastructure, this area will be able to offer remote work opportunities to current residents as well as new residents. This will lead to job retention and recruitment activities that currently are untapped. This will also contribute to improved broadband service to existing businesses as well as educational access for students living in this area to be able to access on-line schooling no matter what age or level of education. Tele-health opportunities also open for customers in this area with this service deployment to their homes, as they will be able to access and take advantage of remote healthcare from the comfort of their home. Having access to high-speed broadband in rural and remote areas of Kansas showcases to people the opportunities how to learn, work, and live healthy in their chosen community!