



## **Capital Projects Fund Grant Public Comment**

Kansas Office of Broadband Development

September 2022

### **SKTC Application**

"SKTC\_SOUTHCENTRALKS"

### **Response to Challenge**

"0169" by AMG Technology (dba Nextlink)

### **Comments**

SKTC is responding to the challenge submitted by AMG Technology expressing concern for a portion of the SKTC application proposing to serve the rural areas north and west of Clearwater, with up to 2 Gbps symmetrical fiber internet.

AMG stated that the area already has 100/20 fixed wireless service in the proposed serving area. While fixed wireless service meets the current 100/20 required service to some of the passings within a defined propagation, the technology is not a ubiquitous solution and therefore falls short of reaching the greatest number of residents and business in SKTC's proposed fiber investment. Fiber is the best solution for the future of broadband.

The proposed area is inside SKTC's ILEC exchange boundary which provides a more efficient and accelerated build to these areas. SKTC has a proven track record of building and maintaining a scalable fiber network that provides cutting edge connection speeds (up to 2 Gbps symmetrical) at an affordable rate.

We currently partner with federal and state government agencies to provide the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), Lifeline, and Kansas Emergency Rental Assistance benefits, which helps foster digital inclusion in the state of Kansas. We also have a new 'free' offering available to ACP qualified consumers.

Through the partnership we have formed with the county and state leaders and representatives, as reflected in our application submission, SKTC will provide the service this area deserves so it can continue to thrive.