

PROJECT PROPOSAL - FOR PUBLIC POSTING



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1. An executive summary of the project:

As we continue to see increased demand for in-home connectivity, AT&T has announced our Hyper-Gig speed offerings. AT&T Fiber now delivers speeds of up to 5-Gig symmetrical and is truly internet that upgrades everything.

At the same time, as we are expanding the reach of our 100% fiber network and expanding access to high-speed services, we are also working to remove other barriers to service adoption. Earlier this year, we announced that we are offering free internet to low-income customers. Eligible households that take advantage of the up to \$30 per month Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) benefit from the federal government can receive internet service at no monthly charge in combination with our new \$30 Access from AT&T plan which offers customers speeds of up to 100 mbps symmetrical and no data caps.

We appreciate and share the State of Kansas's commitment to bringing high-speed, modern connectivity to residents and businesses. As such, AT&T has tailored a solution that will build a network platform to support:

- Making JD Powers award winning, reliable, high-speed broadband services available to as many premises in the state as possible.
- Building a fiber-to-the-premise (FTTP) network based on a 10 Gbps symmetric passive optical network (XGS-PON) fiber backbone capable of delivering Hyper-Gigabit per second service speeds.
- Delivering system uptime of 99.9%.
- Including no monthly data caps or speed reduction due to metering.

AT&T will provide post-implementation value added services that will include the following:

- Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week customer support.
- Access to affordable offerings for low-income qualified households.

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

AT&T is currently identifying community stakeholders for support of potential projects.

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.

AT&T is committed to expanding the availability of broadband into unserved areas and we have a proven record of meeting or exceeding deployment targets. We were one of the largest participants in the FCC’s first CAF II program where we took on the commitment to deploy broadband to high-cost locations in 18 states. AT&T met and exceeded the deployment milestones and performance standards for the 18 separate deployments, including more than 51,000 locations in State of Kansas. We successfully managed concurrent builds covering from 14,000 to 140,000 locations per state for a total of over 1 million locations served at the end of 2021. AT&T’s compliance with the FCC’s annual location reporting requirements are publicly available in the High-Cost Universal Broadband portal (HUBB) as of 2016 deployments. These submissions are validated by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) and the FCC each year. (See: Connect America Fund Broadband Map <https://data.usac.org/publicreports/caf-map/>).

AT&T is so committed to closing the digital divide we are driving down the cost of home Internet for eligible households to the best monthly rate possible –\$0. This free option is made possible by combining our new Access from AT&T plan with federal benefits from the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). All households that qualify for ACP will also qualify for our Access from AT&T program. In areas where we deploy AT&T Fiber, Access from AT&T customers can take advantage of our newest speed tier, symmetrical 100Mbps FTTP service at just \$30/month or FREE after applying ACP. In addition, there’s no cap on data usage with the new \$30 Access from AT&T plans.(Access Plans 10Mbps and below have data allowances. Customers who exceed those allowances may incur a \$10 fee. Through April 30,2022, AT&T is waiving data overage fees for those Access AT&T customers.)

4. The proposed infrastructure 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.

Designing and deploying a multi-gigabit fiber broadband network is a complex custom job. We know from long experience that detailed specifications will vary. Given the short time to respond to this grant program AT&T is unable to provide an accurate count of anchor locations. However, AT&T will cover all customer locations within the proposed area including anchor institutions and business locations. The below table provides an estimate of location counts.

Barton County

Location Type	Total Locations	Percentage of Total
Residential	7,494	91%
Business	752	9%
Total	8,246	100%

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

AT&T is helping bridge the digital divide through private investment to expand and upgrade networks, provide new product offerings, and support policy solutions.

Short term, these efforts help customers connect to their world, gaining access to increased educational, employment, economic, social, and healthcare opportunities. AT&T's broadband solution offers affordable access that will allow them to improve their online skills and knowledge and become better informed in all areas of their lives, which ultimately results in increased income and overall financial stability. Technically, they will benefit from the higher reliability of AT&T's Passive Optical Networks which have lower downtime because they require no electronics (which require electrical power) which are susceptible to power interruptions. Additionally, because AT&T's fiber is to the premises, residents can already reach speeds of up to 5 Gbps, and fiber's increased bandwidth potential has already been tested to reach speeds in excess of 20 Gbps.

Broadband connectivity makes telecommuting possible, which allows individuals to choose where they live based on the quality of the community rather than its proximity to their office. Broadband also enables a wide range of benefits such as telemedicine, distance learning, improved access to content, and the ability to participate in social media, all of which translate to better health and quality of life.

Over the long haul this one change in the community will mean that area residents will have improved education opportunities which will bring on greater job prospects and its presence in a community can bring about economic growth. A report commissioned by Indiana Electric Cooperatives and Tipmont REMC estimated that every dollar invested in broadband returns nearly four dollars to the economy. Also, because AT&T's broadband is FTTP and 100% fiber, it will be able to increase in speed as demand grows almost limitlessly.

