

PROJECT PROPOSAL - FOR PUBLIC POSTING



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Please include:

1. An executive summary of the project:

The proposed service area for IdeaTek ' s Butler County Project deploys over 97 miles of Butler County, and would service approximately 700 total underserved homes and businesses, bringing capacity for a symmetrical 2Gbps service level with scalability to significantly higher speeds to facilitate long term broadband sustainability. Currently, internet speeds do not exceed 25 Mbps download, which does not meet the standard 100/100 Mbps set by the FCC. Specifically, the City of Whitewater, despite it being a large rural incorporated community, is still suffering with limited connectivity. Whitewater has been waiting far too long for broadband investment. Now is the time to bring its local communications infrastructure into the 21st century.


Kansas has an opportunity to multiply the effect of limited grant funding focused on connecting the unconnected, and to close the rural connectivity divide in Butler County, boosting quality of life, local farm productivity, and economic development.

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

Location: The proposed service area is in Butler County, covering the town of Whitewater, going north to Elbing, KS

Partners: Berean Academy, Circle High School USD 375, Representative Ron Estes, Senator Jerry Moran, Whitewater Memorial Library, Representative Steven Howe, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Grace Hill Winery

Improvements: fiber optic broadband connectivity deployments

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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.

Connect the underserved with scalable, high capacity fiber optic broadband services - current service speeds as low as 25/5 well below the Kansas Federal definition of minimum speed broadband. See also attached letters of service support that speak to the need of the community.

Serve disadvantaged residents, students, business owners, and farmers deprived of affordable broadband by providing low to no cost connectivity, utilizing FCC ACP and lifeline programs.

Bolster Kansas' ag economy and ag investments with next generation infrastructure - this service area represents under connected / unserved cattle ranches and farms which need the best connectivity to successfully compete in modern times where real time data, connected equipment, and connected crops/livestock lower input costs in a time where costs are rising rapidly.

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

Premises Passed: 675

Businesses: 19

Anchor Institutions: 5



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

In the short-term, IdeaTek will hire contractors to complete the fiber build, providing an opportunity for employment for Kansas-based workers. In addition, broadband access will provide residents in these areas an immediate opportunity to efficiently work remotely, expanding employment access, as well as access to telehealth and remote education.

In the long-term, communities with fiber infrastructure are far more attractive to new residents and businesses, bringing long-term economic growth and opportunity to the community . When critical, superior broadband access is provided to rural areas, economic growth and opportunity are no longer out of reach.

