

PROJECT PROPOSAL - FOR PUBLIC POSTING



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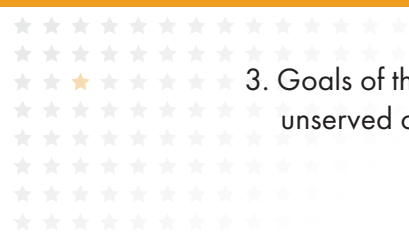
1. An executive summary of the project:

KanOkla Networks is a community-based telecommunications cooperative headquartered in Caldwell, KS, serving the southcentral Kansas and northcentral Oklahoma areas since 1951. After introducing internet to our members in 1996, we expanded our internet footprint in 2001 to our non-member neighbors with a fixed wireless internet service to area farms and rural communities. Over the decades, we have delivered the unexpected, modern connectivity in the most remote places of our service territory that no one else would serve, building relationships with these customers and their families. As broadband needs have increased tremendously in just the past few years, and with our extensive experience with fixed wireless technology exposed to the outdoor elements, we would like to transition our long-time fixed wireless customers to a buried fiber optic network to enable uninterrupted, robust, symmetric broadband for their growing technological needs to live and work in a rural Kansas. The proposed network will serve fiber-to-the-home service capable of 2.5 Gig download by 2.5 Gig upload to 63 homes and businesses.

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

The proposed unserved area is the rural Harvey County area to the south of Halstead and west of Sedgwick. The proposed area spans 20 plant miles where KanOkla will plow and bore fiber optic cable in conduit and protected from unpredictable high winds, tornadoes, and freezing ice of the open plains. We will utilize a PON network to 63 homes, farms and agribusinesses. A contractor will be hired through a bid process to build the fiber network, and we will utilize our own employees to splice the fiber to connect customers to the network.

KanOkla will commit private funds to invest in this fiber project for our long-time customers of 15 years. KanOkla has two broadband technicians that live in this area and already provide same-day service and reliability to our friends and neighbors in the Halstead and Sedgwick communities.

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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.

The goals of the project are:

1. To connect every home and farm with multi-gig capacity, high-speed fiber optic broadband for access to healthcare, education, emergency access, and economic opportunities.
2. To enable increased productivity and livability in Harvey County. This area is experiencing a return to rural with 5th generation farm families returning to farm and others returning with a desire to work from home, participate in the world's online economic opportunities, and live where they want with reliable, life-saving access to healthcare and emergency services.
3. To partner with the Kansas Department of Commerce to bring high speed connectivity to our agricultural producers in our state, raising the livability and productivity quotients for everyone, and contributing to the economic output of one of our state's largest industries. For too long, these rural farming communities have been left behind without robust, reliable broadband. Without grant funding through the Office of Broadband Development, this area will continue to be left behind due to the high cost of putting the up front infrastructure in place.
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.

KanOkla proposes a fiber optic buried cable infrastructure with future-ready, multi-gig speed connectivity which can be upgraded at either end for years to come. Sixty-three homes, home businesses, and agricultural producers will experience dramatic increased access to high capacity and high speed connectivity to provide each and every resident with a lifelong connection to serve them and future generations returning to Kansas to live, work and prosper.

With volunteer fire departments, EMT and ambulance services, this area is in desperate need of life-saving emergency services. As we experienced life at home during the pandemic, connectivity to area schools and community colleges were vital to keep students learning and teachers teaching. The teachers, students, farmers and home-based businesses in this area suffered due to sparse and failing internet connections. Continuing to work remotely for the foreseeable future, the trend will be changing the way people perceive the combinability of life and work.

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

The short-term benefits to servicing this rural community of farms and homes will be immediate access to the best, highest speed and capacity bandwidth available. These families and agriculture producers will have immediate access to online businesses for repairs, delivery, buy/sell products/commodities in real time, business development, education, healthcare, and peace of mind for access to emergency services to enable them to live out in the beautiful rolling prairies of our state. Access to education and employment will bring additional economic impact to these rural families with exponential returns.

The long-term benefit will be reversing the "brain drain" of our local youth leaving the area after graduation. Robust, high speed broadband will provide the ability to attract young families to the rural areas of our state, returning or new to the area, whether the farms they grew up on or build a house in a remote location, creating the ability to live wherever you desire and still be able to contribute positively to society. The agricultural business will be able to add valuable efficiencies to the increasingly narrow-margins business, and increase new business creation. Ultimately, it will put rural areas on equal footing with urban centers for productivity, economic contribution, and livability.

