

Public Proposal

Electro Mundo Technology Services, Inc. (EMTSI) will provide critical support for low-income families and residents in Wyandotte County who lack access to wifi, technology devices, and training. It will focus on the Argentine neighborhood, Central neighborhood, and neighborhoods around NW Minnesota Avenue in Kansas City, Kansas. At its core, EMTSI tackles the challenge of—bridging the “digital divide”—ensuring equitable technology access through innovative, community-based solutions including the installation of fixed wireless and/or wired internet. As a mission-focused agency, all EMTSI programs are designed to reach low- and moderate income residents as well as nonprofit partners and community centers serving urban core neighborhoods characterized by the digital divide.

EMTSI requests \$985,000 from the State of Kansas Wifi ADOPT program to install fixed wireless/wired internet through 11 sites in Wyandotte County. The installations will include KCK Housing Authority Properties, adjacent parks, and surrounding households throughout the Argentine, Central and NW Minnesota neighborhoods. These neighborhoods have limited access and adoption of internet services. Unequal access to the internet can topple low-income neighborhoods’ chances to become stable, thriving places to live. Education, jobs, entrepreneurship, and even access to basic knowledge—technology makes-or-breaks these opportunities for many individuals and families.

EMTSI proposes to connect 3,000 of the low-income, households to the life-changing power of affordable, high-speed broadband internet. Members of the ETSI team have led 40 similar type installations across a seven state area including Texas, Kansas, Missouri, Georgia, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin. We will ensure inclusion of veterans, senior (55+) and non-English speaking households. Half of our team is bi-lingual to help provide seamless communication.

For this project, EMTSI is focusing on four areas, each highlighted in these studies as being in the center-point of both poverty and lack of access in Wyandotte County. These four areas across Argentine, Central and NW Minnesota including —Wyandotte Tower and Glanville Towers, in the blighted 66101 zip code of Northeast Wyandotte County in Kansas City, Kansas, Bethany Park Tower, City View Apartments, and St. Margaret’s Apartments, and Douglas Heights High Rise and family apartments in the Argentine neighborhood—have demonstrated persistent poverty, high unemployment rates and low levels of academic achievement for several decades.

This proposal to provide affordable, accessible, fixed wireless high speed internet will provide coverage to 3,000 people within a 24-month project period. Alongside this technology installation, residents will also have access to EMTSI’s other impactful services, such as distribution of low-cost computers, free digital literacy courses. Up to 1000 households will have the opportunity to extend the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) program, which expires in April, 2024, through this coverage. Our project will deploy fixed wireless sector

antennas. Our network solution will guarantee speeds of 100 Mbps symmetrical, with regular availability of speeds of 100 Mbps download/20 Mbps upload. EMTSI will offer the high-speed internet to income-eligible residents free during the grant period transitioning to a cost of \$25 monthly following the expiration of the grant. Our broadband service model is a sustainable social enterprise at this low subscription fee, and will not require further public subsidy.

Our team's core values are internet and digital connectivity equal opportunity. Our vision is a connected future for everyone. Providing low-cost internet access, affordable computers, individualized educational opportunities, and nonprofit capacity support creates boundless opportunities for low-income families in the Kansas City Kansas metro area.