

Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund 2021 Grant Application and Guide



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Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund
2021 Grant Application and Guide

2021 Grant Application Guidelines

An application workshop will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Monday, November 9, 2020. The meeting will be held virtually. To join the meeting, make sure that you have signed up to be on the Broadband Alabama Mailing List which can be found at <https://adeca.alabama.gov/Divisions/energy/broadband> and you will receive instructions on how to join. An online version of the workshop and questions and answers from the workshop will be posted on the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) website after the workshop, at <http://adeca.alabama.gov/broadband>.

Applications shall be submitted in PDF format by email to broadband.fund@adeca.alabama.gov. Applications will be accepted starting on November 9, 2020. Completed applications must be submitted by 11:59 PM, CST, on February 8, 2021. Any applications received after the deadline will not be considered. All applications must be complete; however, ADECA reserves the right to contact applicants for additional information and/or clarifications. All applications received will be posted on ADECA's website at <http://adeca.alabama.gov/broadband>.

Existing service providers shall have from February 9, 2021 through March 23, 2021 to file objections to the eligibility of the proposed projects. All objections must be filed by email to broadband.fund@adeca.alabama.gov and must include verifiable documentation to support the challenge.

An applicant may submit more than one application; however, each project must have a separate application and budget. Each project must stand alone in meeting the Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund program requirements.

Eligibility

An eligible applicant is a non-government entity that is a cooperative, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, or other private business entity that provides broadband service.

Funding

Projects must be completed within two years of the effective date of the grant agreement. The grant will be in the form of a reimbursement of eligible costs up to the award amount in the grant agreement. Providers' grants shall be paid within 30 days upon ADECA receiving written certification of the completion of the project and evidence of compliance with the terms of the grant as prescribed by ADECA. ADECA shall condition the release of any grant funds on operational testing, when possible, to confirm the level of service proposed in the grant application. Such regulations shall not exceed in degree or differ in kind from testing and reporting requirements imposed on the grant recipient by the Federal Communications Commission, as adjusted for the service specifications in the ADECA grant agreement.

All projects will be scored based on the established rating criteria. The criteria can be found at <http://adeca.alabama.gov/broadband>. Those eligible projects receiving the highest scores will be selected for funding. The number of projects funded will be determined by the funds available and the

total amount of requests made. ADECA may request amended projects and/or offer reduced grant participation.

ADECA shall ensure that Not less than 40% of funds appropriated for grants be utilized in unincorporated areas of the state. Further, grants awarded for middle mile and anchor institution projects shall not exceed 40% of the total funds appropriated for grants on an annual basis. Individual grant awards will be for projects in unserved areas, and may not exceed the lesser of 35 percent of the project cost, or \$1,500,000 for projects that will be capable of transmitting broadband signals at or above the minimum service threshold.

Definitions

END USER. A residential, business, institutional, or government entity that uses broadband services for its own purposes and does not resell such broadband services to other entities. An internet service provider (ISP) and mobile wireless service provider are not an end user for the purposes of this act.

MIDDLE MILE PROJECT. A broadband infrastructure project that does not provide broadband service to end users or to end-user devices.

MINIMUM SERVICE THRESHOLD. A connection to the Internet that provides capacity for transmission at an average speed per customer of at least 25 megabits (25 Mbps) per second downstream and at least three megabits (3 Mbps) per second upstream.

RURAL AREA. Any area within this state not included within the boundaries of any incorporated city or town having a population in excess of 25,000 inhabitants, according to the last federal census.

UNSERVED AREA. Any rural area in which there is not at least one provider of terrestrial broadband service that is either: (1) offering a connection to the Internet meeting the minimum service threshold; or (2) is required, under the terms of the Federal Universal Service Fund or other federal or state grant, to provide a connection to the Internet at speeds meeting the minimum service threshold by March 28, 2023.

APPLICANTS MUST USE THE FOLLOWING APPLICATION FORM, COMPLETE IT IN ITS ENTIRETY, AND LABEL ATTACHMENTS AS INSTRUCTED. FAILURE TO DO SO, MAY RESULT IN A LOSS OF POINTS.

2021 Grant Application

Applicant Information

Project Name: Coosa Valley Revitalization Plan SD-1

Legal Name of Entity: Coosa Valley Technologies, Inc.

Mailing Address: PO Box 837 69220 AL Hwy 77 Talladega, AL 35161

Name and Title of CEO: Leland Fuller; General Manager

Name and Title of Contact: Kim Maye; Chief Financial Officer

Phone Number and Email of Contact: (256) 362-4180 Ext. 234; kmaye@coosavalleyec.com

Note: All successful applicants will be required to complete and submit the Beason-Hammon Alabama Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act Certification, submit a complete copy of their E-Verify Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), complete and submit the State of Alabama Disclosure Statement, complete and submit the Signatory Authority Form, and register in the State of Alabama Accounting and Resource System (STAARS).

A. Project Description

This section is worth up to 25 points. Up to an additional 10 bonus points may be available to applicants adequately demonstrating the criteria listed in number seven (7) below. Points will be awarded based on verifiable information only.

Please complete the project description sections below. Any additional documentation can be included in an attachment file titled Attachment A, Project Description.

1. A discussion of the area served including boundaries, number of households, businesses, and any community anchors (libraries, schools, police and fire stations, hospitals, etc.). This response shall also identify if the project area is located within an unincorporated area and provide information regarding how the area meets the definition of rural (US Census data). Please complete the following table.

Number of Households to be Served	739
Number of Businesses / Industries to be served	4
Number of Community Anchors to be served	3

Coosa Valley Technologies, a wholly owned subsidiary of Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative is applying for this grant funding in support of a Gigabit fiber broadband project. The project will build 150 miles of mainline fiber that will pass 746 eligible locations made up of 739 residences, 4 businesses, and 3 community anchor institutions (Volunteer Fire Departments for Ironaton, Coleta Valley, and Town of Waldo). Engineering and construction are scheduled to take ten (10) months, with initial customer installations slated to be complete at the end of seventeen (17) months. The total cost for this project is calculated to be \$4,425,844.75 and Coosa Valley Technologies is seeking the maximum ADECA grant of \$1,500,000 in support of building this fiber broadband network in these unserved areas of Alabama.

2. A discussion of the technology to be deployed (fiber, cable, DSL, etc.). Additionally, include a discussion of future usage projections and the ability to upgrade.

Introduction:

Coosa Valley Technologies, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., was formed in 2020 for the sole purpose of building a Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) network to deliver Gigabit broadband services and improve communications to the electric distribution grid for the areas of Calhoun, Clay, Etowah, Shelby, St. Clair, and Talladega Counties that are within our members' electric serving area.

Construction of the broadband network began in October 2020, with 65 miles of fiber built as of the date of this application. Today, there are 14,275 cooperative members in our electric service area. Our overall project plan will build Gigabit fiber broadband services to all Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative members. Demand for our pending FTTH services continues to be high, with hundreds of inquiries making it clear that a significant portion of our membership is eager for broadband access to be completed and available in their areas of the community.

The primary operation center or "Central Office" (CO) is collocated within the Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative office building in Talladega, AL. There are or will be additional network elements located at eleven (11) Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative Substations. These locations include Ohatchee, Coosa River, Holly Hills, Embry, Eastaboga, Stockdale, Grasmere, Talladega, Childersburg, Stewart Crossroads, and Cropwell.

The broadband architecture that will be deployed to serve this application's eligible, unserved locations is compliant to the international standard ITU-T G.984 and can deliver low latency, symmetrical Gigabit services (1 Gigabit per second (Gbps) in both upstream and downstream directions with less than 50ms round trip delay).

Commensurate with our commitment to deliver Gigabit broadband services to each unserved location, we will employ GPON (Gigabit Passive Optical Network), a mature broadband technology well known for its robust throughput, low latency, reliability, and

longevity, along with inherent advantages that yield lower construction, operation, and maintenance costs.

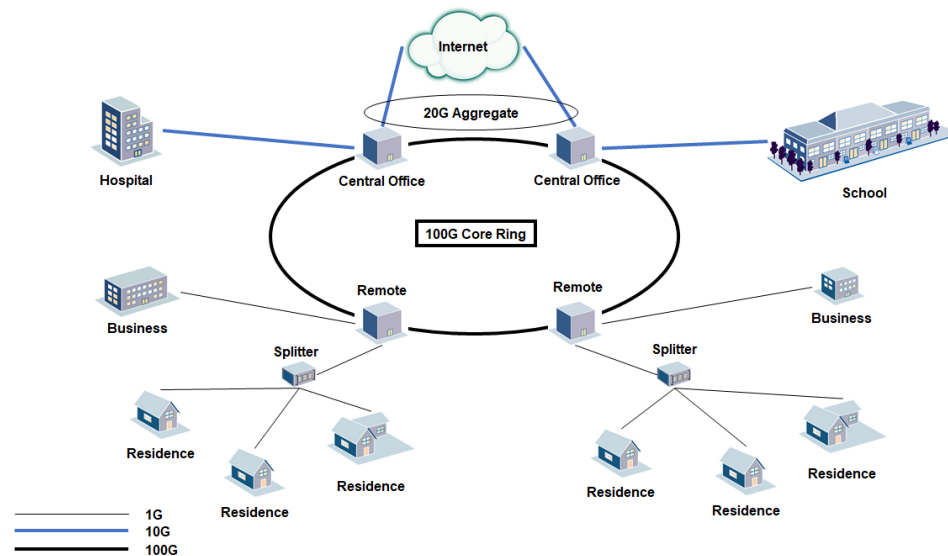


Figure 1 - Generic block diagram of GPON Technology Employed by Coosa Valley Technologies

The term “passive” in GPON means that no active electronics are required between the central office or remote, and the network subscriber. GPON architecture does not depend on “span” power, is not vulnerable to power outages or lightning strikes, and will not require any complex Right of Way consideration. GPON shares a single fiber among many users—typically thirty-two (32)—though more are technically possible. Upstream and downstream data is transmitted over two different wavelengths using the same fiber. Near the end of the feeder fiber is a passive splitter that divides the single fiber into (up to) thirty-two separate fibers. These separate fibers connect the GPON network to each individual location in the proposed funded service area (PFSA).

As noted previously, GPON architecture features significant network longevity and scalability. The foundational fiber assets can remain in place for thirty (30) to forty (40) years—basically the life of the fiber plant. And utilizing that fiber, today’s GPON technology can easily deliver a Gigabit of bandwidth to any user on the network almost 1,000 times faster than the T1 circuits that powered business in the 1990s—and can do so cost-effectively.

As user demand for bandwidth increases, the underlying fiber plant remains in place while the GPON electronics at either end of the fiber are changed to accommodate innovation and product evolution (i.e., increasing user bandwidth beyond 1 Gbps). GPON architecture represents the best broadband solution for the future; its bandwidth, latency, and reliability will remain unmatched by competing solutions for decades to come.

The GPON solution proposed for Coosa Valley Technologies' application is in use worldwide and is compliant with regulatory standards in both the United States and international communities.

ANSI regulatory compliances include:

- NEBS Level 3
- GR-1089 CORE
- GR-63 CORE
- NRTL listed
- FCC Part 15

ETSI regulatory compliances include:

- EN 60950-1
- AS/NZ 60950
- IEC 60950-1
- EN 300 386

International Optical regulatory compliances include:

- ETSI EN 300 19
- ETS 300 753
- ETSI EN 300 386
- ETS ES 201 468
- ETSI EN 60950
- ITU-T K.20/21/27/31/35/45

Detailed Description of the Proposed Network

Coosa Valley Technologies will deploy a state-of-the-art, all-fiber, Gigabit-capable network that is scalable and highly redundant, with a sub-10ms latency value. Below is a network breakout by function:

1. Redundant Dedicated Internet Links: Coosa Valley Technologies will employ two (2) geo-redundant 10 Gbps circuits with Momentum (one in Atlanta, GA and the other in Memphis, TN) that connect to Tier 1 providers for access to the internet. These circuits are easily scalable to 100 Gbps as demand necessitates. The links utilize BGP to announce Coosa Valley Technologies' prefixes and route traffic to the internet.
2. Core Routers: The core routers (Juniper MX104) provide a non-blocking architecture that utilizes industry standard protocols. The routers are equipped to accept and deliver 10Gbps continuity with the ability to deliver more bandwidth as requirements increase. The network delivery ports are located on separate line cards adding an additional layer of equipment redundancy. The core routers are connected to the aggregation switches via a 20Gbps active/active LAG with LACP and can scale by increments of 10Gbps as demand warrants. The core routers are in Talladega and Holly Hills and serve both DIA connections. To further improve network access redundancy, a third DIA

connection (located at the Central Office) is planned. This link will be served by a provider other than Momentum and route to Dallas, TX.

3. **Aggregation Switches:** The aggregation switches (Juniper QFX5110) have 10Gbps and 100Gbps ports that deliver continuity to the access nodes dispersed throughout the serving area. The switches are stacked and function as one network element. By utilizing a stacking architecture, Coosa Valley Technologies provides for equipment redundancy on the 20Gbps active/active LAGs with LACP that, in turn, provide network continuity to the access nodes throughout Coosa Valley Technologies' broadband footprint. The aggregation switches are located in the main Central Office, Talladega, and Holly Hills locations.
4. **Access Equipment:** The FTTH network will utilize 10 Gbps XGS-PON technology from the non-blocking ADTRAN TA5000 octal (8-port) GPON/XGS-PON Combo OLT line cards. The TA5000 nodes are equipped with redundant SM40 Switch Modules with the capability of accepting 80Gbps of continuity. The backplane path from the switch modules to the GPON/XGS-PON line cards is redundant and non-blocking. Internet and voice continuity for each TA5000 in the network is delivered via a 20Gbps active/active LAG from the aggregation switches. The design includes support for 20km and 27km optical budgets. The network design includes twelve (12) TA5000 nodes that will be installed in environmentally hardened locations. The DC plant at each location has 8 hours of runtime on the battery plant. In addition, the AC plant—both in the Central Office and at remote sites—is backed up with generator power to ensure network uptime in the event of commercial power loss.
5. **Fiber Optical Cable Plant:** The fiber architecture is primarily aerial and consists of high fiber count mainline construction which connects to laterals that terminate into multi-station terminals. The drop terminates at a network interface device (NID) installed at the customer premise.
6. **Customer Premise:** The customer premise equipment consists of either ADTRAN 621 or 622V indoor XGS-PON Optical Network Terminals (ONT) equipped with Gigabit Ethernet connections and voice ports, coupled with a residential gateway. The Plume residential gateway also serves as a high-performance wireless router utilizing the 802.11ac protocol and has two wired Gigabit interfaces for customer connectivity. It should be noted that the use of XGS-PON ONTs positions Coosa Valley Technologies to easily offer 10Gbps services without the need for customer premise equipment upgrades in the future.
7. **Industry-Leading Throughput:** The Coosa Valley Technologies network is designed to deliver sub-10ms latency across a 100% non-blocking fiber infrastructure.

8. Gigabit Speed Delivery: Coosa Valley Technologies will have tools in place to monitor traffic and peak utilization of the dedicated internet circuits. Once a peak utilization of 80% is met, additional bandwidth will be added.
3. A discussion of internet speeds, service tier and pricing levels, data caps, etc.

Residential

Coosa Valley Technologies will provide an all-fiber service offering to each resident in the grant area with speeds ranging from a minimum of 200Mbps to 1Gbps, symmetrical. All service offerings have the same download and upload speeds with no data usage cap. Voice services are also included in the service offerings from Coosa Valley Technologies and they include unlimited local and long-distance calling, along with voice mail, caller id, call waiting, call forwarding, and many other features. Voice services will be provided via 3rd party (Logicomm).

All costs in tables 1 and 2 are per month.

Description	Cost	Notes
1 Gbps Data	\$99.95	No usage cap
200/200 Mbps Data	\$59.95	No usage cap
VOIP	\$29.95	Unlimited use; domestic

Table 1 – Proposed Residential Service Offerings and Rates

Commercial

Coosa Valley Technologies' commercial service offerings are still in the planning and consideration stages. However, the network (as described in this application) will be capable of offering business class services. Potential (future) broadband service tiers for commercial use could range from 200Mbps to 10Gbps. Any eventual commercial service offerings would be designed to meet a variety of needs spanning from an entrepreneur working from home all the way to the largest multinational corporation.

Commercial voice services, if launched, would also be provided via 3rd party – Logicomm.

Description	Cost	Notes
10 Gbps Data Business	\$7,995.95	No usage cap, additional capabilities included for static IP and SLA
1 Gbps Data Business Enterprise	\$699.95	No usage cap, additional capabilities included for static IP and SLA
200/200 Mbps Data Business Pro	\$199.95	No usage cap, additional capabilities included for static IP and SLA
VOIP	\$34.95	Unlimited use (per line); domestic

Table 2 - Potential Future Business Service Offerings with Estimated Rates¹

4. A preliminary technical evaluation of the project that is certified by an engineer. This evaluation should document the ability of the proposed infrastructure to provide the minimum speeds required to all potential customers in the project area. The evaluation shall also include a project cost estimate, project schedule and timeline to include a completion date of no more than two years, and maps showing the proposed project area. Furthermore, the evaluation should demonstrate how promised speeds will be delivered consistently to the project area, show how the network will work using the proposed equipment, and demonstrate how the backhaul will be provided. **Maps shall be in .shp, .kml, or .kmz formats.**

Additionally, maps shall clearly show area eligibility (unserved areas and rural areas). Generally, applicants may establish that an area is unserved by using the ADECA Broadband map showing unserved areas (<http://adeca.alabama.gov/broadband>). However, applicants are strongly encouraged to conduct a field review. If an area shown as unserved on ADECA's map but becomes served prior to the execution of the grant agreement, the project may not be eligible for funding. **An applicant will be required to receive approval from ADECA for methodology prior to submitting an application. Generally, the methodology will include testing or documentation at both ends of a street in question. A map showing all test sites must be included in the application.**

5. A discussion of the operator's technical and managerial capabilities to complete the project within two years of the effective date of the grant award. Please be aware that grants shall be conditioned on project completion within two years of awarding of the grant. If a recipient fails to complete a project within the two-year deadline due to reasons other than delay caused by a government entity, ADECA may revoke the grant in its entirety.

The current management team has successfully led the Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative in providing electric power for its residents and businesses for many years. The electric cooperative leadership team also fills the same roles for Coosa Valley Technologies—established in 2020 to provide broadband services to its members—and is currently reviewing qualifications for direct hires who will work specifically on the

¹ Coosa Valley Technologies has not yet decided whether a full commercial suite of broadband and voice service offerings will be developed and made available to future business subscribers.

broadband project. Coosa Valley Technologies has also contracted with FiberRise, a highly experienced Fiber Network design, engineering, and implementation firm, based in Huntsville, AL.

The following is a brief description of the management team, their education and job experiences:

The management team is led by General Manager Leland Fuller. Mr. Fuller has a Bachelor of Science in Accounting/Finance from Jacksonville State University. He was hired in 1983 as the Manager of Finance at Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative. In 2007, Leland was promoted to the General Manager of Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative. In total, he has served with the cooperative for 38 years.

CFO: Kim Maye has 29 years' experience in Accounting. Kim is a graduate of Jacksonville State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting. Kim has been with Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative's accounting department for 24 years. In 2014, she was promoted to the CFO position at Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative. Kim has maintained a very strong financial equity for the cooperative by developing budgets and strategic plans to manage and minimize expenses. By keeping overall business expenses low, the cooperative can keep consumers power rates low. Electric rates for Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative members have not increased in several years.

Engineering Manager: Ryan Hart has 22 years of Electric Distribution Experience. Ryan is a graduate of the University of Alabama at Birmingham and is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Alabama. His experience with line design and knowledge of the National Electric Safety Code (NESC) has been instrumental in advancing the fiber optic build from paper to construction. Ryan has managed the Information Technology Department for many years which has allowed him to benefit from knowledge of how the internet protocol systems work.

Manager of Marketing and Member Services: Jon Cullimore began working with Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative in 2001. Jon graduated from the University of South Florida in 1994 with a bachelor's degree in Mass Communications. Among other accomplishments, Jon led the launch of the cooperative's prepaid metering program after deployment of smart meters completed in 2010. This program provided Coosa Valley Electric members many more flexible tools with which to manage and pay for their electric services.

Operations Manager: Ray Brewer leads the operations team for Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative. With a background in construction and heavy equipment, Mr. Brewer attended state-sponsored schools and studied blueprint reading, drafting, and manufacturing. His Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative career began in 1986 and he has excelled in a variety of positions spanning right of way, lineman construction, service, staking engineer, and purchasing agent/warehouse manager. Mr. Brewer took over as

Operations Manager two years ago and his breadth of experience has driven more efficiency to the cooperative's day to day operations. The main priority of the cooperative's operations team is to keep our employees safe and respond to our consumer's needs. Under Mr. Brewer's leadership, Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative have been 1,623 days without an accident.

6. A discussion of the applicant's average pole attachment rates charged to an unaffiliated entity (does not apply to a utility as defined under Section 37-4-1 (7)a).

Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative currently has pole attachment contracts with AT&T, CenturyLink, Hargray Communications, Unity Fiber, Windstream, and Charter Communications. These contracts were negotiated and executed through the Alabama Rural Electric Association. The 2020 average pole attachment rate charged to these companies is \$25.89.

7. A discussion of the applicant's plan to use vendors and subcontractors that have been certified as a Minority Business Enterprise by the Alabama Minority Business Enterprise program and/or certified by another government entity as being a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise. Please be advised if an applicant chooses to claim consideration under this criterion, a quarterly report documenting activities will be required.

One of the primary reasons Coosa Valley Technologies elected to build their fiber to the home network is because our management is committed to economic development in the region. Coosa Valley Technologies will review the list of contractors and vendors in the Alabama Minority Business Enterprise Program or any such vendor or contractor who is certified by another government entity as being a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise when issuing RFQ's for this project.

8. A discussion of Middle Mile Projects (if applicable). The applicant shall demonstrate that the project will connect other service providers eligible for grants under this section with broadband infrastructure further upstream in order to enable such providers to offer broadband service to end users; provided that eligible projects under this subdivision may include projects in (i) an unserved area or (ii) a rural area that does not meet the definition of an unserved area but otherwise meets the requirements of this section, for which the grant applicant demonstrates, by specific evidence, the need for greater broadband speeds, capacity, or service which is not being offered by an existing service provider. An example of specific evidence can be found in the Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund Frequently Asked Questions.

One of the main goals of Coosa Valley Technologies is to help make the communities we serve a place where people want to live and work. Coosa Valley Technologies would like to see the entire region of east-central Alabama grow and become an important economic engine for Alabama and beyond. Coosa Valley Technologies is working with our fellow Alabama electric cooperatives and the state cooperative association to

explore the formation of an organization that will enable us to establish reliable middle mile connective for broadband across the state. Coosa Valley Technologies is willing and eager to help any entity that wants to provide broadband service to Alabama's citizens.

9. A discussion of hospital, public school, public safety, or economic development projects that do not meet the definition of unserved area, but otherwise meets the requirements of the program (if applicable). The applicant must demonstrate by specific evidence, the need for greater broadband speeds, capacity, or service which is not being offered by an existing service provider. Specific evidence may include documentation such as letters from local hospitals, public schools, and public safety institutions. An example of specific evidence can be found in the Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund Frequently Asked Questions.

While there are no public medical clinics and hospitals in the proposed grant-funded area, Coosa Valley Technologies does plan to offer high speed internet to every hospital and medical clinic located in any area their fiber will pass when the broadband network is completed across their serving area.

With access to Gigabit broadband, the region's medical service locations will gain access to all nationally known and utilized telemedicine websites at a higher rate of broadband speed, which will increase the likelihood of proper and expedited care for patients.

Clinics, hospitals, and physicians located in other areas will be able to monitor patients through Wi-Fi in the home as provided for by the 1 Gigabit broadband connection to each residence. As a result, patient outcomes will significantly improve as will overall quality of life.

While Baptist Health Center, Lincoln Family Practice, and other local healthcare facilities are not in the proposed funded service area for this application, they are located in adjacent Coosa Valley Technologies serving areas. Many of the residents who do reside in the proposed funded service area for this application use these healthcare facilities regularly.

B. Application Budget

This section is worth up to 25 points. Points will be awarded based on verifiable information only.

For the table, please complete the shaded boxes. The unshaded boxes will populate automatically. If you are unable to use the formulas in the table, use the following formulas to calculate the percentages: i) 65 percent of total project cost is calculated by multiplying the total project cost by .65, ii) 35 percent of total project cost is calculated by multiplying the total project cost by .35. The total grant amount cannot exceed the lesser of 35 percent of total project costs, or \$1,500,000. If federal funds are involved in the project, please see number 4 below.

Total Project Cost	\$4,425,844.75
65% of Total Project Cost (minimum match)	\$2,876,799.09
35% of Total Project Cost (grant maximum)	\$1,549,045.66
Total Grant Amount Requested (not to exceed \$1.5 million)	\$1,500,000.00

Please complete the project budget sections below. Any additional documentation can be included in an attachment file titled Attachment B, Project Budget.

1. Itemize eligible project expenses. Generally, eligible expenses will be limited to construction and construction related costs of broadband infrastructure. For the table below, please complete the shaded boxes. The unshaded boxes will populate automatically. Operating expenses will not be eligible expenses. Any additional expenses associated with the project, but not part of the grant budget, should be included in the narrative.

Budget Item	Total Cost	Grant	Match
Engineering/Design	\$357,241.12	\$125,034.39	\$232,206.73
Materials	\$1,668,287.52	\$583,900.63	\$1,084,386.88
Labor	\$178,620.56	\$62,517.20	\$116,103.37
Construction/Installation	\$2,221,695.55	\$728,547.78	\$1,493,147.77
Other (Please Specify)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$4,425,844.75	\$1,500,000.00	\$2,925,844.75

2. A discussion of the applicant's necessary financial resources to:

a. sustain service to the project area (business model); and

The proposed funded service area is a small part of a larger Gigabit broadband construction project Coosa Valley Technologies has undertaken. In October 2020, the board of Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative elected to start Coosa Valley Technologies. Network construction is underway for areas outside the proposed funded service area for this application. The completed network will provide service to portions of six (6) east-central Alabama counties. Coosa Valley Technologies has worked tirelessly to secure all possible resources and ensure the success of this fiber to the home network, and we will continue to do so long after the completion of construction.

b. provide adequate project financing (additional documentation may be requested by ADECA).

To date, Coosa Valley Technologies has invested approximately \$3.5 Million of private capital into their network. An additional \$35 million in low interest loans from the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) has been secured by Coosa Valley Technologies to fund the overall broadband network construction project. Finally, Coosa Valley Technologies, upon approval of their FCC RDOF Phase 1 long-form application, will be awarded \$2,075,460 in Universal Service Fund support over the next ten years to build a portion of the broadband network. Coosa Valley Technologies and its parent, Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative, appreciate the significant investment the state of Alabama is making in order to help bridge the digital divide for Rural Alabama citizens.

3. A discussion of any partners or subcontractors associated with the project's deliverables including but not limited to adoption, deployment, and service delivery. Please describe each party's role in the project.

FiberRise Communications has been contracted to assist in engineering, constructing, and managing the network. FiberRise has extensive experience in this field as its employees have provided broadband and communication service to customers across the United States for several decades. Also to be noted as part of the management team is Project Manager for FiberRise, Marcus Robinson. Mr. Robinson works at the Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative office daily and is responsible for managing the construction and installation of the project and ensuring that tasks are completed on time and that quality goals are met or exceeded as the network is deployed.

In addition, Coosa Valley Technologies has hired Broadband Technical Resources, Inc. as the contractor for fiber optic construction.

4. A discussion of any funds associated with the project. Please explain if the following provisions apply to your project:

- a. Projects to serve unserved areas in which the grant applicant is either or both: (i) an existing or future service provider which has or will receive support through federal universal service funding programs designed specifically to encourage broadband deployment in an area without broadband access; or (ii) an existing or future service provider which has or will receive other forms of federal or state financial support or assistance, such as a grant or loan from the United States Department of Agriculture.

Coosa Valley Technologies participated in the recent Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase 1 Auction. We are still in the process of submitting our long-form application data to the FCC. Once the FCC reviews and approves our application, Coosa Valley Technologies will begin receiving a monthly USF award estimated at \$17,295.53. This award represents federal support to provide broadband to 1,878 RDOF eligible locations in 12 census block groups across the Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative member serving area. At this time, we cannot determine how many of those RDOF eligible locations are within the PFSA for this application because the FCC will not release location-specific data until after our long-form application is approved.

- b. Any award of state funds under this act, when combined with other forms of state or federal support or assistance dedicated to the project, other than interest—bearing loans, may not exceed 60 percent of the total project costs.

The total amount of available state funding available for this application is \$1,500,000. When coupled with the federal USF support noted in the previous paragraph, total federal and state assistance will not exceed more than 60% of the total project cost (\$4,425,844.75) as detailed in this application.

C. Other Program Priorities

Please answer each of the following questions either “yes” or “no.” For each “yes” answer, please provide a brief narrative and any supporting documentation in an attachment labeled Attachment C, Other Program Priorities. Any claims that cannot be verified will receive zero points in our scoring system. “No” answers will receive zero points in our scoring system. **“Yes” answers (that can be verified) will receive up to 10 points.**

Does this project seek to leverage grant funds through private investment?



YES NO
☒ ☐

If yes, include an explanation and documentation in a file titled Attachment C

Will this project be an extension of existing infrastructure?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	If yes, include an explanation and documentation in a file titled Attachment C
Does this project serve locations with demonstrated community support?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	If yes, include an explanation and documentation in a file titled Attachment C
Will this project serve the highest number of unserved homes, businesses, and community anchor points for the least cost?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	If yes, include an explanation and documentation in a file titled Attachment C
Does this project emphasize the highest broadband speeds?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	If yes, include an explanation and documentation in a file titled Attachment C
Will this project provide material broadband enhancements to hospitals located in rural areas?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	If yes, include an explanation and documentation in a file titled Attachment C
Will this project support local libraries in this state for the purpose of assisting the libraries in offering digital literacy training pursuant to state library and archive guidelines?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	If yes, include an explanation and documentation in a file titled Attachment C
Is the applicant a certified Minority Business Enterprise under the Alabama Minority Business Enterprise Program? Or is it certified under another Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If yes, include an explanation and documentation in a file titled Attachment C

D. Certifications

1. The applicant certifies that it is a non-governmental entity.
2. The applicant certifies all new customers served as a result of this project will have access to an internet connection that provides a capacity for transmission at an average speed per customer of at least 25 Mbps download and at least 3 Mbps upload.
3. The applicant certifies that all new customers served as a result of this project are not located within the boundaries of any incorporated city or town having a population in excess of 25,000 inhabitants, according to the last federal census.
4. The applicant certifies that it has the technical and managerial capabilities to complete the project within two years of the effective date of the grant agreement.
5. The applicant certifies that the area to be served does not have at least one provider of terrestrial broadband service that is either: (1) offering a connection to the Internet meeting the minimum service threshold; or (2) is required, under the terms of the Federal Universal Service Fund or other federal or state grant, to provide a connection to the Internet at speeds meeting the minimum service threshold by March 28, 2023.

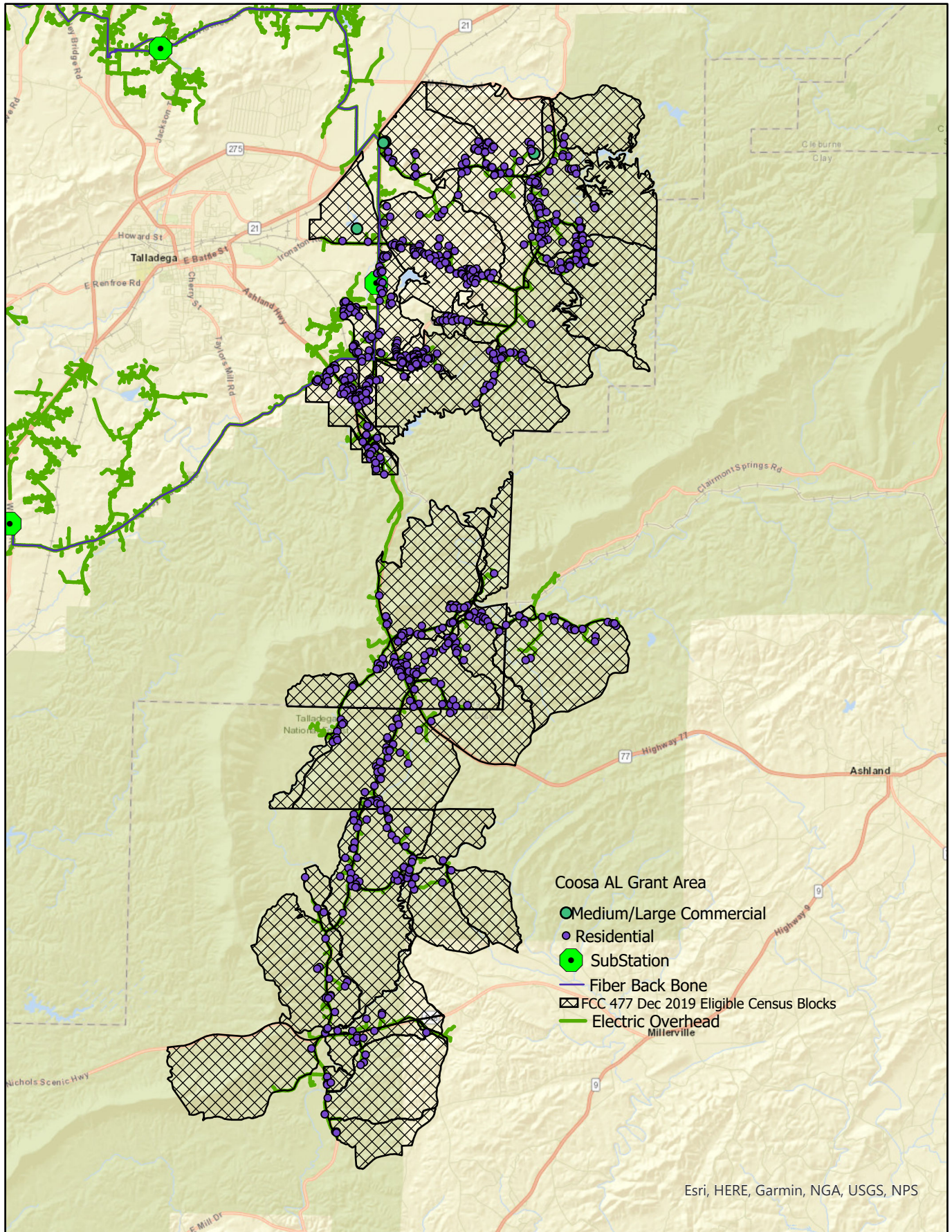
Certification	
I the undersigned am authorized to obligate my entity and enter into agreements for my organization. I understand that the above certifications do not guarantee funding and a grant agreement will be executed prior to project funds being expended. I further understand that if the above statements cannot be verified, no grant funds will be awarded under this program. Finally, to the best of my knowledge the above certifications are true and correct.	
Signature of Applicant: 	Date: 2/8/2021
Title of Applicant: 	

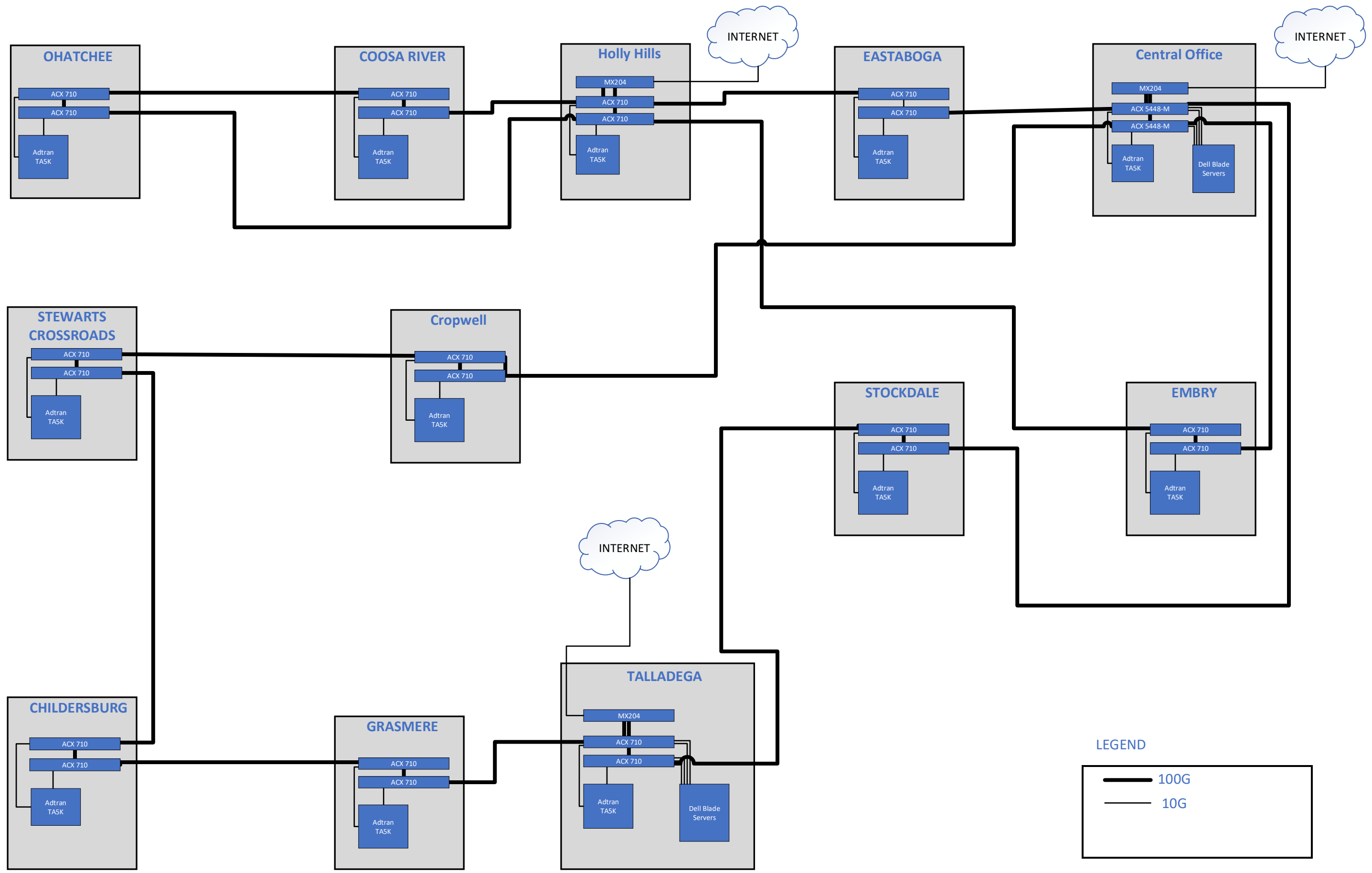
For more information regarding the Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund, please send questions to Chris Murphy at broadband.fund@adeca.alabama.gov, or call (334) 242-5292 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Attachment A-1

Coosa Valley Technologies

ADECA Grant PFSA





CERTIFICATION

for

Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative

Engineering Certification of Feasibility

I am a professional engineer with a valid professional engineer license duly qualified to practice engineering in the State of Mississippi. My seal and registration number are attached below. This document, along with any other Network and/or Engineering design documents for the Fiber to the Premise, for Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative, known as Coosa Valley Revitalization Plan SD-1 in Talladega and Clay Counties in the State of Alabama, have been reviewed under my supervision, and are in compliance and feasible from a Network design and Engineering standpoint.

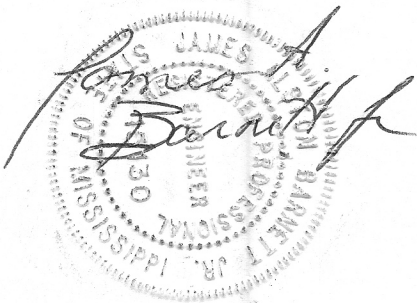
The Network Design is technically viable and meets or exceeds the Network requirements and is capable of delivering speeds of 1Gbps down and 1Gbps up; it is actually capable of exceeding the 1Gbps symmetrical services to all locations within the Proposed Service Area. This review and evaluation includes the project cost estimate, project schedule (including timeline and milestones) to be completed in under two years, and the maps of the proposed project area. All of these are within normal standards and expectations for a project of this magnitude.

Consulting for FiberRise Communications, LLC.

James A. Barnett, JR

P.E.

Mississippi License # 15130



ATTACHMENT C – OTHER PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund 2021 Grant Application

Coosa Valley Technologies

1. Does this project seek to leverage grant funds through private investment?
 - a. Yes. To date, Coosa Valley Technologies has invested over \$3.5 million in private capital into their network. An additional \$35 million in low interest loans is being secured from the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) by Coosa Valley Technologies to fund the overall broadband network construction project. These investments, coupled with an approved ADECA broadband grant will bring Gigabit broadband service to both the 746 eligible locations identified in this application, but also to the broader Coosa Valley Technologies service area, which includes a total of 14,275 cooperative members.
2. Will this project be an extension of existing infrastructure?
 - a. Yes. Coosa Valley Technologies has already embarked on an ambitious project to bring Gigabit broadband service to their 14,275 cooperative members. Although the overall Coosa Valley Technologies broadband project is in its early stages with construction recently getting underway, the ADECA funds will be used to extend the fiber backbone and deliver Gigabit broadband services to the 746 eligible locations identified in this application.
3. Does this project serve locations with demonstrated community support?
 - a. Yes. The attached letters of community support from the following entities exemplify the demonstrated support our community has for the Coosa Valley Technologies broadband initiative:
 - i. Ironaton Volunteer Fire Department
 - ii. Munford Elementary School
 - iii. Lincoln Family Practice
 - iv. State Representative Ben Robbins
 - v. State Representative Steve Hurst
 - vi. Superior Machine and Pattern
 - vii. Aviagen
4. Will this project serve the highest number of unserved homes, businesses, and community anchor points for the least cost?
 - a. Yes. The Coosa Valley Technologies board and leadership understand everyone, regardless of where they choose to live, deserves to have the same quality of life. Because of this vision, they chose to build out the Coosa Valley Technologies Gigabit broadband network. The Coosa Valley Technologies broadband network

will pass every home, business, and community anchor institution in the cooperative membership areas with fiber-optic cable, which will give everyone, even the most rural and unserved residents, the ability to have between 200 Mbps and 10 Gbps symmetrical broadband speeds. The quality of service is second to none, with the highest available speeds and lowest latency; all at the most competitive price points in the area.

The Coosa Valley Technologies broadband network will deliver affordable high-speed internet to unserved school age children, providing them with the critical connectivity resource they need for completing school assignments. The network will provide connectivity to community residents living in the most unserved areas and greatly expand the possibilities for online employment. Coosa Valley Technologies' broadband service will give a lifeline to community residents who are sick and need monitored healthcare and/or access to e-medicine. The overarching goal of Coosa Valley Technologies is to provide our community access to a critical infrastructure that has been sorely lacking in our rural communities for too long: affordable and reliable high-speed internet and voice services.

5. Does this project emphasize the highest broadband speeds?

- a. Yes. The Leadership and Board of Coosa Valley Technologies understand the need for broadband and how the pace of technological change is driving an exponential increase in demand for higher and higher broadband speeds. With this in mind, Coosa Valley Technologies decided not to build a network that merely meets the baseline qualifying broadband rates (25 Mbps downstream/3 Mbps upstream). The Coosa Valley Technologies board wanted to build a network that will provide the best possible service for decades to come.

The minimum speed offered over the Coosa Valley Technologies broadband network is a symmetrical 200 Mbps, meaning both the upload and download speeds will be at least 200 Mbps. However, as constructed, the network will be capable of delivering symmetrical broadband service to residences, community anchors, and businesses up to 10Gbps as the need arises. The Coosa Valley Technologies broadband project has four primary goals with their network, for which access to the highest possible broadband speeds is critical:

Education – Students in America today are behind children in other parts of the world. It is even worse for students in rural areas of Alabama due to the limited resources available to them. National, state, and local news outlets continue to report that a significant number of our state's students lack sufficient broadband to succeed in any type of remote education environment. This has been painfully highlighted during the COVID 19 pandemic. Coosa Valley Technologies is going to change this. Our multi-Gigabit fiber broadband network will pass every home,

giving every student access to the internet speeds required for high quality online tutoring and distance learning—which require high broadband speeds in both downstream and upstream directions.

Healthcare – Healthcare is an issue across the nation today. Costs are skyrocketing and rural hospitals are being forced to close. Doctors are moving to metropolitan hospitals to work, leaving rural citizens to drive long distances or just do without the necessary care. The high-speed symmetrical services offered by Coosa Valley Technologies’ broadband network can change this. Community patients will gain the ability to communicate through e-medicine, allowing them to consult with their local doctor’s office and/or any necessary specialists—from the comfort of their own homes. Home healthcare monitoring will also be possible—and available—using devices connected to an internet service with robust and reliable upload and download speeds.

Economic Development – Coosa Valley Technologies broadband can stimulate economic development. We believe companies must have the ability to download and upload critical business documents through fast, reliable internet connections. Entities from sole proprietorships to multinationals all need global connectivity to prosper and drive our region’s economic growth. If COVID19 has taught us anything about business connectivity needs, it’s that high quality video calls require fast, symmetrical internet service.

Quality of Life – By meeting the ever-evolving needs of our local schools, hospitals, and businesses; by providing robust, always-on connectivity for first responder networks; by delivering a global connected presence to help drive our community’s economic development; and by providing Gigabit connectivity to residents over which they can access enhanced entertainment options, we can underpin a quality of life that will help turn around the population decline in rural Alabama.

To accomplish these goals, the highest broadband speeds available are a necessity, and this is what Coosa Valley Technologies will deliver for central Alabama.

Finally, as noted in the network description, Coosa Valley Technologies will equip the access network with XGS-PON OLTs and install XGS-PON ONTs at every end-user location. This forward-thinking strategy positions Coosa Valley Technologies to easily offer 10Gbps services in the future without the need for costly network and customer premise equipment upgrades.

6. Will this project provide material broadband enhancements to hospitals located in rural areas?

Yes. While there are no hospitals in the proposed funded service area, there are two rural hospitals that will be served by the Coosa Valley Technologies multi-Gigabit fiber network: Baptist Health Center and Lincoln Family Practice. These and other local healthcare facilities are not in the proposed funded service area for this application, however they are located in adjacent Coosa Valley Technologies serving areas. Many of the residents who do reside in the proposed funded service area for this application use these healthcare facilities regularly, and the connectivity Coosa Valley Technologies is delivering will provide both caregivers and patients the critical tools necessary for high quality, remote healthcare services.

7. Will this project support local libraries in this state for the purpose of assisting the libraries in offering digital literacy training pursuant to state library and archive guidelines?

Yes. The Lincoln Public Library (Lincoln, AL) provides many digital services tailored to children of all ages and adult residents of their community. These resources include an online book catalog, e-Books, fifteen computers with internet connectivity, and access to the Alabama Virtual Library through the State of Alabama Library System. In addition, the library provides access to the Homework Help site and Alabama Job Links. Currently, the Lincoln Library operates these digital services on a T1 circuit, which is only 1.5Mbps.

Although the Lincoln Public Library is not within the PFSA for this application, it is within the larger project area that will be served by Coosa Valley Technologies' Gigabit fiber broadband network. In telephone conversations with library staff, it became clear that Gigabit internet access would enable them to offer much improved access to their digital resources. In addition, the locations served as a result of ADECA funding through this grant will gain remote connectivity to the Lincoln Public Library's digital services.

8. Is the applicant a certified Minority Business Enterprise under the Alabama Minority Business Enterprise Program? Or is it certified under another Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program?

No.

Ironaton Volunteer Fire Department

4025 Ironaton Rd.

Talladega, AL 35160

Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative

Mr. Leland Fuller, General Manager

69220 AL Hwy 77

To Mr. Fuller

On behalf of Ironaton Volunteer Fire Department , I am writing this letter to express the personal and professional support of Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative's (CVEC) efforts to obtain State ADECA Grant funding for their Coosa Valley Revitalization Plan SD-1. Rural cooperatives were established to provide services for their members since 1939, CVEC has been dedicated to provide electricity and other critical community services to enhance the lives of their rural members. The cooperative has been actively involved in economic development activities to bring jobs to the area. To assist with these additional services , their efforts to seek financial support to provide broadband services for their communities again confirms the commitment CVEC brings to advancing life in rural central and east-central Alabama.

I authorize Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. to include my feedback in any applications that they may file with state agencies administering these Broadband stimulus programs and of equal importance, encourage those reviewing these applications to look on a program that will have long-term positive benefits for our organization and our community at large.

For further questions I can be reached at (356)493-1460 or wrightdd1960@att.net

Signed



Chief

Ironaton Volunteer Fire Department



Munford Elementary School
365 Cedars Rd
Munford, AL 36268

February 5, 2021

Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Mr. Leland Fuller, General Manager
69220 AL-77
Talladega, AL 35160

Mr. Fuller: [REDACTED]

On behalf of Munford Elementary School, I am writing this letter to express the personal and professional support of Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative's (CVEC) efforts to obtain State ADECA Grant funding for their Coosa Valley Revitalization Plan SD-1. Rural cooperatives were established to provide services for their members. Since 1939, CVEC has been dedicated to providing electricity and other critical community services to enhance the lives of their rural members. The cooperative has been actively involved in economic development activities to bring jobs to the area. To assist with these additional services, their efforts to seek financial support to provide broadband services for their communities again confirms the commitment CVEC brings to advancing life in rural central and east-central Alabama.

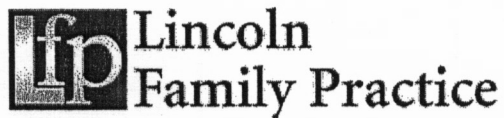
I authorize Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. to include my feedback in any applications that they may file with state agencies administering these Broadband stimulus programs and, of equal importance, encourage those reviewing these applications to look favorably on a program that will have long-term positive benefits for our organization and our community at large.

For further questions, I can be reached at 256-315-5250 or katyturner@tcboe.org

Signed,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Katy Turner'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'K' and 'T'.

Katy Turner
Assistant Principal
Munford Elementary School
Talladega County Schools



1100 Patton Chapel Rd. Lincoln, AL 35096
P (205) 763-1414 F (205) 763-1447

February 3, 2021


Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Mr. Leland Fuller, General Manager
69220 AL Hwy 77
Talladega, AL 35160

Mr. Fuller:

On behalf of Lincoln Family Practice, I am writing this letter to express the personal and professional support of Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative's (CVEC) efforts to obtain State ADECA Grant funding for their Coosa Valley Revitalization Plan SD-1. Rural cooperatives were established to provide services for their members. Since 1939, CVEC has been dedicated to providing electricity and other critical community services to enhance the lives of their rural members. The cooperative has been actively involved in economic development activities to bring jobs to the area. To assist with these additional services, their efforts to seek financial support to provide broadband services for their communities again confirms the commitment CVEC brings to advancing life in rural central and east-central Alabama.

I authorize Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. to include my feedback in any applications that they may file with state agencies administering these Broadband stimulus programs and, of equal importance, encourage those reviewing these applications to look favorably on a program that will have long-term positive benefits for our organization and our community at large.

For further questions, I can be reached at 205-763-1414 or
meponder@lincolnfamilypactice.com.

Signed,

Mark E. Ponder, MD
Lincoln Family Practice



ALABAMA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

11 S. UNION STREET, MONTGOMERY ALABAMA 36130

REP. Ben Robbins

DISTRICT NO. 33

726 Stone Ave.

Talladega, ALABAMA 36268

STATE HOUSE: 334-261-0477

DISTRICT: 205-907-0591

EMAIL: ben.robbins@alhouse.gov

February 3, 2021

Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Mr. Leland Fuller, General Manager

69220 AL HWY 77

Talladega, AL 35160

Mr. Fuller:

As the newly elected State Representative for Alabama House District 33, I am writing this letter to express the personal and professional support of Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative's (CVEC) efforts to obtain State ADECA Grant funding for their Coosa Valley Revitalization Plan SD-1. Rural cooperatives were established to provide services for their members. Since 1939, CVEC has been dedicated to providing electricity and other critical community services to enhance the lives of their rural members. The cooperative has been actively involved in economic development activities to bring jobs to the area. To assist with these additional services, their efforts to seek financial support to provide broadband services for their communities again confirms the commitment CVEC brings to advancing life in rural central and east-central Alabama

I represent parts of Talladega, Coosa, and Clay Counties in the State House. I know first hand that the areas this project will provide internet to families with school age children that are without any internet option. Without internet these communities will continue to be deprived of reliable internet. This project will be of vital importance in maintaining populations in our rural communities and seeing them thrive in the future.

I authorize Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. to include my feedback in any applications that they may file with state agencies administering these Broadband stimulus programs and, of equal importance, encourage those reviewing these applications to look favorably on a program that will have long-term positive benefits for our organization and our community at large.

For further questions, I can be reached at (205) 907-5091 or ben.robbins@alhouse.gov.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Robbins", is written over a horizontal line.

Ben Robbins

Alabama House of Representatives

District 33



ALABAMA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

11 S. UNION STREET, MONTGOMERY ALABAMA 36130

REP. STEVE HURST
DISTRICT NO. 35
155 QUAIL RUN TRAIL
MUNFORD, ALABAMA 36268

STATE HOUSE: 334-353-9215
DISTRICT: 256-761-1935
EMAIL: repsteveturst@att.net

February 5, 2021

Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Mr. Leland Fuller

69220

Alabama Highway 77

Talladega, Alabama 35160

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. I am writing this letter to express the personal and professional support of Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative's (CVEC) efforts to obtain State ADECA funding for their project Coosa Valley Revitalization Plan SD-1. Rural Cooperatives were established to provide services for their members. Since 1939 CVEC has been dedicated to providing electricity and other critical community services to enhance the lives of their rural members. The cooperative has been actively involved in economic development activities to bring jobs to the area. To assist with these additional services for their communities again confirms the commitment CVEC brings to advancing life in rural central and east-central Alabama.

I have been a State Representative for 22 years and represent Clay, Calhoun and Talladega County. I am a very strong supporter of Broadband and I know that Coosa Valley Electric will be a professional provider.

I authorize Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. to include my feedback in any applications that they may file with state agencies administering these Broadband stimulus programs and, of equal importance, encourage those reviewing these applications to look favorably on a program that will have long-term positive benefits for our organization and our community at large.

For further questions, I can be reached@ 256-589-2852 or repsteveturst98@gmail.com

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Hurst". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "S" and a cursive "Hurst".

Steve Hurst



February 5, 2021

Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Mr. Leland Fuller, General Manager
69220 Alabama Highway 77
Talladega, Alabama 35160

Mr. Fuller:

On behalf of Superior Machine and Pattern, Inc., I am submitting this letter in support of Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative's (CVEC) efforts to obtain funding through ADECA for their Coosa Valley Revitalization Plan SD-1. We have been a customer of CVEC for several decades and have a strong working relationship with them. Our company employs over 30 people and we have been in business for 40 years. Due to our rural location one of the greatest challenges we face on a day to day basis is the lack of reliable internet. This challenge has limited our ability to expand in to more high tech applications that are available in our field. CVEC's commitment to bring broadband to rural areas in central Alabama will open many doors for our company.

I authorize CVEC to include my support in any applications that they may file with state agencies administering these broadband stimulus programs and, of equal importance, encourage those reviewing these applications to look favorably on this program that will have long-term positive benefits for our company.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (256) 362-1385 or chris@sup-mach.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Christopher D. Dalton'.

Christopher D. Dalton
Vice-President
Superior Machine and Pattern



February 4, 2021

Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Mr. Leland Fuller, General Manager
69220 Al. Hwy 77
Talladega, Alabama 35160

Mr. Fuller:

On behalf of Aviagen, I would like to express our personal and professional support of Coosa Valley Electric Cooperative's (CVEC's) efforts to obtain Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) Grant funding for their Coosa Valley Revitalization Plan SD-1. Rural cooperatives were established to provide services for their members. Since 1939, CVEC has been dedicated to providing electricity and other critical community services to enhance the lives of your rural members, and you have been actively involved in economic development activities to bring jobs to the area.

Your efforts to seek financial support to bring broadband services to your communities again confirms your commitment to advancing life in rural central and east-central Alabama. Broadband technology is impacting every part of our lives in today's rapidly changing world, and can enhance the way we work and live. Affordable, redundant and abundant broadband is quickly becoming the most critical infrastructure of our time, just like electricity, transportation, and roadways were early last century. Community broadband networks offer high-quality internet access to residents and businesses, encourage market competition, and enable local economic development. With today's societies depending more and more on innovation and connectivity to thrive economically and socially, high-speed internet is critical infrastructure to keep businesses competitive and growing.

I authorize CVEC to include my feedback in any applications filed with state agencies administering broadband stimulus programs and, of equal importance, encourage those reviewing these applications to look favorably on a program that will have long-term positive benefits for our organization and our community at large.

For further questions, I can be reached at 256-761-7077, or tcooper@aviagen.com.

With Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tommy M. Cooper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tommy M. Cooper
Talladega Hatchery Manager
Aviagen, Inc.