

# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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: CEC FTTH Project RL-1

Legal Name of Entity: Covington Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Mailing Address: 18836 US Highway 84; Andalusia, AL 36421

Name and Title of CEO: Charles E. Short

Name and Title of Contact: Mark Parker, Senior Vice President and COO

Phone Number and Email of Contact: (334) 427-3503, mparker@covington.coop

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	788
Number of Businesses / Industries to be served	3
Number of Community Anchors to be served	0

Covington Electric Cooperative is applying for this grant funding in support of a Gigabit fiber broadband project. The project will build 205 miles of mainline fiber that will pass 791 eligible locations made up of 788 residences and 3 businesses. Engineering and construction are scheduled to take eleven (11) months, with initial customer installations slated to be complete at the end of eighteen (18) months. The total cost for this project is calculated to be \$5,542,515.11 and Covington Electric Cooperative 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:**

Covington Electric Cooperative launched their broadband project in 2021 for the sole purpose of building a much-needed Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) network to deliver Gigabit broadband services and improve communications to the electric distribution grid for the areas of Covington, Coffee, Crenshaw, Dale, Geneva, and Escambia Counties that are within our members' electric serving area.

Construction of the broadband network began in January 2021, with 14 miles of fiber built as of the date of this application. Today, there are 18,609 cooperative members in our electric service area. Our overall project plan will build Gigabit fiber broadband services to all Covington Electric Cooperative Members.

The primary operation center or "Central Office" (CO) is collocated within the Covington Electric Cooperative office building in Andalusia, AL. There are or will be additional network elements located at 10 Covington Electric Cooperative Substations. These locations include Kinston, Enterprise, Basin, Brantley, Red Level, Five Runs, Gantt, Carolina, Beda, and Moore Road.

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.

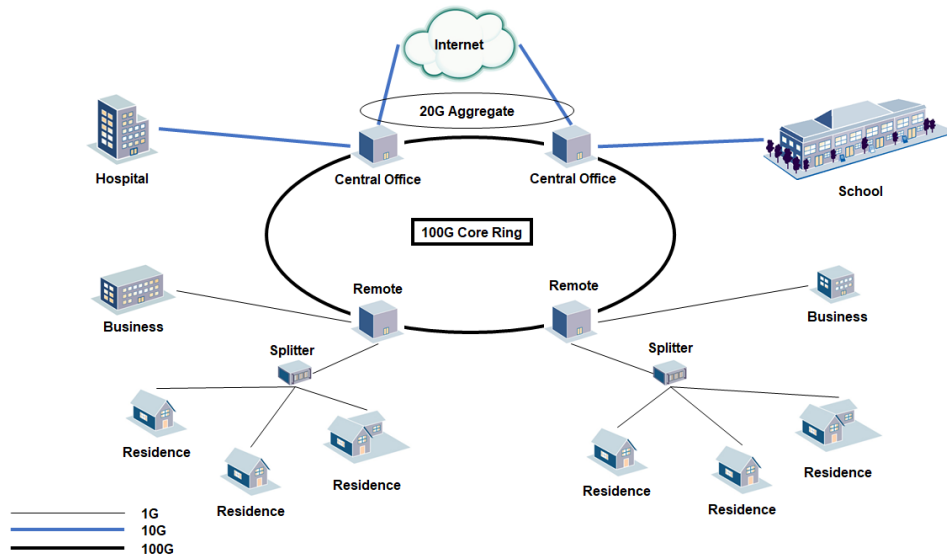


Figure 1 - Generic block diagram of GPON Technology Employed by Covington Electric Cooperative

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 Covington Electric Cooperative’s 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**

Covington Electric Cooperative 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: Covington Electric Cooperative will employ two (2) geo-redundant 10 Gbps circuits with an as-yet undecided DIA provider. DIA uplinks will be served through our Andalusia and Enterprise network locations and connect to Tier 1 providers for access to the internet. These circuits will be easily scalable to 100 Gbps as demand necessitates. The links will utilize BGP to announce Covington Electric Cooperative's 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 the Andalusia and Enterprise network locations and serve both DIA connections.
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, Covington Electric Cooperative provides for equipment redundancy on the 20Gbps active/active LAGs with LACP that, in turn, provide network continuity to the access nodes throughout Covington Electric Cooperative's broadband footprint. The aggregation switches are located in the Andalusia, Kinston, Enterprise, Red Level, Gantt, Dozier, Brantley, and Basin network sites.

4. Access Equipment: The FTTH network will utilize GPON technology from the non-blocking ADTRAN TA5000 octal 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 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 ten (10) 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 a TA411 indoor Optical Network Terminal (ONT) with 1 Gigabit Ethernet connection and 1 POTS port which is 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 (2) wired Gigabit interfaces for customer connectivity.
7. Industry-Leading Throughput: The Covington Electric Cooperative network is designed to deliver sub-10ms latency across a 100% non-blocking fiber infrastructure.
8. Gigabit Speed Delivery: Covington Electric Cooperative will have tools in place to monitor 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**

Covington Electric Cooperative will provide an all-fiber service offering to each resident in the grant area with speeds ranging from a minimum of 200Mbps to 2Gbps, 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 Covington Electric Cooperative 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 3<sup>rd</sup> party – Chattanooga Electric Power Board (EPB).

All costs in tables 1 and 2 are per month.

Description	Cost	Notes
<b>2 Gbps Data</b>	\$99.95	No usage cap
<b>1 Gbps Data</b>	\$79.95	No usage cap
<b>200/200 Mbps Data</b>	\$59.95	No usage cap
<b>VOIP</b>	\$29.95	Unlimited use; domestic

*Table 1 - Residential Service Offerings and Rates*

### **Commercial**

Covington Electric Cooperative's 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 3<sup>rd</sup> party – Chattanooga Electric Power Board (EPB).

Description	Est. Cost	Notes
<b>10 Gbps Data Business</b>	\$1,995.95	No usage cap, additional capabilities included for static IP and SLA
<b>1 Gbps Data Business Enterprise</b>	\$499.95	No usage cap, additional capabilities included for static IP and SLA
<b>200/200 Mbps Data Business Lite</b>	\$199.95	No usage cap, additional capabilities included for static IP and SLA
<b>Basic VoIP</b>	\$29.95	(per line) Unlimited use; domestic

*Table 2 – Potential Future Business Service Offerings with Estimated Rates<sup>1</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> Covington Electric Cooperative 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.

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 Covington Electric Cooperative in providing electric power for its residents and businesses for over 30 years. Covington Electric Cooperative is currently reviewing qualifications for direct hires who will work specifically on the broadband project. Covington Electric Cooperative has also contracted with FiberRise, a highly experienced Fiber Network design, engineering, and implementation firm, based in Huntsville, AL.

The Covington management team is led by CEO, President, and General Manager Charles "Ed" Short. Mr. Short has over 45 years' experience in the management of electric service delivery. During his time, Mr. Short was the key figure in establishing AlaWeb Internet Service's growth and expansion to serve over 10,000 dial-up customers located in South Alabama. He has managed the restoration of cooperative facilities after two major hurricanes and promoted the use of new technologies to improve overall efficiencies at the cooperatives, which equips him to be a strong leader for this team and their broadband project efforts. He holds an Aviation Management degree from Auburn University.

COO/Senior Vice President: Mark G. Parker serves as the Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for CEC. He has over thirty years in the electric utility industry. He has managed information technology, member services, and communications during his tenure with the cooperative. Mark has served in a key role in the implementation of new technologies throughout the cooperative. He has a degree in Business Administration from Troy State at Dothan.

Vice President of Finance and Member Relations: Kimberly M. Carter has served as the Vice President of Finance and Member Relations for the past two years. During this time, Kim has led implementation of many positive changes to our members' service programs. Kim has over 20 years of experience in finance and accounting for electric utilities. During her tenure, she has overseen and managed over 100 million dollars in loans from the USDA Rural Utilities Services Program for the cooperative. She holds a BA degree in Accounting from Auburn University at Montgomery and an MBA in Business Administration from Troy State University.

Vice President of Operations: Serving as CEC's Vice President of Operations for the past four years, Bert L. Champion has over 30 years of experience in engineering, line construction, staking, and operations of an electric utility. Bert was key in the implementation of the electronic staking process and has extensive knowledge in staking engineering and project management. During his career he has worked as a Covington Electric Cooperative Safety Consultant and Staking Engineer/Project Manager. He currently manages and is responsible for the overall operation of the CEC electric system. He holds a degree in Business Administration from Faulkner University.

Operations Manager: Randall Helms is the current Operations Manager for CEC and has over 35 years of experience in electric distribution. He manages the daily operations of the maintenance and construction of the CEC electric system. Currently, CEC maintains over 2,700 miles of electric lines and sixteen substations serving over 22,000 meters.

System Engineer: Steven R. Walker has served as the System Engineer for CEC for the past sixteen years and has over twenty years of experience with the cooperative. He is a licensed Professional Engineer and has a degree in Electrical Engineering from Auburn University. Steven is responsible for design, development, and overall system engineering of the CEC electric system.

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).

Covington Electric Cooperative currently has pole attachment contracts with CenturyLink, Bell South, Fairpoint Communications, MediaCom, Charter Spectrum, and Troy Cable. These contracts were negotiated and executed through the Alabama Rural Electric Association and TRC Solutions, a consulting company located in Douglasville, Georgia. The 2020 average pole attachment rate charged to these companies is \$29.17.

Covington Electric calculates pole attachment rental rates based on the FCC Telecom Formula methodology, which incorporates the cost of providing space on the pole to communications attachers. This assignment of space includes the sharing of (1) the pole's usable space in direct proportion to the one foot of space presumed to be occupied by the attacher and (2) a portion of the pole's unusable space equally among all attaching entities (including the pole owner). These space allocations are then applied in the formula for recovery of the pole owner's administrative, maintenance, and capital costs of pole ownership.

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.

Historically, Covington Electric Cooperative has always encouraged the participation of small, minority and women-owned electric power line construction business enterprises in our projects. As an example, we have attached a copy of our annual letter seeking emergency power restoration crews. Our policy also requests, when possible, majority contractors who require a subcontractor seek qualified small, minority and women-owned companies to partner with them. CEC assures equal opportunity in all our employment practices.

One of the primary reasons Covington Electric Cooperative elected to build their fiber to the home network is because our management is committed to economic development in the region. Covington Electric Cooperative 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. As Covington Electric Cooperative prepares to activate our first broadband subscribers, we will be purchasing some amount of the customer premise equipment from KGP Telecommunications, a certified Women's Business Enterprise.

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 Covington Electric Cooperative is to help make the communities we serve a place where people want to live and work. Covington Electric Cooperative would like to see the entire region of south-central Alabama grow and become an important economic engine for Alabama and beyond. Covington Electric Cooperative 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. Covington Electric Cooperative 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, Covington Electric Cooperative 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 the full 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 Andalusia Hospital and Opp's Mizell Memorial Hospital are not in the proposed funded service area for this application, they are located in adjacent Covington Electric Cooperative serving areas. Many of the residents who do reside in the proposed funded service area for this application use these healthcare facilities regularly.

In addition to the overall broadband network coverage for medical care facilities as noted above, the Covington Electric Cooperative network will also provide Gigabit broadband access for a nearby community school and several anchor institutions: Red Level School, Red Level City Hall, Red Level Police Department, and the Red Level Volunteer Fire Department. Although these institutions are not specifically within the PFSA, Gigabit service availability for them will provide community benefits for residents

within the PFSA by improving communication tools and response times for first responders.

**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	\$5,542,515.11
65% of Total Project Cost (minimum match)	\$3,602,634.82
35% of Total Project Cost (grant maximum)	\$1,939,880.29
<b>Total Grant Amount Requested (not to exceed \$1.5 million)</b>	<b>\$1,500,000.00</b>

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.

<b>Budget Item</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>Grant</b>	<b>Match</b>
Engineering/Design	\$486,741.76	\$131,462.40	\$355,435.36
Materials	\$1,603,128.74	\$434,618.82	\$1,175,080.51
Labor	\$243,370.88	\$65,731.20	\$177,717.68
Construction/Installation	\$3,209,273.72	\$868,187.59	\$2,340,938.24
Other (Please Specify)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,542,515.11</b>	<b>\$1,500,000.00</b>	<b>\$4,049,171.80</b>

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 Covington Electric Cooperative has undertaken. In December 2020, the board of Covington Electric Cooperative elected to approve the broadband project. 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) south-central Alabama counties. Covington Electric Cooperative 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, Covington Electric Cooperative has invested over two million dollars of private capital into their network. An additional \$30 million in low interest loans is being secured from the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation by Covington Electric Cooperative to fund the overall broadband network construction project. Finally, Covington Electric Cooperative, upon approval of their FCC RDOF Phase 1 long-form application, will be awarded \$13,830,640 in Universal Service Fund support over the next ten years to build a portion of the broadband network. Covington Electric Cooperative appreciates 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, Mike Hawkins. Mr. Hawkins works at the Covington 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.

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.

Covington Electric Cooperative 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, Covington Electric Cooperative will begin receiving a monthly USF award estimated at \$115,255. This award represents federal support to provide broadband to 4,301 RDOF eligible locations in 42 census block groups across the Covington 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 (\$5,542,515.11) 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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	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 type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" 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

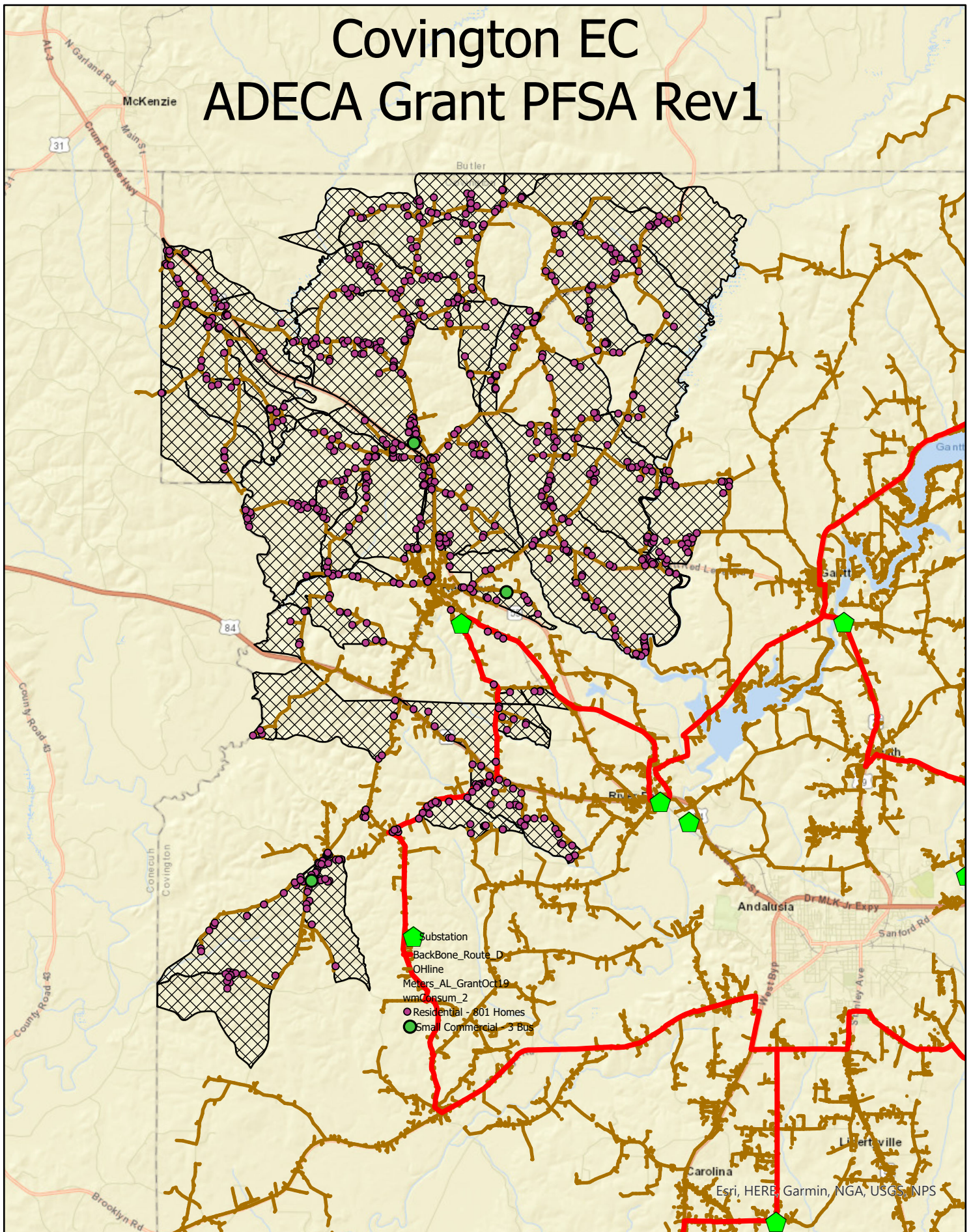
1. The applicant certifies that it is a non-governmental entity.
2. The applicant certifies all new customers served as a result of this project will have access to an internet connection that provides a capacity for transmission at an average speed per customer of at least 25 Mbps download and at least 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.

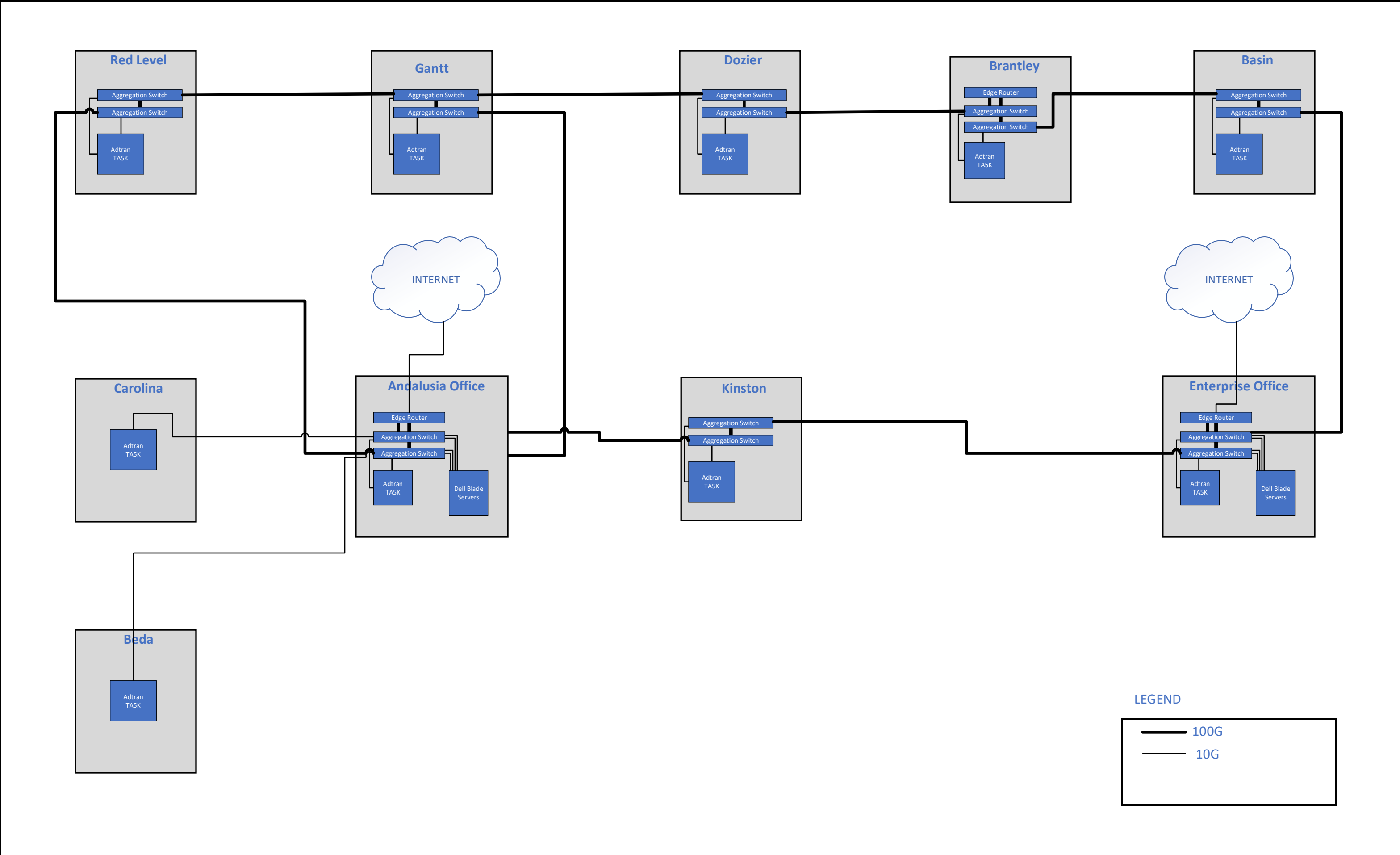
Certification	
I the undersigned am authorized to obligate my entity and enter into agreements for my organization. I understand that the above certifications do not guarantee funding and a grant agreement will be executed prior to project funds being expended. I further understand that if the above 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: <i>Mark Parker</i>	Date: March 25, 2021
Title of Applicant: Senior Vice President and COO	

For more information regarding the Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund, please send questions to Chris Murphy at [broadband.fund@adeca.alabama.gov](mailto: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.

# Covington EC

## ADECA Grant PFSA Rev1







CERTIFICATION

for

Covington 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 Covington Electric Cooperative, known as CEC FTTH Project RL-1 in Covington County 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**

#### **Covington Electric Cooperative**

1. Does this project seek to leverage grant funds through private investment?
  - a. Yes. To date, Covington Electric Cooperative has invested over two million dollars of private capital into their network. An additional \$30 million in low interest loans is being secured from the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation by Covington Electric Cooperative 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 804 eligible locations identified in this application, but also to the broader Covington service area, which includes a total of 18,609 cooperative members.
2. Will this project be an extension of existing infrastructure?
  - a. Yes. Covington Electric Cooperative has already embarked on an ambitious project to bring Gigabit broadband service to their 18,609 cooperative members. Although the overall Covington 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 804 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 Covington broadband initiative:
    - i. Covington County Commission
    - ii. City of Andalusia
    - iii. Covington County Schools
    - iv. Covington County Economic Development Commission
    - v. Andalusia Area Chamber of Commerce
4. Will this project serve the highest number of unserved homes, businesses, and community anchor points for the least cost?
  - a. Yes. The Covington Electric Cooperative 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 Covington Gigabit broadband network. The Covington Electric Cooperative 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 100

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.

Specific examples of education and public service anchors that are nearby, but not within the PFSA for this project are Red Level School, Red Level City Hall, Red Level Police Department, and the Red Level Volunteer Fire Department. Gigabit service availability for these and other community anchors will benefit residents within the PFSA, for example, by improving communication tools and response times for first responders.

The Covington Electric Cooperative 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. Covington Electric 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 Covington Electric Cooperative's 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 Covington Electric Cooperative 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, Covington Electric Cooperative decided not to build a network that merely meets the baseline qualifying broadband rates (25 Mbps downstream/3 Mbps upstream). The Covington Electric Cooperative board wanted to build a network that will provide the best possible service for decades to come.

The minimum speed offered over the Covington Electric Cooperative broadband network is a symmetrical 100 Mbps, meaning both the upload and download speeds will be at least 100 Mbps. The Covington Electric Cooperative 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. Covington Electric Cooperative is going to change this. Our Gigabit fiber broadband network will pass every home, giving every student the internet speeds required for high quality access to online tutoring and distance learning—which requires 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 100 Mbps symmetrical speeds offered by Covington Electric’s broadband network can change this. Community patients will gain the ability to communicate through e-medicine, allowing them to see necessary specialists from their local doctor’s office—even from their 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 – Covington Electric Cooperative 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 and multinationals all need global connectivity to prosper and drive our region’s economic growth. If COVID19 has taught us anything about business, 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 Covington Electric Cooperative will deliver for south-central Alabama.

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 Covington Electric Cooperative Gigabit fiber network: Andalusia Hospital and Opp’s Mizell Memorial Hospital. Both facilities are located in adjacent Covington Electric Cooperative serving areas. Many of the residents



who do reside in the proposed funded service area for this application use these healthcare facilities regularly.

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?

No.

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.



# The Covington County Commission

260 Hillcrest Drive  
Post Office Box 188  
Andalusia, Alabama 36420  
334/428-2610  
FAX: 334/428-2606

February 4, 2021

Covington Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Charles E. Short, President & CEO  
18836 US Hwy 84  
Andalusia, Alabama 36420

To Whom It May Concern:

The Covington County Commission is pleased to provide this letter, expressing our full support of Covington Electric Cooperative's (CEC) efforts to obtain State ADECA Grant funding for their CEC FTTH Project RL-1.

Rural cooperatives were established to provide services for their members. Since 1944 CEC has been dedicated to providing electricity and services such as: internet, water and Rural TV to enhance the life of their members throughout Covington County. Further, the cooperative has been actively involved in economic development activities aimed at bringing jobs to their service area. Enhanced broadband service is vital to improving Covington County's likelihood of success in economic development, as well as in providing basic opportunities for many of our young people in their academic pursuits. CEC's efforts to seek financial support to provide broadband services for their communities again confirms the commitment they bring to advancing life in rural south Alabama.

We authorize Covington Electric Cooperative, Inc. to include this feedback in any applications that they may file with state agencies administering these Broadband stimulus programs, and of equal importance, we encourage those reviewing these applications to look favorably on a program that will have long-term positive benefits for our county.

Thanks for your consideration of this correspondence, and of the Covington Electric application.

The Covington County Commission

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregory B. White, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kenneth Northey, Commissioner, District 1

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Smith, Commissioner, District 2

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tony Holmes, Commissioner, District 3

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tommy McGaha, Commissioner, District 4

**Gregory B. White**  
Chairman

**Kenneth Northey**  
District 1

**Michael Smith**  
District 2

**Tony L. Holmes**  
District 3

**Tommy McGaha**  
District 4

**Karen L. Sowell**  
Administrator



ANDALUSIA CITY HALL

CITY OF  
**ANDALUSIA**

EARL V. JOHNSON, MAYOR  
JOHN M. THOMPSON, CITY ADMINISTRATOR

CITY COUNCIL  
JOE NIX  
KENNITH C. MOUNT  
HAZEL GRIFFIN  
RALPH WELLS  
TERRY POWELL

February 3, 2021

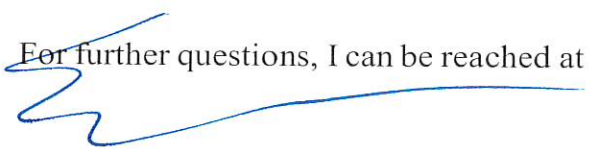
Covington Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Charles E. Short, President & CEO  
18836 US Hwy 84  
Andalusia, Alabama 36420

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of The City of Andalusia, I am writing this letter to express the personal and professional support of Covington Electric Cooperative's (CEC) efforts to obtain State ADECA Grant funding for their CEC FTTH Project RL-1. Rural cooperatives were established to provide services for their members. Since 1944 CEC has been dedicated to providing electricity and services such as: internet, water, and Rural TV to enhance the life 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 CEC brings to advancing life in rural south Alabama.

I authorize Covington 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 community and organization.

For further questions, I can be reached at 334.222.3313 or 334.488.4998.

  
Earl V. Johnson, J.D., L.H.D.  
Mayor, City of Andalusia

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
JEFF BAILEY  
JAMES BARTON  
JAMES T. PRESTWOOD  
JAMES L. RODGERS  
JOHN P. THOMASSON

# Covington County Schools

Shannon Driver, Superintendent

**OFFICES**  
**EDUCATIONAL BUILDING**  
807 C.C. Baker Avenue  
Andalusia, Alabama 36421

Phone: 334-222-7571  
Fax: 334-222-7573

February 3, 2021

Covington Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Charles E. Short, President & CEO  
18836 US Hwy 84  
Andalusia, Alabama 36420

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Covington County Board of Education I am writing this letter to express the personal and professional support of Covington Electric Cooperative's (CEC) efforts to obtain State ADECA Grant funding for their CEC FTTH Project RL-1. Rural cooperatives were established to provide services for their members. Since 1944 CEC has been dedicated to providing electricity and services such as: internet, water and Rural TV to enhance the life 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 CEC brings to advancing life in rural south Alabama.

I authorize Covington 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 community and organization.

For further questions, I can be reached at (334) 222-7571 or email [shannon.driver@cov.k12.al.us](mailto:shannon.driver@cov.k12.al.us).

Sincerely,



Shannon Driver  
Superintendent



# RED LEVEL HIGH SCHOOL

Randy McGlaun, Principal



P.O. Drawer D  
28551 Barrow Road  
Red Level, Alabama 36474

(334)469-5315 - Phone  
(334)469-6192 - Fax  
[red.level@cov.k12.al.us](mailto:red.level@cov.k12.al.us)

Joseph Carter, Assistant Principal

February 4, 2021

Covington Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Charles E. Short, President & CEO  
18836 US Hwy 84  
Andalusia, Alabama 36420

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Red Level Schools, I am writing this letter to express the personal and professional support of Covington Electric Cooperative's (CEC) efforts to obtain State ADECA Grant funding for their CEC FTTH Project RL-1. Rural cooperatives were established to provide services for their members. Since 1944 CEC has been dedicated to providing electricity and services such as: internet, water and Rural TV to enhance the life 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 CEC brings to advancing life in rural south Alabama.

I authorize Covington 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 community and organization.

For further questions, I can be reached at 334-469-5315 or [randy.mcglau@cov.k12.al.us](mailto:randy.mcglau@cov.k12.al.us).

Thank you for all the years of support,

Randy L. McGlaun  
Principal

**Tiger Pride!!!**



**Rick Clifton**  
President and CEO  
**Jacob Morgan**  
Vice President

February 4, 2021

Covington Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Charles E. Short, President & CEO  
18836 US Hwy 84  
Andalusia, Alabama 36420

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Covington County Economic Development Commission, I am writing this letter to express our personal and professional support of Covington Electric Cooperative's (CEC) efforts to obtain State ADECA Grant funding for their CEC FTTH Project RL-1. Rural cooperatives were established to provide services for their members. Since 1944 CEC has been dedicated to providing electricity and services such as: internet, water and rural TV to enhance the life of their rural members. The cooperative has been actively involved in supporting our efforts and in economic development activities to bring jobs to the area. Their efforts to seek financial support to provide broadband services for their communities again confirms the commitment CEC brings to advancing life in rural south Alabama. We are happy to assist them as they seek funding for these additional services,

We authorize Covington Electric Cooperative, Inc. to include our feedback and 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 a program that will have long-term positive benefits for our community and organization.

For further questions, I can be reached at 334-222-7040. And thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rick Clifton  
President & CEO

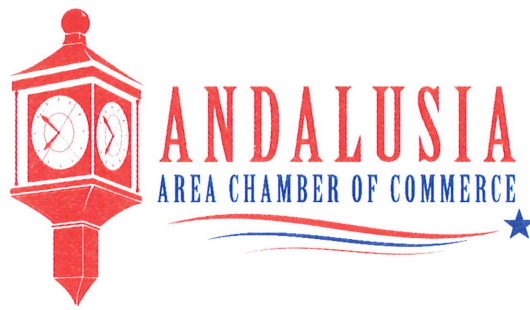
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21754 BILL BENTON LANE • ANDALUSIA, AL 36421

Rick.Clifton@covingtoncountyledc.com • Jacob.Morgan@covingtoncountyledc.com

Website • [www.covingtoncountyledc.com](http://www.covingtoncountyledc.com)

Office Phone • 334-222-7040 • Fax • 334-222-0897



February 3, 2021

Covington Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Charles E. Short, President & CEO  
18836 US Hwy 84  
Andalusia, Alabama 36420

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Andalusia Area Chamber of Commerce, I am writing this letter to express the personal and professional support of Covington Electric Cooperative's (CEC) efforts to obtain State ADECA Grant funding for their CEC FTTH Project RL-1. Rural cooperatives were established to provide services for their members. Since 1944 CEC has been dedicated to providing electricity and services such as: internet, water and Rural TV to enhance the life 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 CEC brings to advancing life in rural south Alabama.

I authorize Covington 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 community and organization.

For further questions, I can be reached at 334-750-3632 or 334-222-2030

Signed,

Mark Chambers,  
President Board of Directors  
Andalusia Area Chamber of Commerce

---

**TRUSTEES**

Willie Smith, Chairman  
Heflin Smith, Vice Chairman  
James F. Martin, Jr., Sec/Treasurer  
Gary H. Harris, Asst. Sec/Treasurer  
Patricia Janasky  
Dr. Bill King

Charles E. (Ed) Short  
President, CEO and General Manager  
18836 US Hwy 84  
Andalusia, AL 36421  
Telephone (334) 222-4121  
Fax (334) 222-1546  
E-mail: cec@covington.coop

March 8, 2019

Covington Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Invitation for Quote of Contract Electric Utility Emergency Power Restoration Time and Equipment Rates

Covington Electric Cooperative (CEC) is compiling a database of contractor labor and equipment rates to keep on file for times when emergency or quick response construction help is required. Compiling a database and organizing it from least to most expensive in advance, is part of an acceptable bid process. Calling on qualified contractors in the order established in the database during an emergency completes the process.

If you are interested in working for CEC in an emergency response capacity your company must be a properly licensed and insured electric power line contractor. If so, please contact:

Covington Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Attn: Kim Carter  
VP of Accounting & Finance  
18836 US Hwy 84  
Andalusia, AL 36421  
334-222-4121 ext. 3515

You will receive a package detailing all of the required information necessary to submit your quote. CEC encourages the participation of small, minority and women-owned electric power line construction business enterprises. It is further requested that when possible, majority contractors who require a subcontractor seek qualified small, minority and women-owned companies to partner with them. CEC assures equal opportunity in employment.

**This contractor and subcontractor shall abide by the Equal Employment Opportunity Clause in Section 202 of Executive Order 11246, as amended, and the implementing rules and regulation of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance including the requirements of 41 CFR §§ 60-1.4(a), 60-300.5(a) and 60-741.5(a). These regulations prohibit discrimination against qualified individuals on the basis of protected veteran status or disability, prohibit discrimination against all individuals based on their race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or national origin, and require affirmative action by covered prime contractors and subcontractors to employ and advance in employment individuals without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, protected veteran status or disability. Likewise, when applicable, CEC and/or its covered subcontractors agrees to comply with the provisions of 29 CFR Part 471, Appendix A to Subpart A.**

**The deadline to submit your quote package is 4:00 pm on Friday, April 5, 2019.**