Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund
2020 Round One Grant Application

Clearview Community

Mon-Cre Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
PO Box 125
227 Main Street
Ramer, AL 36069

(334) 562-3242

2020 Round One Grant Application

Applicant Information

Project Name: Clearview Community

Legal Name of Entity: Mon-Cre Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Mailing Address: PO Box 125 Ramer, AL 36069

Name and Title of CEO: Teresa Rich

Name and Title of Contact: Teresa Rich

Phone Number and Email of Contact: 334-562-3473 teresa@mon-cre.net

Autonomous System Number (ASN) AS 53460

List Internet Exchange Membership (if any) None

PeeringDB entries (www.perringdb.com)

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 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.

The entire territory to be construction is in an unincorporated area of Both Montgomery and Crenshaw County. Crenshaw County has a population of 13, 906. The Census Block ID areas are listed below are unserved according to http://adeca.alabama.gov/broadband) maps.

010419635001001
010419635001002
010419635001003
010419635001004
010419635001090
011010058001032

(table next page)

Number of Households to be Served	350
Number of Businesses / Industries to be served	0
Number of Community Anchors to be served	0

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.

This project will use Adtran network equipment to deploy Gigabit Passive Optical Network (GPON) technology to underserved areas. GPON was designed as a "future-proof" solution to support advances of end user technology without the need to upgrade the entire network infrastructure. GPON technology reliably delivers triple play services (Internet, voice and TV) from a single mode fiber strand to multiple subscribers. GPON consist of OLT (Optical Line Terminals), optical splitters, and ONT (Optical Line Terminals). Adtran Total Access 5000 (TA 5000) serve as MonCre's OLTs and support a 10 GB fiber distribution ring. Fiber cables (12 to 144 strand fiber cable depending on passing quantity) from TA 5000s run to a 1:32 optical splitter and terminate into Adtran TA-352 or TA-400 series ONTs at the customer premise. GPON minimizes latency by not requiring intermediary powered switches, bridges, or optical splitters between OLTs and ONTs. GPON capacity easily scales to provide Gigabit service for subscribers. However, if more bandwidth were to be required, NG-PON2 or XGS-PON at 10Gbps or Point to Point 10Gb/s connections or higher could be deployed on an as-needed basis over the proposed Fiber optic cable.

The TA 5000 is an environmentally hardened modular platform that can be deployed in a central office or at a remote location. Its modular architecture is scalable and protects carrier investments by preventing equipment obsolescence. Migrating to next-generation access interfaces, protocols, and services is accomplished by simply replacing a module in the TA 5000. This platform supports flexible traffic management; Ethernet flow mapping, prioritization, tagging; and versatile management options which are required to respond to the demand for premium services. The TA 5000 product line is widely deployed and meets all of the core standards required to provide telecom and datacom services.

This network is easily upgradeable and well maintained consistent with MonCre's existing network. Equipment and software upgrades for new features and patches can easily be deployed during our maintenance window (12am – 6am) to minimize the impact to broadband customers.

3. A discussion of internet speeds, service tier and pricing levels, data caps, etc.

Internet is provided by two 4 Gbps redundant connections from Troy Cable. Core routers support 10 Gbps connection allowing Mon-Cre to upgrade as needed. Mon-Cre is in the process of improving path diversity by adding a third pathway. This table includes their current IPTV, Voice, and Internet price levels.

Service Plans	IPTV Services	IPTV Add-Ons	Voice Services	Internet Add-Ons	Stand-Alone Internet
Primary TV	$42.99				
Preferred TV	$102.99				
Premier TV	$119.99				
Pinnacle TV	$161.99				
Sportsplus		$6.95			
Premium		$16.95			
Basic Voice			$19.95		
Premium Voice			$33.95		
Economy Broadband				$42	
Essential Broadband				$50	
Enhanced Broadband				$60	
Exclusive Broadband				$75	
Standard Internet					$71.95
Elite Internet					$89.95
Optimal Internet					$109.95

4. A preliminary technical evaluation of the project that is certified by an engineer. The evaluation shall 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. **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). **Other methodology to document an area is unserved, such as household surveys, may be acceptable, but shall be pre-approved by ADECA.**

See Attachment A

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

Mon-Cre Telephone Cooperative, Inc. is located in South Montgomery County Alabama and has provided communications services to its members in Montgomery, Crenshaw, Bullock and Pike counties for more than 65 years. The Cooperative's services have transitioned from basic local service over copper to high speed broadband over its new fiber to the home network reaching all of its 2,200 members. Since the very beginning of the Cooperative, Mon-Cre has committed to service people that no one else would serve. The mission of the Cooperative is to provide world class service for an affordable price so that the Member's may reach the world. This mission has been a part of the counties we serve and is evidenced by the millions of dollars invested in telecommunications facilities. The management team of Mon-Cre has depth of experience and expert knowledge of guiding the Cooperative's daily mission to serve its members.

Mon-Cre is led by Teresa Rich, General Manager. Mrs. Rich has a Bachelor of Science in Accounting. She has over 27 years of accounting and management experience including cost accounting for construction projects. She has been with the Cooperative 7 years, first serving as the Chief Financial Officer then assuming the role of General Manager as the Cooperative was working on its largest fiber to the home project in the history of the Cooperative. She successfully guided the Cooperative to completing the project, enabling its members to receive enhanced services such as high speed internet and IPTV. Mrs. Rich has recently completed several construction projects that have expanded beyond the ILEC boundaries offering broadband and IPTV services as well as several phases of upgrades to the network in order to increase broadband speeds with a focus on critical infrastructure. She has established an increased level of community involvement and communication with local stakeholders to successfully keep an engaged membership base. This engagement has led to a financially stable rural service provider. Mrs. Rich relies heavily upon Chief Financial Officer, Beverly Davis, with 5 years of experience at Mon-Cre. Mrs. Davis has a Bachelor of Science in Accounting along with 21 years of accounting and financial investment experience.

Mon-Cre's network operations group is led by Derrick Deese who has more than 25 years of experience at Mon-Cre. Derrick coordinates and supervises technical support, network support and network security as well as upgrades for hardware and software and electronic infrastructure and IPTV. Mr. Deese works closely with outside Plant Manager, Don Hicks, who has more than 35 years of experience in outside plant operations and construction.

This leadership team along with a strong team of employees who have been employed with Mon-Cre for many years and are deeply familiar with products, services and the local market has successfully deployed fiber to the home in 100% of our ILEC territory and are dedicated to supporting our local community. Mon-Cre's management and staff possess the technical expertise and market knowledge to capitalize on the growth opportunities available to our organization.

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).

There are no Pole Attachments in this project.

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.

The vendors or subcontractors we plann to use are not Minority.

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.

There will be no Middle Mile construction in this project. The broadband FTTH infrastructure will only service underserved subscribers.

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.

The Clearview Community has no hospitals, schools, or public safety in the area. This strictly residential, but we have several people who have business that work from home if they had broadband. We know of at least 6 maybe 7.

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	$1,513,447.33
65% of Total Project Cost (minimum match)	$983,740.76
35% of Total Project Cost (grant maximum)	$529,706.57
Total Grant Amount Requested (not to exceed $1.5 million)	**$529,706.57**

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. Operating expenses will not be eligible expenses. Any additional expenses associated with the project, but not part of the grant budget, should be included.

Budget Item	Total Cost	Grant	Match
Engineering/Design	230,864.85	$80,802.70	$150,062.15
Materials	11,970.00	$4,189.50	$7,780.50
Labor	630.00	$220.50	$409.50
Construction/Installation	1,269,982.48	$444,493.87	$825,488.61
Other (please specify)			
Total	$1,513,447.33	$529,706.57	$983,740.76

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

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

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

Mon-Cre has assets of approximately 29.7 Million and annual operating revenues of approximately 4.6 Million. The Cooperative reported net margins of $555,811 for 2019 and

$358,869 for 2018, respectively. Mon-Cre now maintains over 506 route miles of optical fiber and serves the most robust component of the telecommunications infrastructure within our geographic area. With this financial strength and our 65-year history of providing outstanding telecommunications service to our community, Mon-Cre will be able to sustain service to the Clearview Community project area.

In addition to our strong financial performance, Mon-Cre has sustained positive cash flows sufficient to meet the operating obligations, service its long-term debt, and retire member equity. Mon-Cre is confident that financing will not be a barrier to constructing and maintaining the assets associated with the Clearview Community project.

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.

Mon-Cre Telephone Cooperative has already deployed fiber optic cable, funded primarily thru a FTTH RUS loan, and has completed several construction projects with Mon-Cre funds and personnel. Mon-Cre will utilize engineering consultants to provide some engineering services to design, stake, manage some construction and inspect the network.

Some of the construction of the fiber network for Clearview Community will be bid out to contractors who are capable and qualified to construction in the service area to obtain the best pricing. Installation and cutover services will be provided by Mon-Cre personnel for the new network. All of the FTTH network is underground.

4. A discussion of any federal 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.

    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.

No federal funds are associated with this project.

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**.

	YES	NO	
Does this project seek to leverage grant funds through private investment?	☐	☒	If yes, include an explanation and documentation in a file titled Attachment C
Will this project be an extension of existing infrastructure?	☒	☐	If yes, include an explanation and documentation in a file titled Attachment C
Does this project serve locations with demonstrated community support?	☒	☐	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?	☒	☐	If yes, include an explanation and documentation in a file titled Attachment C
Does this project emphasize the highest broadband speeds?	☒	☐	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?	☐	☒	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?	☐	☒	If yes, include an explanation and documentation in a file titled Attachment C
Is the applicant a certified Minority Business Enterprise under the	☐	☒	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: Teresa Rich	Date: 12·30·19
Title of Applicant: General Manager	

For more information regarding the Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund, please send questions to Maureen Neighbors 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-4

Preliminary Technical Evaluation – Mon-Cre Clearview Service Area

Mon-Cre Telephone Company project has the following technical capabilities and metrics:

Proposed System Type:	Fiber to the Home (FTTH)
Proposed System Topology:	Gigabit Passive Optical Network (GPON)
Proposed Network Equipment:	Adtran with TA-352 or TA-400 series ONT
Proposed Broadband Service Speeds:	Up to 1Gb/s and beyond (future)
Proposed Miles of Fiber:	16.86
Proposed Customers Passed:	Homes 350
Project Cost Estimate:	$1,513,447.33
Project Schedule Start:	April 13, 2020
Project Schedule End:	April 13, 2022

Mon-Cre Telephone Cooperative, Inc. will utilize a Gigabit Passive Optical Network (GPON) Fiber to the Home (FTTH) network architecture to provide 25 Mbps downstream & 3 Mbps upstream broadband to the Mon-Cre Clearview service area. The proposed FTTH network design in this service area calls for a total of 16.86 miles of fiber.

The equipment strategy for the MON-CRE Clearview Service Area FTTH project is to leverage existing fiber to deploy a Gigabit Passive Optical Network (GPON) Fiber to the Home (FTTH) solution using the Adtran Total Access 5000 platform. The Adtran platform can deliver video, data and voice over Gigabit Passive Optical Networks (GPON) from a single fiber to multiple subscribers. Customers served by a GPON connection will have a 25mbps/3Mbps GPON connection from the Optical Network Terminal (ONT) at their home through a 1:32 optical splitter that runs over fiber cable (12 to 144 strand fiber cable depending on passing quantity) to the serving remote Optical Line Terminal (OLT). Latency within the proposed Adtran FTTH equipment ranges from microseconds to around 3-5ms, depending on location, providing the lowest practical latency for a residential user. Facilities supporting fiber infrastructure exist and none will be constructed or leased. MON-CRE will add 350 households to the Mon-Cre Clearview Service Area.

MON-CRE 's Internet peering connections and routers are monitored by a NOC and upstream providers Troy Cable, to ensure that adequate bandwidth and IP addresses are available to our broadband customers. Currently, two routers connect to Internet backbones. The routers are co-located in Atlanta, GA and Dallas, TX. Troy Cable offers broadband, transport, redundancy, diverse routing, and business continuity for strategic community operations and wholesale services. MON-CRE has 4 Gbps of existing peering bandwidth, with the ability to scale it higher as bandwidth usage grows. This network facilitates excellent response times across the network with minimal latency. Latency from MON-CRE 's network's edge to our Internet peering locations is typically well below 20ms. MON-CRE is able to provide an overall service level

across the entire network that is equivalent to Internet users in Urban and Suburban areas to its existing subscribers and to all customers in the proposed service area.

Each FTTH OLT will be constructed with carrier grade DC power plants and batteries with at least 8 hours of backup in the event of a long-term power outage. If the commercial power were to be affected for an even longer period, MON-CRE can provide longer-term temporary power via fixed or portable generators as necessary.

Project Budget

Following is the project budget from Schedule B-1:

Budget Item	Total Cost	Grant	Match
Engineering/Design	230,864.85	$80,802.70	$150,062.15
Materials	11,970.00	$4,189.49	$7,780.50
Labor	630.00	$220.49	$409.50
Construction/Installation	1,269,982.48	$444,493.87	$825,488.61
Other (please specify)			
Total	$1,513,447.33	$529,706.55	$983,740.76

Project Schedule & Timeline

The project schedule is planned to be completed well within the 2-year timeframe. The engineering has been completed for the project and it has been bid out to qualified contractors. The winning contractor will order materials along with MON-CRE Construction will commence on the mainline followed by customer drops. After marketing and scheduling of customer turn-ups, customers will be cutover to the new FTTH network and higher-speed broadband services. The following timeline and project schedule shows the order of activities for the project:

Mon-Cre Telephone Company 2020-2022 Timeline

2019 - 2020 Grant Application:

- Application submitted December 30, 2019 12pm.
- Objection period December 31 to February 11 (30 business days).
- Review Period (60 calendar days) Saturday April 11.
- Project start Monday, April 13 2020 - Wednesday, April 13 2022

2020-2021 Buildout Timeline:

Complete 50% of OSP Construction and Electronic Equipment installation for Mon-Cre Clearview service area, approximately 8.43 route miles and 175 drops. Add new subscribers and upgrade existing subscribers.

Reasonableness / Data Points:

Begin Engineering and Design upon positive award of ADECA Grant for Mon-Cre Clearview service area. Start permitting in preparation to begin OSP cable construction. Prepare Plans & Specifications to Bid OSP Construction and Electronic Equipment contracts to assure competitive pricing. Award contracts and begin installation/construction.

2021-2022 Buildout Timeline:

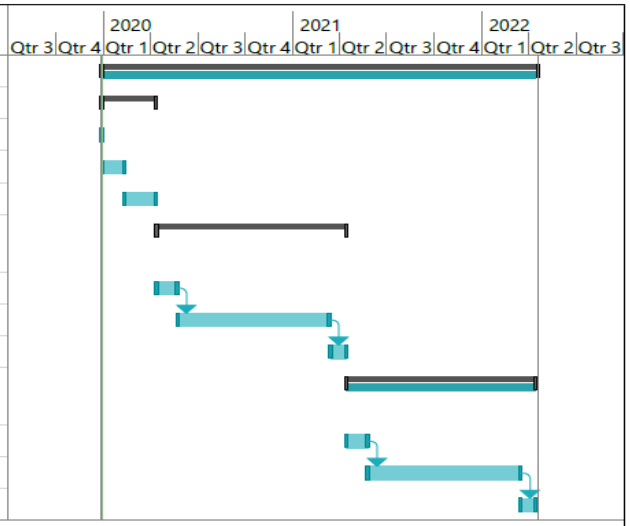
Complete remaining 50% of OSP Construction and Electronic Equipment installation for Mon-Cre-Clearview service area, approximately 8.43 route miles with 175 drops.

2022 Buildout Support for Reasonableness / Data Points:

Complete Engineering and Design for Mon-Cre Clearview service area. Add new subscribers and upgrade existing subscribers. Finalize and closeout OSP Construction and Electronic Equipment contracts.

Mon-Cre Clearview FTTH Project Schedule

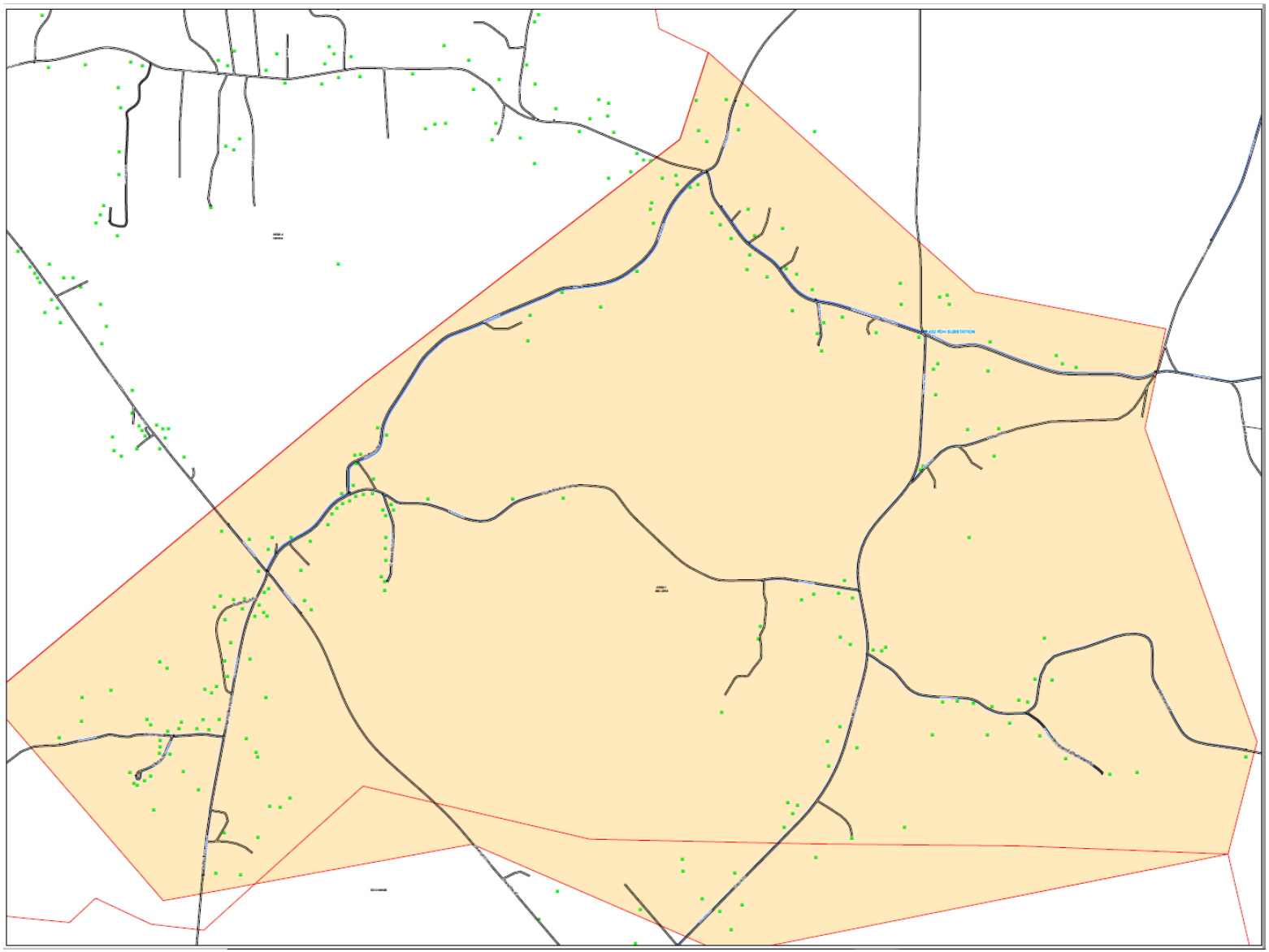
ID		Task Mode	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish
1			**Mon-Cre Telephone Cooperative**	**602 days**	**Mon 12/30/19**	**Tue 4/19/22**
2			**Application**	**75 days**	**Mon 12/30/19**	**Sat 4/11/20**
3			Applicaton Submitted	1 day	Mon 12/30/19	Mon 12/30/19
4			Objection Period	31 days	Tue 12/31/19	Tue 2/11/20
5			Review Period	44 days	Wed 2/12/20	Sat 4/11/20
6			**Clearview Service Area Phase 1 2020-2021**	**263 days**	**Mon 4/13/20**	**Wed 4/14/21**
7			Engineering	30 days	Mon 4/13/20	Fri 5/22/20
8			Construction	210 days	Mon 5/25/20	Fri 3/12/21
9			Turn Up & Test	23 days	Mon 3/15/21	Wed 4/14/21
10			**Clearview Service Area Phase 2 2021-2022**	**261 days**	**Wed 4/14/21**	**Wed 4/13/22**
11			Engineering	30 days	Wed 4/14/21	Tue 5/25/21
12			Construction	211 days	Wed 5/26/21	Wed 3/16/22
13			Turn Up & Test	20 days	Thu 3/17/22	Wed 4/13/22



Project: Mon-Cre Telephone
Date: Mon 12/30/19

Task		Inactive Summary		External Tasks	
Split		Manual Task		External Milestone	
Milestone		Duration-only		Deadline	
Summary		Manual Summary Rollup		Progress	
Project Summary		Manual Summary		Manual Progress	
Inactive Task		Start-only			
Inactive Milestone		Finish-only			

ADECA Broadband Map – Note: Mon-Cre Clearview



Professional Engineer Certification

I the undersigned, certify that the proposed FTTH project will work as described in the application and can deliver 25 Mbps downstream 3 Mbps upstream, at the service levels outlined, to all premises for which coverage is proposed. Moreover, the system, as designed, can meet the proposed build-out timeline, milestones, and construction schedule within the cost specified in the application and can be completed within two years.

12/20/19

(Date)

(Certifying Engineer's Signature)

Howard John Gorter

Name (Printed)

VP – Engineering & CTO

Title

Palmetto Engineering & Consulting

Company

Registration Number: 37916-E

State of Registration: AL

Expiration Date: 12/31/2021

ALABAMA LICENSED No. 37916-E PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER HOWARD J GORTER

12/20/19

Attachment C: Mon-Cre Telephone Cooperative Inc. - Clearview

	YES	NO	
Will this project be an extension of existing infrastructure?	☒	☐	If yes, include an explanation and documentation in a file titled Attachment C

Mon-Cre Telephone Cooperative was founded in 1952 with telephone subscribers only. Internet service was provided around 1996. As of today Moncre employs 17 people and serves approximately 2200 subscribers in Montgomery, Crenshaw, Pike and Bullock counties.

The existing network has been construction using RUS standard construction practices. All of our entire fiber network is buried which provides maximum protection from weather and vehicular/agricultural traffic. Mon-Cre currently has 8 remote substations positioned throughout its network. Each substation or hut has equipment battery backup and standby generator power backup to be used in extended power failure situations. These locations are a fully redundant fiber ring offering diverse paths back to the Network Operation Center. All substations are remotely monitored by alarms with 24/7 support and all alarms are responded to by on-call personnel. Mon-Cre Telephone Cooperation has also installed a new Cisco 9000 series core route to ensure redundancy and provide adequate bandwidth to our customers. We currently provide synchronous Internet speeds beginning with 25 MPBS up to 200 MPBS as our basic internet packages and more can be offered if requested.

The build will also take advantage of the existing Adtran TA-5000 equipment that currently supports our existing subscribers. Although additional network equipment will be added as demand requires using existing telecommunication will provide the best network possible while leveraging existing infrastructure to lower costs.

	YES	NO	
Does this project serve locations with demonstrated community support?	☒	☐	If yes, include an explanation and documentation in a file titled Attachment C

Mon-Cre has recently completed the largest FTTH project in its history which enabled them to deliver high speed internet and IPTV. This resulted in an increased level of community involvement and communication with community leaders.

Utilizing the existing fiber infrastructure to reach rural areas, this project will improve the services available to the Clearview Service Area by providing fiber to the home services. The extension of the fiber network will add 16.86 miles of fiber optic cable to the Mon-Cre fiber infrastructure allowing them to reach more rural residences.

	YES	NO	
Will this project serve the highest number of unserved homes, businesses, and community anchor points for the least cost?	☒	☐	If yes, include an explanation and documentation in a file titled Attachment C

Yes, this project minimizes operating expenses by limiting the amount of equipment to maintain and replace. Facilities supporting fiber infrastructure exist and none will be constructed or leased. The FTTH network topology does not require powered devices between the central office and the premise. Existing Optical Line Terminals (OLT) built on a "pay-as-you-grow" architecture support their fiber distribution ring. OLTs are scalable systems that increase performance & functionality and reduce costs by simply upgrading modules when subscribers are added or bandwidth demands increase. Fixed wireless shots are not used to reach rural subscribers so there are no sites to power, towers to inspect, or radios to monitor.

Where available, installation crews will repurpose intact conduit and ducts along existing routes for residential and business FTTH deployments. Modern construction methods such as directional boring and microtrenching minimize cost by completing routes faster. Utilizing push and pull fiber cables with handheld blowing machines decreases install times and is considerably cheaper than conventional blowing equipment. These methods are less disruptive to environments and half the cost of traditional methods. Costs accrued from time intensive tasks are reduced by dedicated FTTH installation crews that are highly trained and experienced. Unlike copper and coax, pre-connectorized cables expedite installations by avoiding custom cable assemblies and fiber splicing in the field.

	YES	NO	
Does this project emphasize the highest broadband speeds?	☒	☐	If yes, include an explanation and documentation in a file titled Attachment C

Yes, GPON provides 2.488 Gbps downstream/1.244 Gbps upstream over a single mode fiber optic strand to optical splitters. GPON offers twice the bandwidth capacity through optical 1:64 & 1:32 splitters than previous PON technologies. This project will deploy 1:32 optical splitters that can offer subscribers up to 1 Gbps downstream and 1 Gbps upstream which far exceeds grant requirement of 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream. GPON achieves these speeds by dynamically allocating bandwidth when (1) less than 32 users are connected, (2) transmissions do not occur at the same time, (3) gaps between traffic bursts are filled by other user traffic. When the splitting ratio is 1:32, GPON networks can receive reliable fiber optic signals from rural subscribers a maximum distance of 20Km.

Raymond McGough
District No. 1
16327 Montgomery Highway
Highland Home, AL 36041

Merrill Sport
District No. 3
249 E. 1st Extension
Luverne, AL 36049

Charlie Sankey, Jr., Chairman
District No. 5
399 Tucker Road
Grady, AL 36036

Crenshaw County Commission

Post Office Box 227
Luverne, Alabama 36049
Phone: (334) 335-6568

Robert "Bo" Mount
District No. 2
279 West Bryan Street
Luverne, AL 36049

Charles K. Bailey
District No. 4
P. O. Box 456
Brantley, AL 36009

David H. Smyth
Administrator

To Whom It May Concern:

Crenshaw County is very fortunate to have Mon-Cre Telephone Cooperative as a service provider to our citizens. Mon-Cre Telephone Cooperative provides telephone, internet, and IPTV services to the north section of Crenshaw County.

The services that they provide all have excellent quality and the service packages offered are very affordable in an area that is predominantly low to moderate income. The staff members that provide technical and mechanical services are very knowledgeable and timely.

I am especially thankful for Mon-Cre Telephone Cooperative services because they have allowed Crenshaw County to implement an emergency notification system that has saved numerous lives. This system operates by sending emergency messages to land lines, cell phones, and other wireless devices within Crenshaw County. This system would not be possible without the services of Mon-Cre Telephone Cooperative.

I am convinced that given the opportunity, Mon-Cre Telephone Cooperative can expand their footprint and continue to provide this same quality of service to many more deserving citizens of our area. We are very grateful to have them as our partners!

Sincerely,

Charlie Sankey, Jr
Chairman

ALABAMA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

11 S. UNION STREET, MONTGOMERY ALABAMA 36130

REP. REED INGRAM
DISTRICT 75
4356 HAYNEVILLE RIDGE ROAD
MATHEWS, ALABAMA 36052

STATE HOUSE: 334-242-7707
CELL: 334-399-6819
EMAIL: reedingram75@gmail.com

December 27, 2019

Kenneth Boswell, Director
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
401 Adams Avenue, Suite 560
Montgomery, Alabama 36104-4325

Dear Mr. Boswell:

Mon-Cre Telephone Cooperative is applying for the 2020 Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund Grant to extend their fiber optic network into rural areas of Montgomery County. They hope to provide more underserved areas in our district with high speed internet. As we all know, broadband is a building block for advancement in commerce, education and ultimately the economic success of our state. I share their values of Innovation, Economic growth and Commitment to the Community.

As a fiber-based internet provider, Mon-Cre Telephone Cooperative has committed to providing an advanced high-capacity fiber network solution to our community in an ever-increasing bandwidth intensive world. Having been in business as a Telecommunications Carrier for over 65 years, Mon-Cre Telephone Cooperative has a proven track record of providing reliable broadband services to not only residential, but to area governmental, commercial, industrial, medical and educational entities. Moncre has been providing communication service for more than 65 years to Montgomery, Crenshaw, Bullock and Pike Counties.

I have been a resident in the rural area of Mathews for 35 years and without any internet service. Moncre recently expanded services in my territory and I have high speed internet and IPTV services. This has enhanced our way of life and enabled us to work from home.

Mr. Boswell, I offer my full support to Mon-Cre Telephone Cooperative and their endeavor to secure this much needed funding. I respectfully request that you give them due and appropriate consideration. If you have any questions or if I may be of assistance, please do not hesitate to call me at 334-399-6819.

Sincerely,

Representative Reed Ingram

Elton N. Dean, Sr.
CHAIRMAN

Ronda M. Walker
VICE CHAIRMAN

Daniel Harris, Jr.
Isaiah Sankey
Doug Singleton

Donald L. Mims, CPA, MPA
ADMINISTRATOR

Florence M. Cauthen
DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR

December 27, 2019

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
Attn: Director Kenneth Boswell
P.O. Box 5690
Montgomery, Alabama 36103-5690

Mr. Boswell:

Mon-Cre Telephone Cooperative, (MonCre-Ramer, AL) is applying for the 2019 Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund Grant in hopes to expand their fiber network to provide high-speed broadband internet access to a rural area located in Montgomery/Crenshaw County. The areas identified are currently underserved and cannot get internet speeds of at least (10) megabits per second download and one (1) megabit per second upload.

As a fiber-based internet provider, Mon-Cre Telephone Cooperative has committed to providing an advanced high-capacity fiber network solution to our community in an ever-increasing bandwidth intensive world. Having been in business as a Telecommunications Carrier for over 65 years, Mon-Cre Telephone Cooperative has a proven track record of providing reliable broadband services to not only residential, but to area governmental, commercial, industrial, medical and educational entities. Moncre has been providing communication service for more than 65 years to Montgomery, Crenshaw, Bullock and Pike Counties.

Mr. Boswell, I truly believe that this grant and access to broadband will enhance the lives of my constituents but will also prove necessary for further economic growth in the region. I thank you for your time and consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance with this request.

ALABAMA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

11 S. UNION STREET, MONTGOMERY ALABAMA 36130

REP. CHRIS SELLS
DISTRICT 90
POST OFFICE BOX 26
GREENVILLE, ALABAMA 36037

STATE HOUSE: 334-242-7768
DISTRICT: 334-371-9304
EMAIL: chris.sells@alhouse.gov

December 27, 2019

Kenneth Boswell, Director
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
401 Adams Avenue, Suite 560
Montgomery, Alabama 36104-4325

Dear Mr. Boswell:

Mon-Cre Telephone Cooperative is applying for the 2020 Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund Grant to extend their fiber optic network into rural areas of Montgomery County. They hope to provide more underserved areas in our district with high speed internet. As we all know, broadband is a building block for advancement in commerce, education and ultimately the economic success of our state. I share their values of Innovation, Economic growth and Commitment to the Community.

As a fiber-based internet provider, Mon-Cre Telephone Cooperative has committed to providing an advanced high-capacity fiber network solution to our community in an ever-increasing bandwidth intensive world. Having been in business as a Telecommunications Carrier for over 65 years, Mon-Cre Telephone Cooperative has a proven track record of providing reliable broadband services to not only residential, but to area governmental, commercial, industrial, medical and educational entities. Mon-cre has been providing communication service for more than 65 years to Montgomery, Crenshaw, Bullock and Pike Counties.

Mr. Boswell, I offer my full support to Mon-Cre Telephone Cooperative and their endeavor to secure this much needed funding. I respectfully request that you give them due and appropriate consideration. If you have any questions or if I may be of assistance, please do not hesitate to call me at 334-300-8578.

Sincerely,

Chris Sells