

Project Information

Company: Sparklight

Project Description

General Info

Project #: 132

Project Name: Broadband for Communities in LA

Total Project Cost: 36,099,331.00

Total project cost per prospective broadband recipient: 3,820.00

Infrastructure cost per prospective broadband recipient: 3,638.00

Number of households to be served: 9350

Number of businesses to be served: 100

GUMBO cost per prospective broadband recipient: 2,615.00

Number of GUMBO households to be served: 9350

Number of GUMBO businesses to be served: 100

General Location/Parishes:

Caldwell
Franklin
Ouachita
Red River
Union
Webster

Base Speed (Minimum Download/Upload): 25/25 Mbps

Supported Scalability Speeds (Minimum Download/Upload): 5/5 Gbps

Qualifications and Experience:

Provide the following details:

- Number of years the applicant has provided internet services;
- A history of the number of households and consumers, by year of service, to which the applicant has provided broadband internet access, as well as the current number of households to which broadband internet access (at least 25:3 Mbps) is offered;
- The number of completed internet service infrastructure projects funded, in part, through federal or state grant programs, prior to the date of application submittal;
- Whether the applicant has ever participated in an internet service infrastructure project funded, in part, through federal or state grant programs, and if so, for each project, the nature and impact of the project, the role of the applicant, the total cost of the project, and the dollar amount of federal or state grant funding;
- The number of penalties paid by the applicant, a subsidiary or affiliate of the applicant, or the holding company of the applicant, relative to internet service infrastructure projects funded, in part, through federal or state grant programs, prior to the date of application submittal; and
- The number of times the applicant, a subsidiary or affiliate of the applicant, or the holding company of the applicant has ever been a defendant in any federal or state criminal proceeding or civil litigation as a result of its participation in an internet service infrastructure project funded, in part, through federal or state grant programs, prior to the date of application submittal

Information regarding Qualifications and Experience can be found on the attached file labeled Final Submission, Pages 3 to 9. Attached is the key Sparklight personnel who will be responsible for this project.

Financial Background:

- Provide five years of financial statements, pro forma statements, or financial audits to ensure financial and organizational strength regarding the ability of the applicant to successfully meet the terms of the grant requirements and the ability to meet the potential repayment of grant funds. If the applicant has been in business for less than five years, provide documentation for the number of years in business
- Indicate whether the applicant, a subsidiary or affiliate of the applicant, or the holding company of the applicant has ever filed for bankruptcy

5 years of financial history is provided in the attached file labeled. On page 8 on Final Submission Section 307 paragraph 1.d.iii. and iv, Sparklight states it has not filed for bankruptcy.

Partnerships:

Provide the identity of any partners or affiliates if the applicant is proposing a project for which the applicant affirms that a formalized agreement or letter of support exists between the provider and one or more unaffiliated partners where the partner is one of the following:

- a separate private provider of broadband service, requiring a formalized agreement; or
- a nonprofit or not-for-profit, or a for-profit subsidiary of either, and the applicant is:
 - being allowed access and use of the partner's infrastructure, on special terms and conditions designed to facilitate the provision of broadband services in unserved areas, requiring a formalized agreement;
 - utilizing a matching financial and/or in-kind contribution provided by one or more partners, requiring a formalized agreement; or
 - a parish, municipality, or school board, or any instrumentality thereof, may qualify as a nonprofit for the purposes of the GUMBO grant program. Letters of support by a parish, municipality, or school board, or any instrumentality thereof, supporting an application may be submitted as part of an application. A letter of support does not require a formalized agreement.
- Provide a brief narrative explaining how the partnership or affiliation will facilitate deployment and reduce cost per prospective broadband recipient. For applications or project areas where the nonprofit or not-for-profit partner provides only matching financial support, that information can be documented in the budget section within the relevant application or project area.

Sparklight has not and does not intend to enter into a partnership for a funding source other than through GUMBO, see section 307 Paragraph 1.f on its Final Submission on Page 8. Sparklight has received numerous letters of support which it has attached in the file labeled Letters of Support

For work being performed by Hudson Initiative or Veterans Initiative qualified applicants or contractors, provide documentation and/or a formalized agreement.

To it's knowledge, no contractor for Sparklight will be a qualified applicant for Hudson Initiative nor Veterans Initiative.

Project Area

Assessment of the Current Level of Broadband Access in the Proposed Deployment Area

Describe the current level of service within the area and provide the data source or methodology used to capture this information. Raw data may be submitted as part of the assessment. If data is available to support differences between advertised and transmission speeds, applicants may also submit applications for areas where transmission speeds are less than 25:3 Mbps.

The current level of service by area is contained within the Final Submission Section 309 B.a starting on Page 10 and going through Page 16. Overall it is very difficult to define the speeds in each community. The FCC Broadband is an indicator of the level of service provided with most being under 25/3 on an advertised level. However, should one customer in a Census Block be identified with a speed with more Downstream, the entire Block is so labeled even if no other customer can received the same speed. Sparklight's architecture offers the same speed within the Census Blocks designated.

Services

Provide a description of service options to be provided:

Service Name	Upload/download speed	Date of 1st Availability	Data Cap	# of recipients	Price
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Marketing

Provide documentation for applicant engagement to connect consumers with community education forums, multimedia advertising, and marketing programs.

Regarding the Services above, the stated price is standard rates. This does not take into account promotional offers which will be offered from time to time. It is also important to note, the modem is provided free of charge and installation for those customer which qualify is \$0.00. The above speeds are for Households with speeds for businesses going up to 5Gbps symmetrical. the date of availability will vary by market with no market being longer than 18 months after the Grant is awarded the the agreement is executed. A chart of critical tasks is on section 311.A.5 starting on Page 20. Proposed Marketing information is in Section 315 Paragraph A.4 beginning on Page 31 in the Final Submission file

Adoption

Provide documentation that shows low-income household service offerings, digital equity or literacy support, or programs or partnerships to provide these services. The applicant should also indicate current participation in, or plans to, accept the federal Lifeline subsidy.

Section 315 Paragraph A.6 on the Final Submission file.

Community Support

Evidence of support for the project from citizens, local government, businesses, and institutions in the community, including letters of correspondence from citizens, local government, businesses, and institutions in the community that supports the project

Letters of Support from various communities leaders is attached in the Letter of Support file.

Local Workforce

Documentation of a workforce plan prioritizing the hiring of local, Louisiana resident workers, to include a signed letter of intent with a post-secondary educational institution that is a member of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, containing an obligation upon the applicant, and contractors or subcontractors of the applicant, to put forth a good-faith effort to hire, when possible, recent graduates of broadband-related programs.

Sparklight makes every effort to hire locally to maintain and operate its existing networks in Louisiana and will continue to do so with the proposed FTTP networks contained in our submission. Sparklight made an effort to get a letter of intent in place with Louisiana Delta Community College but because of the holidays, we have not received an executed copy. However, it is in Sparklight's best interest to recruit graduates of local programs because it continues to be difficult to attract talent individuals.

Technical Report

Reporting Requirements

Explain in technical detail the technologies to be used in the proposed project and the broadband transmission speeds offered to prospective broadband recipients as a result of the project. If it would be impracticable, because of geography, topography, or excessive cost to design a broadband infrastructure project that would deliver 100:100 Mbps, the applicant must provide an explanation. Transmission speeds of 100:20 Mbps are the minimum allowable under this grant program.

Sparklight will be deploying an ePON architecture. Information can be found in Section 311 Paragraph A.1 on Page 20 through page 22 on the Final Submission file. Speeds for Households will be tiered services with the maximum throughput of 1 Gbps symmetrical. For businesses, speeds Sparklight offers speeds of 2 Gbps symmetrical. Also included is Sparklight's Disaster Recovery Plan

Explain the scalability of the broadband infrastructure to be deployed to meet future bandwidth needs.

With the OLT equipment being deployed, the capability could be up to 10 Gbps symmetrical should the communities require it. To move from 1Gbps to 5 or 10 Gbps it would be a modem change out. Data sheets of our equipment is attached.

Provide a proposed construction timeline and duration of the deployment project period. The deployment project period is the time from award of the grant agreement to the time that service is available to the targeted prospective broadband recipients under the grant. Describe estimated timeline, deployment roll-out and number of end-users to be served in each phase (10 percent, 35 percent, 60 percent, 85 percent, 100 percent).

A timeline chart is on Page 14 of the final Submission file. From the time the Grant is awarded and it is executed, Sparklight commits to completing the project in 18 months.

☒ **Wired Infrastructure**

☐ **Fixed Wireless**

Wired Infrastructure Deployment Reporting Requirements

Describe the general design of the project and deployment plan and include the following:

- Explanation of the existing networks and equipment to be used for the project. If assets are owned by another entity, explain how they will be used for this project and, if applicable, provide a copy of the agreement between the applicant and the owner.
- Total number of miles of project infrastructure deployment, and the number of miles of project infrastructure deployment accounted for by preexisting infrastructure
- Detailed explanation of how the new or upgraded infrastructure will serve the prospective broadband recipients. In the case of the installation or upgrade of a specific site infrastructure, such as a point of presence or fiber hut (fiber), pedestal (cable), or a remote exchange/DSLAM (DSL), the applicant must include:
 - The number of prospective broadband recipients that will be served by that site infrastructure
 - The distance from the specific site infrastructure such as a POP, pedestal, or DSLAM to the end user(s) and the expected broadband speed that will be effectively delivered
- Detailed description of the design work needed for deployment, such as, but not limited to, pole work, acquiring or updating easements, and/or property acquisition.

This information is contained on Pages 14 through 16 on the Final Submission file. this includes network architecture, average miles. Expected speeds is found in the Proposed service section 315 found on page 20.

Wired Assets

Existing Network	Existing Equipment	New/Upgraded Infrastructure	Installation Type	Num of Recipients	Avg Distance in Miles Between Prospective Recipients	Expected Speed
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Budget

Budget

The project budget should reflect all eligible project costs to be funded through the GUMBO Grant Program. Additionally, the project budget should include the minimum provider funding match of at least 20%, any local government funding match from a parish, municipality, and/or school board, or any instrumentality thereof, and the requested GUMBO Grant Program funding.

A budget can be found in Section 313 Paragraph B.1 on Page 17 through 18 on the Final Submission file.

Proof of Funding Availability

Provide a signed letter of funding availability from each source of funds committed for the project. If loan or other grant funds are pledged, a loan/grant commitment letter from each source of funds must be included. Should an applicant be an awardee of Universal Service, Connect American Phase II, Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, or other federal or non-federal funds for the deployment of broadband service, the applicant shall attest as to whether or not the applicant's GUMBO application and associated project's buildout is dependent upon such awarded funds.

Sparklight's Resolution of Offeror can be found on Page 19 in the Final Submission file