

Project Information

Company: Connect Holding II LLC d/b/a Brightspeed (“Brightspeed”)

Project Description

General Info

Project #: 234

Project Name: Avoyelles

Total Project Cost: 4,031,036.00

Total project cost per prospective broadband recipient: 2,219.00

Infrastructure cost per prospective broadband recipient: 2,219.00

Number of households to be served: 1560

Number of businesses to be served: 257

GUMBO cost per prospective broadband recipient: 888.00

Number of GUMBO households to be served: 1560

Number of GUMBO businesses to be served: 257

General Location/Parishes: Avoyelles

Base Speed (Minimum Download/Upload): 200 Mbps/200 Mbps

Supported Scalability Speeds (Minimum Download/Upload): 1 Gbps/1 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

The applicant is Connect Holding II LLC d/b/a Brightspeed ("Brightspeed"). At Brightspeed, a core part of our mission is to promote digital inclusion and developing solutions that reach unserved and underserved households is something that we intend to actively pursue. Brightspeed's motto is "Internet equals opportunity," which is the foundational idea by which the company is run. Brightspeed is the entity created through the acquisition by Apollo Global Management, Inc. ("Apollo") of the Incumbent Local Exchange Company ("ILEC") company assets owned by Lumen Technologies, Inc. ("Lumen"). On August 3, 2021, Apollo and Lumen announced a definitive agreement for Apollo to acquire the assets of Lumen's ILECs currently operating under the CenturyLink brands, among others. The new company Apollo created is called Connect Holding II LLC and it will operate under the name Brightspeed. After the transaction closes in the second half of 2022, Brightspeed will take over all CenturyLink ILEC operations in Louisiana (and 19 other states), including CenturyLink's buildout and other obligations under the State Broadband Expansion Grant. For the purposes of this application and all references to business operations in Louisiana, we will use the future operating name "Brightspeed" to refer collectively to the existing CenturyLink/Lumen ILECs that Apollo is acquiring. Brightspeed, through its predecessor CenturyLink, has provided internet services to customers for more than two decades. Brightspeed currently offers at least 25/3 Mbps service to more than 35,000 locations in Louisiana, and continually works to expand both the number of Louisianans that can receive broadband service and the speeds that it offers. Brightspeed will continue CenturyLink's commitment to bringing broadband service to rural portions of Louisiana, as demonstrated by CenturyLink's recent win of more than 7,600 Louisiana locations in the recent FCC Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) auction, which Brightspeed has committed to inherit as part of the transaction. Recently, in June 2022, Brightspeed was awarded with a broadband expansion grant to reach approximately 6k residential locations in Marinette County, WI with an award of over \$1.5M and total project cost of \$9.7M. In July, Brightspeed was also awarded a \$1.8M grant to build out to approximately 650 locations in Hyde County, NC with a total project cost of \$1.1M. (Note: Contractual agreements for these awarded grants are still pending finalization at time of application.) Brightspeed and its predecessor CenturyLink have met their grant obligations and have not paid any penalties related to any internet service infrastructure project funded through federal or state grant programs. Brightspeed, nor its predecessor CenturyLink, 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 through federal or state grant programs. Brightspeed will leverage the experience and expertise that CenturyLink has built over decades of operation in the state and elsewhere. Brightspeed is acquiring CenturyLink's network, operations, customers, and, importantly, its employees, in Louisiana. Over its many years of operations in Louisiana and the additional 19 states included in the acquisition, CenturyLink has completed hundreds of internet service infrastructure projects. CenturyLink/Lumen has also completed dozens of state-funded internet service infrastructure projects across the country, participated in the FCC's CAF II program, and won multiple RDOF auction grants in states across the country. The company has completed state-funded broadband grant projects in several states, and continually builds internally funded broadband projects in its operating territories, including Louisiana. Brightspeed will be the successor to Lumen's RDOF build commitments in each of the nine states in which Lumen previously won RDOF grants. As the successor to CenturyLink's operations in Louisiana, Brightspeed will leverage CenturyLink's skilled workforce and its own managerial and network expertise to build out the fiber network for the project area. Following the transaction close, Brightspeed will continue CenturyLink's strong tradition and expertise in building and managing network infrastructure. Brightspeed will operate CenturyLink's local fiber and copper networks (including connectivity to enabled buildings) that serve its broadband and voice customers (consumer, enterprise, and wholesale), and provide the operations and back-office support necessary to meet Louisiana's accelerating demand for high-bandwidth connectivity and fiber technology. Brightspeed will rely on its own exceptionally strong, experienced management team that includes senior executives with extensive experience designing and deploying Verizon's cutting-edge FiOS large-scale Fiber to the Premises ("FTTP") network. These executives each have multiple decades of telecom and business experience, and they will work with CenturyLink's established network and operations teams to build and maintain the company's Louisiana broadband project. Please see the following for profiles of Brightspeed's executives. Bob Mudge (Chief Executive Officer): Bob's leadership roles at Verizon and other telecommunications entities span the gamut from network operations to marketing and strategy.

He has deep expertise in public and private companies and has served as an advisor to multiple private equity firms. While the breadth and depth of his industry experience is crucial in his role as Brightspeed's Chief Executive Officer, his ability to develop excellent teams that deliver exceptional customer service and growth sets him apart in the industry.

Chris Creager (Chief Administration Officer): Chris brings a wealth of leadership experience in transforming wireline telecom businesses and driving customer growth. During his tenure with Verizon, he led large network and multi-billion-dollar business units that created powerful fiber optic access to millions of homes and businesses. Highly skilled in leading telecom mergers and acquisitions, Chris is focused on ensuring that Brightspeed delivers all its brand implies, for customers and employees.

Tom Maguire (Chief Operating Officer): Tom's telecommunications experience spans four decades, from an early career as a field technician to subsequently leading many facets of the business. This experience brings a unique perspective to Brightspeed's business model and influences Tom's belief that operations is most effective when it works with other parts of the organization to provide the best customer experience. Tom looks forward to engaging the Brightspeed operations teams to leverage state-of-the-art technology to serve existing and future customers.

Ashok Kumar (Chief Technology Officer): As a visionary at Verizon and its predecessor company for over two decades, Ashok built systems that ran the first large scale deployment of Fiber to The Home Network (Verizon Fios) and spent a decade helping Verizon scale Fios into the most reliable broadband in America. Most recently, he enabled its brick-and-mortar business into digital first engagement for over 100+ million wireless and Fios customers. As Chief Technology Officer, Ashok's experience and leadership will play a vital role in delivering Brightspeed's planned fiber optics transformation.

Colon McLean (Chief Human Resources Officer): Colon's HR leadership experience is rooted in the Carolinas where he served Duke Energy for twenty-two years. Colon has led large human resources organizations within public and private equity-backed companies in the greater Chicago area since 2008 and is excited to return to his hometown of Charlotte to lead the human resources function for Brightspeed.

Steve Tugentman (Chief Legal Officer): Steve is excited to join Brightspeed's mission to bridge the digital divide and connect the most underserved areas. In multiple leadership positions in Legal over a 30-year career at Verizon, Steve's teams helped transform the telecommunications business, from sales and marketing, to technology, centralized services, policy and operations. His objective at Brightspeed is to position the Legal Department as a competitive advantage for growth and development of the business.

Christie Grumbos (Chief Financial Officer): Christie is responsible for Brightspeed's finance, accounting and treasury operations and will direct capital planning and investment initiatives to drive the company's \$2 billion fiber optics transformation plan. Christie's financial, operational and leadership experience spans more than 25 years, most recently with Terminix, where she served as Chief Financial Officer of Residential business and oversaw the company's long-term corporate development and strategy as Senior Vice President of Mergers and Acquisitions.

Courtland Madock (Chief Marketing Officer): Courtland brings more than 13 years of experience at UScellular, where she led the transformation of the company's high-speed internet product line and grew market share in a fiercely competitive and predominantly rural consumer footprint. At Brightspeed, she will focus on growing sales, marketing Brightspeed's innovative product line, creating a customer experience second to none, and building recognition of the Brightspeed brand with every current and potential customer.

Tom Dailey (Chief Compliance Officer): Tom is a senior global technology and business leader and former chief legal officer with more than 25 years of telecommunications, media and technology (TMT) leadership experience at Fortune Top 20 company, Verizon. An advisor to C-suite executives on legal, strategy, policy and regulatory matters, Tom heads up the company's public policy and government relations, regulatory, privacy and compliance functions. Tom and the rest of the Brightspeed team are focused on bringing fiber broadband to rural America. Tom also leads Brightspeed's Public Policy and Government Affairs organization.

John Livecchi (Director of Engineering): A results-oriented decision-maker with 30+ years of technical and hands-on experience, leading large and small teams working across OSP engineering, construction, operations, regulatory, supply chain, and sourcing. Extensive FTTx Engineering, Design, Inventory Planning, and Regulatory Compliance experience at major telecom firms including Charter and Verizon.

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

Brightspeed is exceptionally well financed by Apollo. Apollo itself is a publicly traded company with a current market cap in excess of \$35 billion. It manages more than \$400 billion in credit, private equity, and real assets funds. Brightspeed will be strongly capitalized at closing, with Apollo making up to \$2 billion available to Brightspeed, of which \$1.5 billion will be available to fund capital expenditures. A proportional amount of this funding will be available for investment in Louisiana. See attachment 1. a letter certifying this the commitment. Please also see attachment 2., a letter from the Louisiana Public Service Commission approving of the above transaction.

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.

No partnerships at this time.

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

Brightspeed actively seeks diverse vendors to manage our business needs. In 2021, Brightspeed's predecessor, CenturyLink, spent millions of dollars nationwide on women-owned, minority-owned, disabled veteran-owned and/or LGBT-owned business enterprises (WMDVLGBTBE). Investing in opportunities for minority and disadvantaged enterprises is a legacy that Brightspeed intends to continue. For example, supply chain is one of the most critical components in successfully building a large-scale fiber optic network. Brightspeed is relying on a women owned business (KGPCo) to manage nearly all facets of our supply chain operations (procurement, inventory management and distribution.

including all facets of our supply chain operations (procurement, inventory management and distribution, and transportation). In addition, this business is our primary vendor to install our fiber optic central office equipment.

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.

Under the recently updated GUMBO guidelines, locations that otherwise were not eligible in the initial application round are now eligible because they are being served by DSL connections. These locations are locations to which we intend to build. We also removed any locations that have already been awarded with any RDOF or NTIA funding. Using these guidelines, we identified that there exist 1,817 locations that are eligible to build out to in our proposed area. In the past, it has not been economically feasible to upgrade speeds in these areas given their rural nature. Thus, without grant funding, these areas continue to lack access to adequate internet speeds. The funding requested for this project will allow the upgrade of fiber in these areas. Deploying this fiber will allow for scalability going forward so that residents' needs can continue to be met.

Services

Provide a description of service options to be provided:

Service Name	Upload/download speed	Date of 1st Availability	Data Cap	# of recipients	Price
200 Mbps	200 Mbps/200 Mbps	Estimated August '23	None - Unlimited	1817	72.00
500 Mbps	500 Mbps/500 Mbps	Dec '23	None - Unlimited	1817	92.00
1 Gbps	940 Mbps /880 Mbps	Estimated August '23	None - Unlimited	1817	120.00

Marketing

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

Brightspeed will utilize effective marketing campaigns and informational resources to drive adoption in the area. Face to face marketing teams will be available to engage and educate prospects on Brightspeed internet product details and ordering processes, and local teams will work to determine other marketing methods with wide reach that will be effective in the area. These may include direct mail, a prelaunch website, a dedicated website for the service area, yard signs, door hangers, press releases, and/or mobile marketing. Community education forums may be conducted through launch events where customers can ask questions and register for service. We will evaluate customized joint marketing programs for applicability and mutual benefit with partners closer to service launch. To acquire customers, Brightspeed will utilize standard go-to-market plans for fiber-to-the-home launches. Brightspeed's local teams will determine, based on the geography of the impacted households, the best method of marketing the launch. Like the marketing/customer segmentation strategy, the sales strategy will be determined by local Brightspeed teams to ensure the highest degree of efficacy within the targeted communities. Community education forums may also be conducted through launch events where customers can ask questions and register for service. Customized joint marketing programs could be evaluated for applicability and mutual benefit.

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.

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

See attachment 5. for a letter of support from Kirby Roy III, President of the Avoyelles Parish Police Jury. Attached documents: Attachment 5. Police Jury Letter of Support VILLAGE OF PLAUCHEVILLE - TERRY L ST. ROMAIN, MAYOR Letter of Support from Town of Cottonport

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.

Brightspeed's predecessor, CenturyLink, is a Louisiana-based company with thousands of employees in the state. CenturyLink supports many secondary schools in Louisiana with its Technology for Teachers program. CenturyLink also has the number one rated Internship program (by Wayup) and recruits local post-secondary students in Louisiana as part of this program (see here for more details: <https://jobs.lumen.com/global/en/university-relations>). Brightspeed intends to continue CenturyLink's legacy of supporting schools and commitment to recruiting locally. See attachment 6. for a letter from W. Dennis Epps (Special Advisor to the President, Louisiana Community & Technical College System) documenting Lumen Technologies and Brightspeed's active discussion, planning, and partnership with the Louisiana Community & Technical College System and Louisiana Delta Community College in developing workforce training programs.

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.

Our proposal includes the deployment of state-of-the-art 10G symmetrical network equipment ("XGSPON") and the fiber necessary to deliver fiber-to-the-premises ("FTTP") service directly to customers' homes and businesses. Our base speed fiber offering provides 200 Mbps/200 Mbps (download/upload) speeds, and our top-end service will be at least a 1 Gbps symmetrical (i.e., 1 Gbps upstream and 1 Gbps downstream) speed service (or higher). XGSPON is a 10 gigabit per second (Gbps) symmetrical Passive Optical Network delivered via a dedicated fiber loop to the customer's premises. This

grant award will allow Brightspeed to provide high-speed data transfer rates up to 2 Gbps transported on a single fiber from the ILEC central office (CO) to the customer's home or business. In addition to having super-fast data throughput speeds, the network Brightspeed is deploying allows for symmetrical data transfer rates (the upload and download speeds are the same), which is the state-of-the-art for network design. The XGSPON infrastructure eliminates the need for active electronics (and the associated power and real estate needs and maintenance costs) in the distribution plant. See attachment 7 for a white paper from Calix for more information. In deploying this infrastructure, Brightspeed will make use of the more efficient TAP network architecture; see attachment 8 for a white paper from Corning for more information. Brightspeed will provide XGSPON via a dedicated fiber loop to the customer's premises. This will require construction of approximately 34 miles of fiber throughout the grant area, plus the necessary electronics and terminals. Brightspeed will take-over and upgrade, as needed, CenturyLink's existing Central Offices, which contain the core fiber routers that connect to the remainder of the Brightspeed network and to the internet. The proposed network and technology solution will have the ability to be upgraded to faster speeds in the future. The useful life of fiber is approximately 20 years, giving the project a long lifespan during which it can continue to better the community. The maximum speed that can be marketed in 10 years will be at least 1G/1G, with opportunities to scale to faster speeds. Middle mile facilities for transporting information from the originating central offices to internet servers will also require equipment upgrade for project execution and will be considered in project design. Brightspeed will upgrade existing backhaul network infrastructure as required, using state-of-the-art transport and routing technologies, substantially increasing the bandwidth capacity with a fault tolerant design, fully supporting the XGSPON broadband services.

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

The capabilities of a fiber or Optical Distribution Network (ODN) are essentially limitless, offering customers an extremely reliable medium that is resilient in the face of bad weather - there is no service fade. XGSPON is a state-of-the-art Passive Optical Network (PON) technology that could scale up to 10 gigabits per second (GBPS) for both upload and download (i.e., symmetrical) data speeds. Together these products will easily serve customers' needs for decades to come.

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).

Brightspeed will undertake commercial best efforts to complete the project within 24 months of the execution of the Grant Agreement. We fully expect to achieve this goal and note that like any major construction project the schedule is subject to change and to various factors, including delays due to weather or Act of God events, obtaining necessary permits in a timely manner, and difficulty in obtaining and deploying necessary fiber, equipment, labor, and other resources needed to complete the project as scheduled. Brightspeed's deployment plan is as follows: After receipt of the grant award and signing of applicable contracts, Brightspeed will begin work on the design-build engineering phase of the project. Obtaining permits and completing pole make-ready work can take up to 4-6 months and these timelines are built into the schedule. Thereafter Brightspeed will begin project construction using its own line extension contracts or open up the construction to a competitive bid. As construction takes place it is our intent to market and launch portions of the project as they are completed, and to have construction completed in all project areas within twenty-four months of executing the Grant Agreement. Upon award and execution of the grant contract, Brightspeed's network planning team will create the project narrative for the Company's network implementation teams and that will be completed within 30-60 days. Once the project narrative is released Brightspeed's detailed engineering will begin, which includes design engineering and any other required permits. An additional 60-90 days are required to finalize designs, work to obtain permits, and complete construction plans. We are prepared to begin construction

within 60 days of the date from which we are able to obtain all permits, pole licenses, and finalize all required pole make ready work necessary to complete construction of the entire project area. Brightspeed is targeting a plan and construction completion by 2024 which corresponds to Brightspeed's existing build plans in Avoyelles Parish outside of the state broadband grant program. Activity Estimated Duration Contract Execution 1 Week Project Narrative 1 Month Detailed Engineering 1-3 Months Construction 14-20 Months Est. Total Project 16-24 Months *Brightspeed will begin design work within 30 days of the grant award

X **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.

Brightspeed, post-transaction, will own and operate the CTPTLAXA, SMPTLAXA, PCVLLAXA, MNSRLAXA, and MOVLLAXA wire centers which cover the extent of our proposed project area in Avoyelles Parish, LA. The project would deploy a new Optical Distribution Network (ODN) consisting of an estimated 34 miles of new fiber. In addition, new Passive Optical Network (PON) equipment, including an Optical Line Terminal (OLT) and Fiber Distribution Frame (FDF), will also be installed. This new ODN and PON equipment will leverage existing assets (i.e., poles and wire center space) that are already serving an estimated 6,718 homes in the Avoyelles service area. With this new fiber-to-the-home infrastructure, high-speed symmetrical data up to 2 Gbps would be transported on a single fiber from the office/remote electronics to the home or premises. This infrastructure eliminates the need for active electronics (and the associated power, real estate and maintenance costs) in the distribution plant, depending on the distance from the Central Office/Remote and available feeder fibers. The site infrastructure will serve an estimated 1,817 prospective broadband recipients.

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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CTPTLAXA, SMPTLAXA, PCVLLAXA, MNSRLAXA, MOVLLAXA Wire Centers	N/A	Fiber	Aerial/Buried 1817	0.020	Min. speed of 200 Mbps/200 Mbps
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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.

The total construction costs are \$4,031,036 to construct 34 Miles of fiber. Brightspeed is seeking a grant of \$1,612,414, or 40% of the total construction costs, with Brightspeed providing the remaining funding of \$2,418,622 (60%). Brightspeed has included only costs directly associated with construction of the Avoyelles Parish project. The funding received will not subsidize Brightspeed expenses or the monthly bills of its customers and will not contribute to Brightspeed operating costs or profits. Absent receipt of the broadband expansion grant, Brightspeed will not undertake the project. The total construction cost includes Outside Plant (OSP) (Fiber, Material & Equipment) along with Inside Plant (Install, Contract, Labor) cost amounts. Brightspeed will own and operate the facilities as part of its telecommunications network. The construction costs are related to project planning, obtaining construction permits, construction of facilities, and installation and testing of the broadband service being constructed. For more information on the anticipated distribution of the project budget, including across the categories of Equipment, Fiber deployment, and connection costs, please see attachment 9.

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.

The project is internally funded. Please see attached letter.