

Public Notice Submission

Provider Name: Horry Telephone Cooperative, Inc

Summary: The request of any applicant to build facilities in Horry Telephone Cooperative's (HTC) service area should not be considered for funding because, as shown in the attached worksheets, HTC currently provides sufficient high-speed broadband internet service in the pertinent Census blocks/tracts. Specifically, 94% of households have broadband available. The highest available residential speeds are 10 Mbps downstream and 10 Mbps upstream, which exceed the minimum threshold set forth in the Notice of Funds Availability ("NoFA") published by NTIA for Round 2 BTOP funding. Moreover, HTC provides broadband services at competitive market rates, as demonstrated by our

significant subscriber penetration rates. Additionally, applications proposing to provide service in our territory do not meet the NoFA's definition of "underserved" or "unserved" area. Moreover, funding of this application would overbuild existing broadband infrastructure. Please refer

to the completed Points of Presence worksheet which illustrates where middle mile services are available

throughout our service territory. Finally, the most important criterion for NTIA to consider in awarding Comprehensive Community

Infrastructure/Middle Mile projects, according to the NoFA, is whether the project "will deploy Middle Mile

broadband infrastructure with a commitment to offer new or substantially upgraded service to community

anchor institutions." Funding of this application is unnecessary because facilities are already in place to provide services to anchor institutions located within the area, and most, if not all, are already receiving services

at speeds of their choosing. All institutions of higher learning, including public and private universities and community and technical

colleges, are 100% covered by fiber and may obtain speeds as desired up to 1 Gb. Likewise, 100% of K-12 schools

and libraries are currently being served with broadband services. All hospitals located within our service territory are connected with fiber at desired speeds of their choosing

up to 1 Gb. Any other health care providers or facilities located within the area also have available sufficient connectivity

capable of being deployed at the desired speeds of those providers and facilities.