

## Public Notice Submission

**Provider Name:** Central Arkansas Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

**Summary:** In 1951, Central Arkansas Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (CATC) was formed to provide telephone service to parts of rural Hot Spring County. After being denied service by privately owned telephone companies, residents of what is now CATC's service area exercised their right under federal law to petition & establish what is now CATC. After over 50 years of service, CATC is still offering service as one of only two telephone cooperatives in the State of Arkansas. Now, as in 1951, CATC strives to provide customers with quality, up-to-date telecommunications service at affordable rates. Our motto "Owned By Those We Serve", reflects a strong commitment to our customers and our service area that has grown stronger through the years. The original office was in the Town of Donaldson, Arkansas and is still in operation today. As time progressed, however, growth made it necessary to expand to the Bismarck area. In 1995, the new business office was relocated in Bismarck at 4036 Highway 7. CATC now offers a wide range of services currently, CATC proudly serves over 3,400 customers and is still growing. CATC is proud to serve the Bismarck-Donaldson area and is prepared to continue to offer innovative, technologically up-to-date service into the 21st Century at the least possible customer rates.

CATC started an assertive fiber deployment construction program after realizing the need to connect its exchanges and nodes. This realization has now allowed CATC to provide its customers with unequaled broadband capabilities, and also allows CATC to connect with its comprehensive community infrastructure. These projects were financed by the Rural Utilities Service program. CATC has invested considerably in fiber infrastructure over the past decade to connect each exchange central office to the company's main access points enabling the company to deploy broadband services to these remote rural areas. CATC historically has taken advantage of the Rural Utilities Services financing programs as a means to invest in this infrastructure build out. CATC's current construction activities involves deploying more fiber facilities to all node locations in order to meet their goal of being the premier broadband provider. As a part of CATC's commitment to provide bandwidth services to its customers, the company has obtained first mile commitments in order to support these services. CATC demonstrates that it provides broadband service throughout its entire service area located in Arkansas, which is included in the proposed funded Service Area in some BTOP applications and that CATC's service area is not unserved or underserved. 100% of the households in CATC's service area are able to readily subscribe upon request to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband services at a minimum transmission speed of greater than 768 kbps downstream and 200 kbps upstream from CATC; 100% of the households in CATC's service area have access to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband service at greater than the minimum broadband transmission speed as set forth in the definition of broadband; CATC advertises broadband service at broadband transmission speeds of at least 3 megabits per second downstream throughout its service area; and the rate of broadband subscribership in CATC's service area is greater than 40 percent of households. Based on the foregoing, CATC has demonstrated that all claims that the

proposed funded service area which overlaps CATC's service area is [unserved/underserved] is not correct. Further, because 100% of households in CATC's service area are able to readily subscribe upon request to facilities-based, terrestrial broadband services at a minimum transmission speed of greater than 768 kbps downstream and 200 kbps upstream from CATC, the proposed funded service area that overlaps CATC's service area is not underserved.