Executive Summary & Grant Rationale

Your response to the outline below should be no longer than two pages.
This information may be made public.

After you’ve completed the preceding application and reviewed the AWARDING GRANTS – Selection Criteria & Weights pages that follow this page, please reflect on your application responses and provide a brief executive summary and grant rationale that includes:

- Brief project description/summary (less than 150 words) The ACME Communications, Inc., Joliet Road and Hwy 421 South will service 143 unserved residences, 21 farm/ag operations and 6 businesses equaling 170 total passings in rural La Porte County with high speed broadband internet. The proposed projects will provide speeds of 1G download and 1G upload. The proposed broadband speeds are greater than existing available wireless speeds. Residential, business and farm/ag operations will have affordable broadband service access. ACME Communications, Inc., commits to offering this service and pricing for 5 years.

A general geographic location of the project (not census blocks) and total number of passings estimated to be made as a result of the grant project

**The Hwy 421 South project begins at Greenway Street in Westville and continues south on Flynn Street which becomes US 421 South. It continues approximately 4 miles to West 860 South and turns west into the subdivision and loops through the subdivision along 1010 West and Century Avenue and exits heading east on 870 South back to US 421 south to 900 South where it turns west to Haskell Road and turns north to include the residences along the roadway. 87 total passings.**

**The Joliet Road project location begins at US Highway 2 and follows Wozniak Road south through Pinhook to CR 350 South and turns to the east to where it intersects with West Joliet Road, continue east to Nancy Lane and turns north into the subdivision where it loops throughout the area including Darlene Drive, Tracy Ann Drive, Maple Lane Court and Zacharie Drive. Exits on Coulter Creek Drive back onto Joliet Road and turns east to CR 550 West and turns north to include residences along highway. 83 total passings.**

- A brief description of the applicant’s involvement in the project to date and how the applicant (and/or partners) intends to manage and sustain the project

ACME Communications, Inc., is responsible for leading the NLC Rural Broadband application team. In collaboration with La Porte County Board of Commissioners, La Porte County Rural Broadband Taskforce, Town of Westville, State Representative, residents, businesses and farms in the area, the team created the NLC Rural Broadband grant application. The project deployment will be managed by ACME Communications, Inc., President, and sustained for the useful life of the installation.
A statement on how broadband improvements will advance the quality of life and strengthen economic development opportunities in the communities in the project area. Internet access is a vital to communities. Communities with broadband access experience a wide range of economic, educational and social advantages. Broadband internet access for the Joliet Road and Hwy 421 South project areas positively improves the quality of life to these areas residents, businesses and farm/ag operation. Benefits of high speed broadband internet on quality of life include:

**Home Entertainment and Connectivity.** We have all become used to having the world at our fingertips. Look up a recipe, the latest stock information, video chat, stream a movie or music, automate your home, play interactive on-line games.

**Work from Anywhere.** For the first time in history residents can work where they live instead of living where they work because of broadband Internet. Fast access to the Internet makes it possible for professionals in marketing, finance, design, customer care, programming, and a number of other computer based fields to work from home, giving these individuals a chance to live where they want and eliminate commuting time.

**Distance Learning.** Educational and enrichment opportunities for every age group are quickly becoming the norm as colleges, adult education programs and even virtual elementary schools emerge.

**K-12 Education.** Aside from the obvious access to information for study, children AND their parents can always be engaged with the educational process through educational web portals that provide an interface to communicate with teachers and administrators, real time access to assignments and grades, and numerous educational resources.

**Health Care.** Telemedicine has made advances that allow for digital transfer of information that once required traditional telephone technology. Today, an Internet connection allows health care professionals to evaluate, diagnose and treat patients in remote locations using telecommunications technology. Telemedicine allows patients in remote locations to access medical expertise quickly, efficiently and without travel.

**Senior Citizens and People with Disabilities.** Aging in place independent living are 2 primary concerns for this population. The most affordable home automation products are cloud based and Internet-dependent. A wide array of products from voice activated devices to monitoring systems to panic alarms, can have a profound impact on quality of life for senior citizens, the disabled, AND the people who care for them.

There are more benefits than many businesses expect. Rural areas with high quality broadband access reap short and long term economic benefits. Short term benefits are modest increases in business and job growth. Business growth occurs through practical applications such as e-commerce and cost reductions. Some long term benefits include growth in population, per capita income and GDP.