**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):**

Mainstream Fiber Networks will be placing 150 miles of fiber routes into Warrick County, Indiana. This total mileage of fiber will include multiple sections ranging from the outskirts of the county to the more rural areas of the eastern portion. This project will service the populated areas of Campbell Township; Town of Elberfeld; unincorporated area of Yankeetown in Anderson Township; Town of Lynnville; Owen Township; Lane Township; Pigeon Township; Town of Tennyson; and multiple areas located within the vicinity and between these populated areas. MSFN determined that the 150 miles of new fiber routes are necessary to connect to areas that are shown to be unserved.

**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 Next Level Connections Broadband grant project located in Warrick County will serve 3,716 unserved households and 589 unserved business within the county with a focus 150 miles of fiber routes considered last mile to serve areas of Campbell Township; Town of Elberfeld; unincorporated area of Yankeetown in Anderson Township; Town of Lynnville, Owen Township, Lane Township, Pigeon Township, and Town of Tennyson. It is as follows:

- The West to Northwest section will include a range as far East as Schultz Road to the Western boarder of Warrick County at Warrick County Line Road. Furthermore, this project will reach from the crossing of Boonville Highway and County Road 1025 West up to Elberfeld at the crossing of Second Street and West Main Street.
- The Northern section of the project will begin within Lynnville as far West as West 3rd Street and Oak Street, move along Highway 68 to reach the unincorporated area of Selvin, Indiana up to County Road 1300 North, and finally end at the Warrick County boarder with Spencer County near the town of Dale, Indiana.
- The Eastern section of the project will be connect to the Northern section and Highway 68 to the unincorporated area of Folsomville, Indiana along Folsomville-Degonia Road and the unincorporated area of Heilman, Indiana along County Road 800 East. These two lines of fiber located in the Folsomville, Indiana area and unincorporated area of Heilman, Indiana will then move South along County Road 400 East to County Road 350 North and County Road 650 East respectively to connect in the Town of Tennyson, Indiana at the crossing of Main Street and West Oak Street.
- The Central section of the project will reach the outskirts of the City of Boonville, Indiana ending at the crossing of East North Street and North Williams Street, the crossing of Roth Road and Highway 62, and near the crossing of 9th Street and East Poplar Street. These lines will be connected to the eastern area of Folsomville, Indiana and Town of Tennyson, Indiana.
- The Southern section of the project will reach from the crossings in to the east of the City of Boonville to the unincorporated area of Yankeetown, Indiana. The section will also connect the
unincorporated area of Dayville, Indiana moving as far West as Vanada Road, the unincorporated area of Bullocktown, Indiana located on the Warrick County boarder with Spencer County, and the town area of Pelzer located at the crossing of West New Hope Road and South Pelzer Road.

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:

In 2016, Warrick County moved forward with the exploration and development of a countywide broadband initiative to explore how broadband providers could deliver advanced services and to what extent County financial participation would be required to accomplish its goals. Warrick County issued RFPs to both fiber and wireless providers. MSFN was selected as the fiber providers for Warrick County. After MSFN was selected, the Next Level Connections Broadband Grant was announced in February 2019. To this point, the focus of the County-funded broadband project centered around broadband infrastructure service to schools, libraries, government facilities, medical districts, and residents in highly populated areas of the County. The proposed project area for MSFN with Next Level Connections Broadband Grant are new fiber routes not considered in the original plan submitted to the Warrick County RFP. MSFN is highly involved in Warrick County and its broadband projects.

Fiber is often said to be future proof because the data is transmitted at the speed of light, so the rate of connection is only limited by the equipment rather than the fiber. This will permit substantial speed improvements by equipment upgrades long before the fiber itself must be upgraded. Because of the materials used in this project, MSFN Next Level Connection Program is sustainable, scalable and upgradable. MSFN estimates that electronic equipment Network Distribution Electronics Equipment will need to be replaced approximately every five to seven years depending on weather conditions and outside elements. MSFN anticipates that the fiber will last up to 40 years. MSFN will sustain and maintain all of the fiber placed by MSFN in Warrick County.

A statement on how broadband improvements will advance the quality of life and strengthen economic development opportunities in the communities in the project area:

While the economic impact that advanced internet brings to this area is vital, it is also important to understand how this strong broadband would increase the quality of life among Warrick County residents. While quality of life refers to multiple factors, one that the many find necessary is the overall happiness of the community. Broadband connectivity actually builds social capital in two ways. Broadband connectivity seems to allow bonds within and among community households to begin, and provides most individuals with higher levels of social capital when compared to those without broadband connectivity. Through research broadband capability has not only allowed rural communities to have a larger economic impact, but has also allowed for an increase in social capital, overall happiness, and quality of life in general.