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)

This project is a pure rural fiber build. Swayzee has facilities in Frankfort Indiana and it is our hope to someday build fiber from Swayzee to Frankfort and pick up towns such as Greentown and Kokomo suburbs. This grant will cover the basic costs of building about ten miles closer to that goal, but more importantly put us in a position to bring fiber optics into some of the more rural areas of northern Indiana.

- 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

Swayzee to Point Isabel to the outskirts of Greentown. We estimate covering 88 homes and farms along the route.

- 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

Swayzee Telephone Company, Inc. has been in continuous operation since 1901 and this fiber route will be connected to our main line and serviced out of Swayzee.

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

When I bought Swayzee Telephone Company, Inc. from Mr. Sam Samuels in 2007, STC had about 1000 POTS lines and a little over 100 DSL subscribers with its highest speeds at 768 Kbps. Our entire backbone was a 5Mbps circuit and the first weekend I owned the company we had a complete Internet outage that hit on Saturday morning. I called the IT contractor we were using and I asked him to look into it. His exact words were, “Oh, you want me to come in and fix it on the weekend? That’s double time and Sam always told me that weekend outages can wait until Monday.” When I asked Sam about this he shrugged his shoulder and told me that he thought the Internet was just a fad.
Fast forward to 2019 and if the Internet so much as times out in five seconds customers are on the phone letting you know, or even worse, on social media leaving you a bad review. The Internet has infiltrated every aspect of our lives and will continue to do so in ways we have yet to understand.

My job is to get fiber to the masses. My personal philosophy, “The Company with the most fiber - WINS.” Cellular and wireless has its niche place and while we utilize them, nothing compares to an individual fiber connection now or in the future.

I’d like to imagine that someday a future Albert Einstein or Stephen Hawking will be able to develop his or her skills while utilizing the fiber optic, broadband network we have worked so hard to bring to rural Indiana.