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Washington State Dept. of Commerce
Washington State Broadband Office
WSBO Infrastructure Acceleration Grants
Deadline: 11/30/2021

Lewis County Lewis County Broadband Expansion

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USD\$ 23,500,000.00 Requested

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Pre-Application [top](#)

1. Entity Type:

If a partnership, is there at least one public partner? Please attach an operating agreement in the document tab.

- Local Government (including but not limited to Ports and Public Utility Districts)
- Federally Recognized Tribe
- Nonprofit Organization
- Nonprofit Cooperative Organization
- Multiparty Entity (must include at least one public entity)
- Other:

2. Is any part of the project area located on federally recognized Tribal Lands?

If yes, attach a letter of support from the affected Tribe(s) in the documents tab

- Yes
- No

3. Does the Applicant have the 10% matching cash funds secured?

- Yes
- No, explain:

4. Is there a Broadband Action Team (BAT) in the project area?

If yes, please attach a letter of support in the documents tab.

- Yes
- No

5. Project Description:

Please provide a detailed description of the project. Attach a shape file of the boundary map with identifiable location details in the document tab.

The Lewis County Broadband Expansion project is a partnership between Lewis County and ToledoTel. The proposed project will build a fiber optic network connecting over 2,345 homes and business in and around the Winlock Area to a fiber-to-the-home (FTTP) network infrastructure. This plan will bring fiber to the side of each home and business, completing the installation inside the premise. Upon completion, this network will provide service speeds of up to 10 Gigabits Symmetrical speeds. Total cost of the project is \$23.5 million.

ToledoTel will provide 10% matching funds to the proposed project. Lewis County will be providing in-kind services, primarily staff time, to further the project. The resulting infrastructure will be publicly owned and will provide open access no later than three years after construction.

ToledoTel has the staff, resources, and experience to immediately begin this network expansion. They have fiber, vaults, conduit supplies and electronics in stock. Although supply chain issues will have an impact on this project, they have all essential supplies needed to begin construction and move forward as lead time obstacles are addressed. Fiber optic cable supply chains currently have lead times of 18 to 20 months.

Lewis County and ToledoTel plan to complete this project by December 2026, with all funds obligated by December 2024. The ToledoTel effort will be led by VP/COO, Dale Merten. Mr. Merten has over 42 years of experience in the telecommunications industry.

The Lewis County Broadband Expansion project will provide state-of-the-art broadband services via FTTP technology to 2,345 un/underserved locations in Lewis County in western Washington. This fiber broadband infrastructure will provide up to 10 Gbps (but not less than 100 mbps) broadband services to an area that has been independently verified to be unserved / underserved according to the state definition of broadband (25 mbps download / 3 mbps upload).

The Lewis County Broadband Expansion project proposed by ToledoTel covers approximately 250 miles of fiber construction within the Winlock, WA exchange area. While most of the network will be buried fiber construction, ToledoTel has identified three miles that must be completed via aerial construction. The buried fiber construction will include placing the fiber in conduit with splicing completed in vaults.

The Project will deploy a 100 percent fiber-to-the-premises network infrastructure to all locations within the Winlock, WA exchange area as shown on the attached map/shapefile. To ensure access for future customers, fiber will be placed in all existing right-of-ways to provide service to 100 percent of the tax parcels, even those currently undeveloped. This provides the ability to serve these future properties with minimal impact. ToledoTel will place Calix Gigaspire U6 ONT's inside each home providing the ability to provide up to 10 Gbps broadband speeds.

Upon grant award, the Project will break ground within six months. ToledoTel will begin constructing the fiber network infrastructure by laying conduit, then blowing or pulling fiber. ToledoTel will complete the minimum amount of mainline fiber construction necessary to begin connecting subscriber locations as soon as possible. The project's goal is to connect 820 subscriber locations by the end of 2022; 1,640 locations by the end of 2023; 1,870 locations by the end of 2024; 2,100 locations by the end of 2025; and 2,220 locations by the end of 2026.

The proposed project will enable a wide variety of services to be delivered to the end customers including high-speed Internet, home automation and monitoring services, distance learning, telehealth services, and numerous other applications. Building this FTTP infrastructure will improve the lives of residents and will enable them to enjoy the quality of life afforded by living in rural Washington, while still having the ability to work for virtually any employer via telecommuting. Additionally, the proposed Project will have a key impact on the successful proliferation of online education to all Lewis County residents. This project will have an overall positive impact on the future population and economic growth in this region.

6. Is this project part of a larger, phased project?

If Yes, explain how this phase fits in the overall project

No.

7. Provide the project's anticipated completion date.

12/31/2026

8. Does the Applicant have control of the project site for at least 25 years, either through ownership or a long term lease?

If 'No' please briefly explain and include the date you expect to meet this condition.

Yes

No, explain:

9. Does the infrastructure funded by this grant provide broadband connectivity for at least 25 years?

If no, give an explanation for a shorter service period.

Yes.

10. Is this project designed to deliver broadband service, as part of a contiguous network that: At minimum, delivers transmission speeds of 100 megabits per second download and 100 megabits per second upload (100/100)

Yes

No, explain:

11. Is this project designed to deliver broadband service, as part of a contiguous network that: Is deployed in unserved areas, defined as areas lacking access to reliable (wireline connection) service at speeds of at least 25/3.

Yes

No

12. Has the Applicant consulted with incumbent service providers in the area and the incumbent's position on the project (support, neutral, opposed)? Documentation will be required in phase two.

If known, is the incumbent ISP planning to improve services in the next 24 months? Please avoid requesting funds for projects in areas in which there are existing agreements to build reliable wireline service with minimum speeds of 100/20 by 12/31/24

Yes, the County plans to reach out to ISP's in the area. This project was reviewed and is supported by the Lewis County Broadband Action Team. ToledoTel has reached out to Centurylink/Lumen and no response has been received.

13. Is the applicant prepared to demonstrate commitment by at least one internet service provider (ISP) to provide broadband service using the infrastructure funded. A signed contingency agreement from the ISP will be required

Yes

No

14. Is the Applicant prepared to provide anticipated pricing structure for the broadband service. Affordable pricing is a priority, as is an income-based service plan for all customers.

Yes

No, explain:

Documents Requested *

Required? Attached Documents *



[Shape File of Area](#)

[BAT Letter of Support](#)

[Project Area Map \(image\)](#)

[County Letter of award of RFP](#)

Application Questions [top](#)

Project

1. Project Description:

In 1000 characters or less, BRIEFLY describe the scope of the broadband project. Please do not describe history or need.

The Lewis County Broadband Expansion project is a partnership between Lewis County and ToledoTel. The proposed project will build a fiber optic network connecting over 2,345 homes and business in and around the Winlock area via a 100% fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) network infrastructure. This plan will bring fiber to each home and business, as well as the roadside of each undeveloped parcel for future growth. Completing the installation will provide up to 10 Gigabits symmetrical service speeds. Total cost of the project is \$23.5 million. ToledoTel will provide \$2.35 million matching funds to the proposed project; the applicant is seeking \$21.15 million in WSBO grant funding.

2. Project Area:

Describe the project area. Include boundary information such as street names, landmarks, etc. If the project accedes the applicant's jurisdictional boundaries please describe why the applicant is working outside it's jurisdictional boundary.

The project will be within the CenturyLink Winlock Exchange as on file with the WUTC. This area is roughly along I-5 from the Cowlitz River, north to Atrium Road, then west from I-5 to the base of the Coast Range and then South towards Vader encompassing approximately 250 square miles. The area is entirely within Lewis County. Please see the project area PDF and shapefile submitted with the pre-application.

3. Legislative (1-49) and congressional (1-9) districts:

See Library for Washington State Legislative District Finder at: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/>

20th Legislative District Senator John Braun (R) Republican Leader Rep. Abbarno, Peter Rep. Orcutt, Ed T Congressional District 3 Legislators U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell and U.S. Senator Patty Murray U.S. Representative Jaime Herrera Beutler

Scope of Work

4. Is middle mile construction part of the project?

If Yes, explain the need for middle mile and why existing infrastructure is not available for use or a viable option for this project.

No

Yes, explain:

5. Connection points of "middle mile" and of "last mile":

Number of last mile connections (passings)

Number of middle miles, if any included in this project

TOTAL

6. Miles of fiber to be installed and method of installation for the type of technology deployed:

3	Pole - Fiber Optic Miles
0	Trench - Fiber Optic Miles
244	Pushed(blow)/pulled - Fiber Optic Miles
0	Pole - Fixed Wireless
0	Trench - Fixed Wireless
	Other, explain:
247.00	TOTAL

Method of Installation

7. If Fiber optic technology will be deployed, what is the grade?

If not applicable, please write N/A.

- OM5
- OM4
- OM3
- OM2
- OM1
- N/A
- Other explain: OS2 Single Mode Fiber, Multimode (OM1 – OM5) is not suitable for large rural networks.

8. What are the linkages and what are the distances between links (towers, transmitters, etc.) and include the longest distances in miles:

There are no such linkages: this is a fiber-to-the-premises network. Every home or business will be connected/wired unless a property owner declines to permit the installation, in which case fiber slack will be installed at the property line to permit future installation on request.

9. Describe the challenges unique to this location that are avoided or addressed as a result of this technology or installation methodology:

This project is an initial investment that will succeed for 25 years or more, without need for further large investment. Only dedicated fiber lines to each home or residence provide the future-proof speeds necessary to avoid a project becoming obsolete in 25 years. At up to 10Gbps (a cap based on lighting technology that could improve over time), this project will provide durable, scalable, and ample bandwidth for decades. The installation design takes full advantage of this very long timeline. By utilizing 98.8% buried conduit with vaults, all fiber splices will be buried and easier to access for splicing during construction. Long-term maintenance vs. aerial construction is greatly reduced: damage from storms and trees is nonexistent, and any damage to the fiber cable from excavation is unlikely. Even if needed, a repair will not require a bucket truck. More fiber can be blown or pulled through the conduit to increase capacity if needed, and it will automatically reap the longevity and maintenance benefits of this system. Therefore, once the fiber network is installed, it can be maintained and even improved over 25 years with minimal cost, making it the best investment possible.

10. Will customer premise equipment be needed to enable last mile connections? Is this responsibility, along with maintenance and service of the equipment, included in the Contingency Agreement with the ISP or in the Operating Agreement if the project includes multiple parties?

Yes/No. If yes, identify which party to this project will be providing the equipment and cite the appropriate section in the Agreement. If no, who is responsible for maintenance and service of end user equipment?

Yes, this is an FTTP network, which will have ONTs in each served premise. The Contingent Telecommunications Agreement between Lewis County and ToledoTel assigns ToledoTel ownership and responsibility for all equipment on the customer-side of a box on the outside of the customer's structure. Although the County will own the fiber system leading away from the customer's home to a central network facility, ToledoTel will own all of the connectivity equipment and fiber leading from that facility to ToledoTel's network and the internet. As a result, ToledoTel will provide retail and ISP services that light and wrap around Lewis County's infrastructure, allowing for an integrated and seamless retail experience. ToledoTel is responsible for providing all ISP, data, and network services, and within three years must provide wholesale services to all comers at externally fixed, transparent rates. The result is an open access fiber-to-the-home network managed by an existing, experienced ISP subject to telecom regulation and oversight. With faster speeds and more reliable service than that of copper facilities or wireless product offerings, ToledoTel's high-speed Internet service deployed over the FTTP infrastructure will have a superior user experience when compared to other technologies such as DSL or fixed wireless. The speed tiers (download and upload) and pricing structure that will be offered are provided in a table elsewhere in this application. ToledoTel provides one free Customer Premise Equipment (CPE) per premise. Additionally, ToledoTel does not charge installation fees. ToledoTel will provide 1 month of free service at the 1G/1G service level to every subscriber upon activation.

11. What is the furthest distance between premises serviced by the project and the closest fiber connection?

Zero. Each location will be directly connected to fiber service capable of 10Gbps symmetrical.

Maximum Speed Capacity

12. Identify the built broadband maximum speed capacity (both download/upload):

Mbps/Gbps

10Gpbs up, 10Gpbs down

13. If less than 100 Mbps symmetrical to every premise in the service area, explain why not and how capacity will be scalable to 100 Mbps symmetrical:

Not applicable; it exceeds 100Mbps.

14. How will the technology advance progress towards meeting the state's broadband goals of 150 Mbps symmetrical for all Washingtonians by 2028:

This network will be 10Gbps capable to each location that is connected. Immediately upon installation, this project will greatly surpass the state's goal in a manner that is scalable, durable, open-access, and not in need of large future investment for maintenance. It, therefore, serves as a model project for others between now and 2028.

15. Identify the backhaul technology the project will utilize:

Backhaul is not included in this funding request; this project will get the benefit of ToledoTel's existing backhaul as an ISP. ToledoTel will have two individual 100 Gpbs routes, one to Portland, the other to Seattle providing a total of 200Gpbs and failover protection.

16. If any wireless is included in the project describe how minimum speed requirement to all premises will be consistently met. (e.g., limiting subscribers):

N/A – this is an all fiber-to-the-home project with no wireless. It is worth mentioning that if one wished to extend internet service to areas not within structures—for example, to install a future 6G or 7G cell network technology along all roads to allow for self-driving cars—this project's fiber infrastructure would be the scaffolding on which such wireless facilities would be layered.

Internet Service Provider

If the ISP is a local government, please contact WSBO for additional requirements in accordance with Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1336. See Library for more information.

17. ISP Name:

Committed ISP to deliver service to end users upon project completion. Be sure to also attach in the Documents tab the Executed contingency operating agreement between the applicant and the ISP.

ToledoTel

18. ISP UBI number:

216000257

Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC)

19. Name of Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC):

CenturyLink/Lumen

20. If consultation with any other ISP (beyond the ILEC and the ISP partner to this project) has occurred, please describe:

Attach any available documentation of consultation with any other ISP where indicated in the Documents tab.

Beyond consulting with CenturyLink/Lumen as the ILEC, Lewis County consulted with Rainier Connect, which it knew was contemplating broadband expansion in northern Lewis County. Rainier Connect responded that it had no plans to serve the project area.

21. Provide a description of communication with ILEC regarding the ILEC's service to the project area, both present service and any future service plans. If no communication with the ILEC has been made, please explain the lack of outreach:

Attach documentation of dated written and email correspondence where requested under the Documents tab.

Lewis County reached by phone and email and followed up this communication by email on Nov. 19, and certified mail and email on Nov. 22, 2021

Readiness to Proceed

22. Are any of the materials/supplies as well as labor needed for project construction on hand, or readily available?

Describe the inventory status of the materials and supplies as well as the labor needs for the project. Explain if the needs will be met by existing staff, or if the the project will be wholly, or in part, contracted to outside entities.

Yes, ToledoTel has inventory of materials, supplies and staff to immediately begin construction. Upon selection for Grant Award, ToledoTel will begin the process of selecting additional contractor resources, through a competitive process, to fully staff the project. ToledoTel has long term relationships with telecom suppliers including large lines of credit enabling the company to order/purchase millions of dollars via our normal P/O process. ToledoTel is therefore fully capable of maintaining cash flow to front construction costs while it awaits reimbursement of eligible activities from grant funds.

23. Describe how the applicant will ensure site control for 25 years, either through ownership, long term lease, Tribal lands,

or right-of-way:

Per the Contingency Agreement, Lewis County will own the fiber system constructed for 25 years. ToledoTel, through an indefeasible right to use, will use and maintain it at its expense. ToledoTel has an option to buy for market value after 25 years.

24. Can you certify that the grant funded project will provide broadband connectivity for at least 25 years?

Yes/No. Describe any assurances or risks related to the applicants' ability to ensure 25 years of connectivity.

Yes. The Contingent Telecommunications Agreement requires this and may not be assigned without prior consent. The project design is durable to allow such services to be profitable over the 25-year period, making this not only plausible but likely on the setup and investment that proceed from the grant.

25. Applicants experience administering federal funds:

<input type="checkbox"/>	0-1 year
<input type="checkbox"/>	1-3 years
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3+ years
<input type="text" value="0.00"/>	TOTAL

26. List sources of federal funds administered: (e.g., American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, CDBG, USDA-RD):

in 2021, Lewis County managed over \$24 million in federal funding either directly from the federal government or indirectly through Washington State. Another 15.6 million in the ARP Act funds as part of the State and Local Fiscal Recovery funds

27. In the event that this project is awarded funding, does the accounting system currently in use by the applicant have the ability to record revenues and expenditure for each funding source by required budget categories?

If no briefly explain how this tracking will be accomplished.

Yes

No, explain:

28. Do you have written accounting and record keeping policies and procedures, when were they last reviewed and updated, and how often are they reviewed and updated?

Yes/No. If yes, indicate how often the policies and procedures are reviewed and updated and when the policies and procedures last updated. If no, explain how you will ensure that accurate and timely accounting and record keeping is maintained?

Departments and Offices receive grant funding awards or contracts from state, federal, and other outside agencies. Expenditures of these funds are conditional on budgetary approval by the Lewis County Board of County Commissioners. Compliance with rules and requirements are in state and federal laws, state and federal administrative regulations, award contract provisions, instructions provided by the awarding entity, and in the Lewis County Procurement Procedure Manual.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, Lewis County is subject to an annual audit of financial statements and the accompanying schedules. Expenditures of grant awards or contracts are reported on the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (SEFA), which includes reporting of CFDA numbers of federal awards and sub-awards as required by 2 CFR section 200.510(b).

29. Describe in detail your experience constructing and managing broadband infrastructure projects:

If the applicant has limited experience do you plan to contract out the project management?

Pursuant to the contingent services agreement for this project, ToledoTel will be in charge of construction and managing the project. ToledoTel has over 100 years of experience managing and constructing telecom networks, the last 25 of which involved broadband (under its evolving definition).

30. If the applicant is also the ISP, indicate the number of years of experience providing internet service to end users.

Lewis County, as the applicant, is not the ISP

Community Impacts

31. Describe your organizations efforts to include input from the community, including people of color and other communities, and/or other affected populations:

Consider in your response the following areas: Efforts to include input in the development of projects; Policies; Promotion of fairness; Fostering of trust and dignity; and Promoting the community voice in the development of projects.

Lewis County built on a foundation from the Lewis County PUD No. 1, which conducted a countywide broadband access survey to note that the entire county, outside of the cities of Centralia and Chehalis, was largely unserved or underserved. It then conducted a public Request for Proposals (RFP) process that remains open for further submissions, which process was carried out through a series of meetings in a public hearing room, and which was broadcast to the full public on the multiple occasions when the Board of County Commissioners considered the projects. The project selected had a letter of support from the PUD, based on its countywide work. The PUD's project was also a winner of the RFP: Lewis County supports its separate application to supply fiber in eastern Lewis County. Both projects are part of a comprehensive countywide plan to ensure fiber access for all residents, rich and poor, urban and rural.

The Broadband Action Team, the Lewis County Broadband Champions, is a diverse stakeholder organization concerning broadband access. It considered this project and supported it to serve the county community.

Concerns about the digital divide between rural and urban residents have been widely reported in the media, including in the Chronicle

(the flagship newspaper in Lewis County). Broadband access in Winlock fosters equity and inclusion by serving an extremely poor and underserved population: according to the 2020-2021 OSPI school year data, over 80% of PK-5th grade students in Winlock were on free and reduced lunch; 76% of all students in Winlock were on free and reduced lunch, and one school had 100% of its students on these programs. ToledoTel, a local company based in town merely a few miles away, already serves the schools themselves in Winlock as anchor institutions (at a large USAC discount). Enabling ToledoTel to supply fiber to these students not only at school but in their homes has a for-us, by-us quality that ensures legitimacy and community support for the project. It also keeps the wealth created by such a project local, in support of local jobs and local residents.

32. Describe how you conduct a self-assessment to ensure fair and just practices and cultural competency, including both internal and external input. Give examples, if possible of instances in which such input caused changes in policy, agency administration, or service delivery:

As a county government, it is difficult to describe the large number of ways in which Lewis County seeks and receives community input concerning its projects and policymaking. Almost all decisions of consequence are undertaken through a public hearing process that seeks public input after publication in one form or another. For its land use decision making, for example, the County has a fully developed public participation program that solicits input through publication; posting at affected properties, libraries, and community centers; stakeholder reach-out by staff; and public hearings before both a citizen's panel (Planning Commissioner) and the Board of County Commissioners. This outreach routinely shapes policies that the planning commission recommends to the Commissioners and consistently leads to process improvements with county permitting and review of development projects. For its public works decision making, including a recent community block grant procedure as one small example, the County again engages in bilingual stakeholder outreach and published notice, seeking public input and comment at hearings to shape the resulting projects and policies. The County's public health and social services department coordinates with a network of providers embedded in the communities they serve, who provide an array of local feedback that molds and influences the existing and future service programs. One recent example is that for the rental assistance programs funded through coronavirus relief funds, the county engaged both the Salvation Army and the Equity Institute, a by-and-for organization, to reach all affected populations (including a sizable Hispanic population in Centralia) in an inclusive, culturally competent manner. This practice was the natural outgrowth of feedback on prior assistance projects about the need for a greater capacity to serve non- or non-native English speakers.

33. Describe the project's regional significance, including the role of various community partners in the project development, and specific community benefits expected from the infrastructure's construction:

Winlock is situated at the convergence of I-5 and US Highway 12, representing the major north-south and east-west corridors of southwest Washington. Winlock has an industrial park with new major development and is currently experiencing perhaps the fastest residential growth in Lewis County. It remains affordable compared to other areas.

Despite its potential, Winlock suffers from poverty that has been exacerbated by the pandemic. According to the 2020-2021 OSPI school year data, over 80% of PK-5th grade students in Winlock were on free and reduced lunch; 76% of all students in Winlock were on free and reduced lunch, and one school had 100% of its students on these programs. When schools closed during the pandemic, these students went home to few remote resources and little access to broadband. The lack of telemedicine, difficulty in remote work for their parents, and "lost year" of education threaten to derail Winlock's capacity just as it is reaching a critical mass of growth.

The fiber-to-the-premises project in this application would wire Winlock for an exciting and prosperous future, both for residents working or learning from home and for businesses capitalizing on Winlock's competitively priced, but accessible location. It would lift the town out of poverty and into opportunity. Moreover, because ToledoTel is a local company from only a few miles away, the project is a for-us, by-us effort that will capture the wealth created locally, in support of local jobs and local residents.

The community partners involved in this effort include Lewis County, ToledoTel, the Lewis County PUD No. 1, and the Economic Development Council of Lewis County. This project especially dovetails with the PUD's proposal of a broadband project in eastern Lewis County. If both projects succeed, communities at either end the US Highway 12 corridor in the county (stretching about 70 miles) will be connected in a way and at a scale not previously seen in this rural area.

34. What if any, school district areas or Tribal school areas are served by the project?

Outside of any funding request for this project, Winlock School District is currently served by ToledoTel at 1Gbps symmetrical and receives a 90% USAC discount on broadband services. The existing service is to the schools and district offices themselves. This project would serve the students, faculty, and staff of those schools when they went home, and would serve any nearby businesses they frequent. It would therefore greatly increase remote learning opportunities, which depend on broadband access at home rather than at the school facility.

35. How many students are served by the schools in the project area?

720 students are served by the schools in the project area.

36. Digital Equity means the project incorporates factors supporting access, affordability, and adoption. How does the project incorporate Digital Equity into the project design and delivery plans?

May include activities such as digital literacy and skills training, translation and interpretation services, additional affordability considerations, support for devices, and other services focused on enhancing access, affordability, and adoption.

The most obvious way in which this project increases digital equity is to provide the opportunity for broadband to a rural area that currently lacks any meaningful access, to a population that is disproportionately low-income and affected by the pandemic.

To support that goal, ToledoTel's business model also promotes a high take rate for broadband services, even amongst low-income or marginalized households. ToledoTel will go door to door when seeking permission to install fiber to a fixture on the outside of each premise, personally alerting businesses and residents to the new broadband services that will be available. When the fiber system comes online, ToledoTel will go door to door to each residence and business again. This avoids any unintentional outreach bias from an advertising medium pitched only to one or some potential customer demographics. The installation is fee, and ToledoTel provides one free Customer Premise Equipment (CPE) per premise. It also provides 1 month of free service at the 1G/1G service level to every subscriber upon activation. The reduction in barriers to entry allows new users to learn and be acclimated to the service.

When talking with potential customers about the services, ToledoTel will offer a tiered price structure, which permits a customer to obtain 25 mbps or 50 mbps symmetrical broadband as an economical, but still good option at \$60/month or \$75/month, respectively. For those who qualify for certain federal and state assistance programs or are below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines, ToledoTel offers a discounted broadband plan. About 1.5% of its current subscribers participate in this plan. ToledoTel is open to, but does not currently participate in, the Emergency Broadband Benefit because it has only 8 eligible customers; it has offered them broadband under the program, and the customers declined.

ToledoTel offers 24/7 free customer services and has a reputation for working for its customers' benefit. So, it can help its users get the full benefit broadband services.

The strategies above have been very successful in ToledoTel's native market. Its take rate among eligible subscribers in Toledo, WA is over 95%, significantly exceeding the industry standard of 60% to 80%.

37. RCW 70A.45.070 requires competitive infrastructure funding programs to take into consideration the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in their project selection process. Please document any adopted policies, activities or standards undertaken that reduce these emissions such as telework policies, commute trip reduction programs, adoption of environmentally sustainable construction materials standards, etc.:

Lewis County has adopted by resolution and has several examples of using them in practice. In Resolution 97-361 (1997), Lewis County enacted a policy promoting use of recycled products in county procurement projects, which removes material from the waste stream and reduces landfill and carbon impacts from the endless production and consumption of goods. In Resolution 15-307 (2015), Lewis County enacted a GHG emission reduction policy that required review of county projects for carbon reduction; encouraged preferences for energy-efficient vehicle, equipment, and materials; reiterated a commitment to use of recycled materials; directed a preference for companies with green management practices; promoted the construction and maintenance of public facilities to conserve energy; promoted recycling and energy conservation in its own workforce; promoted transportation projects to reduce vehicle per-capital mileage; and several other environmental protocols.

Lewis County's has updated and retrofitted the county buildings for energy efficiency in lighting, HVAC, and weatherization. The County has made a sizable investment in purchasing and restoring existing private buildings in downtown Chehalis for county use, rather than spending on new construction on cheaper bare land in a more remote location, which results in a substantial reduction in the county workforce's environmental footprint. During the pandemic, the County encouraged telecommuting and maximum workforce flexibility, which policies remain in effect today and will have lasting impacts on county work. (Two of the staff writing this grant application, for example, regularly work remotely.)

The County operates a Solid Waste Utility with full service recycling, composting, and household hazardous waste reduction and outreach education programs. The County also partners with the local WSU extension to improve food-waste reduction and home-composting programs, all of which reduce yard and food waste.

38. Other factors unique to this project and the community it serves:

Discuss any other factors that you want reviewers to be aware of that have not been expressed in other parts of the application.

Expanding broadband services in Winlock will itself reduce climate change. Residents along the I-5 corridor have proven extremely mobile—for example, over 60% of Lewis County residents work outside the county, and over 50% of workers in Lewis County live outside the county. Right now, workers who seek out the more rural feel of Lewis County must commute long distances. But, in an age of telecommuting, such workers can work from home at a great collective reduction in carbon emissions, getting an automatic raise from the cash they don't have to spend on gas or on expensive urban rents. Installing high-speed broadband in the un/underserved area in and around Winlock makes this possible.

A nudge in the form of broadband investment, a bridge over the digital divide currently holding the city back, comes at the right time to reap benefits over years to come.

Budget [top](#)

Funding Sources	Proposed Amount	Committed Amount	Application Date	Award Date	Grant/Loan
ToledoTel Match	USD\$ 2,350,000.00	USD\$ 2,350,000.00			
WSBO infrastructure Acceleration grant	USD\$ 21,150,000.00		USD\$ 0.00	USD\$ 0.00	
	USD\$ 0.00				
	USD\$ 0.00				
	USD\$ 0.00				
	USD\$ 0.00				
Total	USD\$ 23,500,000.00	USD\$ 2,350,000.00	USD\$ 0.00	USD\$ 0.00	USD\$ 0.00

Funding Uses/Expenses	Total Project Cost	WSBO Requested Amount	Non-WSBO Funding
Permits	USD\$ 38,614.00	USD\$ 34,752.60	USD\$ 3,861.40
Conduits and Vaults	USD\$ 12,100,847.00	USD\$ 10,890,762.30	USD\$ 1,210,084.70
Grounding- Locations	USD\$ 171,200.00	USD\$ 154,079.55	USD\$ 17,120.45

Fiber, splice cases etc.	USD\$ 6,968,270.00	USD\$ 6,271,442.64	USD\$ 696,827.36
Calix equipment, cross connects	USD\$ 370,569.00	USD\$ 333,512.91	USD\$ 37,056.09
Grant Management	USD\$ 325,500.00	USD\$ 292,950.00	USD\$ 32,550.00
Pre Construction Engineering	USD\$ 1,175,000.00	USD\$ 1,057,500.00	USD\$ 117,500.00
Other Engineering	USD\$ 2,350,000.00	USD\$ 2,115,000.00	USD\$ 235,000.00
Total	USD\$ 23,500,000.00	USD\$ 21,150,000.00	USD\$ 2,350,000.00

Budget Narrative

Permits included County, State, SEPA, Cultural and Historical reviews, Wetland Mitigation, Railroad Crossing Permits etc. Conduit / Vaults include the Poly Pipe either direct buried, trenched or bored, for the fiber to be placed in. Vaults are required for each splice location along the routes both for fiber splicing and customer connections along the right of way. Vaults are designed to be flush with the soil and withstand over 90,000 pounds of direct weight. Grounding is required per State LNI and NEC codes. Fiber splices and cases are the for the splice locations along the route. Splices must be contained in waterproof cases which must be grounded per code to allow future 811 locate requests. Locating costs are to locate existing telecom, power, natural gas, water lines, sewer lines, etc. to avoid damage and resulting costs to repair. Calix equipment includes Calix E7 optical distribution electronics and Calix U6 10gig Optical Network Terminals (ONTs). Cross connects include splitter cabinets, splitters, racks, and cabinet splice vaults as required along the route. The county admin fee is as allowed by the program. Engineering cost is the customary 15% estimate that ToledoTel has found to be accurate and is what USDA/RUS generally deems accurate.

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PROJECT SCHEDULE

Tasks	Completed	In Process (Month/Year)	Not Started (Month/Year)	Percent Complete	Date completed/Estimated Completion Date (Either/Or)	Notes / Status	Total Project Cost	WSBO Requested Amount
Site Control								
Right of way/Purchase & Sale Agreement/Easement	€	11/2021		0 %	02/2022	Cost included in permits	\$	\$
Feasibility/Due Diligence								
Engineering Report (Preliminary Engineering)	✓			100 %	09/2021		\$	\$ 0
Cultural and Historical Resources Review (Section 106 or Executive Order 21-02)	€	11/2021		10 %	02/2022	Included in the permit process	\$	\$ 0
Environmental Review (SEPA or NEPA, NEPA is not required by WSBO)	€	11/2021		10 %	02/2022		\$	\$
Permits - Applied for	✓	10/2021		30 %	12/2021		\$	\$
Permits - Issued	✓	09/2021		25 %	12/2021		\$	\$
Public Involvement / Information	✓			100 %	10/2021	The County held several public meetings to review broadband proposals to increase broadband in Lewis County. Additional outreach will continue	\$	\$

through project advancement.

\$ 0 \$ 0

Financing

Full funding secured:	€	11/2021	10 %	1/2022	ToledoTel has secured the 10% match needed for the WSBO grant. Full funding will be secured with the award of SBO grant funds.	\$ 23,500,000	\$ 21,150,000
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Construction

Bid Documents (Design Engineering)	€	9/2021	15 %	1/2022		\$ 3,525,000	\$ 3,172,500	
Award Construction Contract	€	11/2021	0 %	1/2022		\$ 19,975,000	\$ 17,977,500	
Estimated Construction Start	✓	9/2021	90 %	12/2021	Included in construction costs	\$	\$	
Estimated Construction Completion	✓	09/2021	90 %	12/2026	Included in construction costs	\$	\$	
End-User Service Delivery Date	✓	09/2021	90 %	01/2022	Included in construction costs	\$	\$	
						\$ 47,000,000	\$ 42,300,000	
Total							\$ 47,000,000	\$ 42,300,000

BROADBAND EXISTING SPEEDS TABLE

Total Number of Premises to be Served	Number with UNSERVED Speed BEFORE build	Number with UNDERSERVED Speed BEFORE build	Number with SERVED Speed BEFORE build
2350	2,250	100	0

BROADBAND SPEED IMPROVEMENTS TABLE

Number of Premises by Speed to be served	Number with UNSERVED Speed AFTER build	Number with UNDERSERVED Speed AFTER build	Number with SERVED Speed AFTER build	Pricing for End User Years 1-3	Pricing for End User Years 4+	Does ISP offer Emergency Broadband Benefits - EBB? (check box if yes)	Does ISP offer stand alone broadband services at reasonable prices? (check box if yes)	Does ISP offer other income-based services (check box if yes)
Less than 100/20 Mbps	0			59.95	59.95	€	✓	✓
100/100 Mbps	0			124.95	124.95	€	✓	✓
150/150 Mbps	0					€	✓	✓
1 Gbps or greater	0		2,350	214.95	214.95	€	✓	✓
Total	0	0	2,350					

APPLICANT ENTITY TYPE (IF APPLICABLE)

Entity Type	Entity Name	UBI Number	Role in Project	Primary Contact Email	Primary Contact Phone
Total					

PREMISE TYPES SERVED

Premise Type	# in the Service area	# of Last mile	# of permanently affordable housing properties	CAI Type	# of users	CAI Speed after build greater than 1 Gig?	On Tribal Land?
Single family Residences	2,000	200			2,000	€	€
Multi-Family Residential Buildings	10	10	200 units		200	€	€
Businesses	0	0			0	€	€
Farms	150	150			150	€	€
Community Anchor Institution (CAI)							
Winlock School District				School		✓	€
City of Winlock				Public Safety		✓	€
Valley View Medical Center				Medical Center		✓	€
Winlock Family Dental				Health Care Provider		✓	€
Timberland Library				Library		✓	€
CAI NAME						€	€
CAI NAME						€	€
CAI NAME						€	€
Total	2,160	360			2,350		

Documents [top](#)

Documents Requested *

Required? Attached Documents *

Hardship Template if Applicable.
[download template](#)

Executed Contingency Operating Agreement between the Applicant and the Internet Service Provider (ISP) ✓

Letter of Support from County (ies) in which project is located ✓

[Letter of Support from Lewis County](#)

Evidence of consultation with the Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC) Provider ✓

[Communication with ILEC](#)

[Email Correspondence with ILEC](#)

Pricing structure, including speeds per price point ✓

[Pricing Structure](#)

Excel spreadsheets with the entire project area information a) 15- digit census block numbers; b) Average current service speeds; and c) Expected service speeds upon project completion. ✓

[Attachment Excel - Project Area Info.](#)

PDF of network design ✓

[Network Design](#)

Project shape files including at a minimum the three component files; a) shp, b).shx c) .dbf NOTE: This requirement may have been satisfied during the pre-application process with submittals received on or around November 5, 2021. ✓

[shp](#)

[shx](#)

[dbf](#)

PDF of the project shape for public posting of the proposed project area. NOTE: This requirement may have been satisfied during the pre-application process with submittals received on or around November 5, 2021.



[Area Map](#)

IF APPLICABLE: MultiParty Agreement between the local government, non-profit, for-profit, and any other parties to the project.

IF APPLICABLE: Letter of Support from the Tribal Nation, if on Tribal land.

IF APPLICABLE: Letter of Support from the area Broadband Action Team (BAT)

[BAT Letter of Support](#)

IF APPLICABLE: Federal Indirect rate letter.

[Indirect Resolution](#)

IF APPLICABLE: Evidence of consultation with any other ISP besides the ILEC and ISP partner to this project.

[Correspondence with Rainier Connect](#)

IF APPLICABLE: Articles of incorporation - Corporate entities only (Nonprofits, For profits)

IF APPLICABLE: Bylaws - Corporate entities only (Nonprofits, For profits)

Additional documents not listed above

* ZoomGrants™ is not responsible for the content of uploaded documents.

Application ID: 374810

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