

This Workspace form is one of the forms you need to complete prior to submitting your Application Package. This form can be completed in its entirety offline using Adobe Reader. You can save your form by clicking the "Save" button and see any errors by clicking the "Check For Errors" button. In-progress and completed forms can be uploaded at any time to Grants.gov using the Workspace feature.

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OPPORTUNITY & PACKAGE DETAILS:

Opportunity Number:	NTIA-BROADBAND-INFRASTRUCTURE-PROGRAM-21
Opportunity Title:	BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM
Opportunity Package ID:	PKG00267256
CFDA Number:	11.031
CFDA Description:	Broadband Infrastructure Program
Competition ID:	NTIA-BROADBAND-INFRASTRUCTURE-PROGRAM-21
Competition Title:	Broadband Infrastructure Program
Opening Date:	05/19/2021
Closing Date:	08/17/2021
Agency:	National Telecommunications and Information Admini
Contact Information:	Jennifer Duane Senior Broadband Program Specialist E-mail: jduane@ntia.gov Phone: 202.482.2048

APPLICANT & WORKSPACE DETAILS:

Workspace ID:	WS00773253
Application Filing Name:	Sabine County
DUNS:	0849693020000
Organization:	SABINE, COUNTY OF
Form Name:	Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)
Form Version:	3.0
Requirement:	Mandatory
Download Date/Time:	Aug 17, 2021 03:21:18 PM EDT
Form State:	No Errors

FORM ACTIONS:

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

*** 1. Type of Submission:**

- Preapplication
- Application
- Changed/Corrected Application

*** 2. Type of Application:**

- New
- Continuation
- Revision

*** If Revision, select appropriate letter(s):**

*** Other (Specify):**

*** 3. Date Received:**

Completed by Grants.gov upon submission.

4. Applicant Identifier:

5a. Federal Entity Identifier:

5b. Federal Award Identifier:

State Use Only:

6. Date Received by State:

7. State Application Identifier:

8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

*** a. Legal Name:**

Sabine County, TX

*** b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):**

75-6001136

*** c. Organizational DUNS:**

0849693020000

d. Address:

*** Street1:**

201 Main Street

Street2:

Hemphill TX 75948

*** City:**

Hemphill

County/Parish:

*** State:**

TX: Texas

Province:

*** Country:**

USA: UNITED STATES

*** Zip / Postal Code:**

75948-7269

e. Organizational Unit:

Department Name:

Sabine County, TX

Division Name:

f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

Prefix:

*** First Name:**

Malinda

Middle Name:

*** Last Name:**

Bryan

Suffix:

Title:

Sabine County Auditor

Organizational Affiliation:

Sabine County, TX

*** Telephone Number:**

409-787-5226

Fax Number:

409-787-4973

*** Email:**

malinda.bryan@co.sabine.tx.us

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

*** 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:**

B: County Government

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

*** 10. Name of Federal Agency:**

National Telecommunications and Information Admini

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

11.031

CFDA Title:

Broadband Infrastructure Program

*** 12. Funding Opportunity Number:**

NTIA-BROADBAND-INFRASTRUCTURE-PROGRAM-21

* Title:

BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

13. Competition Identification Number:

NTIA-BROADBAND-INFRASTRUCTURE-PROGRAM-21

Title:

Broadband Infrastructure Program

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Planned Fiber.pdf

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

*** 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:**

Broadband infrastructure build out in Sabine County, TX

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments

Delete Attachments

View Attachments

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424**16. Congressional Districts Of:*** a. Applicant * b. Program/Project

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

17. Proposed Project:* a. Start Date: * b. End Date: **18. Estimated Funding (\$):**

* a. Federal	<input type="text" value="12,702,094.00"/>
* b. Applicant	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* c. State	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* d. Local	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* e. Other	<input type="text" value="4,696,480.00"/>
* f. Program Income	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* g. TOTAL	<input type="text" value="17,398,574.00"/>

*** 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**

- a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on
- b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.
- c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

*** 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)** Yes No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 218, Section 1001)**

 ** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix: * First Name:

Middle Name:

* Last Name:

Suffix:

* Title: * Telephone Number: Fax Number: * Email: * Signature of Authorized Representative: * Date Signed:

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*** c. Organizational DUNS:**
 0849693020000
d. Address:*** Street1:**
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Street2:
 Hemphill TX 75948
*** City:**
 Hemphill
County/Parish:

*** State:**
 TX: Texas
Province:

*** Country:**
 USA: UNITED STATES
*** Zip / Postal Code:**
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Middle Name:
* Last Name:
Suffix:

* Title:

* Telephone Number: Fax Number:

* Email:

* Signature of Authorized Representative: * Date Signed:

ASSURANCES - CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

OMB Number: 4040-0009
 Expiration Date: 02/28/2022

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0042), Washington, DC 20503.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

NOTE: Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the Awarding Agency. Further, certain Federal assistance awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant:, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance, and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project costs) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the assistance; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will not dispose of, modify the use of, or change the terms of the real property title or other interest in the site and facilities without permission and instructions from the awarding agency. Will record the Federal awarding agency directives and will include a covenant in the title of real property acquired in whole or in part with Federal assistance funds to assure non-discrimination during the useful life of the project.
4. Will comply with the requirements of the assistance awarding agency with regard to the drafting, review and approval of construction plans and specifications.
5. Will provide and maintain competent and adequate engineering supervision at the construction site to ensure that the complete work conforms with the approved plans and specifications and will furnish progressive reports and such other information as may be required by the assistance awarding agency or State.
6. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
7. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
8. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards of merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
9. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
10. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to non-discrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681 1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.

Project Narrative

National Telecommunications and Informational Administration Broadband Infrastructure Program

Executive Summary

In response to the May 19, 2021 Notice of Funding Opportunity from the U.S. Department of Commerce, (“NOFO”) for the National Telecommunications and Informational Administration (NTIA) Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP), Sabine County, Texas (“Sabine County”) and Windstream Services, LLC, on behalf of itself and its applicable subsidiaries (“Windstream Communications” or “Windstream”) (together, the “Covered Partnership”) are providing this application to secure funding for a grant for Sabine County to provide state-of-the-art fiber broadband service at 1 gigabit symmetrical speeds. Specifically, 5,254 households, 158 businesses, and 2 community anchor institutes for a total of 5,414 locations will have their speeds improved from below 25/3 to 1 gigabit for both upload and download. Windstream understands the importance of this program to the residents of Sabine County and commits to a partnership that will deliver on the required speeds within the program timeline.

In partnership with Sabine County, Windstream will leverage its existing network infrastructure, engineering design experience, construction management and operational expertise to deploy a future proof Fiber-to-the-Premise (FttP) solution. Windstream has demonstrated the capacity to deliver FttP to over 700,000 homes and small businesses throughout its footprint. p These deployments include other community partnerships where Windstream works directly with county leadership in response to broadband needs.

This proposal for fiber connectivity is the fastest and most reliable technology for broadband deployment and can be delivered within the timeframe of the NTIA program. According to the FCC study “Measuring Broadband America” in 2019, latency on the Windstream network, which is a measure of the time it takes for data to travel to a point on the Internet and back again, was an average of 26 milliseconds. After the project is completed, Windstream will continue to support the partnership through existing systems for troubleshooting, billing, and customer service. Windstream has a team of technicians and field operations staff experienced in supporting fiber networks. This support network will be expanded as demands grows over time. Under the proposed project model, ownership of all new facilities and assets built and deployed by Windstream as a result of any potential partner projects in the Sabine County area, along with ongoing maintenance and repair responsibilities of such facilities, would be conveyed to Windstream.

NTIA Covered Partnership-General Intent to Cooperate.

Sabine County, TX, and Windstream have entered a Covered Partnership for the purposes of participating in the NTIA BIP. Sabine County will be the Lead Applicant and recipient of the grant and Windstream will be the subrecipient. The proposed project is to deliver gigabit-speed broadband service to 5,414 locations in Sabine County. The estimated cost of the project is \$17,398,574 with the proposed grant from NTIA BIP to be \$12,702,094 and the contribution/matching funds from Windstream are \$4,696,480, a 26.99

percent share. The proposed funding area is sections of Sabine County that are unserved, and a map is provided with this grant submission.

Organization Name	Address	Administrative Role	Scope of Work (Funded Participants)	Proposed Funding amount
Sabine County, TX		Applicant	Broadband deployment in Sabine County, TX	\$ 0
Windstream	4001 Rodney Parham Rd. Little Rock, AR 72212	Subrecipient	Broadband deployment in Sabine County, TX	\$4,696,480
NTIA Federal Broadband Grant Program		Administrator of Funds	Federal broadband grant program	\$12,702,094
Total Project Funds				\$17,398,574

ii. Resumes of Key Personnel. (Does not count toward page limit but are limited to one-page each). One-page resumes of no more than five key personnel from the participants in the covered partnership (not subrecipients) may be included. Any information beyond one page for each resume and any additional resumes submitted will not be considered.

Included in the application.

c. A description of the covered broadband project to be funded by the grant, including the services, speed or tiers of speeds at which the covered partnership plans to offer broadband service, the proposed prices of the broadband service offerings, the technical details of the project, including the type of technology to be deployed, and the cost details of the project, including financial analyses and revenue and expense projections, and a description of why federal financial assistance is needed to implement the covered broadband project;

- Services provided: Windstream will provide symmetrical gigabit broadband service to all households, businesses, and community anchor locations.
- Proposed speeds: Symmetrical gigabit speed to every location.
- Proposed prices for provided broadband services: See below for proposed prices.

Consumer	
Speed	Price
50Mbps	\$ [REDACTED]
75-200 Mbps	\$ [REDACTED]
300Mbps-400Mbps	\$ [REDACTED]
500Mbps	\$ [REDACTED]
1Gbps	\$ [REDACTED]
Modem Rental (A)	\$ [REDACTED]
Promo (B)	\$ [REDACTED]

Additional Information:
 A. Modem charge of [REDACTED] Customer may provide modem to waive charge
 B. Windstream provides a promotional credit for first 12 months of service
 C. Windstream has no data caps on customer broadband usage

SMB	
Speed	Pricing Range
50Mbps	\$ [REDACTED]
100Mbps-200Mbps	\$ [REDACTED]
500Mbps	\$ [REDACTED]
1Gbps	\$ [REDACTED]
Phone (A)	\$ [REDACTED]
Promo (B)	\$ [REDACTED]

Additional Information:
 A. Cost to add first voice line
 B. Windstream provides a promotional credit for first 24 months of service
 C. Windstream has no data caps on customer broadband usage

Confidential per Tex. Gov't Code § 552.1101; See also 5 U.S.C.S. § 552(b)(4).

Confidential

Technical Details:

Windstream's network architecture is a proven Fiber-to-the-Premise (FttP) architecture using standards based [REDACTED] technologies [REDACTED] to deliver gigabit tier broadband and voice services. This last-mile FttP access network provides each subscriber with an all-fiber connection to a dedicated [REDACTED]

The last-mile access network design follows Windstream's current and forward-looking guidelines for deploying gigabit-speed capable [REDACTED] networks and include [REDACTED]

- Windstream will initially deploy [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

- Windstream will initially deploy [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

■ [REDACTED]

Confidential per Tex. Gov't Code § 552.1101; See also 5 U.S.C.S. § 552(b)(4).

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Confidential per Tex. Gov't
Code § 552.1101; See also 5
U.S.C.S. § 552(b)(4).

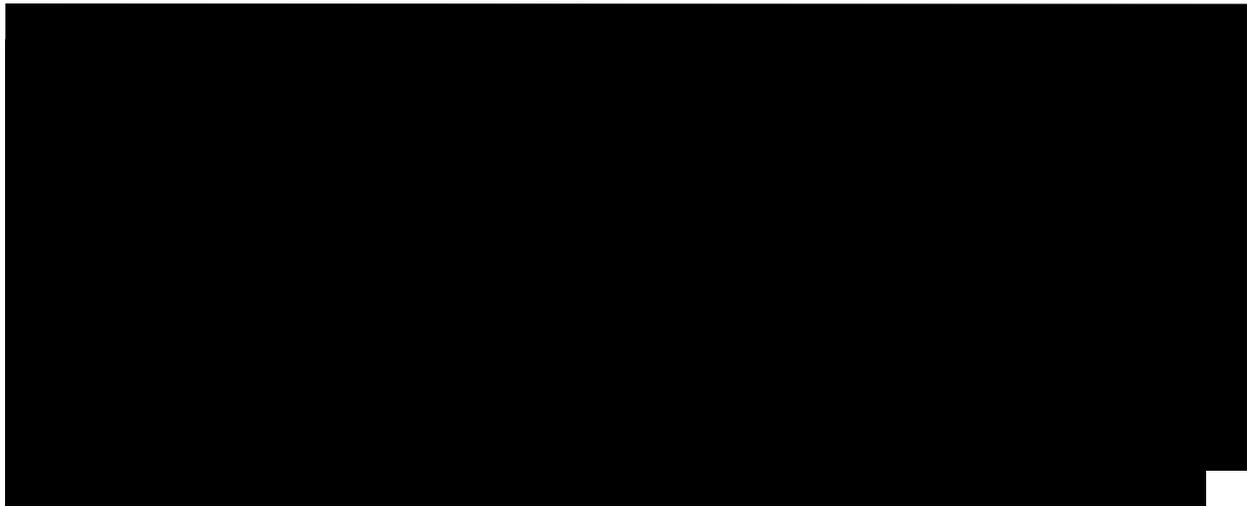
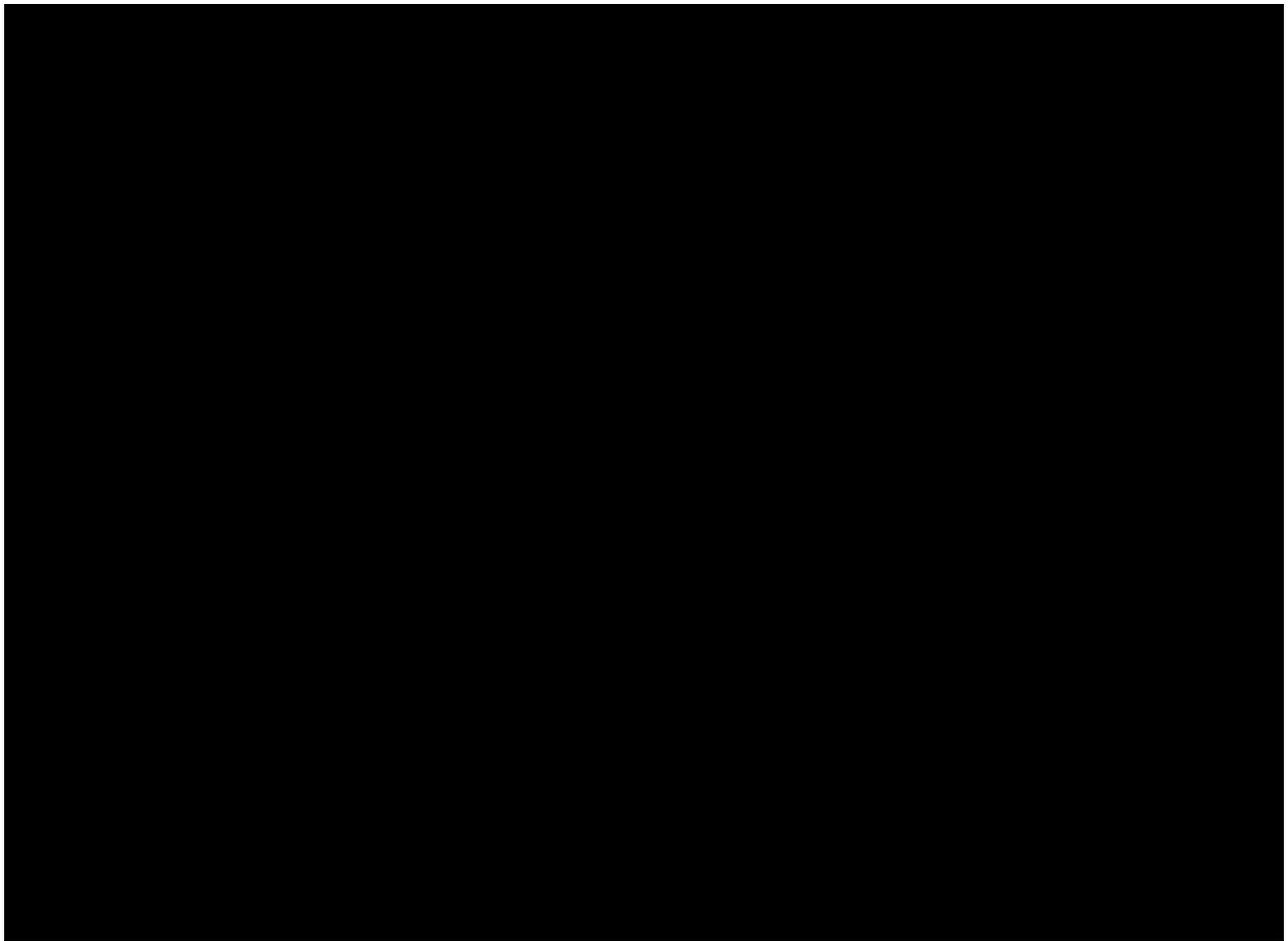
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

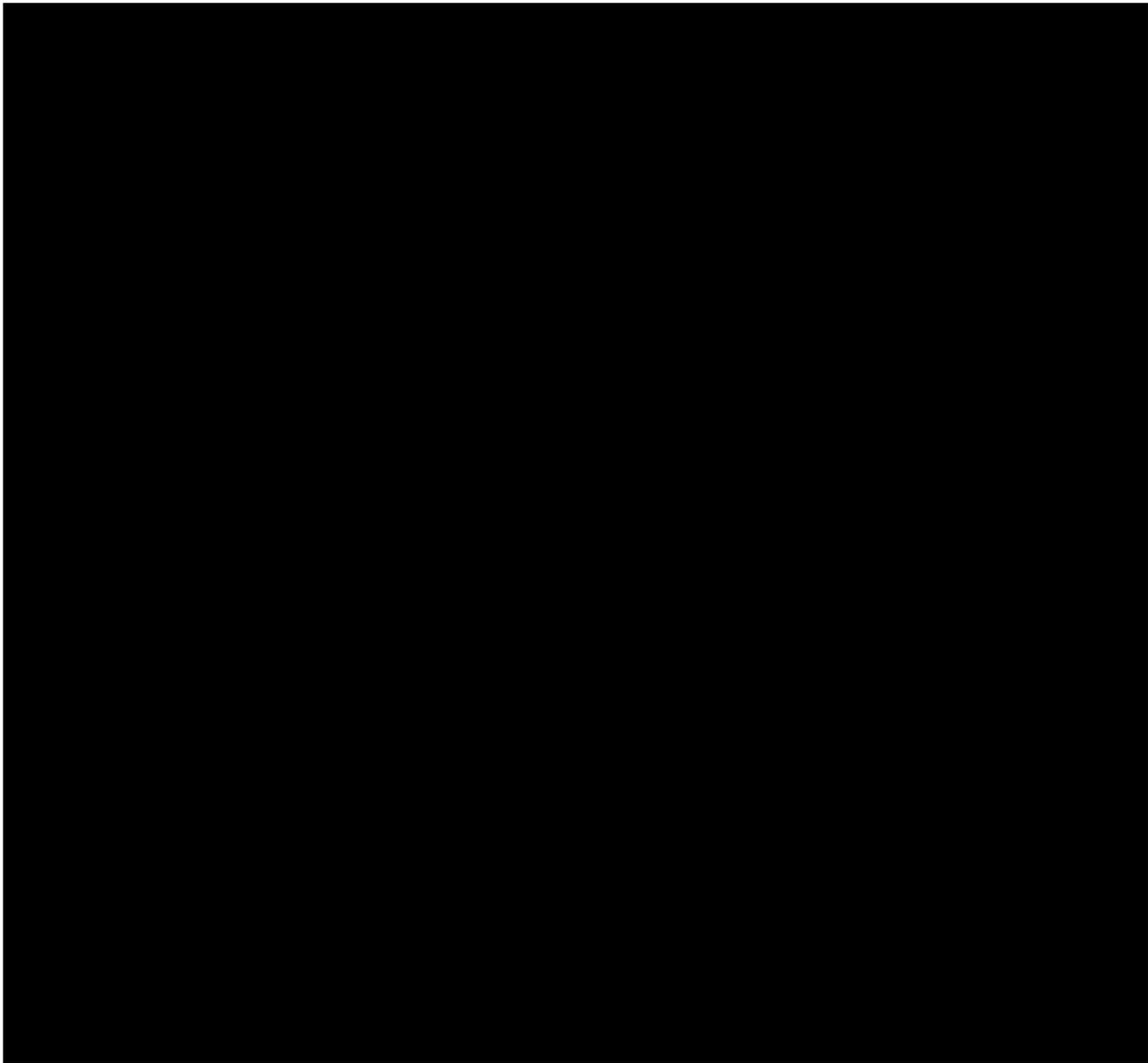
The below diagram illustrates [Redacted] as well as the points in the network where [Redacted] depending on the direction of traffic.

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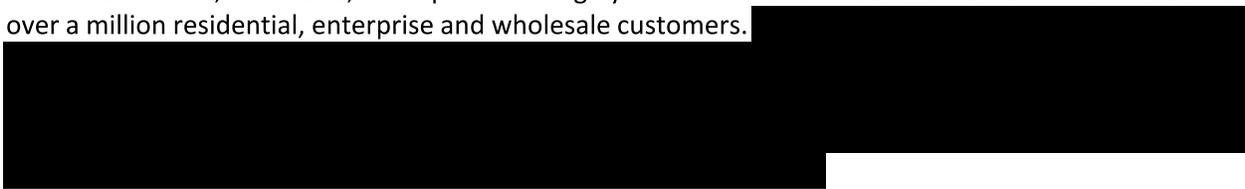


The below diagram 

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Windstream built, maintains, and operates a highly available Nationwide IP Core Network that services over a million residential, enterprise and wholesale customers.



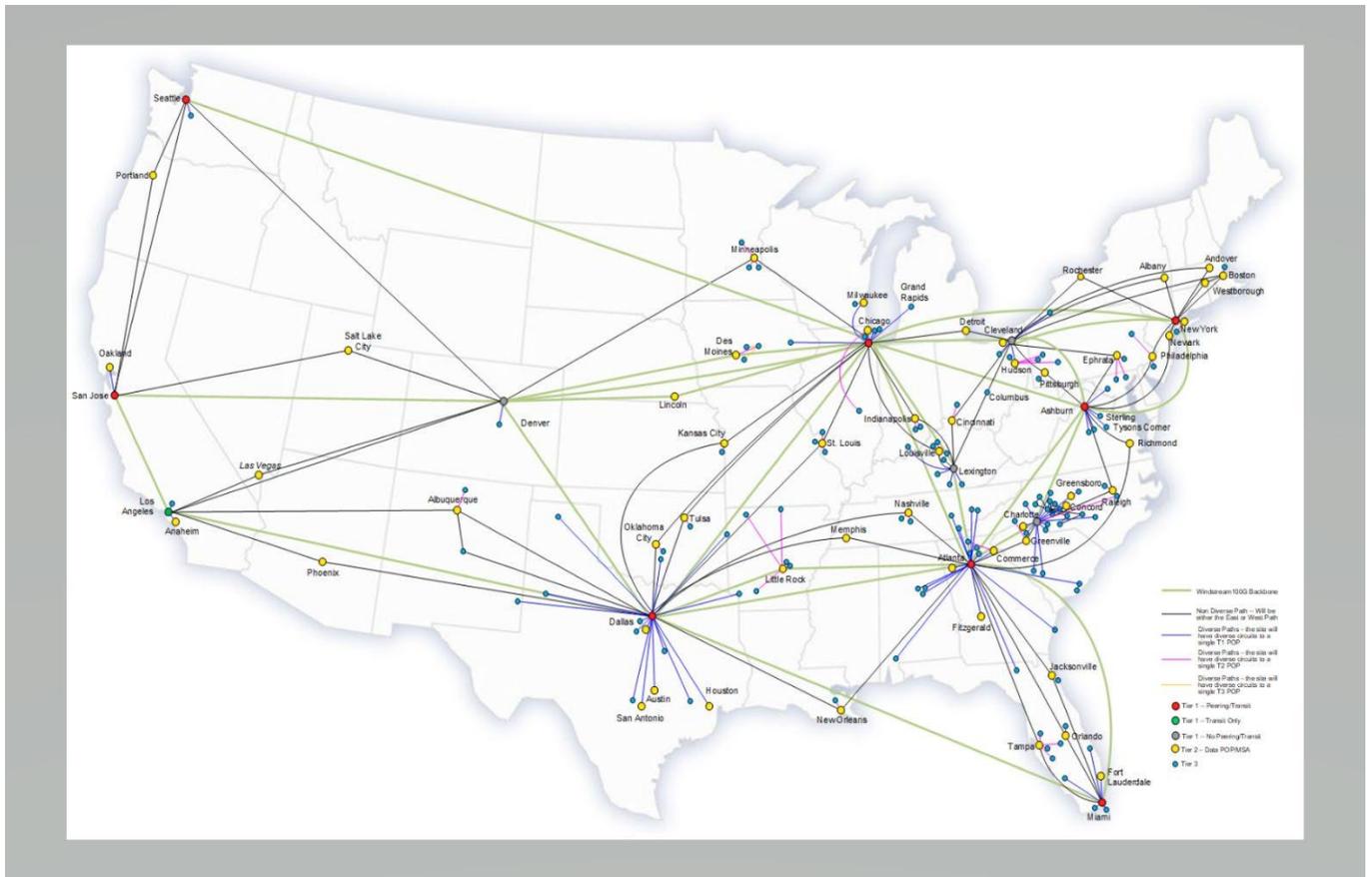
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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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U.S.C.S. § 552(b)(4).



Voice services will be internally provided. Windstream built and operates its own robust voice network comprised of 1,482 class 5 switches and remotes across 18 states, including 47 PSTN tandem switches. Windstream also built and operates a next-generation Voice-Over-IP (VoIP) network using Metaswitch as the platform. The VoIP network is comprised of 50 call feature servers and 164 gateways, including 2 PSTN tandem switches. These networks support nearly 2 million voices lines today, 1.5 million on TDM and 0.5 million on VoIP. Voice products range from POTS lines to PRI to Session Initiation Protocol (SIP)-Trunking to next-generation Business VoIP and Unified Communications. Windstream’s own internal SS7 network with 6 STPs and related SCPs controls all voice switching and routing for the network. We interconnect with other voice networks on the PSTN via TDM and SIP trunking.

Subscriber voice services in Windstream’s project areas will be VoIP (SIP) to Metaswitch infrastructure.

Windstream’s VoIP-to-Subscriber (SIP) network consists of the following components:

- VoIP Softswitch - includes the call feature server and media gateway. Used to establish SIP lines for VoIP subscribers. Functions as a class 5 switch, providing connectivity to the PSTN.
- SBC - used to secure the VoIP Core network. Performs SIP registration function, as well as firewall functions such as NAT between VoIP Access and VoIP Core realms.
- An MPLS VPN - used for establishing IP connectivity between the SBCs and MSAN nodes.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] subscriber RG, or on the ONT, and is responsible for SIP signaling and selection of media codecs.

The below diagram illustrates Windstream's [REDACTED]

Confidential per Tex. Gov't Code § 552.1101; See also 5 U.S.C.S. § 552(b)(4).

Confidential per Tex. Gov't
Code § 552.1101; See also 5
U.S.C.S. § 552(b)(4).

Cost Details:



Financial Analysis, Revenue, and Expenses:

APPLICANT'S NAME: Sabine County			
OMB Approval No. 0348-0041			
BUDGET INFORMATION - Construction Programs			
<i>NOTE: Certain Federal assistance programs require additional computations to arrive at the Federal share of project costs eligible for participation. If such is the case, you will be notified.</i>			
COST CLASSIFICATION	a. Total Cost	b. Costs Not Allowable for Participation	c. Total Allowable Costs (Columns a-b)
1 Administrative and legal expenses			
2 Land, structures, rights-of-way, appraisals, etc.			
3 Relocation expenses and payments			
4 Architectural and engineering fees			
5 Other architectural and engineering fees			
6 Project inspection fees			
7 Site work			
8 Demolition and removal			
9 Construction			
10 Equipment			
11 Miscellaneous			
12 SUBTOTAL			
13 Contingencies			
14 SUBTOTAL			
15 Project (program) income			
16 TOTAL PROJECT COSTS (subtract #15 from #14)			
FEDERAL FUNDING			
17 Federal assistance requested, calculated as follows: (Consult Federal agency for Federal percentage share.) Enter the resulting Federal share.	Enter eligible costs from line 16c Multiply X 73.01%	\$	12,702,094

Description of the Necessity of Federal Financial Assistance:

The intent of the NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Program is to expedite deployment of broadband service to rural areas that are currently unserved with at least 25/3 broadband service. These areas are financially challenging to serve, especially with future proof fiber service, given the population density and existing infrastructure.

This funding request is the amount needed to make the project economical for the Covered Partnership. Federal financial assistance will enable Sabine County to invest in its infrastructure with high reward and little to no risk. Once the project cost reaches a determined threshold predetermined by the Covered Partnership, Windstream will pay for the balance with no risk to the county. Windstream is committed

Confidential per Tex. Gov't Code § 552.1101; See also 5 U.S.C.S. § 552(b)(4).

to reaching unserved household and will do so by contributing a substantial portion of the investment and ongoing costs.

To meet the intent of the BIP, it is necessary to require this funding to support the:

- Expense/Costs incurred due to the escalation of the build out,
 - Equipment costs,
 - Labor costs,
 - Costs of easements, rights of way and other approval processes,
 - Anticipated supply chain issues and materials shortages.
 - Inflationary factors.
- To meet and exceed the consumer/user demand (available bandwidth) of the newly available improved technology created by the Covered Broadband Project. and,
- Provide the much-desired technology to the households, businesses, and anchor institutions this Program is designed for.
- See included County Narrative below.

d. A description of the area to be served by the covered broadband project (referred to as the proposed service area) including a list of the census blocks to be served, or portions thereof, the percentage of the total unserved (lack of infrastructure) population to be served by the project, and the number of unserved households, businesses, and community anchor institutions the project plans to connect;

- Census blocks to be served: 354



Sabine County -
NTIA CBs by County

- Percentage of the total unserved (lack of infrastructure) population to be served by the project: 98.65%
- Number of unserved households, businesses, and community anchor institutions the project plans to connect: 5,254 households, 158 Businesses, 2 community anchor institutions for a total of 5,414 locations.

e. A description of which statutory funding priority(ies) (as set forth in Section I.A of this NOFO) the proposed project would address and how the proposed project would address such funding priority(ies);

In awarding grants under this program, the Assistant Secretary will give priority to applications for covered broadband projects as follows, in decreasing order of priority, as set forth in Section 905(d)(4) of the Act:

(1) Covered broadband projects designed to provide broadband service to the greatest number of households in an eligible service area;

Windstream intends to provide gigabit-speed broadband access to 5,254 households, 158 businesses, 2 community anchor institutions for a total of 5,414 locations.

(2) Covered broadband projects designed to provide broadband service in an eligible service area that is wholly within any area other than: (i) a county, city, or town that has a population of more than 50,000 inhabitants; and (ii) the urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to a city or town of more than 50,000 inhabitants;

Windstream intends to provide gigabit broadband access to 5,414 locations in Sabine County, TX.

Windstream used the following methodology to assess unserved/underserved locations within our project area. First, using Form 477, we determined all census blocks where no provider claimed service of 25/3 mbps or greater. We extracted all our location data for these blocks and deemed them eligible. Next, Windstream looked at census blocks where we are the only provider claiming service of 25/3 mbps or greater. Using our internal qualification data, Windstream determined which locations in these blocks that could not receive 25/3 mbps or greater speeds and deemed these locations eligible. From there, we removed all census blocks won in RDOF by any provider and all locations with address types that we cannot fully guarantee gig service to do to potential infrastructure issues (i.e. apartments, trailer parks, etc.). Windstream confirmed the resulting areas did not contain a population center of greater than 50,000.

After conducting the above process, Windstream was left with a total of 5,488 locations in the county. We used our fiber routing tool to model fiber-to-the-home builds to all of those locations, where 74 were lost due to distance from fiber route, exorbitantly high cost, or other factors, leaving a net total of 5,414 locations impacted, or 98.65% of our total subset.

(3) Covered broadband projects that are the most cost-effective, prioritizing such projects in areas that are the most rural; Windstream intends to provide Gigabit broadband access to 5,414 locations in Sabine County, TX. Given Windstream's existing infrastructure in the area, deployment costs are less with an established and capable middle-mile network.

(4) Covered broadband projects designed to provide broadband service with a download speed of not less than 100 megabits per second and an upload speed of not less than 20 megabits per second; Windstream intends to provide Gigabit broadband access to 5,414 locations in Sabine County, TX.

(5) Any other covered broadband project that meets the requirements of this NOFO.
No other broadband projects are considered/included in this plan.

f. A description of how the project addresses the evaluation criteria identified in Section V.A of this NOFO, including a description of project beneficiaries, service area level of need, project sustainability, and expected outcomes;

Sabine County is located in the eastern region of Texas. Census estimates for 2019 place the county population at 10,542, a decline of about three percent from its 2010 levels. The county contains 491 square miles of land and has a density of about 22 residents per square mile.

The County Seat for Sabine is Hemphill. Sabine has four public school districts, and it is served by Angelina College.

The county poverty rate is 17.6%, far above the estimated national level of 10.5%. The community median household income is \$34,992, a level that also trails national numbers where household median income reaches \$62,843. The county also trails in per capita income at \$24,870 as compared to the U.S. average income of \$34,103.

The economics present challenges to the area in education opportunities. While 84.7% of persons over 25 are listed as having graduated high school, 17.6% are shown with a Bachelor's degree, well below the national 32.1%.

While connectivity becomes an ever-increasing need in the modern world, Sabine County is clearly at a disadvantage in broadband access. U.S. Census estimates show the county trailing both the state and the nation in the percentage of households with internet subscriptions and in those that have a computer in the home.

Nationwide, the 2015-2019 Census estimates show almost 83% of households with access to a world of information and opportunity available through an internet subscription. But the data lists only 74.8% of households in Sabine County with that same advantage.

While more than 90% of US households had a computer during that same Census snapshot time period, only 85% of Sabine residences were shown with even one computer in the home.

The need for broadband access has been dramatically highlighted during the pandemic. Students in areas where broadband was not available struggled to keep up with their peers. A lack of broadband access in too many areas kept online learning to a minimum.

The Sabine County statistics are not just points on a map or numbers on a spreadsheet. They represent real people with real needs.

Simply put, it is time for those numbers to change in the local communities.

Their situations are not due to a lack of concern on the part of the County or the local provider. Additional financial help is needed to expand the infrastructure to those who find themselves on the wrong side of the digital divide.

Sabine County is an area filled with potential. That potential needs to be fully unlocked, and a fast, reliable broadband infrastructure is key to the County's growth.

In addition to the Gigabit Next Generation Broadband that will be provided to this community, the following are some of the strategic products available to customers that allow them to get the most out of their service and integrate evolving technological advancements into their home and business needs:

- Kinetic Secure – Different offerings to support customers in identity theft protection, device management options, content filtering, and virus protection.
- OfficeSuite – Collaboration tool for businesses that allows for video, audio, and web conferencing as well as calls, mobility, and IM in a single platform.
- SD-WAN – Software-Defined Wide Area Network that provides businesses visibility into bandwidth utilization at an application level and can dynamically route traffic to improve application performance while reducing bandwidth usage.
- Enhanced LAN and Wi-Fi – Network management tool that offers businesses increased security, guest Wi-Fi control, and metrics around customer engagement through a cloud-managed solution.

We are proud to participate in the Emergency Broadband Benefit program to help keep low-income customers connected and provide COVID relief. Eligible households can receive a monthly credit of up to \$50.

Eligible customers can also receive aid through the Lifeline Assistance Program, a federal program aimed at helping low-income individuals with the monthly cost of phone or internet.

As an approved E-Rate service provider, Windstream has partnered with many schools and libraries across the country to configure, design, install, manage, maintain, and secure state-of-the-art voice, data, network and cloud telecommunication and data networks. Kinetic consistently delivers the communication and IT solutions required for next-generation teaching and learning, while keeping an eye to value – maximizing every dollar in limited IT budgets.

In addition to the Gigabit Next Generation Broadband that will be provided to this community, the following are some of the strategic products available to customers that allow them to get the most out of their service and integrate evolving technological advancements into their home and business needs:

- Kinetic Secure – Different offerings to support customers in identity theft protection, device management options, content filtering, and virus protection.
- OfficeSuite – Collaboration tool for businesses that allows for video, audio, and web conferencing as well as calls, mobility, and IM in a single platform.
- SD-WAN – Software-Defined Wide Area Network that provides businesses visibility into bandwidth utilization at an application level and can dynamically route traffic to improve application performance while reducing bandwidth usage.
- Enhanced LAN and Wi-Fi – Network management tool that offers businesses increased security, guest Wi-Fi control, and metrics around customer engagement through a cloud-managed solution.

With this grant and the deployment of future-proof fiber optic technology, Sabine County will have more resources to attract business, gain new residents and foster a better quality of life for many residents. The improvements to medical, educational, and economic expansion will be just a few of the windfalls of success.

This is a unique opportunity to provide greater telecommunications access for local homes and businesses, and to move the local communities forward toward a bright future. Combining the strengths of public and private sectors we can achieve real results for Sabine County.

g.A description of how their deployment will have the ability to scale over time for greater capability (e.g., using integrated advanced services such as 5G or fiber);

As indicated in 6.c, Windstream will deploy its advanced fiber gigabit networks in the (ESA) that will surpass the necessities of the present and will constantly upgraded to make them future-proof.

Confidential

Further, Windstream

Confidential per Tex. Gov't Code § 552.1101; See also 5 U.S.C.S. § 552(b)(4).



Confidential

h. A project plan describing all major project activities and timelines for implementation, including key deployment milestones; Please see included Project chart with milestones, project plan, and timeline. (WIN FTTH Project Plan NTIA 2021.pdf)

Confidential per Tex. Gov't Code § 552.1101; See also 5 U.S.C.S. § 552(b)(4).

Generally, costs for engineering may include, field surveying, producing detailed construction drawings, producing material requirements, producing permit documentation, applying for permits, and production of construction documents for record updates.

i. A brief description of the physical project area and its surroundings (e.g., disturbed or developed land vs. open space; adjacent natural resources, such as rivers, wetlands, or forestlands; and any protected lands or resources in or near the project area), including site photographs and aerial (e.g., Google Earth or Google Maps images) photographs, if the project includes construction and/or ground disturbing activities. This description should also describe how the covered partnership intends to comply with the environmental and historic preservation requirements applicable to an award received under the Broadband Infrastructure Program (including, but not limited to, the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act), and if applicable, provide a copy of any environmental and historic preservation review documentation that has been prepared in connection with obtaining permits or approvals from State, local or other federal entities. It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain all necessary federal, State, and local governmental permits and approvals necessary for the proposed work to be conducted. Applicants are expected to design their projects so that they minimize the potential for adverse impacts on the environment. Applicants also will be required to cooperate with NTIA in identifying feasible measures to reduce or avoid any identified adverse environmental impacts of their proposed projects. The failure to do so may be grounds for not making an award. Environmental and historic preservation review documentation, if provided, is not included in the 20-page limit of the project narrative; and

There are no environmental or relatable issues identified in (i) for the covered broadband project at this time. If any are encountered in the covered broadband project, Windstream will address as required in (i). Windstream will comply with all local, state, and federal regulations concerning permits, inclusive of any environmental permits. We have a proven track record under the CAF2 program of providing the correct documentation and obtaining permits quickly.

j. A description of any support provided to the provider of broadband service that is part of the covered partnership through:

- i. Any grant, loan, or loan guarantee provided by a State to the provider of broadband service for the deployment of broadband service in the proposed service area;
- ii. Any grant, loan, or loan guarantee with respect to the proposed service area provided by the Secretary of Agriculture under:
 - 1. Title VI of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb et seq.), including: any program to provide grants, loans, or loan guarantees under sections 601 through 603 of that Act (7 U.S.C. 950bb et seq.); and the Community Connect Grant Program established under section 604 of that Act (7 U.S.C. 950bb-3); or
 - 2. The broadband loan and grant pilot program known as the "Rural eConnectivity Pilot Program" or the "ReConnect Notice of Funding Opportunity – 15 Program" authorized under section 779 of division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141; 132 Stat. 348); iii. Any high-cost universal service support provided under section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254);
- iv. Any grant provided under section 6001 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (47 U.S.C. 1305);
- v. Amounts made available for the Education Stabilization Fund under the heading "DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION" in title VIII of division B of the CARES Act (Public Law 116-136; 134 Stat. 564); or
- vi. Any other grant, loan, or loan guarantee provided by the Federal Government for the provision of broadband service.

k. A description of whether and, if so, how the project will incorporate strong labor standards, including project labor agreements and community benefit agreements that offer wages at or above the prevailing rate and include local hire provisions, and a description of the applicant's workforce plans and practice

Presently, there is no external funding and will not be any external funding for or associated with this project.

k. A description of whether and, if so, how the project will incorporate strong labor standards, including project labor agreements and community benefit agreements that offer wages at or above the prevailing rate and include local hire provisions, and a description of the applicant's workforce plans and practices

Windstream already incorporates robust labor standards into all work projects and for all workers by, among other things: paying competitive wages, equal to or in excess of local prevailing wage rates for pay and fringe benefits, subject to existing collective bargaining agreements; providing quality, affordable health benefits; providing paid sick and other leave benefits; reviewing and certifying that all workers are properly classified, covered by workers compensation, and unemployment insurance; and conducting self-audits of payroll and personnel processes, including effectiveness of recruiting and community outreach efforts in hiring, and certifying and maintaining payroll records in accordance with applicable rules and regulations. Further, Windstream prohibits discrimination against qualified individuals based on their status as protected veterans or individuals with disabilities, and prohibits discrimination against all individuals based on their race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or national origin. Moreover, Windstream is committed to taking affirmative action to employ and advance in employment individuals without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or veteran status. From time to time, Windstream may make changes to its workforce to adjust to business and operational needs. Any workforce changes would have no material impact on Windstream's ability to provide contracted services or project completion.

9. Letters of Commitment

Each application must include a Letter of Commitment from an authorized representative of each member of the covered partnership (all members, County and Windstream). The Letter of Commitment will discuss the scope of work to be undertaken by the member of the covered partnership and its relevance to the covered broadband project.

Included in the application.

10. Maps of proposed service areas (preferably in shapefiles, .kmz, or .kml formats).

Included in the application.

11. Pro forma financial information and analyses, such as balance sheets, income statements, and statements of cash flows;



12. Network diagram(s) and system design(s)

Network diagrams and system designs are included in the Project Narrative response on pages 2-12 and 14-15.

Confidential per Tex. Gov't
Code § 552.1101; See also 5
U.S.C.S. § 552(b)(4).

Budget Narrative

Windstream seeks to be a strong partner in expanding gig service to the unserved and underserved areas of Sabine County as well as a good steward of the federal funds that are being allocated through this program for the expansion of reliable broadband access. Windstream is requesting a 73.10% match from the NTIA program and will be contributing our own capital to cover the remaining 26.99% of costs. This is well above the 10% required to score maximum points on the application. Additionally, Windstream is only requesting matching funds for three categories: Architectural and engineering fees, Construction, and Equipment. Windstream understands that additional costs will be incurred for administrative and legal fees, rights-of-way, inspections, site work, etc. but none of these costs were built into the budget for this project. Windstream believes it can fully absorb those costs with the staff on-hand further exhibiting our commitment to a prudent spend of these funds. The project will deliver 1gbps symmetric speeds via Fiber to the Home (FttH) to all locations within the project area. Below is an explanation of the material cost classifications that will be necessary to help develop our network and deliver world-class service to the unserved and underserved areas this program seeks to address:

Architectural and engineering fees: Windstream assumes engineering costs on a per location basis. These costs are necessary to complete the detailed engineering required to design and construct a FttH network with the precision, efficiency, and quality Windstream seeks to deliver. Costs for engineering may include but are not limited to: field surveying, producing detailed construction drawings, producing material requirements, producing permit documentation, applying for permits, production of construction documents for record updates, etc. This portion of the project is budgeted to cost

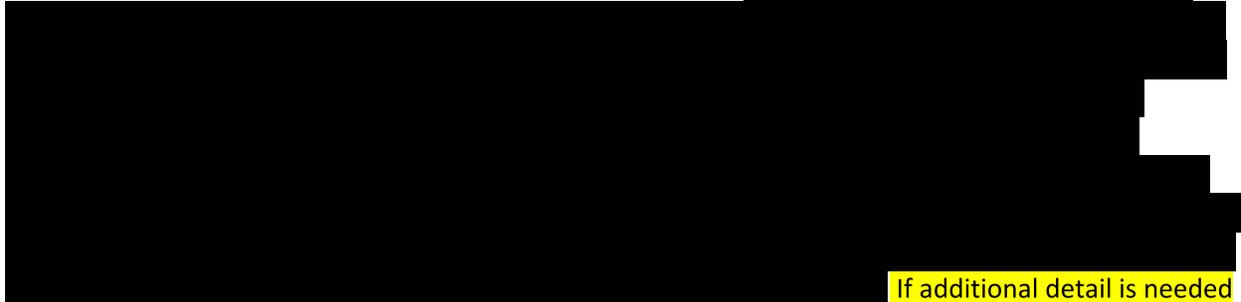
Construction: Construction covers the labor and materials needed to place buried and aerial fiber to the targeted households in the project footprint. Windstream's existing copper-based network will be overbuilt with new fiber facilities to provide connectivity back to the Central Office. Standard GPON (ITU G.984) and/or XGS-PON (ITU G.9807) technology would be used to provide up to 1000/1000 Mbps broadband service through a direct fiber connection to the customer. At the Central Office, all services are then connected to the existing broadband and voice networks. Windstream already has a vast middle mile and backbone network in place. It will leverage this to further expand our infrastructure by constructing a last mile fiber network providing 1 gigabit symmetrical service to each location in the project area. The infrastructure already in place is enough to handle the new bandwidth required of a gigabit passive optical network (GPON). Windstream is requesting funding for the last mile network that will be connected to our existing middle mile and backhaul network. This portion of the project is budgeted to cost

This includes both the labor and the material cost per foot. The requested federal portion of this cost is \$12,088,156

Confidential per Tex. Gov't Code § 552.1101; See also 5 U.S.C.S. § 552(b)(4).

with Windstream providing a 26.99% match of \$4,469,482. If additional detail is needed please refer to the construction fiber section on the Budget Detail Justification form.

Equipment: Windstream equipment includes, but is not limited to, costs for: Optical line terminals (OLT), fiber distribution hubs, fiber distribution terminals, etc.



If additional detail is needed please refer to the equipment section on the Budget Detail Justification form.

No customer premise equipment (CPE) costs are included within the budget. All capital costs associated with a new customer order will be fully absorbed by Windstream when said order takes place. No costs associated with the fiber drop from the terminal to the customer's home, the optical network terminal, the customer modem, or the associated labor is included in the project costs for which Windstream is requesting reimbursement.

As Windstream moves the project defined in this application through the planning, engineering, and construction phases, it is expected that some costs defined within the budget will differ from our current estimates. Windstream has a proven track record of deploying GPON networks. More than 20% of the locations in our footprint are expected to be eligible for gigabit services by the end of 2021. The equipment needed and associated costs will change from these initial estimates but will stay materially in line with these projections. Any cost overruns from this initial budget will be fully absorbed by Windstream.

Cost Sharing or Matching Funds

All matching funds used for the county/Windstream Covered Partnership are supplied by Windstream. No external entity has contributed to this matching fund. In total, Windstream will pay for 26.99% of the project, totaling \$4,696,480. Federal funding is requested for 73.01% of the project, totaling \$12,702,094. The combined, total project cost is \$17,398,574.

Confidential per Tex. Gov't Code § 552.1101; See also 5 U.S.C.S. § 552(b)(4).

Daryl Melton
Sabine County Judge

The County Judge is both presiding officer of the Commissioners' Court and magistrate over the county criminal court. As such, the County Judge is thought of as the chief executive officer for the county.

The duties of the County Judge will vary depending on the size of the county, as with Sabine County. Being a small rural county, an addition duty is to seek federal, state or private grants.

Experience:

Sabine County Judge
2014 to Present

Laranda "Cookie" Cryer

Administration Assistant, Sabine County Judge & Commissioners

As Administration Assistant, I organize and manage daily office calls, emails and mail. I prepare Commissioner Court agenda packets. I maintain the day to day paper work on approved grants. Manage Road & Bridge daily works sheets. Coordinate data on Road & Bridge road reports. Update county website and TxDot mapping for county roads.

Experience:

Administration Assistant, Sabine County Judge & Commissioners
2014 to Present

Administration Assistant, Sabine County Judge & Commissioners
2001 to 2005

Administration Assistant, Sabine County Judge & Commissioners
1995 to 1999

Malinda Bryan

Sabine County Auditor

The county auditor has broad responsibility to strictly enforce the law governing county finances including authority over the books and records of the county, district and state officers who collect county revenue. Audits the records and accounts of the various county departments. Verifies the validity and legality of all county disbursements and approve all vouchers for payment, sign all warrants, and perform internal audits on all county, district and precinct officers that are capable of handling county and state funds.

Experience:

Sabine County Auditor

2014 to Present

Assistant County Auditor

2011-2014

Chief Deputy Treasurer

2004-2011

Tricia Jacks
Sabine County Treasurer

The county treasurer serves as the chief custodian of county finances and is charged with the safekeeping and investing of county funds. The county treasurer serves as the investment officer and acts as the liaison between the county and the depository banks. The county treasurer receives and deposits all county revenues and is responsible for the reconciliation of bank statements and investment earnings. The county treasurer disburses county expenditures as directed by the Commissioners Court. Human resource aspects of the county are processed thru the county treasurer's office. Payroll is prepared and balanced in the office of the county treasurer along with all required payroll reports (payroll taxes, unemployment taxes, etc.).

Prior to Sabine County having a county auditor the county treasurer was responsible for all the duties of grant expenditures and reporting including but not limited to FEMA, TDEM, TDRA and GLO.

Experience:

County Treasurer
1999 to present

Chief Deputy Treasurer
1994 to 1998

Mickey Slimp

msslimp@detcog.gov 903-571-0892 [linkedin.com/in/mickeyslimp](https://www.linkedin.com/in/mickeyslimp)

Summary

Specialties: Regional Planning, Broadband Deployment, Educational Leadership, Accreditation Support, Public Health

Experience

- **Deep East Texas Council of Governments & Economic Development District**
Consulting Broadband Project Manager (Oct 2020 – Present)
- **The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler**
Associate Provost for Teaching, Learning, and Technology (Sep 2018 - Sep 2020)
- **Northeast Texas Consortium of Colleges & Universities**
Executive Director, Northeast Texas Network (NETnet) (Dec 2004 - Feb 2020)
- **Virtual College of Texas**
Founding Director/Grants Manager (Oct 1998 - Dec 2001)
- **Tyler Junior College**
Dean of Learning Resources (Apr 1988 - Nov 2004)

Association Experience

- Internet2 Community Anchor Network (I2CAN) - Advisory Council
- Instructional Technology Council of the American Association of Community Colleges - Board Member / Leadership Academy Co-Chair
- Lonestar Education & Research Network (LEARN) - Board Member / Executive Committee

Education

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Ed.D., C&I (Educational Media & Technology)

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler

Master of Public Health - MPH, Public Health

Currently completing capstone project related to community and rural health.

East Tennessee State University

M.A., Instructional Communications

B.A., Humanities

Grant Reviewer - DOE, NTIA, Others

Served as a grant reviewer on a variety of state and national programs from 1993 - current, including NTIA's PTFP program, the DOE's Eisenhower competition, and a variety of Texas competitions

Distance Learning Hall of Fame - Texas Distance Learning Association (TxDLA)

Apr 2013

National Career Achievement Award - Instructional Technology Council

Feb 2021

Sabine County, Texas Community Anchors

1. Sabine County Court
2. City of Hemphill
3. City of Pineland
4. West Sabine ISD
5. Brookeland ISD
6. Sabine County Hospital
7. Sabine Medical Clinic
8. Hemphill Family Medicine
9. Fairmount Family Practice
10. Arthur Temple Sr. Memorial Library
11. Huffman Public Library
12. Virgie Speights Memorial Library / Museum
13. Sabine Area Career Center
14. Pineland Housing Authority
15. Hemphill Housing Authority
16. Hemphill Care Center
17. Hillside Nursing and Rehabilitation
18. Sabine River Authority
19. Work Force Solutions
20. Pineland Food Bank
21. Patricia Huffman Smith NASA Remembering Columbia Museum
22. East Sabine Senior Center
23. Sabine County Human Resources
24. Burke – Intermediate Care Facility
25. Hemphill Community Center – GED Program
26. Pineland Early Learning Center
27. Pineland City Police Department
28. Hemphill City Police Department

Budget Narrative

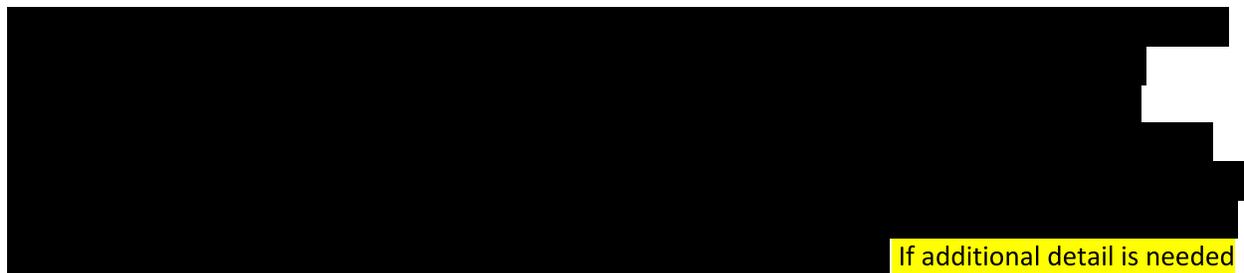
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Construction: Construction covers the labor and materials needed to place buried and aerial fiber to the targeted households in the project footprint. Windstream's existing copper-based network will be overbuilt with new fiber facilities to provide connectivity back to the Central Office. Standard GPON (ITU G.984) and/or XGS-PON (ITU G.9807) technology would be used to provide up to 1000/1000 Mbps broadband service through a direct fiber connection to the customer. At the Central Office, all services are then connected to the existing broadband and voice networks. Windstream already has a vast middle mile and backbone network in place. It will leverage this to further expand our infrastructure by constructing a last mile fiber network providing 1 gigabit symmetrical service to each location in the project area. The infrastructure already in place is enough to handle the new bandwidth required of a gigabit passive optical network (GPON). Windstream is requesting funding for the last mile network that will be connected to our existing middle mile and backhaul network. This portion of the project is budgeted to cost in total [REDACTED]. This is due to the large amount of fiber required to bring service to these rural locations. This includes both the labor and the material cost [REDACTED]. If additional detail is needed please refer to the construction fiber section on the Budget Detail Justification form.

Equipment: Windstream equipment includes, but is not limited to, costs for: Optical line terminals, distribution terminals, etc. The estimated total equipment cost is [REDACTED]. Equipment type, Windstream expects to need [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]

Confidential per Tex. Gov't Code § 552.1101; See also 5 U.S.C.S. § 552(b)(4).



If additional detail is needed please refer to the equipment section on the Budget Detail Justification form.

No customer premise equipment (CPE) costs are included within the budget. All capital costs associated with a new customer order will be fully absorbed by Windstream when said order takes place. No costs associated with the fiber drop from the terminal to the customer's home, the optical network terminal, the customer modem, or the associated labor is included in the project costs for which Windstream is requesting reimbursement.

As Windstream moves the project defined in this application through the planning, engineering, and construction phases, it is expected that some costs defined within the budget will differ from our current estimates. Windstream has a proven track record of deploying GPON networks. More than 20% of the locations in our footprint are expected to be eligible for gigabit services by the end of 2021. The equipment needed and associated costs will change from these initial estimates but will stay materially in line with these projections. Any cost overruns from this initial budget will be fully absorbed by Windstream.

Cost Sharing or Matching Funds

All matching funds used for the county/Windstream Covered Partnership are supplied by Windstream. No external entity has contributed to this matching fund. In total, Windstream will pay for 26.99% of the project, totaling \$4,696,480. Federal funding is requested for 73.01% of the project, totaling \$12,702,094. The combined, total project cost is \$17,398,574.

Confidential per Tex. Gov't Code § 552.1101; See also 5 U.S.C.S. § 552(b)(4).

Type	Detail
------	--------

Architectural and Engineering Fees

Engineering Fees

Construction

Fiber

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
------------	------------

Total Materials

\$ [REDACTED]

Material Price Per Foot

\$ [REDACTED]

Labor Price Per Foot

\$ [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
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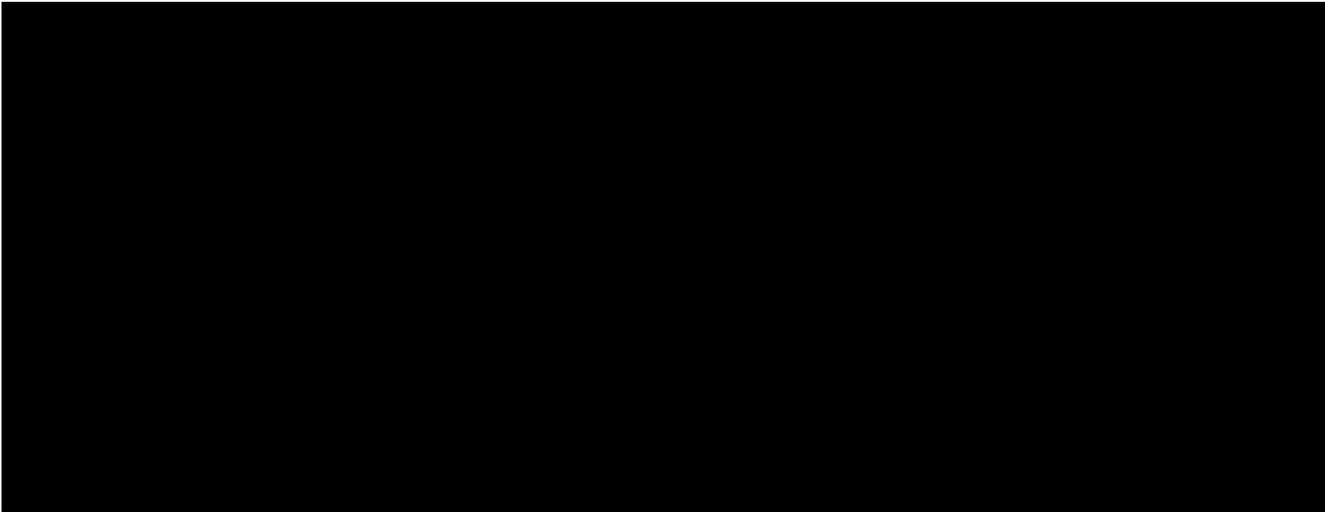
Total

Confidential per Tex. Gov't Code § 552.1101; See also 5 U.S.C.S. § 552(b)(4).

Federal Assistance
73.01%

Cost/Unit	Quantity	Total Cost	Unit
\$			
\$			

Federal Assistance
\$
\$



\$ [redacted] \$ [redacted]

Confidential per Tex. Gov't
Code § 552.1101; See also 5
U.S.C.S. § 552(b)(4).

Windstream Cost

26.99%

Windstream Cost

\$ [REDACTED]

\$ [REDACTED]

\$ [REDACTED]

\$ [REDACTED]

\$ [REDACTED]

\$ **4,696,480**

Confidential per Tex. Gov't
Code § 552.1101; See also 5
U.S.C.S. § 552(b)(4).

4001 North Rodney Parham Road
Little Rock, Arkansas 72212

Tony Thomas
President & Chief Executive Officer

501.748.7821
tony.thomas@windstream.com



August 13, 2021

**RE: Windstream Letter of Commitment
Broadband Infrastructure Program
Sabine County, Texas**

To Whom It May Concern:

As its President and CEO, I want to confirm that Windstream Services, LLC, on behalf of itself and its applicable subsidiaries ("Windstream"), as a Provider of Fixed Broadband Service and member of the Sabine County/Windstream Covered Partnership, is committed to adhere to all rules and all requests of the NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Program. Windstream is also committed to build out and complete this Covered Broadband Project in Sabine County as submitted or with any approved changes if necessary. On behalf of me and my team, we look forward to working with you in this Covered Partnership and with NTIA. If there are questions about Windstream's commitment, please contact Paul Jarvis at 501-748-3511 or Paul.F.Jarvis@windstream.com.

DocuSigned by:
Tony Thomas
3568E8EF31A348F...
Tony Thomas
President and CEO

4001 North Rodney Parham Road
Little Rock, Arkansas 72212

Tony Thomas
President & Chief Executive Officer

501.748.7821
tony.thomas@windstream.com



November 15, 2021

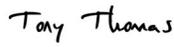
**RE: Windstream Letter of Commitment
NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Program: Sabine County, TX Applicant id 13450674 (CH)
Sabine County, TX**

To Whom It May Concern:

As President and CEO, I want to confirm that Windstream Services, LLC, and its subsidiaries ("Windstream"), as providers of fixed broadband service and as partners with Sabine County in its application to the NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Program, are committed to support the fiber build defined in the application. If funding in the amount of \$12,702,094 is awarded and following the execution of an agreement between the County and Windstream, Windstream is committed to match the awarded amount by \$4,696,480, to build out and complete this project as submitted or with any approved changes if necessary.

Windstream has completed fiber connectivity to over 700,000 locations to date, which demonstrates our capability to deliver on the 5,414 impacted locations to in the Sabine County application. Windstream's 2Q 2021 revenue of \$5 billion, net liquidity of \$646 million, and access to \$500 million in undrawn revolver credit places the company in a strong position to support its commitment of \$4,696,480 in matching funds to the project and \$17,398,574 in total with funding.

On behalf of me and my team, we look forward to working with Sabine County on this project. If there are questions about Windstream's commitment, please contact Karyn Acevedo at 952.288.8130 or karyn.acevedo@windstream.com.

DocuSigned by:

3568E8EF31A348F...
Tony Thomas
President and CEO

DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES

Complete this form to disclose lobbying activities pursuant to 31 U.S.C.1352

OMB Number: 4040-0013
Expiration Date: 02/28/2022

1. * Type of Federal Action: <input type="checkbox"/> a. contract <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> b. grant <input type="checkbox"/> c. cooperative agreement <input type="checkbox"/> d. loan <input type="checkbox"/> e. loan guarantee <input type="checkbox"/> f. loan insurance	2. * Status of Federal Action: <input type="checkbox"/> a. bid/offer/application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> b. initial award <input type="checkbox"/> c. post-award	3. * Report Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a. initial filing <input type="checkbox"/> b. material change
--	--	--

4. Name and Address of Reporting Entity:

Prime SubAwardee

* Name: Sabine County

* Street 1: 201 Main Street Street 2: Hemphill TX 75948

* City: Hemphill State: TX: Texas Zip: 75948

Congressional District, if known: _____

5. If Reporting Entity in No.4 is Subawardee, Enter Name and Address of Prime:

6. * Federal Department/Agency: NTIA	7. * Federal Program Name/Description: Broadband Infrastructure Program
	CFDA Number, if applicable: 11.031

8. Federal Action Number, if known: _____	9. Award Amount, if known: \$ _____
---	---

10. a. Name and Address of Lobbying Registrant:

Prefix _____ * First Name N/A Middle Name _____

* Last Name N/A Suffix _____

* Street 1 N/A Street 2 _____

* City N/A State _____ Zip _____

b. Individual Performing Services (including address if different from No. 10a)

Prefix _____ * First Name N/A Middle Name _____

* Last Name N/A Suffix _____

* Street 1 N/A Street 2 _____

* City N/A201 State _____ Zip _____

11. Information requested through this form is authorized by title 31 U.S.C. section 1352. This disclosure of lobbying activities is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed by the tier above when the transaction was made or entered into. This disclosure is required pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1352. This information will be reported to the Congress semi-annually and will be available for public inspection. Any person who fails to file the required disclosure shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

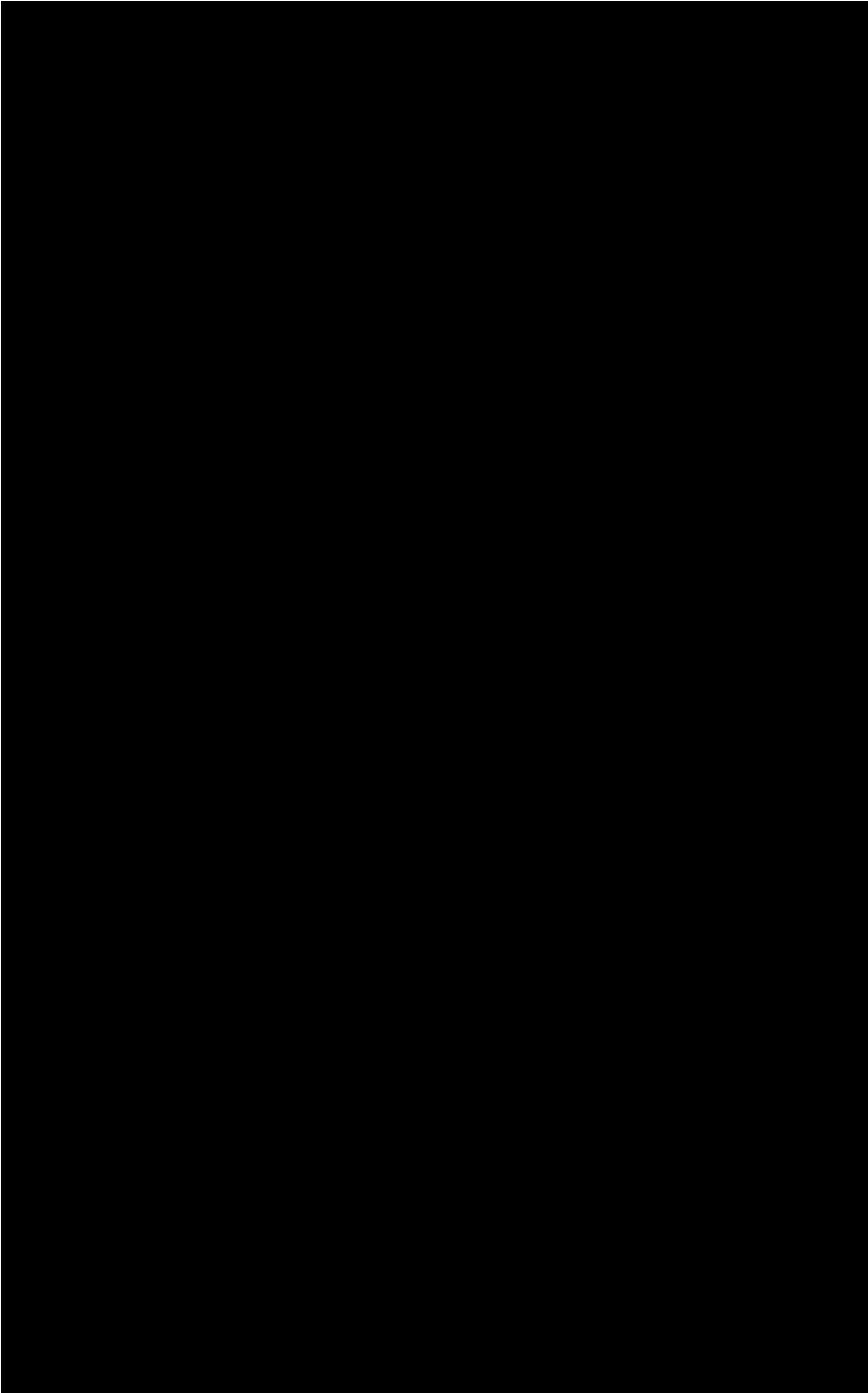
* Signature: Malinda Bryan

* Name: Prefix _____ * First Name Daryl Middle Name _____

* Last Name Melton Suffix Honorable

Title: Sabine County Judge Telephone No.: 409-787-3543 Date: 08/17/2021

Federal Use Only: _____ **Authorized for Local Reproduction Standard Form - LLL (Rev. 7-97)**



Confidential per Tex. Gov't
Code § 552.1101; See also 5
U.S.C.S. § 552(b)(4).

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