

FCC Rural Broadband Experiment – Expressions of Interest from Ohio

April 1, 2014



On January 30, 2014, the [Federal Communications Commission](#) voted to create a [Rural Broadband Experiment](#) program. The FCC hopes that this experiment will help it shape and adjust its Connect America Fund broadband subsidy program by including an application-based, competitive bidding framework. One purpose is to see whether available subsidies could provide higher levels of service, including expanded service to community anchor institutions, that exceed the current 4 Mbps download/1 Mbps upload standard for the Connect America Fund. In addition, these rural broadband experiments mark the first opportunity for providers that are not the incumbent local telephone company in a particular area to receive Connect America Fund subsidies to build and operate fixed broadband networks in those areas.

The FCC actively and openly solicited “expressions of interest” from providers, communities, institutions, and public-private partnerships regarding their ideas and proposals as to how they would utilize Connect America Fund subsidies to support broadband infrastructure build-out in currently unserved areas. These initial, non-binding “expressions of interest” were due at the FCC on March 7, 2014. To date, the FCC has received almost 1,000 expressions of interest from applicants across the country, which can be found at [List of Expressions of Interest](#). The FCC is currently evaluating these submissions and is expected to release an Order defining how to move forward with this program. Such Order will include details regarding available funds for the program, a clear definition of areas eligible for funding, project rules and rules for evaluating formal applicants for funding. There is no clear timeline for when these decisions will take place at this time.

For more information on these Rural Broadband Experiments, please see a previous Connected Nation [Policy Brief](#) from February 7, 2014.

Below is a list of the “expressions of interest” filed by applicants in Ohio as well as key takeaways from these submissions.

Ohio Expressions of Interest Summaries

- A total of 19 expressions of interest were submitted by applicants from Ohio.
- In line with the FCC objective for this experiment of better understanding what solutions different industry stakeholders could offer, submissions were received from a variety of applicants including – electric cooperatives, rural ILECs, CLECs, a non-profit provider, a healthcare network, and a state organization.
- The technology solutions proposed include the use of multiple platforms including fiber, fixed wireless, 3G/4G networks, and white space networks. Overall, however, a majority of the proposals include in part or in full deployment of fiber to the premise networks.
- Proposed project scopes range from projects narrowly focusing on county-level deployment challenges to proposals to serve existing broadband gaps across large regions of the state. Project funding requests range from just \$400,000 to as much as \$50-\$80 million in subsidies. The overall budget for all 19 proposed projects is upward of \$168 million.
- Of the Expressions of Interest filed, one of the submissions mention the Connect Ohio program in support of their Expression. Horizon Telcom listed Connect Ohio as a partner in their efforts to expand broadband to rural unserved areas.

Ohio Expressions of Interest Submitted (As of April 1, 2014)



Name of Filer

Amplex Electric, Inc.
Benton Ridge Telephone Company
Buckeye Rural Electric Cooperative
Conneaut Telephone Co. Inc.
Consolidated Electric Cooperative
GMN Tri-County CAC, Inc.
Hocking Internet Technologies, Ltd.
Horizon Telcom, Inc.
Larry Schriver
Massillon Cable TV, Inc.
McClure Communications Corporation
New Era Broadband
OneCommunity
Pankaj Shah
Southern Ohio Communication Services, Inc.
Southern Ohio Health Care Network
Sycamore Telephone Company
The Champaign Telephone Company
The Nova Telephone Company

Expression Filed

[Expression of Interest \(2 pages\)](#)
[Expression of Interest Rural CAF Experiments \(3 pages\)](#)
[Buckeye Rural Electric Cooperative EOI WC Docket 10 90 \(6 pages\)](#)
[Expression of Interest Letter \(2 pages\)](#)
[Expression of Interest \(6 pages\)](#)
[EOI for Rural Broadband Experiment \(2 pages\)](#)
[Expression of Interest \(6 pages\)](#)
[Horizon Telcom Inc EOI \(7 pages\); Horizon Telcom Inc Letters of Support \(1 page\)](#)
[\(4 pages\)](#)
[\(2 pages\)](#)
[Expression of Interest for FCC Rural Broadband Experiments Project \(6 pages\)](#)
[Expression of Intent \(3 pages\)](#)
[Expression of Interest \(4 pages\)](#)
[\(3 pages\)](#)
[STC Expression of Interest \(2 pages\)](#)
[Expression of Interest Letter \(2 pages\)](#)
[Expression of Interest for IP Trials in Ashland Couty Ohio \(3 pages\)](#)