

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

May 3, 2010

Lawrence Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
United States Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Strickling:

I want to thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the broadband proposals submitted for funding consideration as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

As was the case during the first round of funding, hundreds of worthwhile projects have been proposed that would enhance and expand the availability and use of broadband across the country. Collectively, the proposals offer creative approaches that will bolster public safety efforts, grow our economy, contribute to academic enrichment and improve the delivery of health care.

To capture input and feedback from a variety of perspectives, Connecticut's review process involved participation from state and local officials possessing an expertise in information and communications technologies. The individuals that participated in this process carefully considered and evaluated all of the broadband funding proposals that referenced Connecticut, weighing how each initiative could directly benefit the citizens of the state.

The projects or proposals submitted in Round 2 specific to Connecticut include initiatives that enhance both the state's public safety and education networks, strengthen connectivity between and within a number of Connecticut municipalities and further the adoption of health information technology approaches.

Based on consideration of the feedback received through the state's review process, the state of Connecticut provides the following comments:

Connecticut Department of Information Technology

ID: 7356

Type: Comprehensive Community Infrastructure

Title: Access Connecticut: Expanding the State's Education and Public Safety Network

The Department of Information Technology proposes to enhance the state public safety network, proceed with the roll-out of next generation 911 functionality, expand the state's education network and connect hundreds of anchor institutions throughout the state. Collectively, the initiatives proposed in this application will enhance the availability and utilization of the broadband across the state and create hundreds of jobs.

Comments: Highly Recommend – the project moves the state forward with Next Generation 911 and enhances an existing, successful education network – connecting hundreds of communities throughout the state.

City of Hartford

ID: 7604

Type: Comprehensive Community Infrastructure

Title: Connecting Hartford

The city of Hartford proposes to build off of its existing broadband network and connect health care facilities, housing projects, public safety entities, businesses, educational institutions and community-based organizations. The project will enhance the overall delivery of public services while providing more individuals throughout the city access to broadband and the benefits derived from its utilization.

Comments: Highly Recommend – builds of an existing network to provide greater broadband services throughout the city – establishes a comprehensive network of local anchor institutions.

Town of Glastonbury

ID: 4756

Type: Comprehensive Community Infrastructure

Title: CT East of the River Fiber Connect

The town of Glastonbury is proposing the development of a network that will connect anchor institutions within four Connecticut towns, one of which already has an extensive broadband network. The proposed network will link the region's municipal facilities, schools and public safety facilities.

Comments: Highly Recommend – provides for greater connectivity in and among the participating towns – building off of an existing framework to provide more services and capacity to local residents.

Stamford Hospital

ID: 4327

Type: Sustainable Broadband Adoption

Title: Broadband Adoption and Telehealth Monitoring for Older Adults

Stamford Hospital proposes to create a national model for the utilization of health information technology by building off a pilot program already underway at the hospital. The pilot and proposed model utilizes broadband technology to expand the use of tele-monitoring of health conditions for low-income seniors. Currently underway in Stamford, funding of this proposal will help launch further utilization of this approach in communities in Michigan and California.

Comments: Highly Recommend – builds off of an existing model that incorporates new approaches to expanding the application of telemedicine and health information technology – increases the utilization of health-related broadband applications and cultivates career opportunities.

AlphaStar America

ID: 7749

Type: Comprehensive Community Infrastructure

Title: Building the First Statewide Broadband Telehealth Network in Connecticut

AlphaStar America proposes to construct a telehealth network in Connecticut that will serve all of the residents of the state. The network will include both the exchange and storage of health-related information.

Comments: Merits Consideration – concept and need for developing an integrated health information network has emerged throughout the county and in Connecticut – many moving parts involved with the development of approaches concerning health information technology including further development of state policies and approaches governing the exchange of this information and the networks that will support an integrated approach.

University Corporation for Advanced Internet Development

ID: 4589

Type: Comprehensive Community Infrastructure

Title: United States Unified Community Anchor Network

University Corporation proposes a project of national scope to link or connect anchor institutions across the country utilizing technology that is both reliable and has the capacity to optimize the effectiveness of the network. The proposal complements other broadband proposals or existing projects – bringing all of the distinct and separate networks together.

Comments: Recommend – large-scale project to connect anchor institutions throughout the county – fulfillment of this endeavor will result in a comprehensive national network that would provide ease in the sharing and conveying of information.

National Emergency Number Association

ID: 6873

Type: Sustainable Broadband Adoption

Title: Increasing Public Safety Broadband Demand by Enabling Multi-state next Generation 911 Capabilities

The National Emergency Number Association proposes to implement aspects or components of the Next Generation 911 standards across the country. Specific elements of the proposal include developing the architecture for the program and design training materials. To move the effort forward, the Association will begin working with six states, including Connecticut, to deploy and test the technology.

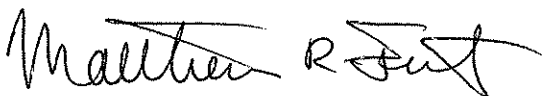
Comments: Recommend – moves the nation forward toward the development and implementation of the next generation of 911 service – provides an opportunity for Connecticut to participate in the development of the technology and framework for future deployment.

These proposals are likely to have the most direct and most significant impact on the residents living in the state of Connecticut. The proposals represent a varied approach in terms of the reach and magnitude of the initiative, including proposals that focus on a single municipality along with proposals that span the country. No matter their scope, the proposals offer creative approaches to expand the deployment and utilization of broadband services throughout the state.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to provide feedback on the broadband initiatives submitted as part of Round 2. As previously stated, there are many worthwhile projects that were submitted – demonstrating the interest and functionality of broadband applications and approaches.

If you have any questions, or, if I can be of further assistance please, do not hesitate to contact me at (860) 524-7309 or at matt.fritz@ct.gov.

Sincerely,



Matthew R. Fritz
Special Assistant to the Governor
Office of Governor M. Jodi Rell
State of Connecticut

cc: Ian Martinez