PSC REF#:432691

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
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BROADBAND EXPANSION GRANT APPLICATION
For Fiscal Year 2022

Page 1: Cover Sheet

Primary Applicant (Name and Address):	Applications MUST be UPLOADED to ERF via the Commission's website, http://psc.wi.gov/apps35/ERF_upload/content/mymenu.aspx. Refer to section 2.3 for detailed instructions. Applications are due and MUST be uploaded to ERF no later than: **March 17, 2022** at 4:00pm (16:00) Central Time. **Late applications will not be accepted.**
Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless **One Verizon Way** **Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920**	Contact for further information: PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov
	Date: December 1, 2021

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is seeking applications for Broadband Expansion Grants. The Commission may award one or more grants during Fiscal Year 2022 to public and private entities that meet the eligibility requirements set forth in Wis. Stat. § 196.504. This grant round will be funded with bond proceeds authorized by the Wisconsin Building Commission pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). As such, successful applicants are subject to the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 13.48(30). Successful applicants will demonstrate a clear and achievable plan to improve broadband communications services in one or more underserved areas in the State.

Applicant Certification: In signing this application, the undersigned verifies under penalty of perjury that the Applicant and its employees and agents have not, either directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement or participated in any collusion or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competition with respect to this application; that no attempt has been made to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit an application; that this application has been independently arrived at without collusion with any other proposer, competitor or potential competitor; that this application has not been knowingly disclosed prior to the opening of applications to any other applicant or competitor; that all of the responses and representations of Applicant in this application are true and correct to the best of the undersigned's knowledge, information, and belief; and that Applicant agrees to, accepts, and will comply with all of the terms and conditions respecting this application and any award of a broadband expansion grant as may be established in a grant award Agreement.

Name of Authorized Representative (Type or Print)	Title	Phone ( )
Nia Mathis	**Vice President, State and Local Government Affairs, Central Region**	**908-809-5104**
Signature of Authorized Representative Nia C. Mathis	Date 03/16/2022	

Nia C Mathis
E-signed 2022-03-15 03:10PM CDT
nia.mathis@verizonwireless.com

Page 2-3: Summary of Grant Application

Primary Applicant Name Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless (referred to herein as "Verizon")	**Amount of Broadband Grant Request (round to nearest dollar)** $1,200,000
Federal Employer Identification No. 22-3372889	**Amount of Matching Funds Pledged (round to nearest dollar)** $3,600,000
Contact Name and Title Nia Mathis, Vice President of State and Local Government Affairs for the Central Region, including Wisconsin	**Total Cost of Proposed Project (round to nearest dollar)** $4,800,000
Telephone Number 908-809-5104	**Project Name** Verizon Wireless_Chippewa County Wisconsin
E-mail Address(es) nia.mathis@verizonwireless.com	**Type of Proposed Broadband Service (FTTH, Cable, DSL, etc.)** Broadband service over fixed wireless network facilities
Grant Manager, if different than Primary Applicant Not Applicable	**Type of Proposed Project (Last-mile, Middle-Mile, backbone, other)** Last-Mile
Grant Manager Contact Name Not Applicable	**Grant Manager Email Address and Telephone Number** Not Applicable
If the application proposes a public-private partnership, list the names, addresses, and FEINs of the partner companies or organizations. There are no public-private partnerships as part of this application.	
Brief Project Description (2 sentences) Verizon will augment equipment at 16 existing Verizon cell sites (e.g., existing towers) in Chippewa County to provide broadband service using fixed wireless technology to 2,693 unserved and underserved locations identified by the State.	
Maximum Proposed Download Transmission Speed 300 Mbps	**Maximum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed** 20 Mbps
Minimum Proposed Download Speed to Customer Location As described, typical download speeds of 100 - 300 Mbps	**Minimum Proposed Upload Transmission Speed to Customer Location** As described, typical upload speeds of 10 Mbps
County or Counties served by this project: Chippewa	**Community or Communities served by this project** Bloomer, Boyd, Cadott, Chippewa Falls, Cornell, Stanley, Anson, Auburn, Birch Creek, Cooks Valley, Delmar, Eagle Point, Estella, Hallie, Howard, Lafayette, Lake Hallie, Lake Holcombe, Sigel, Tilden, Wheaton, and Woodmohr.
List of the broadband service providers, if any, currently serving the area the applicant proposes to serve No single broadband service provider or combination of broadband service providers currently serves the entire area Verizon proposes to serve. For additional details please see response to RFP 3.2.4.c.	

Does proposed project serve an *unserved* area of the State, as defined in Section 1.4 of the application instruction? (yes/no) Yes	**Is the Applicant certified as a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community, or does the grant project propose to serve a Broadband Forward! Community or Telecommuter Forward! Community? (yes/no)** Yes. Details are included in response to RFP 3.2.5.h.
For last mile projects or component the expected number of Business Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total business locations passed or with new service access). Data from the State indicates there may be as many as 11,000 unserved and underserved locations across Chippewa County. The Proposed Project will make broadband service available to 2,693 of those locations (roughly 23%). Data provided by the State does not identify locations as business or residential.	**For last mile projects or components the expected number of Residential Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total residential locations passed or with new service access).** Data from the State indicates there may be as many as 11,000 unserved and underserved locations across Chippewa County. The Proposed Project will make broadband service available to 2,693 of those locations (roughly 23%). Data provided by the State does not identify locations as business or residential.
Of the improved business locations, how many locations are *unserved*? Data from the State indicates there may be as many as 11,000 unserved and underserved locations across Chippewa County. The Proposed Project will make broadband service available to 2,693 of those locations (roughly 23%). Data provided by the State does not identify locations as business or residential.	**Of the improved residential locations, how many are unserved?** Data from the State indicates there may be as many as 11,000 unserved and underserved locations across Chippewa County. The Proposed Project will make broadband service available to 2,693 of those locations (roughly 23%). Data provided by the State does not identify locations as business or residential.
For providers that are eligible telecommunications carriers will the proposed broadband service be available to Lifeline customers? (yes/no) No, Verizon is not an ETC in Chippewa County. However, as discussed below, eligible recipients will be able to participate in the Affordable Connectivity Program, described below.	**Are there any programs available for low-income households to access low-cost service or discounts? (yes/no)** Yes
Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program? (yes/no) Verizon did participate in the Emergency Broadband Benefit program. That program was replaced by the Affordable Connectivity Program on December 31, 2021. Verizon currently participates in the Affordable Connectivity Program.	**Is the internet service provider currently participating in the Department of Public Instruction and CESA purchasing's Digital Learning Bridge? (yes/no)** Yes
Did the internet service provider participate in the Public Service Commission's voluntary Broadband Coverage Data Collection in 2021? (yes/no) No	

Page 4: Summary of Project Budget and Funding Statement

The Pledged Contributions from the Applicant represent 75% of the estimated cost of the project, as set forth above. The amount of grant funding being requested is $1,200,000.

FY22 Broadband Expansion Grant Application
Budget & Income Summary

Wisconsin Broadband Office

Please complete this form using Microsoft Excel. A PDF copy must be attached to your application as page four. In addition, this form must also be uploaded to ERF in Excel format.

Grant Summary

Grant Applicant:	Project:
Cellco Partnership d/b/a/ Verizon Wireless	Verizon Broadband Expansion 2022 for Chippewa County Wisconsin

Budget

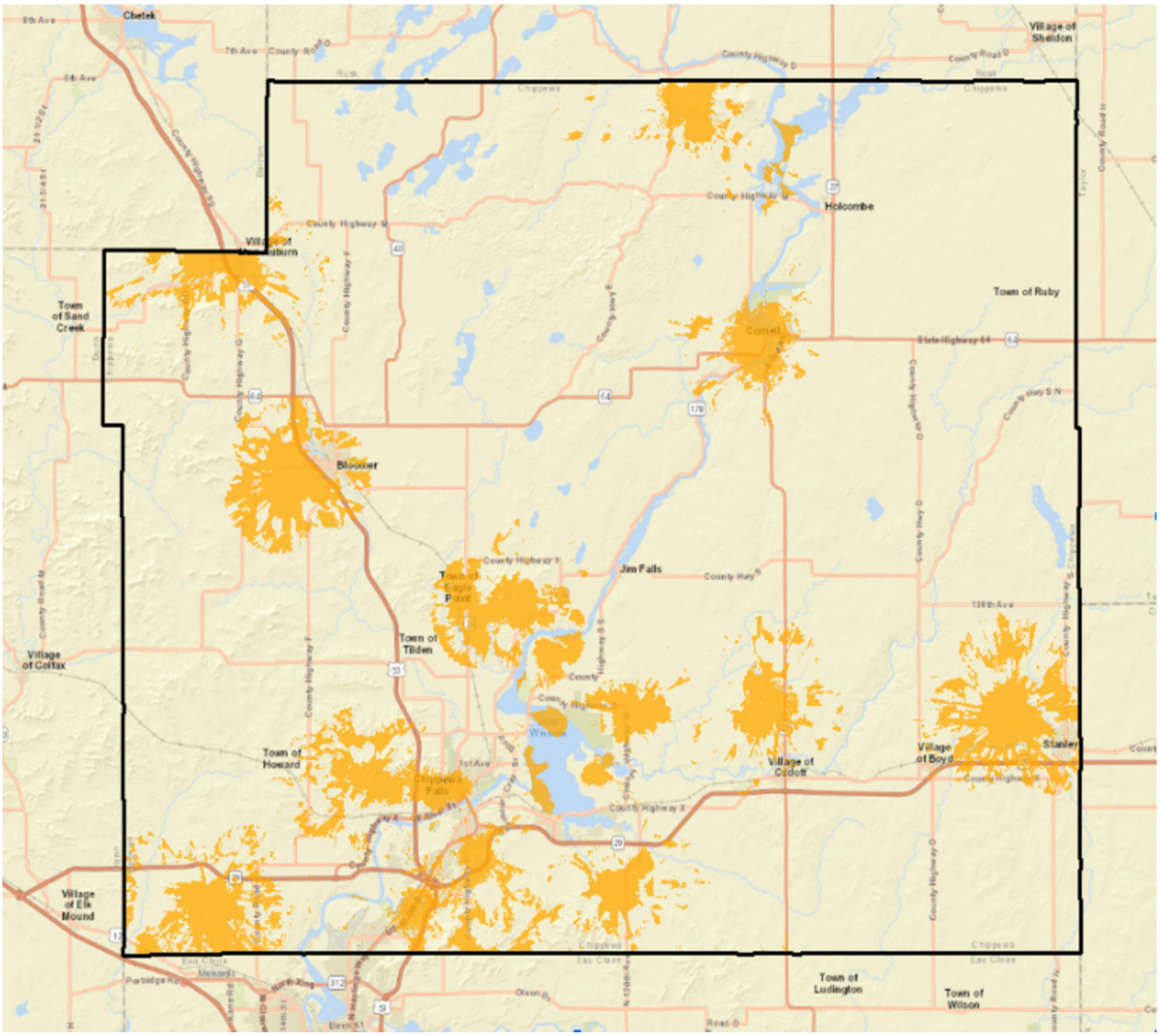
Line:	Description / Category:	Grant Funds:	Match:	Total:
1	Construction			$ 2,192,000.00
2	Equipment			$ 2,608,000.00
	Total:	$ -	$ -	$ 4,800,000.00

Pledged Contributions

#:	Entity:	Entity Type:	Pledge Type:	Pledge:
1	Cellco Partnership d/b/a/ Verizon Wireless	Applicant	Cash	$ 3,600,000.00
			Total:	$ 3,600,000.00

Page 5+: Static Maps of Project Boundaries

The map below shows the portions of the county in which broadband service will be available from the Proposed Broadband Facilities ("Proposed Service Area"). The Proposed Service Area boundaries are also being separately provided in a geospatial file accompanying this application. Verizon's proposal is to make broadband service available to 2,693 unserved and underserved locations in the Proposed Service Area.



PAGE 6-30: Verizon Wireless Broadband Expansion 2022 for the Chippewa County

RFP 3.2 Verizon Wireless Response to Mandatory Application Requirements

RFP 3.2.1 Applicant Identification and Contact Information

RFP 3.2.1.a. Applicant name and contact details

Verizon's Response [RFP 3.2.1.a. - c.]

Name of Applicant: Cellco Partnership d/b/a/ Verizon Wireless ("Verizon")
Mailing Address: One Verizon Way, Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920
Main Contact: Nia Mathis
Telephone Number: 908-809-5104
Contact Email Address: nia.mathis@verizonwireless.com

RFP 3.2.1.b. Proposed public-private partnership, contact details

There are no public-private partnerships as part of this application.

RFP 3.2.1.c. Type of entity meeting eligibility requirements set forth in Wis. Stat. § 196.504(1)

Verizon is an organization operated for profit and as such meets the requirements set forth in Wisc. Stat. § 196.504(1)(ac)1.

RFP 3.2.2 Description of the Project

RFP 3.2.2.a. Static map and description of the affected area by the proposed project

Verizon's Response [RFP 3.2.2.a. - g.]

Verizon proposes to augment 16 existing cell sites (e.g., existing towers) in Chippewa County to provide 5G broadband service using fixed wireless technology to 2,693 unserved and underserved locations in the Proposed Service Area (the "Proposed Broadband Facilities").

The map provided on page 5, above, shows the Proposed Service Area in which broadband service will be offered using the Proposed Broadband Facilities.

RFP 3.2.2.b. Documentation if project within census block of available broadband services

There are likely census blocks within the Proposed Service Area that are considered to be currently served with broadband service within the meaning of the Commission's broadband expansion grant program. However, the primary use of the Proposed Broadband Facilities will be to provide broadband service to **2,693 unserved and underserved locations** in the Proposed Service Area. Because Verizon is augmenting existing sites, rather than constructing new towers there will inevitably be some overlap with areas with available broadband service. Using existing sites, however, speeds deployment, removes uncertainties in obtaining site approvals, and reduces the

amount of grant funding necessary to serve the unserved and underserved locations. Verizon has also accounted for any potential overlap by pledging to contribute 75% of the estimated cost of the project.

RFP 3.2.2.c Detailed explanation of how the proposed project will increase broadband access

Verizon's proposal will bring 5G Home Internet service to approximately 23% of the unserved and underserved locations in Chippewa County. The data on unserved and underserved locations provided by the State that Verizon is using as the basis for this application does not distinguish between business and residential locations. However, Verizon believes that some portion of the 2,693 unserved and underserved locations covered by the Proposed Project are likely business locations and some are likely residential. Verizon can provide the list of 2,693 locations if requested. In addition, although this application focuses on 5G Home Internet--Verizon's residential service--Verizon also offers broadband service to businesses using 5G fixed wireless technology. Details can be found online at https://www.verizon.com/business/products/networks/connectivity/5g-business-internet/.

Verizon 5G Home Internet is ultra-fast, ultra-simple broadband, designed to be reliable and fast enough to power an entire home, with multiple devices connected, including TVs, tablets, phones, gaming consoles, and more. Verizon's 5G Home Internet service will be available to all customers in the Proposed Service Area, which may include seasonal residents and tourists staying in those locations, although Verizon does not have information from which to estimate the precise number of seasonal residents or tourists served. The Proposed Broadband Facilities will also support provision of 5G mobile wireless services which will be able to be used by any Verizon customer with a capable device and service plan.

Verizon's 5G Home Internet service in the Proposed Service Area will typically provide download speeds of 100Mbps to 300Mbps and upload speeds of 10Mbps to 20Mbps, and offers unlimited data with no data usage caps. Because this project involves delivery of broadband services over a shared network, there is not a guaranteed minimum download or upload speed, but customers' experience and Verizon's delivery of the typical speeds will be determined by Verizon Wireless through network testing and reporting. Network testing includes tests run regularly on all active customer locations, including during periods of peak utilization ("busy period"), the results of which are summarized to determine network performance.

Currently, service plans for 5G Home Internet start as low as $25 per month with a qualifying unlimited plan and autopay/paperless billing or $50 without the qualifying mobile plan, and there are no contracts, no hidden fees, and no equipment charges. New 5G Home Internet customers can benefit from a variety of promotions and incentives, currently including up to $500 in credits towards other providers' early termination fees, six months free Disney+ video streaming service, a Verizon Stream TV device, and two years of Sling TV. These promotions may vary and are subject to change at any time. 5G Home Internet is subject to Verizon's standard terms and conditions and network management practices. Information on these terms, conditions, and practices can be found on Verizon's public website, and may vary over time.

Verizon's 5G Home Internet service is currently eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). The ACP was created by Congress and implemented by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to assist eligible households to pay for internet services. The ACP will provide assistance to customers needing to connect to jobs, healthcare, and virtual classrooms. The ACP is a federal program that provides subsidized internet service for eligible customers, and replaces the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program. ACP qualified customers can get:

- Up to one $30/month subsidy for each eligible household
- Up to one $75/month subsidy for each eligible household on Tribal lands

Terms, conditions, eligibility, and availability of the ACP are subject to change.

The Proposed Project will increase access to broadband by reducing barriers to installation and set-up. Customers who purchase 5G Home Internet will receive their service equipment through the mail, and will be able to set it up themselves anytime simply by plugging it into an existing electrical outlet. This eliminates the need for an installation appointment.

The Proposed Project will also increase the speed of deployment to future locations in the Proposed Service Area. As new homes and businesses are built in the Proposed Service Area, there will be no need to construct additional wireline facilities to make service available to those new locations. Instead, customers can quickly and easily self-install their service without waiting for additional deployment.

The Proposed Project will also increase access speeds and capabilities over time as Verizon upgrades its network. As Verizon adds new spectrum and new equipment to its sites in the coming decades, locations within the coverage area of the Proposed Broadband Facilities will be able to benefit from those upgrades and enhancements without any need to upgrade wireline distribution facilities.

RFP 3.2.2.d. Declaration if the project is targeting the “last”, “middle” or “backbone” of broadband infrastructure

This is a last mile solution.

RFP 3.2.2.e. Detailed description of the broadband services and technologies to be used

The project will utilize Verizon's existing 4G LTE and 5G network technologies and will include the deployment of new equipment, new C-Band Spectrum as well as potentially other spectrum deployment or adjustments, and other related facilities. Verizon’s 5G Home Internet service in the Proposed Service Area will typically provide download speeds of 100Mbps to 300Mbps and upload speeds of 10Mbps to 20Mbps, and offers unlimited data with no data usage caps. Because this project involves delivery of broadband services over a shared network, there is not a guaranteed minimum download or upload speed, but customers' experience and Verizon’s delivery of the typical speeds will be determined by Verizon through network testing and reporting. Network testing includes tests run regularly on all active customer locations, including during periods of peak

utilization ("busy period"), the results of which are summarized to determine network performance. The 5G Home Internet service is based on shared bandwidth.

Verizon already owns the FCC spectrum licenses that it will use to deliver the 5G Home Internet service. These licenses are for the same spectrum frequencies that Verizon will use across the country for 5G Ultra Wideband and 5G Home Internet, and are available for Verizon's exclusive use.

The customer premise equipment used for the service supports both Wi-Fi (the Wi-Fi 6 standard) and wired (LAN) connections.

RFP 3.2.2.f. For middle mile projects; identify last mile broadband service providers

Not applicable. This is not a middle mile project.

RFP 3.2.2.g. Proposed project schedule for completing in 24 months

Verizon will construct the Proposed Broadband Facilities within two (2) years of the date on which Verizon and the Commission enter into a broadband deployment agreement. The project schedule generally involves the following activities:

- Site survey. The existing tower will be surveyed to confirm readiness for equipment deployment. Verizon will identify any necessary upgrades to space, power, HVAC, and fiber-backhaul.
- Equipment Installation. The equipment required for the Proposed Broadband Facilities will be delivered and installed.
- Electric Supply. If necessary, arrangements are made to augment electrical service at the site.
- Fiber Back-haul. If necessary, arrangements are made to augment fiber back-haul or transport services to connect the site to Verizon's Internet backbone network.
- Open For Sale. Once all work is completed, the Proposed Broadband Facilities will be inventoried in Verizon's ordering platforms as being eligible to receive orders for 5G Home Internet service.

All of these activities must be completed in order for Verizon to take an order for service. Many of these activities (e.g., equipment installation, electric supply, and fiber back-haul) can proceed in parallel.

RFP 3.2.3 Itemized Budget (all amounts should be rounded to the nearest dollar)

RFP 3.2.3.a. Price list or quote for equipment for purchase, including capital expenditures

Verizon's Response [RFP 3.2.3.a. - c.]

Please see Section 3.0, above, for an estimated project budget. Equipment for the Proposed Broadband Facilities will be sourced from the same suppliers and through the same purchasing arrangements that Verizon already has in place for its nationwide roll-out of 5G wireless technology.

The pricing with Verizon's equipment and service vendors is proprietary to both Verizon and Verizon's suppliers (many of whom also serve other wireless network operators) and is not able to be disclosed as part of this application. All equipment deployed as part of the Proposed Project will be solely owned by Verizon.

RFP 3.2.3.b. Process for validating grant funds will not subsidize Verizon Wireless operations

Verizon affirms that it will not use any grant funds to subsidize its expenses or the monthly bills of telecommunications customers.

RFP 3.2.3.c. Process for validating grant funds will only be used for constructing infrastructure

Verizon affirms the grant funds will be used for the sole purpose of constructing the Proposed Broadband Facilities, as described in this application. Verizon will implement internal operating procedures and controls to ensure compliance. Once construction is completed, as contemplated in the proposed Security and Grant Agreement (see, e.g., Section 6.1), the primary use of the Proposed Broadband Facilities will be to provide broadband service to 2,693 unserved and underserved locations in the Proposed Service Area. Verizon's delivery of the indicated speeds will be determined by Verizon through network testing. Network testing includes tests run regularly on all active customer locations, including during periods of peak utilization ("busy period"), the results of which are summarized to determine network performance.

Verizon will use the grant funds for the following, among other qualifying activities:

- Project planning that takes place during the performance period.
- Obtaining construction permits.
- Construction of facilities.
- Activation and testing of the broadband service.

RFP 3.2.4 Priority Factors Supporting the Application

RFP 3.2.4.a. Matching funds

Verizon's Response [RFP 3.2.4.a-g.]

Verizon will provide $3,600,000 in matching funds in the form of cash.

RFP 3.2.4.b. Public-private partnerships

There are no public-private partnerships as part of this application.

RFP 3.2.4.c. Existing broadband service

No single broadband service provider or combination of broadband service providers serves all of the areas in Chippewa County Verizon proposes to serve. However, Verizon believes that the following broadband providers may provide service in parts of the Proposed Service Area[1]:

Broadband Service Providers	Technology	Max. Advertised Download Speed	Max. Advertised Upload Speed
Charter Communications	Cable	940	35
AT&T Wisconsin Inc.	DSL	25	3
Lumen Technologies, Inc.	DSL	100	10
Bloomer Telephone Company	Fiber	1000	1000
Ntera, LLC	Fiber	1000	1000
Chibardun Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (Mosaic Technologies)	Fiber	1000	1000
24-7 Telcom, Inc. / West Wisconsin Telcom Cooperative, Inc.	Fiber	1000	1000
Country Wireless, LLC	Fixed Wireless	50	6
T-Mobile USA, Inc.	Fixed Wireless	25	3

In addition to Verizon Communications Inc., mobile wireless service may be provided in parts of the Proposed Service Area by AT&T, Inc., T-Mobile USA, Inc., and Northeast Communications of Wisconsin, Inc. (Cellcom).

RFP 3.2.4.d. Project impact

The Proposed Project will be deployed in designated areas of Chippewa County as reflected in the maps provided with this application. Data from the State indicates there may be as many as 11,000 unserved and underserved locations across Chippewa County. The Proposed Project will make broadband service available to 2,693 of those locations (roughly 23%). Data provided by the State does not identify locations as business or residential. These locations are spread across the counties which makes fixed wireless technology an efficient and attractive option to provide broadband service to these locations.

Details on Verizon 5G Home Internet service are provided earlier in this application. This service is offered by Verizon in urban and suburban areas across the United States, and will increase parity between broadband services available in these less dense areas of Wisconsin and broadband services available in urban and suburban environments such as Milwaukee.

[1] This information is based on a review of the Wisconsin Broadband Map and FCC 477 data, using the definition of "Broadband service" provided in the Application. Verizon has not independently verified the accuracy of the information.

Speeds supported by the Proposed Broadband Facilities will support multiple users in a household engaged in a wide range of activities including online gaming, streaming video, video conferencing, real-time online learning and education, telemedicine, and working from home. In addition to fast download and upload speeds, Verizon expects network to device (round-trip) latency to be less than 30ms for its 5G Home Internet service, which is on par with latency for wired broadband services. The ability for customers to self-install means that they will be able to get online quickly and efficiently.

5G Home Internet service is offered in a variety of pricing and service plans. In addition, as described above, 5G Home Internet customers may be eligible for reduced rates through the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program.

RFP 3.2.4.e. Scalability

The Proposed Broadband Facilities are highly scalable in multiple dimensions. Additional users can be added within the Proposed Service Areas without the need to extend network facilities to new locations when using wireless technology.

The design of Verizon's network infrastructure will enable Verizon to add capacity as demand grows by adding new cell sites. Verizon no longer needs to construct new tower or "macro" sites to serve additional customers. Instead, 5G technology can be deployed through small wireless facilities deployed on traditional utility poles. These facilities are smaller and lower-powered, yet can offer the same speed and service capabilities as large macro sites within a targeted geographic area. As usage grows within the Proposed Service Area, Verizon can deploy these small wireless facilities to maintain service speed and quality. As additional nodes are deployed, the network will automatically adjust to ensure that each customer is connected to the node where their signal strength is strongest, providing them with optimal speed and service capabilities.

Verizon's network continually evolves from a technology perspective. Wireless technology has generally progressed from first generation equipment used for voice, to second generation (text), third generation (data), fourth generation (streaming) and now fifth generation (two way high-speed broadband). But this is not the end. The sites used for the Proposed Broadband Facilities can, in the future, be modified to accommodate 6G services and future wireless specifications.

Verizon's network provides a number of other additional benefits.

- Verizon's modernization of its cellular infrastructure includes equipment consolidation on a tower: newer technology has allowed Verizon to transmit multiple radio-frequency carriers out of a single radio. These are referred to as dual band radios. The move to dual band radios allows Verizon to increase network capacity while reducing the installed equipment. This, in turn, can reduce energy consumption and increase the sustainability of the service.

- Verizon has deep relationships across the global supply chain with a wide range of equipment manufacturers, vendors, and suppliers. We leverage these relationships to drive lower costs and higher quality for our customers. The scale of our sourcing activity enables

us to maximize our ability to obtain necessary equipment and services even when supplies run tight.

- Verizon is a recognized leader in cybersecurity. Verizon's Data Breach Investigative Report is an annual must-read for corporate and government CISOs, CSOs, CTOs, and CIOs. Verizon's global network security team has sensors deployed across our network, around the world, and is always on the alert for the latest zero-day exploits and malicious activities. Verizon has relationships across industry and government that enable us to obtain the latest in threat intelligence. The cybersecurity countermeasures that we deploy on our backbone network to protect our business and government customers from hackers and other bad actors can benefit our 5G Home Internet customers whose services are connected to that same backbone network.

- 5G Home Internet customers also benefit from the breadth and reach of Verizon's global network and relationships. Verizon is not just a U.S. company--Verizon provides communications services to customer locations in over 100 countries around the world, with a diverse workforce spanning over 40 countries. Our global reach and relationships benefit our customers in the U.S. and beyond.

- Verizon is strongly committed to customer privacy and to an open Internet, as evidenced by our Privacy Policy (https://www.verizon.com/about/privacy/) and Broadband Commitment (https://www.verizon.com/broadbandcommitment)

- Verizon is committed to progress in the areas of Environmental, Social, and Governance. More information on our commitments and activities in this respect can be found online at (https://www.verizon.com/about/sites/default/files/esg-report/2020/index.html). We expect to release our 2021 report in the coming months.

- Verizon is committed to fostering an inclusive environment. We care about diversity in both our employees and our suppliers. Diversity and inclusion is how we achieve success. By celebrating diversity across all spectrums, including but not limited to race, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, veteran/military status, and age, we are a stronger company and culture. More information can be found online at (https://www.verizon.com/about/our-company/diversity-and-inclusion). Verizon's network team's Moment to Movement program is designed to attract, engage, and acquire top talent to build and retain a diverse and inclusive workforce, including through partnerships with HBCUs and with non-traditional channels, apprenticeship programs, and onboarding and development programs that provides guidance and support throughout employees' Verizon careers.

RFP 3.2.4.f. Economic development

Governor Evers stated last year, "Broadband access is an essential catalyst to drive community, public safety, learning, health, and economic goals across the state of Wisconsin." Verizon understands that increasing access to and usage of broadband infrastructure both in rural areas and for all residents can significantly impact the economy. These benefits can include enhanced

education and skill training opportunities, the potential for more job growth, higher rates of new business formation, and lower unemployment rates.

Alan Anderson, President of Prototype Solutions Group, echoes Governor Evers by remarking that the lack of broadband in the Chippewa Valley region "has a direct effect on our ability to recruit workers to live in the area and limits our potential local markets." Exhibit 1, (See Appendix A). Mr. Anderson supports Verizon's application because it will improve 5G capacity for businesses in the area and help foster innovation and hopefully lower broadband pricing through competition.

Verizon is committed to helping ensure that all Americans have access to affordable, reliable broadband and are equipped with the appropriate skills to use it. As we explained in our Accelerating America white paper, Verizon believes that broadband networks are critical to our daily lives, allowing all to work from home, connect with loved ones, find jobs, educate our children remotely, and get medical attention virtually. (https://www.verizon.com/acceleratingamerica).

In addition to connectivity, we have established Citizen Verizon - our plan for economic, environmental, and social advancement. Through this program, we are committing $3B to provide 10 million youths with digital access and skills training, 1M small businesses with resources to help them thrive in the digital economy, and prepare 500K individuals for future jobs by 2030. Small businesses and residents can access specific information around these programs at https://www.verizon.com/about/responsibility.

RFP 3.2.4.g. Effect upon broadband service to adjacent areas

The Proposed Broadband Facilities will have no effect on the ability of other providers, wireline or wireless, to provide their services within or in areas adjacent to the Proposed Service Area. Verizon already owns the FCC spectrum licenses that it will use to deliver the 5G Home Internet service in the Proposed Service Area. These licenses are for the same spectrum frequencies that Verizon will use across the country, and are licensed by the FCC for Verizon's exclusive use. From a facilities perspective, Verizon already has ownership of, or leases for, the cell sites where the Proposed Broadband Facilities will be deployed--these are all existing, active network sites. There is nothing about the Proposed Project that will in any way diminish any third-party's access to spectrum resources or other facilities. Indeed, the Proposed Project will enhance the ability of wireline providers to deliver their service because Verizon's Proposed Project will not occupy scarce space on existing utility pole lines or in underground public right-of-way.

RFP 3.2.5 Other Information Supporting the Application

RFP 3.2.5.a. Experience constructing broadband communications facilities in State and elsewhere

Verizon's Response [RFP 3.2.5.a. - j.]

Verizon is a leading provider of fixed and mobile broadband services, with decades of experience in the design, construction, operation and management of data networks supporting over 100 million customers nationwide.

Verizon currently offers LTE Home Internet using 4G LTE wireless technology in areas throughout Wisconsin served by our wireless network. Verizon's 5G Home Internet fixed-wireless broadband service is currently available to more than 30 million homes and more than 2 million businesses in select areas across the country.

The strength of Verizon's wireless network is exemplified by being awarded a win in Madison for overall network performance from RootMetrics in the second half of 2021. Verizon began selling 5G fixed wireless access broadband services in Milwaukee in 2021, and we launched 5G Ultra Wideband coverage within Fiserv Forum, home of the Milwaukee Bucks, in January 2022.

Verizon has experience in administering broadband grant programs, including the New York Broadband Program and the FCC's Connect America Fund program.

Verizon has not previously applied for broadband expansion grant funding from the State. Verizon currently receives financial support from the FCC for network deployment for wireless voice service in Barron, Burnett, Polk and Washburn counties in Wisconsin. Verizon is applying for broadband deployment grants in other counties in Wisconsin.

RFP 3.2.5.b. Description of how the proposed project will or will not duplicate existing broadband infrastructure

As set forth above, other service providers offer broadband service in parts of the Proposed Service Area. However, Verizon has designed the Proposed Project to focus on providing service to 2,693 existing unserved and underserved locations identified by the State. Unlike wireline services, wireless-based service availability cannot be constrained on a building-by-building basis because the wireless signals propagate over a geographic area. However, because these locations were identified by the State as unserved or underserved, there is not expected to be any significant duplication of existing broadband infrastructure serving those locations. In addition, duplication for underserved areas is expressly contemplated by virtue of the fact that such locations may already have broadband service from one other provider.

RFP 3.2.5.c. Applicant's financial ability to undertake the proposed broadband construction

Verizon Communications Inc. (NYSE, Nasdaq: VZ) was formed on June 30, 2000 and is one of the world's leading providers of technology and communications services. Headquartered in New York City and with a presence around the world, Verizon generated revenues of $133.6 billion in 2021. The company offers voice, data and video services and solutions on its award-winning networks and platforms, delivering on customers' demand for mobility, reliable network connectivity, security and control.

In Wisconsin, Verizon has invested $232,717,000 in plant and equipment statewide and pays $192,452,280 annually to vendors and suppliers in the state. Over the past several years, Verizon has been leading the development of 5G wireless technology industry standards and the ecosystems for fixed and mobile 5G wireless services. Verizon's 5G Home Internet fixed-wireless broadband service is currently available to more than 30 million homes and more than 2 million businesses in select areas across the country.

RFP 3.2.5.d. Terms under which the applicant will make its middle mile fiber resource available to last mile providers

The Proposed Project is not a middle mile project.

RFP 3.2.5.e. For middle mile routes, state the amount of fiber capacity, by number of fiber strands in a cable, that the applicant has been reserved for public use

The Proposed Project is not a middle mile project.

RFP 3.2.5.f. Proposed project affect on the ability of individuals to access health care service from home, including any impact upon the costs of those services

The Proposed Project will help expand healthcare options in the county by providing health providers and patients with greater access to technology to better support in-person and virtual care. Healthcare providers will have an increased ability to communicate with patients and medical professionals, conduct patient monitoring, train staff and future legal medical professions, and access and manage patient information. Patients in these localities will benefit from having the connectivity to find and consult with doctors, schedule appointments, pay bills, make sense of test results, and more – all while receiving the proper care at a reasonable cost.

Additionally, as telemedicine and telehealth options continue to evolve, providers and patients will be able to leverage the technology to support better treatment and outcomes through various digital platforms such as virtual visits, smart device health trackers, medication reminders, and various educational tools.

This will be particularly beneficial in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) has stated that it will expand its current telehealth policy on the first day of the month after the COVID-19 federal public health emergency ends. For example, if the public health emergency ends on April 12, 2022, permanent telehealth policy will become effective on May 1, 2022. Services available through telehealth for Wisconsin Medicaid members include doctor's visits; pharmacist consultations; certain school-based services for children; dental consultations; case management services; occupational, physical, and speech therapy, and; services for mental health, substance abuse, and behavioral treatment. https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/telehealth/index.htm

RFP 3.2.5.g. Proposed project affect on the ability of students to access educational opportunities from home

As students, teachers, parents, and school districts continue to utilize remote education practices, Verizon is addressing the barriers to digital learning and enabling connectivity for students who need it most. Based on the Proposed Service Area, the Proposed Project is anticipated to provide improved access (typical download speeds from 100Mbps to 300Mbps and typical upload speeds of 10Mbps, with no data caps and latency similar to wired home broadband -- sufficient to support real time, interactive virtual learning) and support educational opportunities, including home-based learning, to some of the over 8,500 K-12 students in the Bloomer, Cadot Community, Chippewa Falls Area United, Cornell, Lake Holcomb, New Auburn, and Stanley-Boyd Schools Districts.

Services provided by the Proposed Project can be used by students and teachers engaged in the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's Online and Blended Learning initiatives, can facilitate the development of Virtual Charter schools and other innovations in education delivery, and can be utilized by adults to access the University of Wisconsin's Extended Campus (UWEX) program, part of the online and Continuing/Professional Education arm of the University of Wisconsin System.

In addition to enhanced connectivity, Verizon provides resources to students, parents, and teachers to support virtual learning activities. More specifically, Verizon has increased the scale of its education work with the STEM Activity Center, an online toolkit that provides STEM resources. These resources offer hands-on activities that students, teachers, and parents can leverage for remote and in-classroom learning created, in partnership with non-profit partner Project Lead The Way, to help supplement at-home learning.

Verizon has also built a credentialed teacher training program, created with education non-profit partner Digital Promise, focused on digital skills, remote learning, and digital coaching. Open to all educators across the country, including in Wisconsin, the courses will help teachers become more efficient and effective with technology integrated instruction to help them navigate digital learning and provide a better virtual learning experience for students. Information on these programs is available at CitizenVerizon.com/DigitalInclusion.

RFP 3.2.5.h. A description of actions taken by a city, village, town, or county in support of the grant application that have not been discussed in the context of a public-private partnership

Demonstrating its commitment to removing barriers to broadband deployment, the Town of Anson has been certified as a "Broadband Forward!" community.

RFP 3.2.5.i. Letters and messages in support of the application submitted

Letter of Support from Alan Anderson, President of Prototype Solutions Group, Inc. Exhibit 1, (See Appendix A).

RFP 3.2.5.j. Any other equitable factor that the applicant desires to discuss

Verizon continues to provide and create programs to support small businesses. To illustrate, Verizon recently partnered with Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) and Next Street to create Verizon Small Business Digital Ready, a free online curriculum designed to give small businesses the tools they need to thrive in the digital economy. The program includes access to personalized learning plans in key business areas (e.g., marketing, finance), coaching from experts, and networking opportunities with diverse, industry-specific businesses. Information on this program is available at https://www.verizon.com/about/responsibility/digital-inclusion/small-business-training.

Verizon is also a leader in creating opportunities for women. Despite tremendous strides toward greater gender equality and equity for women in the workplace, approximately 5.4 million jobs were lost by women in 2020 amid COVID-19. To help women re-enter the workforce and realize their career ambitions, Verizon and its partners launched Women's CoLab in October 2021, an initiative providing women with essential resources to help them achieve success in an increasingly digital

economy. Information on this program is available at https://www.verizon.com/about/news/verizon-brings-together-major-fortune-500-companies-launch-womens-colab

LEGAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLIED TO THIS APPLICATION

Verizon's proposal and grant application contain a description of the activities Verizon proposes to undertake in consideration of receipt of a broadband deployment grant from the Commission. Verizon's proposal and grant application do not constitute an offer capable of acceptance. The rights and obligations of the Commission and Verizon in respect of any grant and broadband deployment shall be set forth in a Grant and Security Agreement ("Agreement"), to be mutually negotiated by the parties and executed by their duly authorized representatives. The Agreement shall contain such terms as are (i) reasonably necessary to reflect the commitments and conditions reflected in the Commission's request for applications and Verizon's proposal, (ii) usual and customary for such projects, and (iii) required by law. The Agreement shall contain, as a minimum, mutually agreed-upon provisions on the topics set forth below. Neither Verizon nor the Commission shall have any obligation except as set forth specifically in the Agreement.

1. The Commission's FAQs and other responses to bidders' questions will be incorporated into and made part of the Agreement. The Commission represents that the answers are true and correct. Verizon represents that the answers were material to Verizon's decision to submit an application, accept an award, and enter into an Agreement.
2. Verizon shall not be obligated to construct facilities or provide service to any location for which government money has already been granted or provided (in any manner, including loans, loan guarantees, tax breaks or any other direct or indirect forms of subsidy or assistance), or for which government money is granted or provided at any point in the future during the term of the Agreement (in any manner, including loans, loan guarantees, tax breaks or any other direct or indirect forms of subsidy or assistance), for the construction or provision of equivalent or competing networks, products, or services.
3. Verizon shall be excused from meeting its performance obligations and deadlines to the extent caused by or attributable to any delay or failure to the extent that such delay or failure is caused by reason of acts of God, acts of nature, wars, revolution, civil commotion, acts of public enemy, embargo, acts of government in its sovereign capacity, labor difficulties, including without limitation, strikes, slowdowns, picketing or boycotts, fiber cuts not caused by applicant or its contractors, storms, weather, supply chain disruptions not reasonably foreseeable, widespread illness, pandemic or variants thereof, or any other circumstances beyond the reasonable control and not involving any fault or negligence of Verizon. The foregoing shall include, without limitation, any delay or failure by the State, County, or any third-party to issue, grant, or approve permits; perform inspections; provide any certification, review, or approval; perform any make-ready work or relocation, or; mark or locate underground facilities. Verizon shall also be excused from meeting all timing requirements and deadlines to the extent caused by or attributable to any action by the State, County or any agency thereof or any other governmental entity to initiate or sustain competing or conflicting projects in the area of Verizon's construction activity; enforce or maintain any construction or right-of-way moratoria; or otherwise take any action or inaction that impairs or impedes Verizon's prompt and timely progress in the construction of the network and the provision of service.

4. The assets constructed will be the property of Verizon and can be used in the same manner as its existing assets to provide services wherever and however customers can be accommodated. This is entirely at the discretion of Verizon, regardless of whether the infrastructure or end customers are in served, unserved, or underserved areas and regardless of whether the infrastructure was funded with grant money or not, subject to the primary use requirement.
5. Verizon shall provide the services requested by the State for the term of the Agreement, which shall be twenty (20) years, provided that the Agreement may be terminated by Verizon if changes in technology, customer behavior, competition, or other factors render it infeasible or impracticable for Verizon to provide broadband service to the Proposed Service Area over the Proposed Broadband Facilities.
6. Verizon shall not be obligated to store documents, books, or records or make them available for inspection or audit at any Verizon location other than those at which such items are kept by Verizon in the ordinary course of business. Provision of any Verizon business records shall be in a mutually-agreed format. Audits requiring support or involvement of Verizon shall take place no more frequently than once every three (3) years. No more than one audit activity may be ongoing at any time (simultaneous or overlapping audit activity is prohibited) and there must be a minimum of twelve (12) months between the end of an audit and the start of the subsequent audit. Verizon shall not be liable for government costs incurred in connection with any audit. Any auditor or contractor performing audits or inspections must be reasonably acceptable to Verizon and must enter into a non-disclosure agreement with Verizon.
7. Unannounced site visits, if any, must comply with all facility and security rules and procedures including without limitation rules related to COVID-19.
8. Verizon shall be obligated to provide audited financial statements only for its ultimate parent entity, Verizon Communications, Inc., and not for Cellco Partnership.
9. Nothing in the application or the Agreement shall be deemed to constitute consent by Verizon to the disclosure of Verizon confidential or proprietary information otherwise eligible for protection under the federal Freedom of Information Act or analogous state law.
10. The Agreement shall contain mutually-agreed-upon contract provisions on each of the subjects covered by the Grant and Security Agreement provided by the Commission.
11. Verizon and the Commission shall negotiate acceptable terms and conditions for indemnification and limitation of liability, including a blanket waiver of consequential damages for the benefit of both parties.
12. Provision of broadband service to customers at unserved and underserved locations using the Proposed Broadband Facilities is subject to Verizon's standard terms and conditions for service and Verizon's standard network management practices, both of which are available online and subject to change at any time.
13. Verizon shall be permitted to, but is not required to, offer services other than broadband Internet access over the Proposed Broadband Facilities, as set forth in Verizon's application, subject to the primary use requirement.
14. Any limitations or restrictions with respect to Hazardous Materials shall be interpreted to permit and allow for the use and deployment in the Proposed Project of any and all materials as are usual and customary in the provision of wireless telecommunications services.

15. Verizon's obligations under the agreement may be delegated to or performed by a Verizon affiliate.
16. Verizon shall be excused from performance under the Agreement to the extent that actions by any third party (e.g., governmental entity, satellite company, etc.) delay, impede, impair, or otherwise hinder or thwart Verizon's ability to deploy C-Band spectrum in the Proposed Service Area in any respect in time to commence commercial use of that spectrum in December 2023 or at any time thereafter.
17. The Pledged Collateral shall not include any FCC spectrum licenses held by Verizon.
18. Verizon's 5G Home Internet service provided to the 2,693 unserved and underserved locations in the Proposed Service Area will typically provide download speeds of 100Mbps to 300 Mbps and upload speeds of 10Mbps to 20 Mbps, and offers unlimited data with no data usage caps. Because this project involves delivery of broadband services over a shared network, there is not a guaranteed minimum download or upload speed, but customers' experience and Verizon's delivery of the typical speeds will be determined by Verizon through network testing and reporting. Network testing includes tests run regularly on all active customer locations, including during periods of peak utilization ("busy period"), the results of which are summarized to determine network performance.
19. Verizon makes no representation with respect to the availability of broadband service to any locations other than the 2,693 unserved and underserved locations in the Proposed Service Area.

Appendix A: Exhibits: Letters of Endorsement for Merit List

Exhibit 1: Letter - Prototype Solutions Group.

PROTOTYPE SOLUTIONS GROUP

March 14, 2022

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
North Tower, 6th Floor
Hills Farms State Office Building
4822 Madison Yards Way
Madison, WI 53705

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to support Verizon Wireless' application to the Public Service Commission for grant funding to expand broadband service into "unserved" and "underserved" areas of Wisconsin.

At Prototype Solutions Group, we operate a 24,000 square foot facility with more than 30 manufacturing machines in Menomonie, Wisconsin. We draw employees from throughout the Chippewa Valley and we have many customers in the area and beyond.

Lack of broadband in the region has a direct effect on our ability to recruit workers to live in the area and limits our potential local markets.

Additional investments in both Eau Claire, Chippewa and Dunn Counties by Verizon Wireless would be greatly welcomed and would help improve the overall community.

I like that Verizon Wireless will utilize a wireless solution that will help serve homes that have previously unserved. I also appreciate that in building out this system, it will help improve 5G wireless capacity for everyone else who lives and does business in the area. The additional competition in the broadband service sector will help to foster innovation and hopefully lower pricing through-out the region.

I am grateful to the PSC for addressing this critical issue and funding improvements that will directly benefit our community like Verizon Wireless is proposing.

Thank you,

ALAN ANDERSON
PRESIDENT

PROTOTYPE SOLUTIONS GROUP, INC.
A 1621 INDIANHEAD DRIVE, MENOMONIE, WI 54751
P 715.235.0156 | W PROTOSG.COM