

Chelsea, Kennebec County
Pre-application Letter

ConnectME Authority
Phil Lindley, Executive Director
78 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0078

Re: Round Nine

Dear Members of the ConnectME Authority,

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The Town of Chelsea is formally requesting a ConnectME grant to help fund a project that would provide broadband internet service to the below described area of Chelsea. This project would bring High Speed Broadband into an additional area of our town. Chelsea, like other rural Maine towns, is served by a patchwork of telecommunication companies and technologies. The area to be addressed in this project is a “last-mile” scenario and we believe that it is a perfect fit for this program.

The following information is provided in compliance of the guidelines set forth by the ConnectME Ninth Grant Round Pre-Application Letter solicitation dated April 7, 2014. Should there be a need for more information or clarification, please contact Scott Tilton.

2. COMMUNICATIONS WITH EXISTING BROADBAND PROVIDERS

The homes in the unserved area have telephone service through FairPoint which does not offer DSL service to this area. Many of the residents have requested DSL directly from FairPoint and have been told that there are no plans to expand DSL to their area. Based on this and other unofficial communication we believe that FairPoint DSL will not be an option for this area for years to come.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

This project would involve 640’ of new plant construction, passing 1 home.

This would be a home past the area covered by the South Dondero Road Round 8 Grant.

The technology will consist of a hybrid fiber optic/coax infrastructure consistent with TWC’s cable plant throughout the State. The build includes fiber optic connection from existing fiber termination to a distribution node location. Distribution includes coax hard-line along pole lines to distribution tap location. Distribution tap location is the take off point to the home from the roadway. Rg-6, Rg-7, and Rg-11 coax drop cable may be used to connect the home to the distribution tap.

TWC will apply for all applicable pole permits and applications and will complete the project within six (6) months of receipt of required approvals and completion of make-ready. It is anticipated that make-ready by pole owners will take approximately six (6) months.

The fastest residential speed currently available is

50Mbps Download/ 5Mbps Upload

Other residential plans and packages are available including:

30Mbps Download/ 5Mbps Upload

20Mbps Download, 2Mbps Upload

Other residential plans and packages are available.

Business Class speeds can be customized to the customers' needs and can include a fiber optic connection directly to the business.

4. THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF FUNDING REQUESTED

Total estimated amount of the project is \$2,275.21 – TWC will contribute funds toward this project, the amount of match will be determined in final application.

5. FINANCIAL CAPABILITY AND COMMITMENT

The Town of Chelsea is committed to the execution of this project. The Selectmen have no authority to raise and commit funds for this without the Town Meeting approval, and no such approval is pending or expected. There are no other sources of funding other than the ConnectME grant and TWC's contribution toward construction. The Town has much experience with grants.

6. HOUSEHOLDS THAT WILL HAVE ACCESS TO THE NEW SERVICE

With the expansion of service to the remaining home, 100% of all homes and businesses passed will have the ability to purchase services including broadband from TWC. These services would include but not be limited to residential and business class, broadband, television, and telephone service.

7. COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Over the past several years community interest and support for establishing reliable broadband service to this area has been extremely high. The residents of the proposed grant area have been extremely supportive of this grant effort and will compose and send letters of support for the final application. The selectmen for Chelsea have met to discuss this venture and will provide collectively a letter of support. Neighbors outside our community have been encouraging in our endeavor.

8. DESCRIPTION OF THE APPLICANT'S EXPERIENCE

The residents of this area have been working with Time Warner and the local community to obtain high-speed Internet for the unserved areas of the Town.

The Town will work in collaboration with TWC for this project. TWC has extensive experience in the design, installation, and maintenance of broadband infrastructure. TWC is a national company with some 1,000 employees in Maine who will ensure that the needed infrastructure meets the needs of all stakeholders involved. Time Warner has been a recipient of the funding from the ConnectME Authority several times.

TWC has been a ConnectME partner for many years helping provide high-speed Internet to unserved areas. Time Warner Cable is the largest provider in Maine and the 2nd largest service cable provider in the country. In Maine, Time Warner provides over 600,000 homes with access to cutting-edge digital technology.

In closing we would like to thank the ConnectME Authority for this opportunity to help provide this area of Chelsea with the broadband infrastructure it needs to be brought along with the rest of Maine into the current century.

Thank you for your consideration.

CONTACT

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TIME WARNER LIAISON

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