



Community Connect Awards – Texas

2013 Grant Awards:

Texhoma Fiber, LLC

Community: Sunset

Grant Amount: \$863,000

Contact: Dustin Hiliary 580-529-2700

County: Montague, Texas

Congressional District: TX-13 (project); OK-04 (awardee)

Texhoma Fiber will utilize RUS grant funding to deploy advanced fixed wireless internet service to the area of Sunset, Texas. The area is located in southern Montague County and will serve homes around the London B. Johnson National Grassland Area. Residential customers will have access to service with speeds of up to 20 Mbps to their homes and business will have service with speeds up to 100 Mbps. The project will also provide a community center where members of the public will have access to free service at the Broadband Grant Speed of 5 Mbps (upload and download speeds combined) for at least two years and all Critical Community Facilities in the service area will enjoy free service for at least two years.

Texhoma Fiber, LLC

Community: Ringgold

Grant Amount: \$978,000

Contact: Dustin Hiliary 580-529-2700

County: Montague, Texas

Congressional District: TX-13 (project); OK-04 (awardee)

RUS grant funding will be used to deploy advanced Fiber-to-the-Home service to the community of Ringgold, Texas. Residential customer will be able to receive service with speeds up to 100 Mbps from their homes, while business customer will have access up to 1 Gig. The project will also provide voice and cable TV service. The grantee will offer a "Lifeline" type service for broadband to those who meet the same qualifications as the FCC Telephone Lifeline Service. The project will also provide service at the Broadband Grant Speed of 5 Mbps (upload and download speeds combined) for free for two years to all Critical Community Facilities in the service area. Additionally, a community center will be made available as part of the project which will provide free service at the Broadband Grant Speed to all residents in the service area for at least two years.

2009 Grant Awards:

281 Communications Corporation, Inc. Lometa, Texas

Grant Amount: \$601,736

Contact: Bruce Wiepert (830) 798-9041

County: Lampasas; 11th Congressional District

281 Communications Corporation, Inc. will use Rural Utilities Service funds to provide wireless broadband services to the community of Lometa, Texas. A community center will be established in a renovated building, where free broadband Internet will be offered to the residents for two years. Education and training programs will also be provided at the center.

2008 Grant Awards:

Almega Cable, Inc. Pawnee, Texas

Grant Amount: \$621,610

Contact: Thomas Kurien, (817) 685-9588

County: Bee; 15th Congressional District

Rural Development funds will be used to offer broadband services to the community of Pawnee, Texas through Almega Cable, Inc. They will provide two year complementary service to community organizations including the Town Offices, Police Department, Volunteer Fire Department, Pawnee Emergency Squad, the Pawnee Elementary School, and the new Pawnee Community Center. The Town of Pawnee will utilize the facility to offer continuing adult education classes that will focus on the needs of the older population who desire to acquire a technical trade or a college degree.

2007 Grant Awards:

PC One Cable, LLC. Fruitvale, Texas

Grant Amount: \$421,882

Contact: Jim Feeney, (201) 825-9090

County: Van Zandt

Rural Development funds will be used to upgrade the current cable system to provide broadband service to the community of Fruitvale, Texas. Free broadband service to the Town Hall, Police Department, Rescue Squad, and schools will allow for better communication increasing safety in the community.

2003 Grant Awards:

Blue Moon Solutions, Inc. Crystal City, Texas

Grant Amount: \$500,000

Contact: Christonya Hill, 806-687-7050

County: Zavala

Crystal City is a rural, economically challenged community in South Texas. The grant funds for this project will be used to design, build, and deploy broadband transmission service to critical community facilities. Included in those facilities are public schools, public libraries, public medical clinics, public hospitals, community colleges, public universities, as well as law enforcement, fire, and ambulance stations. Public safety, educational opportunities, health care, and economic development are closely tied as benefits of this project.

Blue Moon solutions, Inc Zapata, Texas

Grant Amount: \$500,000

Contact: Ms. Christonya Hill, 806-687-7050

County: Zapata

Zapata, Texas is a rural and economically challenged community with a population of 4,856. Located in South Texas, it faces a number of economic challenges. Funds from this grant will be used to design, build and deploy a broadband transmission service to critical community facilities. Public schools, libraries, medical clinics, hospitals, community colleges, public universities, as well as law enforcement, fire, and ambulance stations are included in the critical facilities participating in this project. Improved educational opportunities, better medical care, more economic development, and better safety make up the goals of this project.

2002 Grant Awards:

City of Iredell Iredell, Texas

Grant Amount: \$94,729

Contact: Marsha Frady, (254) 364-2436

County: Bosque

Broadband/high-speed services are not available in this city of 360 people with the nearest town being 12 miles away. Neither the phone company nor the cable company has the resources available to supply anything other than a dialup connection. A community center already exists in the town that will be used to provide free access to broadband services to community residents. Public access computers will be located in the community center as well as City Hall. Grant funds will allow the city to provide internet access and training for the community as well as enable cellular telephone coverage for emergency services such as fire truck and ambulances. The high-speed connectivity and cellular telephone coverage for the community will enable better fire and medical emergency response time, increase viability of locating businesses to the community and enhance personal lives of the citizens and those in the surrounding area. Iredell public schools will be participating in the project where students will have access to the community center.

Blue Moon Solutions, Inc.; La Pryor, Texas

Grant Amount: \$275,000

Contact Person: Mr. Christonya Hill, (806) 749-2583

County: Zavala

Blue Moon Solutions, Inc. (Blue Moon), is a wireless solution provider that delivers wireless network solutions of voice, video and data for service providers, communities, municipalities and small businesses. Blue Moon desires to design, build and operate a new broadband service model in La Pryor, Texas. La Pryor, is a rural, economically challenged community (population: 1,491), where such service does not currently exist. The Rural Utilities Service (RUS)

Community-Oriented Connectivity Broadband Grant funds will be used to design and build the La Pryor Community Broadband Network (CBN) to deploy broadband transmission service to community facilities including public schools, libraries, medical clinics, hospitals community colleges, universities, law enforcement, fire and ambulance stations. Blue Moon will also create and operate the La Pryor Community Tech Center that will provide free broadband access, an ecommerce incubator for small businesses, distance learning, and hi-tech professional certifications to community residents. This center will house 15 new computers and workstations, a network printer, a color printer, scanner, data projector and video conferencing unit with broadband connection. The center will be used to foster improvements in education, economic development, health care and security for the community residents.

Blue Moon Solutions, Inc. Batesville, Texas

Grant Amount: \$275,000

Contact: Mr. Christonya Hill, 806-749-2583

County: Zavala

Blue Moon Solutions, Inc. (Blue Moon), is a wireless solution provider that delivers wireless network solutions of voice, video and data for service providers, communities, municipalities and small businesses. Blue Moon desires to design, build and operate a new broadband service model in Batesville, Texas. Batesville, is a rural, economically challenged community (population: 1,298), where such service does not currently exist. The Rural Utilities Service (RUS)

Community-Oriented Connectivity Broadband Grant funds will be used to design and build the Batesville Community Broadband Network (CBN) to deploy broadband transmission service to community facilities including public schools, libraries, medical clinics, hospitals community colleges, universities, law enforcement, fire and ambulance stations. Blue Moon will also create and operate the Batesville Community Tech Center that will provide free broadband access, an Ecommerce incubator for small businesses, distance learning, and hi-tech professional certifications to community residents. This center will house 13 new computers and workstations, a network printer, scanner, data projector and video conferencing unit with broadband connection. The center will be used to foster improvements in education, economic development, health care and security for the community residents.

Blue Moon Solutions, Inc. Falcon Lakes, Texas

Grant Amount: \$324,136

Contact: Mr. Christonya Hill, 806-749-2583

County: Zapata

The applicant plans to expend RUS Grant funds to design and build the Lake Estates Community Broadband Network (CBN) in Zapata County, Texas. CBN will deploy broadband transmission service to critical community facilities, including public schools, libraries, medical clinics and hospitals, community colleges, public universities, law enforcement, fire and ambulance stations. A state-of-the-art “tech” center will be created which will provide free broadband access, an e-commerce incubator for small businesses, distance learning and hi-tech professional certifications to community residents.

Blue Moon Solutions, Inc. San Ygnacio, Texas

Grant Amount: \$324,136

Contact Person: Mr. Christonya Hill, 806-749-2583

County: Zapata

Blue Moon Solutions, Inc., plans to utilize RUS Grant funds to design, build and operate a new broadband service model in San Ygnacio, Texas, a rural, economically challenged community. The San Ygnacio Community Broadband Network will deploy broadband transmission services to critically community facilities, including public schools, libraries, medical clinics, hospitals, community colleges/universities and law enforcement, fire and ambulance stations. In addition, funds will be used to create and operate a state-of-the-art community center which will provide an e-commerce incubator for small businesses, distance learning, broadband access and hi-tech professional certifications to community residents.

Blue Moon Solutions, Inc. Progreso, Texas

Grant Amount: \$500,000

Contact: Mr. Christonya Hill, (806)749-2583

County of Hidalgo

Blue Moon Solution, Inc. (Blue Moon) will use RUS grant funds to design and build the Progreso Community Broadband Network (CBN) to deploy broadband transmission service to critical community facilities, including, public schools, libraries, medical clinics, hospitals, community colleges, universities, and law enforcement and fire stations. Blue Moon will also create and operate a “state-of-the-art” community tech center, providing free broadband access, an e-commerce incubator for small businesses, distance learning, and high-tech professional accreditation to community residents. With wireless broadband technology through the CBN, students will be able to connect anytime, anywhere, to information as they commute between classes around campus and even back to their homes. Schools will use the Network to extend Internet sharing capabilities and to share limited computing resources through the computer labs. Advanced placement courses and continuing adult education will be available by means of distance learning capabilities. Healthcare professionals will be able to rapidly access medical records and coordinate staff as they move between patients. Entire medical complexes will be integrated for information sharing, including real-time image exchange for immediate remote consultations. Elderly patients who are confined to their homes will have immediate access to physicians’ counsel. Emergency personnel will be able to quickly retrieve electronic copies of city maps and building blueprints in transit to emergency sites. Portable or vehicle-mounted terminals will be used by law enforcement officers to verify information without requiring time-wasting trips back to the station. Police investigations will move faster with on-the-spot access to local, state, and federal databases. This project will improve the quality of life for 4,851 residents.