

## USDA Rural Development has approved a grant of \$2,967,224

**Program:** Community Connect Grants

**State/County:** ND/Barnes

**Congressman:** ND-00 (project); ND-00 (awardee)

**Senators:**

**Recipient:** BEK Communications Cooperative

**Recipient Contact:** Derrick Bulawa

**Mailing Address:**

**Email Address:**

**Phone Number:** 401-475-2361

**Project Description:** BEK Communications Cooperative (BEK) will utilize RUS grant funding to serve a very rural and sparsely populated area in the southern portion of Barnes County, North Dakota. The area to be served has suffered from out migration of its population and consolidation of farmsteads. BEK already provides advanced services to over 7,000 homes within 65 miles of the service area and is well suited to extend its existing services to this needy area. BEK will use RUS funding to deploy broadband service using Fiber to the Home (FTTH) technology. The project will bring high-speed broadband capabilities to customers who otherwise have no broadband or lesser quality services such as dial-up, satellite or wireless services, all of which offer speeds below 3 Mbps (upload and download speeds combined) and lack the ability to deliver real-time services like IP Voice and IP Video. The proposed fiber network will introduce new capabilities not found today in these rural community's educational, healthcare and public safety institutions.

**People Who Will Benefit:** 571

**Total Project Cost:** \$2,967,224

**RUS ID:** ND1401-A23

## **USDA Rural Development has approved a grant of \$2,999,815**

Program: Community Connect Grants

State/County: ND/Barnes

Congressman: ND-00 (project); ND-00 (awardee)

Senators:

Recipient: BEK Communications Cooperative

Recipient Contact: Derrick Bulawa

Mailing Address:

Email Address:

Phone Number: 401-475-2361

Project Description: BEK Communications Cooperative's (BEK) Community Connect project will provide an opportunity to transform citizens in the underserved area of Northern Rural Barnes County, North Dakota by empowering them with Fiber to the Home (FTTH) technology. BEK will connect the service area to its existing network with fiber optic back-haul. The project will bring high-speed broadband capabilities to customers who otherwise have no broadband or lesser quality services such as dial-up, satellite or wireless services, all of which offer speeds below the RUS defined broadband service level of 3 Mbps (upload and download speeds combined) and the lack the ability to deliver real-time services like IP Voice and IP Video. The proposed fiber network will introduce new capabilities not found today in these rural community's educational, healthcare and public safety institutions.

People Who Will Benefit: 1,030

Total Project Cost: \$2,999,815

RUS ID: ND1401-B23

## **USDA Rural Development has approved a grant of \$2,136,045**

Program:	Community Connect Grants
State/County:	ND/Morton and Oliver
Congressman:	Cramer, (ND-001)
Senators:	Hoeven and Heitkamp
Recipient:	BEK Communications Cooperative
Recipient Contact:	Mr. Derrick Bulawa, Chief Executive Officer
Mailing Address:	200 E. Broadway PO Box 230 Steele, North Dakota 58482
Email Address:	derrick@bektel.coop
Phone Number:	701-475-2361
Project Description:	<p>BEK Communications Cooperative (BEK) will use \$2,136,045 of Community Connect grant funds to provide an opportunity to spark economic opportunities, facilitate educational aspirations, enhance healthcare and bolster public safety, in the unserved area of North East Morton County and South East Oliver County, North Dakota with deployment of Fiber-to-the Home (FTTH) technology, and the much needed services it can deliver. BEK will connect the Community Connect PFSA to their existing network by crossing the Missouri River. This will bring all the current and future BEK services and capabilities to this area in desperate need. This project will bring high-speed broadband capabilities to customers who otherwise have no broadband or lesser quality services such as dial-up, satellite or mobile wireless services, all of which offer speeds below the RUS defined broadband service level or lack the ability to deliver real-time services like IP Voice and IP Video. The proposed fiber network will be very flexible for future growth and will support the implementation of new technologies and new services anticipated in the future.</p>
People Who Will Benefit:	2,016
Other Funding:	\$2,827,215
Total Project Cost:	\$4,963,230
RUS ID:	ND1401-C23

## **USDA Rural Development has approved a grant of \$2,368,864**

**Program:** Community Connect Grants

**State/County:** ND/Stutsman

**Congressman:** Cramer (ND-001)

**Senators:** Hoeven and Heitkamp

**Recipient:** Daktel Communications, LLC.

**Recipient Contact:** Mr. Keith Larson, Chief Executive Officer

**Mailing Address:** 213 2nd Avenue, NW Jamestown, ND 58401

**Email Address:** keithl@daktel.net

**Phone Number:** 701-652-6105

**Project Description:** Daktel Communications, LLC will use Rural Development funds to construct a Fiber-to-the-Premises (FTTP) system to serve an unserved rural area of Stutsman County, ND along highway 281, south of Jamestown, ND. Daktel has provided FTTP service in Jamestown since 2004 as part of a RUS Farm Bill Broadband Program loan and enjoys broad public support for the proposed expansion as part of this Community Connect Grant award.

**People Who Will Benefit:** 7,829

**Total Project Cost:** \$2,368,864

**RUS ID:** ND1402-A23

**USDA Rural Development has approved a grant of \$2,828,547**

**Program:** Community Connect Grants

**State/County:** ND/Kidder, ND/Morton

**Congressman:** Cramer, Kevin (ND 00)

**Senators:** Heitkamp, Heidi (ND), Hoeven, John (ND)

**Recipient:** BEK Communications Cooperative

**Recipient Contact:** Derrick Bulawa

**Mailing Address:** 200 E Broadway Steele, ND 58482

**Email Address:** derrick@bektel.coop

**Phone Number:** 701-475-2361

**Project Description:** BEK Communications Cooperative (BEK) will use funds provided by Rural Development Community Connect grants to construct a fiber to the home broadband system providing state of the art services to 126 households in Morton County, North Dakota. A community center will also be located within a facility at a local park, where residents can access computer terminals and WiFi, free of charge, and will be contributed as part of BEK's matching fund contribution. This project will allow the residents and businesses in this area to access high quality voice, video, and broadband services so that they may be better able to access the economic, health care, educational, and quality of life opportunities such services enable. BEK, headquartered in Steele, Kidder County, North Dakota provides advanced telecommunications services to 20 exchanges in South-Central North Dakota as the incumbent local exchange carrier and also provides services as a competitive local exchange carrier in several areas surrounding their ILEC exchanges with a total of approximately 9,000 customers.

**People Who Will Benefit:** 331

**Other Funding:** \$549,155

**Total Project Cost:** \$3,377,702

**RUS ID:** ND1401-D23

## **USDA Rural Development has approved a grant of \$844,023**

Program: Community Connect Grants

State/County: ND/Barnes

Congressman: Armstrong, Kelly (ND 00)

Senators: Cramer, Kevin (ND), Hoeven, John (ND)

Recipient: BEK Communications Cooperative

Recipient Contact: Derrick Bulawa

Mailing Address: 200 E Broadway Steele, ND 58482

Email Address: derrick@bektel.com

Phone Number: 701-475-2361

Project Description: BEK Communications Cooperative (BEK) will utilize grant funding provided by Rural Development to spark economic opportunities, facilitate educational aspirations, enhance healthcare and bolster public safety, in the unserved area of Morton County, in south central North Dakota with deployment of a 48.66 mile Fiber-to-the Home network, and the much-needed services it can deliver. BEK will connect the Community Connect Proposed Funded Service Area to their existing network by using its existing crossing under the Missouri River. This will bring all the current and future BEK services and capabilities to this area in desperate need. This project will bring high-speed broadband capabilities to 125 households who otherwise have no broadband or lesser quality services such as dial-up or satellite, all of which offer speeds below the Rural Utilities Service defined broadband service level or lack the ability to deliver real-time services like, distance learning, video streaming, remote healthcare, work from home Virtual Private Networks and access to agricultural sites online. The proposed fiber network will be very flexible for future growth and will support the implementation of new technologies and new services anticipated in the future.

People Who Will Benefit: 396

Other Funding: \$198,063

Total Project Cost: \$1,042,086

RUS ID: ND1401-E23