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## FCC Rural Broadband Experiment – Expressions of Interest from Tennessee

### April 1, 2014

On January 30, 2014, the [Federal Communications Commission](#) voted to create a [Rural Broadband Experiment](#) program. The FCC hopes that this experiment will help it shape and adjust its Connect America Fund broadband subsidy program by including an application-based, competitive bidding framework. One purpose is to see whether available subsidies could provide higher levels of service, including expanded service to community anchor institutions, that exceed the current 4 Mbps download/1 Mbps upload standard for the Connect America Fund. In addition, these rural broadband experiments mark the first opportunity for providers that are not the incumbent local telephone company in a particular area to receive Connect America Fund subsidies to build and operate fixed broadband networks in those areas.

The FCC actively and openly solicited “expressions of interest” from providers, communities, institutions, and public-private partnerships regarding their ideas and proposals as to how they would utilize Connect America Fund subsidies to support broadband infrastructure build-out in currently unserved areas. These initial, non-binding “expressions of interest” were due at the FCC on March 7, 2014. To date, the FCC has received almost 1,000 expressions of interest from applicants across the country, which can be found at [List of Expressions of Interest](#). The FCC is currently evaluating these submissions and is expected to release an Order defining how to move forward with this program. Such Order will include details regarding available funds for the program, a clear definition of areas eligible for funding, project rules and rules for evaluating formal applicants for funding. There is no clear timeline for when these decisions will take place at this time.

For more information on these Rural Broadband Experiments, please see a previous Connected Nation [Policy Brief](#) from February 7, 2014.

Below is a list of the “expressions of interest” filed by applicants in Tennessee as well as key takeaways from these submissions.

### Tennessee Expressions of Interest Summaries

- A total of 37 expressions of interest were submitted by applicants from Tennessee.
- In line with the FCC objective for this experiment of better understanding what solutions different industry stakeholders could offer, submissions were received from a wide variety of applicants including – Chambers of Commerce, local governments, utility providers, legislators, ILECs and CLECs.
- The technology solutions proposed include the use of multiple platforms including fiber, fixed wireless, DSL, cable, and mobile. Overall, however, a majority of the proposals include in part or in full deployment of fiber to the premise networks.
- Proposed project scopes range from projects narrowly focusing on county-level deployment challenges to proposals to serve existing broadband gaps across a 10-county region. Project funding requests range from just \$500,000 to as much as \$60 million in subsidies. The overall budget for all 37 proposed projects is upward of \$414 million.
- Of the Expressions of Interest filed, several submissions mention the Connected Tennessee program and utilized the Connected Tennessee maps and data. For example, Crossroads WiFi, The Regional Economic Vibrancy Consortium of Southern Middle Tennessee, and RFC Broadband, Inc. all use Connected Tennessee mapping and data statistics in their submitted Expressions. Other submissions mention Connected Tennessee broadband assessments and other programs.

## Tennessee Expressions of Interest Submitted (As of April 1, 2014)



### Name of Filer

Aeneas Communications, LLC  
Athena Broadband  
Betty Yates  
Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation  
Citizens Striving to be Part of the 21st Century  
Crossroads WiFi  
ECSIS.NET, LLC  
Erwin Utilities  
ETC Communications, LLC  
Fayetteville Public Utilities  
Gibson Electric Membership Corporation  
Hancock County  
Jackson Energy Authority  
Jackson Energy Authority  
John Ragan  
Johnson City Power Board  
LORETTO COMMUNICATION SERVICES, INC.  
Meriwether Lewis Electric Cooperative  
Millington Telephone Company  
Morristown Utilities Commission  
North Central Communications, Inc.  
North Central Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
PES Energize  
REV of Southern Middle Tennessee  
RFC Broadband, Inc.  
RTC Solutions, Inc  
Rutherford County, TN  
Shelbyville-Bedford County Chamber of  
Commerce  
SI Wireless dba Mobile Nation  
Southeast TN Development District  
Spring City Cable TV, Inc.  
TDS Telecommunications Corp.  
Tennessee Wireless, LLC  
Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation  
Twin Lakes Coop Corp  
Union County Chamber of Commerce  
Volunteer Energy Cooperative

### Documents

[Expression of Interest \(2 pages\)](#)  
[IP Experiment Expression of Interest Athena Broadband \(2 pages\)  
\(2 pages\)](#)  
[Expression of Interest \(4 pages\)](#)  
[Expression of Interest Docket No 10 90 \(4 pages\)](#)  
[Expression of Interest \(9 pages\)](#)  
[Rural Broadband Experiment Expression of Interest \(3 pages\)](#)  
[Expression of Interest \(4 pages\)](#)  
[\(2 pages\)](#)  
[Letter to expree interest \(4 pages\)](#)  
[Expression of Interest \(2 pages\)](#)  
[\(1 page\)](#)  
[EOI for Rural Broadband Experiment \(2 pages\)](#)  
[EOI for Rural Broadband Experiment \(2 pages\)  
\(2 pages\)](#)  
[EOI for Rural Broadband Experiment \(8 pages\)](#)  
[\(3 pages\)](#)  
[Rural Trials Expression of Interest \(4 pages\)](#)  
[Letter of Interest RoR \(2 pages\)](#)  
[\(6 pages\)](#)  
[\(2 pages\)](#)  
[\(2 pages\)](#)  
[EOI for Rural Broadband Experiment \(7 pages\)](#)  
[Expression of Interest \(8 pages\)](#)  
[Expression of Interest \(3 pages\)](#)  
[RTC Solutions Price Cap Area Expression of Interest Letter \(2 pages\)  
\(6 pages\)](#)  
[Expression of Interest \(4 pages\)](#)  
[SI Wireless Expression of Interest \(4 pages\)](#)  
[\(5 pages\)](#)  
[EOI for North Rhea County TN \(3 pages\)](#)  
[Expression of Interest \(5 pages\)](#)  
[TW Expression of Interest CAF \(3 pages\)](#)  
[EOI for Rural Broadband Experiment \(8 pages\)](#)  
[Twin Lakes EOI Rural CAF Experiment \(4 pages\)](#)  
[Expression of Interest in Rural Broadband Experiment \(5 pages\)](#)  
[EOI for Rural Broadband Experiment \(36 pages\)](#)