



THE FLORIDA OFFICE OF Economic Recovery



The Capitol, Room 1604
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

May 3, 2010

The Honorable Larry Strickling
Assistant Secretary of Commerce
Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Strickling,

In accordance with Public Law 111-5, the State of Florida respectfully submits the following comments on applications for Florida in Round 2 of BTOP funding. Per your request of March 24, 2010, and consistent with § 6001 of the Recovery Act, we are providing comments "on those geographic areas within the state for which NTIA should give priority in selecting projects for funding" and which "meet the greatest needs of the state."

Your staff has indicated that NTIA is looking for the Governor to provide feedback that only the state is able to provide and we have focused our efforts accordingly. Our review was undertaken by representatives for the following constituencies: economic development, health care, higher education, K-12, public safety and public sector anchor institutions.

As we reviewed over 85 applications with a proposed funded service area in Florida, we focused on the project's purpose as it relates to Florida's needs and the approach taken to meet those needs. We are relying on NTIA to conduct its intensive review of a project's technical feasibility, reasonableness of development and operational costs, sustainability, etc.

We recognize that \$7.2 billion is not sufficient to meet the incredible demand throughout the country and that only a limited number of applications will be funded. Florida is a very large state (almost 60,000 square miles) and our 18 million residents and their schools, businesses, homes and community institutions have many unmet needs, as represented by the large number of applications for the state. While many parts of the state need enhanced or more affordable broadband service, there are several parts of the state that are of greater state concern. These areas are largely rural areas that require investment in broadband for economic development and upgraded service for education, public safety and health care. As in Round 1, we have placed a priority on service to anchor institutions and those projects that can serve the broadest base of users in the long-term.

Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI)

We considered the following factors in determining areas of need for infrastructure investment:

- Alignment with statutory intent of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and Florida's Consumer Choice and Protection Act (Chapter 2009-226, Laws of Florida),
- Governor's declaration of Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern counties,
- Counties prioritized by the Agency for Health Care Administration to prepare for health information technology and health information exchange,
- Counties prioritized by the Department of Education for K-20 service,
- Counties prioritized by the Department of Management Services for telecommunications service to anchor institutions and public safety based on input from state, city and county government, and
- Counties identified as needing enhanced broadband by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation 2008 survey of public libraries.

The high priority counties for infrastructure are shown in the attached map.

While some project areas overlap, there is little duplication due to differing audiences for the services.

Comprehensive Community Infrastructure - Highly Recommend	ID #	Project Title	Grant Request
County of Escambia	6377	Gulf Coast ONE.net (ONE.net)	\$17,531,435
County of Palm Beach	5459	Glades Broadband Initiative	\$6,057,747
Florida Rural Broadband Alliance	7380	Florida Rural Middle Mile Networks - Northwest and South Central Regions	\$23,693,665
Fort Pierce Utilities Authority	6518	Connecting the Research Coast of Florida	\$5,534,740
Foundation for Florida's Community Colleges	6879	Florida SmartNet	\$103,550,823
			\$156,368,410

Comprehensive Community Infrastructure - Recommend	ID #	Project Title	Grant Request
Eastern Lee County Fiber, LLC	6826	Eastern Lee County Fiber	\$15,961,229
Engage Communications Corporation	4235	The Florida Keys Community Broadband Initiative	\$3,347,302
Okaloosa, County of	5017	Okaloosa Broadband Cooperative	\$9,349,131
			\$28,657,662

Public Computer Centers (PCC) and Sustainable Broadband Adoption (SBA)

For public computer centers and sustainable adoption needs, we considered:

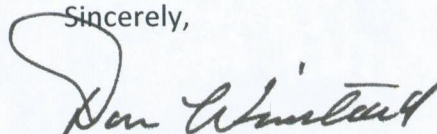
- Population below the poverty level,
- Education levels and dropout rates,
- High population centers,
- Applicants with proven track records in providing similar services,
- Applicants with close ties to the community being served, including local partnerships,
- Accessibility of services, and
- Projects that would bring new users to broadband (not just new applications for existing users).

Public Computer Center - Highly Recommend	ID #	Project Title	Grant Request
Broward, County of	5738	Broward County Library Public Computer Centers	\$1,315,077
Miami-Dade County	4693	Miami-Dade Library Community Broadband Initiative	\$2,590,395
Putnam County School District	6386	NEFEC Community Technology Centers	\$2,856,492
			\$6,761,964

Sustainable Broadband Adoption - Highly Recommend			
Management Services, Florida Department of	6936	PRO-JOBS- Partnership for Readiness Online - Job Opportunities through Broadband Sustainability	\$3,656,965
One Broward, Inc.	5422	OneBroward CAN (Community Action Network) /1B-CAN	\$1,228,860
Tallahassee, City of	6509	Apalachee Ridge Technology Learning Center Broadband Initiative	\$1,414,659
Tampa Housing Authority	5426	AccessALL Tampa	\$3,366,458
			\$9,666,942

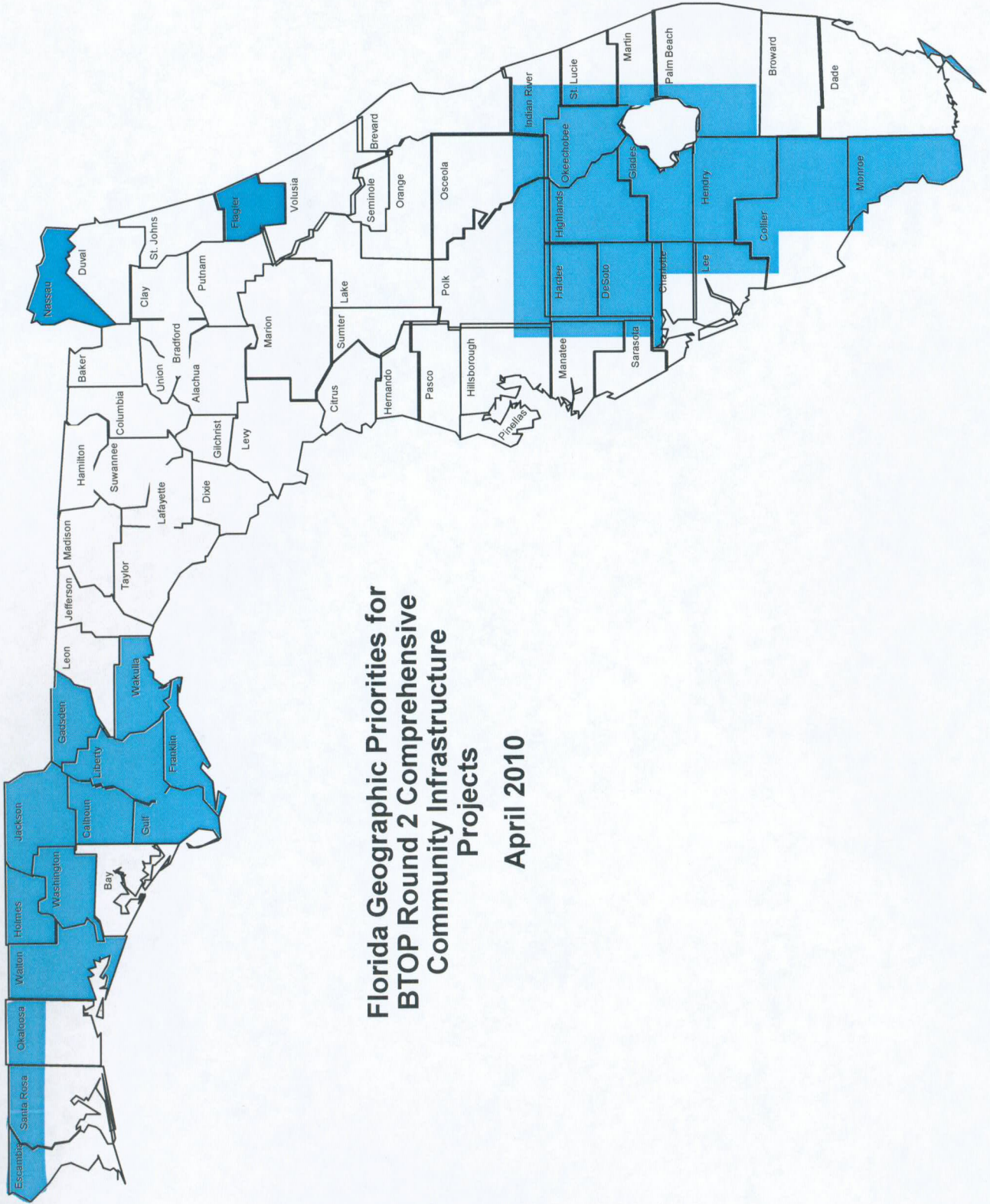
If you need further information about our recommendations and comments, please contact Linda Fuchs on my staff (linda.fuchs@myflorida.com, 850-487-8165).

Sincerely,



Don Winstead

Special Advisor to the Governor



**Florida Geographic Priorities for
 BTOP Round 2 Comprehensive
 Community Infrastructure
 Projects
 April 2010**