

Wiegand, Ryan

From: Jake Darnell-Smith <Jacob.Darnell@glt-nsn.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2021 6:07 PM
To: BroadbandUSA
Subject: Comments after Webinar

First I wanted to thank you for doing what you've done. Involving everyone is a great way to make sure the scope is large enough to include those who get missed.

The Gun Lake Tribe (MATCH-E-BE-NASH-SHE-WISH) is a 570-some member tribe located in West Michigan. We do not have congruent land in trust. We are a few miles from the nearest fiber meet points. We have a settlement with about a hundred who are unable to access anything other than poor quality satellite internet which has been terrible during the pandemic and unable to support real-time communication critical for education and health care needs.

We also have a camp and a community center which have no lines run to them.

We also have a very small IT department which is not staffed to facilitate as an ISP.

We've tried our best building radio towers and beaming internet access to them using microwave dishes. This, for obvious reasons has been temperamental. We have scoped out opportunities and are ready to partner with larger providers to provide fiber directly to the settlement, community center, and camp. The largest barrier that has prevented us from doing this is funding.

If we were eligible for the grant, we would be able to work with the Local exchange carriers and provide direct internet access to these lands which bring people out of the digital divide.

Please keep us in mind. We've been looking for funding for years and there has always been a disqualifying factor that has kept us in this situation. We would love to see our plans come to light to serve the missed.

Thank you for your time,

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