National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)
Middle Mile Grant Program
Bi-Annual Performance Report

Note: Form instructions and definitions will be created to support the report. Instructional guidance and training will be developed. Numbering to be updated based on final approved form.

RECIPIENT NAME:

Scott County Telephone Cooperative

OMB Control No.	0660-0052
Expiration Date:	4/30/2026

Middle Mile Grant Program Bi-Annual Performance Report

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

GENERAL	1a. Recipient Organization:	Scott County Telephone Cooperative	1h. Award Identification Number:	47-40-MM1081
	1b. Recipient Street Address:	149 Woodland Street	1i. Report Date (MM/DD/YYYY):	10/25/2023
	1c. City, Sate, and Zip Code:	Gate City, Virginia 24251-3239	1j. Final Report:	Yes ☐ No ☑
	1d. Unique Entity Identification (UEI) Number:	GQN9RNE79A69	1k. Report Period Start Date (MM/DD/YYYY):	9/1/2023
	1e. Award Start Date (MM/DD/YYYY):	9/1/2023	1l. Report Period End Date (MM/DD/YYYY):	9/30/2023
	1f. Award End Date (MM/DD/YYYY):	3/30/2028		
	1g. Name of Person Completing Report:	Robert Hamilton Picchi		

B. PROJECT NARRATIVE

Please use the section below to provide a project narrative of the project(s).
This section aims to help reviewers better understand what project is being proposed and steps taken to achieve this goal.

PROJECT NARRATIVE	2a. A brief description of the recipient's organization and scope of work/project priorities:	Scott County Telephone Cooperative (SCTC) is a 501-c-12 cooperative organized in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The scope of the project is to build a 155-mile middle-mile fiber optic network to interconnect with over 700 miles of existing fiber plant to open access to a number of unserved communities in Central Ap
	2b. An overview of the significant outputs and outcomes to be accomplished in the project:	1). Provide high-speed internet service to 102 Central-Appalachian communities that are unserved. 2) Drive down the cost of internet service in Central Appalachia. 3) Improve network reliability and resilience for critical national security interests such as FirstNet Towers and the Mineral Gap data center.
	2c. How would the project meet the recipient's business and/or administrative need(s)?	SCTC's business providing high-speed internet to residences and businesses. This MMG grant will open up new addressable markets in 103 Central-Appalachian communities.
	2d. Provide an overview of key accomplishments achieved for this reporting period on the MM infrastructure project.	1) Project organization and establishing contacts with NTIA and NIST. Develop and distribute RFPs for Environmental Assessment, and Design Engineer and Permit the Network.
	2e. Provide any roadblock experienced during this reporting period impacting the expansion of the MM infrastructure project (i.e., supply chain, availability of labor).	None
	2f. Provide any barriers to improving job quality experienced during this reporting period.	None

C. INFRASTRUCTURE MILESTONE CATEGORIES AND PROJECT TIMELINE

INFRASTRUCTURE MILESTONE CATEGORIES AND PROJECT TIMELINE

Please use the chart below to provide the start date and end date of your project.

OVERALL PROJECT	PROJECT DURATION	3a. PROJECT START DATE	3b. PROJECT END DATE
	1672	September 1, 2023	March 30, 2028

Please provide the duration for each milestone category of your project. The duration should be based on the start and end dates of each category. For example, if you expect to complete a particular milestone within two weeks, fill in the total days (14) in the duration field.

Please use the table provided to indicate your EXPECTED percentage of completion on a bi-annual basis for each year of your project. Year 1 begins with your award start date.

The percentage of completion should be based primarily on the expenditure of your project budget and should be reported cumulatively from award inception through the end of each semi-annual reporting period. For example, if you expect to complete a particular milestone within the first three periods of your project, the third period and all subsequent periods should state 100%.

Please write "0" in the duration field if your project does not include an activity. If necessary, please insert additional milestones at the end.

ANTICIPATED PROJECT MILESTONES				Year 1 Baseline		Year 2 Baseline		Year 3 Baseline		Year 4 Baseline		Year 5 Baseline	
3c. MILESTONE CATEGORIES	3d. DURATION (Days)	3e. START DATE	3f. END DATE	Period 1 (9/30/23)	Period 2 (3/31/24)	Period 1 (9/30/24)	Period 2 (3/31/25)	Period 1 (9/30/25)	Period 2 (3/31/26)	Period 1 (9/31/26)	Period 2 (3/31/27)	Period 1 (9/30/27)	Period 2 (3/30/328
Overall Project	1,672	September 1, 2023	March 30, 2028	0%	5%	15%	30%	45%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%
Environmental Assessment	392	November 17, 2023	December 13, 2024	0%	30%	70%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Network Design	540	December 1, 2023	May 24, 2025	0%	25%	50%	75%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Rights Of Way	357	June 1, 2024	May 24, 2025	0%	0%	30%	70%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Construction Permits And Other Approvals	540	December 1, 2023	May 24, 2025	0%	0%	30%	60%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Site Preparation	212	October 1, 2025	May 1, 2026	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	50%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Equipment Procurement	1308	June 1, 2024	December 31, 2027	0%	0%	15%	25%	35%	55%	75%	80%	90%	100%
Network Build (all components - owned, leased, indefeasible Rights of Use, etc.)	729	January 1, 2025	December 31, 2026	0%	0%	0%	25%	50%	75%	90%	100%	100%	100%
Equipment Deployment	275	April 1, 2026	January 1, 2027	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	70%	100%	100%	100%
Network Testing	334	January 1, 2027	December 1, 2027	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	30%	70%	100%
Status of Procurement	0			0%	0%	20%	40%	50%	60%	70%	90%	100%	100%
Other (please specify):				0%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
IRU License 705 miles of 2 strands of fiber to NTIA													

% OF PROJECT COMPLETION

Please use the table provided to indicate your ACTUAL percentage of completion on a bi-annual basis for each year of your project. Year 1 begins with your award start date.

The percentage of completion should be based primarily on the expenditure of your project budget and should be reported cumulatively from award inception through the end of each semi-annual reporting period. For example, if you expect to complete a particular milestone within the first three periods of your project, the third period and all subsequent periods should state 100%.

Please provide a brief description of the primary activities involved in meeting each milestone (a single description should be provided for each milestone, covering all periods in years one through N). Please write "N/A" if your project does not include an activity. If necessary, please insert additional milestones at the bottom of the chart. Please add additional milestones as applicable.

ACTUAL PROJECT MILESTONES		Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Year 5	
		Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2
4a. MILESTONE	4b. DESCRIPTION	Actual Milestone Completion (Cumulative)									
Overall Project	Less than 1%	0%									
Environmental Assessment	EA of 155 mile fiber route plus 24 new telecom shelters	0%									
Network Design	Engineer, Design, and Permit entire Network	0%									
Rights Of Way	Procure sites for shelters, ROW & easements where needed	0%									
Construction Permits And Other Approvals	All permitting was included in Engineer, Design, and Permit	0%									
Site Preparation	Prepare sites for telecom shelter installations	0%									
Equipment Procurement	Procure fiber, shelters, electronics, and generators	0%									
Network Build (all components - owned, leased, indefeasible Rights of Use, etc.)	Construct the networks and execute IRR for 700 + miles	0%									
Equipment Deployment	Deploy electronics in shelters.	0%									
Network Testing	Test and burn in the network	0%									
Status of Procurement											
Other (please specify):											
IRU License 705 miles of 2 strands of fiber to NTIA	SCTC will license 2 fibers X 705 miles of existing network to complete	0%									

Subrecipient and Subawards

List of Subrecipient(s) that received a subaward or subcontract from the eligible entity and a description of the specific project for which grant funds were provided.

Associate projects names to any subrecipient or subaward associated with grant, approved grant funds, and expenditures to date.

5a. Project Name	5b. Project Description	5c. Subrecipient	5d. Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)	5e. Women's Business Enterprise (WBE)	5f. Labor Surplus Area Firm	5g. Awarded Funds	5h. Expenditures to Date	5i. Remaining Grant Balance	5j. % of work complete
Central Appalachia Broadband	N/A		Yes ☐	Yes ☐	Yes ☐				
			Yes ☐	Yes ☐	Yes ☐				
			Yes ☐	Yes ☐	Yes ☐				
			Yes ☐	Yes ☐	Yes ☐				

D. INFRASTRUCTURE BUDGET EXECUTION DETAILS

INFRASTRUCTURE BUDGET EXECUTION DETAILS

Please provide details below on your total budget and total fund expended to date for each budget element, including detailed disbursements of both matching funds approved and federal funds obligated from project inception through end of this reporting period. Figures should be reported cumulatively from award inception to the end of the applicable reporting period.

6a. Projected Budget Element	6b. Federal Funds	6c. Non-Federal Funds	6d. Total Project Budget	6e. Total Federal Funds Expended to Date	6f. Total Non-Federal Funds Expended to Date	6g. Total Funds Expended	6h. Percent of Federal Funding Expended to Date (Cumulative)
Administrative and legal expenses	$ 500,934.40	$ -	$ 500,934.40	$ 10,000.00	$ -	$ 10,000.00	2%
Land, structures, rights-of way, appraisals, etc.	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	0%
Relocation expenses and payments	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	0%
Architectural and engineering fees	$ 775,000.00	$ -	$ 775,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	0%
Other architectural and engineering fees	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	0%
Project inspection fees	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	0%
Site work	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	0%
Demolition and removal	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	0%
Construction	$ 10,460,000.00	$ -	$ 10,460,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	0%
Equipment	$ 7,265,000.00	$ 10,151,065.60	$ 17,416,065.60	$ -	$ -	$ -	0%
Miscellaneous	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	0%
Subtotal	$ 19,000,934.40	$ 10,151,065.60	$ 29,152,000.00	$ 10,000.00	$ -	$ 10,000.00	0%
Contingencies	$ 1,350,000.00	$ -	$ 1,350,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	0%
Totals	$ 20,350,934.40	$ 10,151,065.60	$ 30,502,000.00	$ 10,000.00	$ -	$ 10,000.00	0%

E. COMMUNITY BENEFIT AGREEMENT

COMMUNITY BENEFIT AGREEMENT

As stated in the MM Grant Program NOFO a Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) is an agreement signed by community benefit groups and a developer, identifying the community benefits a developer agrees to deliver, in return for community support of the project.

Please use the fields below to state the Community Benefit Group and Developer Name and describe the activities in how this partnership has supported with the Middle Mile infrastructure project (i.e. wage agreements, targeting hiring of apprentices and disadvantaged groups in labor marker, education and training opportunities, sub-contracting to local small business for construction, services, and supply chain needs).

Description of Community Agreement

7a. Community Benefit Group Name: Please provide the name of the Community Benefit Group

N/A

7b. Developer Name: Please provide the name of the Developer

N/A

7c. Community Benefit Group and Developer Partnership: Please describe in the space below the nature of the partnership and how the MM grant funds being used are assisting to provide community support for the infrastructure project.

N/A

F. CLIMATE RESILIENCE

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Recipients must demonstrate that they have sufficiently accounted for current and future weather and climate related risks to new MM infrastructure projects. At present, weather and climate related risks to broadband networks include wildfires, extreme heat and cold, inland and coastal flooding, and the extreme winds produced by weather events such as tornadoes, hurricanes, and other weather events. Because retrofitted and new infrastructure for broadband might be expected to have a lifetime of 20 years or more, recipients must account not only for current risks but also for how the frequency, severity, and nature of these extreme events may plausibly evolve as our climate continues to change over the coming decades.

Climate Resiliency Risk Mitigation

This purpose of this section is for the recipient to demonstrate that they have sufficiently accounted for current and future weather and climate-related risks to new MM infrastructure projects. In particular, each recipient should demonstrate how they've addressed the known and identifiable risks of current and future projected weather and climate conditions through measures such as (but not limited to) choice of a technology platform suitable to the climate risk of the region, reliance on alternatives siting of facilities (i.e., underground construction where appropriate), retrofitting, or hardening of existing assets, and use of network redundancy to safeguard against threats to infrastructure.

8a. Were any geographic areas identified for **this reporting period** subject to an initial and/or updated hazard screening for future weather and climate related risk? If so, please provide **the date of the screening and provide related documentation as an attachment to this report.**

No. In this reporting period, no geographic areas identified were subject to an initial and or updated hazard screening for future weather and climate related risk.

8b Climate Resilience Category	8c. Date of Most Recent Hazard Screening	8d. Name and Title of Representative Completing Most Recent Hazard Screening	8e. Date of Report Completion
		We have included this work in the RFP for the Environmental Assessment. Proposals are not due for three weeks. We have not yet selected the firm to complete the Hazard Screening.	

8f. Identified Risk: For your MM project, what are the potential weather and climate hazards that may be most important to be addressed that could impact the resiliency of the middle mile infrastructure deployed (i.e. wildfires, extreme heat and cold, inland and coastal flooding, extreme winds: tornadoes, hurricanes and other weather events)?

In the 13-county deployment area, 11 Counites are categorized as "Very Low Risk" by the FEMA National Level Risk Index. 2 counties – Sullivan County and Washington County in TN, are categorized as "Relatively Low" risks.
Of the 18 weather and climate hazards identified by FEMA, only 1 category – Lightning – is identified as "Relatively High" risks in 2 counites – Sullivan and Washington. To ensure the resilience of our project we have specified All Dielectric Self Supporting (ADSS) fiber optic cable. This material is a non-conducting material that is impervious to lightning. All of the telecom shelter buildings will be grounded to Telcordia standards for outside plant bonding and grounding systems to ensure they will survive a lightning strike. Additionally, the network architecture will be multiple rings. If lightning strikes a shelter and takes out an electronic set, the ring will fail over to the protected side.
Of the other climate and weather risks, Landslides rank next highest with "Relatively Moderate " risk in 6 of our 13 counties. Strong Wind was identified as a "Relatively Moderate" risk in 5 of our 13 counties. Wildfire is rated as "Relatively Moderate" risk in 2 counties.
Of the remaining climate and weather risks, 1 county was identified for "Relatively Moderate" risk in each of the following categories:
•Riverine Flooding – Buchanon County, VA
•Cold Wave – Washington County, VA
•Drought – Lee County, VA
•Ice Storm – Washington County, TN
•Winter Weather – Hawkins County, TN
In total, of the 13 counties and 18 categories of climate and weather risks, there are 234 total county-climate-risk ratings. In the Central Appalachia Broadband MMG project, there are only 2 Relatively High and 21 Relatively Moderate risks.

8g. Weather and Climate Hazards: Were any significant climate or weather hazards experienced during this reporting period (i.e., floods, tornados) impacting infrastructure buildout or service? Briefly describe how you monitored for weather and climate caused issues for the reliability of the system. If so, please provide the date of the disaster, location and backup documentation related (i.e., news articles).

No, there were no significant climate or weather hazards experienced during this reporting period.

8h. Risks to Deployment of New Infrastructure: Has the team identified any risks impacting the deployment of new or repaired infrastructure due to current and future weather and climate-related threats during this reporting period?

No, there were no risks identified by the team impacting the deployment of new or repaired infrastructure due to current and future weather and climate-related threats during this reporting period?

8i. Risk Mitigation: How will the project avoid and/or mitigate the risk identified? If not applicable, please explain why.

SCTC's MMG outside plant will be deployed on infrastructure owned and operated by electric utilities. Executives of the electric utilities are very active in both NERC (North American Reliability Council) and FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) in planning for climate change and extreme weather impacts on electric system reliability. Several of these utilities are recognized by NERC as thought leaders in developing best practices for probabilistic/stochastic methods for estimating the impact of climate scenarios on transmission and distribution grids. SCTC and the electric utilities have joint-use pole attachment agreements in place to provide for service restoration. Additionally, as noted in 8f. SCTC has specified a network architecture and materials that will mitigate the climate and weather risks to ensure a highly reliable network performance.

8j. Additional Information: Is there any additional information you would like to share during this reporting period that the grant team should be aware of regarding the management of sustainable climate resiliency for your MM project?

The SCTC proposed MMG network plan implements the following design elements to mitigate climate-change risk. 1) The fiber cable is an All-Dielectric-Self-Supporting (ADSS) cable. The ADSS cable is less than 1 inch in diameter. This is roughly half the diameter of a typical over-lashed fiber cable on a steel messenger cable, and roughly half the weight. The result is significantly less surface area for ice and snow to adhere and accumulate on the MMG network. The ADSS cable has a center Kevlar strength member and will not fail due to suspension-strand/fatigue failure or over-lash material failure. 2) The fiber sheath utilized a ribbon fiber cable. This allows for fiber splicing 12 fibers at a time. The fiber restoration occurs 12 times faster than splicing a loose-tube fiber cable. 3) SCTC POP shelters are located on elevated platforms to reduce the risk of damage from flooding. No POP will ever be placed within an area defined as included in the 100-year Floodplain. Plans are currently being evaluated to include the utilization of solar-power-and-battery-storage units to eliminate the use of generators. All POPs have battery backup to provide at least 8 hours of uninterrupted power supply. 4) SCTC is increasing route diversity through the introduction of more ringed network architecture on self-healing fiber rings, so the failure of any one segment will not bring the network down. 5) SCTC maintains a mobile generator that can be dispatched to a site if necessary. 6) All POPs are grounded to carrier-grade standards to mitigate lightning-strike damage. 7) POPs are not located in heavily wooded sites. And 8) SCTC reviews its service restoration plans annually and updates the plans as needed. SCTC provides service to many mission-critical systems such as the public 911 system and is required to conduct such planning.

8k. Additional Resources
Has the team utilized the available resources to assist with mitigation and long-term planning efforts for this reporting period? If so, which resources?
2018 National Climate Assessment
NOAA's 2022 State Climate Summaries
NOAA Disaster and Risk Mapping Tool
NOAA's Storms Event Database
NOAA Climate Explorer and Digital Coast
FEMA National Risk Index
Consulted FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plans prepared by states in which they propose to build middle mile infrastructure to help identify key risk and hazards

G. Workforce

DAVIS-BACON ACT CERTIFICATION

For projects receiving over $5,000,000 (based on expected total cost), as determined by the U.S. Secretary of Labor by subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the "Davis-Bacon Act"), all laborers and mechanics employed by contractors and subcontractors in the performance of such project are paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing.

Davis-Bacon Act Certification

9a. Does the recipient have access to the information requested (all laborers and mechanics employed by contractors and subcontractors in the performance of such project are paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing?)	Yes ☑	No ☐	

LOCAL HIRE PRIORITIZATION AND IMPACT

Local Hire Prioritization and Impact

Local hiring is a goal or requirement to hire people who live close to the place of work. This aim is often more specifically structured as a requirement for contractors awarded certain types of publicly funded projects to recruit a certain proportion of the people working on the project from a particular area. Please **provide all direct hires and contractors supporting** the MM infrastructure project.

Please use the table below to describe how the project prioritizes local hiring.

Hires by Race, Ethnicity and Gender	Number of Hires																					
	Race/Ethnicity																					
	9b. Hispanic or Latino			9c. Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino																		Totals
				9c-1. Men						9c-2. Women						9c-3. X						
	9b-1. Men	9b-2. Women	9b-3. X	White	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Asian	Native American or Alaska Native	Two or More Races	White	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Asian	Native American or Alaska Native	Two or More Races	White	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Asian	Native American or Alaska Native	Two or More Races	
Number of Local Direct Hires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Non-Local Direct Hires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage of Local Direct Hires on Award	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Number of Local Subcontractors	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Non-Local Subcontractors	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage of Local Subcontractors on Award	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	

DAVIS-BACON WAGES

Davis-Bacon Act Wages

Please confirm if wages are at least prevailing*

*As stated in the MM NOFO as determined by the U.S. Secretary Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the "Davis-Bacon Act"), for the corresponding classes of laborers and mechanics employed on projects of a character similar to the contract work in the civil subdivision of the State (or the District of Columbia) in which the work is to be performed.

10a. Are wage rates at least the Davis-Bacon prevailing wage for all laborers?	Yes ☑	No ☐	10c. Are wage rates at least the prevailing wage for all mechanics?	Yes ☑	No ☐	
10b. Please cite your source of how this information was gathered (for 10a).	No contractors have been identified in this period and not work has commenced.		10d. Please cite your source of how this information was gathered (for 10c).	**Currently, SCTC is doing no work on the project until the Environmental Assessment is completed. SCTC fully intends to be dutifully compliant with the Davis Bacon wage requirements. We will use the https://sam.gov/content/wage-determinations to determine the prevailing wage for each craft in each of the 13 counties where the MMG network will be deployed.**			

10e. If you answered "No" to either 10a. or 10c., please provide an attachment reporting the wages and benefits of workers on the project by job classification, and whether those wages are less than the prevailing wage.

WORKFORCE DEMOGRAPHICS

Workforce Demographic Data

Jobs by Race, Ethnicity and Gender	Number of Jobs																					
	Race/Ethnicity																					
	11-a. Hispanic or Latino			11b. Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino																		Totals
				11b-1. Men						11b-2. Women						11b-3. X						
	11a-1. Men	11a-2. Women	11a-3. X	White	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Asian	Native American or Alaska Native	Two or More Races	White	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Asian	Native American or Alaska Native	Two or More Races	White	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Asian	Native American or Alaska Native	Two or More Races	
Jobs Created	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jobs Retained	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

UNIONIZED WORKFORCE

12-a. Does this project include some workforce elements that are unionized?	Yes ☐	No ☑	12-c. Does your MM project utilize a project labor agreement?	Yes ☐	No ☑	**There were no workers in this period**
12-b. Are workers provided access to union educators/organizers on employer property or during the work day?	Yes ☐	No ☑	12-d. Did workers receive additional information or training about their workplace rights in addition to already required notice postings?	Yes ☐	No ☑	**There were no workers in this period**

H. Workforce Continuity Plan
National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 158 (f)

WORKFORCE CONTINUITY PLAN
NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT

As stated in the MM NOFO, if a recipient has not provided a certification that a project either will use a unionized project workforce or included a project labor agreement, meaning a pre-hire collective bargaining agreement consistent with section 8(f) of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 158 (f)), then the recipient must provide a project workforce continuity plan.

Workforce Continuity Plan

13a. Please describe the steps taken to ensure the project has ready access to a sufficient supply of appropriately skilled and unskilled labor to ensure construction is completed skillfully throughout the project's life (as required in Section III.B of the MM NOFO). As stated in the MM NOFO, the middle mile grant recipient is capable of carrying out the proposed project in a competent manner, including a plan to attract or retain an appropriate skilled and credentialed workforce.

For your MM project, please provide a brief description of efforts made to attract, train or retain a skilled and credentialed workforce.

Has the team offered any of the following resources to assist with maintaining a sufficient supply of appropriately skilled labor force for this reporting period? If so, which resources (please provide a brief description of any of the following that apply):
Professional Certifications
In-House Training
Registered Apprenticeships
Labor-Management Partnerships
Partnerships with entities like unions, community colleges, or community-based groups

Virginia and Tennessee are right-to-work states. Both specifically state that a person's right to work will not be influenced by whether or not they choose to be a member of a union or any other labor organization. SCTC does not specify in our RFP that a proposer have a collective bargaining agreement in place. For our E.A. and our Engineer, Design, and Permit RFPs we will insist that the successful proposers have Professional Engineers (PE) managing the projects and sealing the plans. SCTC has entered into a partnership with Mountain Empire Community College to train and certify line technicians for field work.

13b. Please describe below, the steps taken to minimize risks of labor disputes and disruptions that would jeopardize the timeliness and cost-effectiveness of completing the MM project.

SCTC does not have a collective bargaining agreement and Virginia is a right-to-work state. So, there is not a formal grievance process. When a labor disputes arise, SCTC has a formal escalation path. The employee who perceives the problem would first go to there immediate supervisor, if the matter is not satisfactorily resolved, they can go the Manager of Human Resources, then one of the three corporate officers in their chain of command. Finally, if the matter is not satisfactorily resolved, they can escalate the matter to the Board of Directors. SCTC is a small company, it has only 69 employees. SCTC has been in business for over 70 years. We treat our employees with respect and handle all personnel matters in a fair and equitable fashion.

13c. Please describe below the steps to ensure a safe and healthy workplace that avoids delays and costs associated with workplace illnesses, injuries, and fatalities.

All SCTC employees are required to either have certifications in the technical/operational field or prove equivalent work experience. Once employed, SCTC constantly re-invests in employee training and certifications. For SCTC contractors/subcontractors, our RFPs outline all technical requirements. Bidders must demonstrate proficiency and competency before bidding on the project. An external engineering firm reviews the bids and requirements and reviews the qualifications with bidders' operational management. Bidders deemed unqualified, or who have failed to demonstrate a highly-skilled workforce are not considered. As noted in Fair Labor Practices portion of our NTIA application, SCTC has a relationship with Mountain Empire Community College, Lineman Program. Each graduate comes to SCTC with 15 weeks of physically demanding training consisting of , 2 weeks of worksite safety (OSHA-10), and 3 weeks of Class A commercial vehicle drivers training.
That SCTC is an Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier, has successfully operated a telephone company for 70 years, operates hundreds of miles of middle-mile fiber optic plant, and is an owner/operator of both iRis Networks and LIT Networks is both prima facie evidence that we operate a safe and healthy work place with solid continuity of service.

13d. For your MM project, please provide a brief description below of efforts made to ensure a safe and healthy workplace.

Has the team offered any of the following resources to assist with maintaining a safe and healthy workplace for this reporting period? If so, which resources (please provide a brief description of any of the following that apply):
Safety Training
Certifications and/or Licensure Requirements for all relevant works (e.g., OSHA 10, OSHA 30, confined space, traffic control, or other training required of workers employed by contractors)
Issues raised by workplace safety committees and their resolutions

Scott County Telephone Cooperative (SCTC) understands the importance of making the necessary investments in producing high-quality broadband infrastructure that adverts disruptive and costly delays as well as promote efficiency.
SCTC does require that its' outside plant/construction employees, contractors and/or subcontractors have the following credentials:
•OSHA Training
•CPR Training
•Flagger Certification
•Virginia Immediate Work Zone Safety Training
•CDL and applicable training and medical certification

13e. Please provide the name(s) below of any subcontracted entities performing work on the project, and the total number of workers employed by each entity.

13e-1. Name of Subcontracted Entity Performing Work	13e-2. Total Number of Workers within this Subcontract	13e-3. Job Categories of Workers Supporting Project within this Subcontract
Blue Ridge Advisory Services Group, Inc.	1	EEO - Component 1 Professional – Administrative Services Manager – Six-Level SOC Job Code 11-3012
Jackson Thornton CPAs	1	EEO - Component 1 Professional – Accountant – Six-Level SOC Job Code 13-2011
Whiteford, Taylor & Preston LLP	1	EEO - Component 1 Professional – Attorney SOC Job Code 23-1011

13f. Please describe below the steps taken to ensure that workers on the project receive wages and benefits sufficient to secure an appropriately skilled workforce in the context of the local and regional labor market.

The three firms that are currently working on the MMG project are long-term providers of professional services to SCTC. They are known to us, have excellent work products, and provide superior intellectual leadership. Each is well compensated. While we are judicial about the fees we pay, these service providers were not chosen because they are the low-cost providers. They were selected because they are the best-value providers.

I. ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS

ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS

Please provide Anchor Institution (AI) data for the current period only (not cumulative). Please add rows as needed.

14a. Anchor Institution Name	14b. Street Address	14c. City	14d. State	14e. Type of Anchor Institution	14f. Interconnection within 1,000 Feet of AI Enabling Gig Symmetrical Service	14g. Narrative Description of how the Anchor Institution may benefit from the Grant Funded Infrastructure
None in this period						

J. BROADBAND ACCESS KEY INDICATOR: SUBSCRIBERS AND SPEED

PROJECTED NUMBER OF SUBSCRIBERS AND SPEED

Please use the following table to provide anticipated key indicators with the projected totals for each beneficiary category, access type and speed category for your infrastructure service or project. Except as indicated, information should be reported cumulatively from award inception through the end of the semi-annual period for Semi-Annual Indicators. Please write "N/A" if your project does not include this indicator.

PROJECTED NUMBER OF SUBSCRIBERS AND SPEED		Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Year 5	
SUBSCRIBER TYPE	ACCESS TYPE	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2
15a. Anchor Institutions (AIs)	15a-1. Total number of AIs passed	0	0	27	87	147	207	267	272	277	282
	15a-2. Number of AIs within 1,000 feet of the middle mile infrastructure	0	0	27	87	147	207	267	272	277	282
	15a-3. Total number of AIs served	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	76	125	150
	15a-4. AIs with new access	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	60	75
	15a-5. AIs with improved access	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	65	75
	15a-6. Total number of AIs served with speeds of at least 1/1Gbps	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	76	125	150
15b. Broadband Wholesalers or Last Mile Providers	15b-1.Total number of broadband wholesalers or last mile providers served	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
	15b-2. Broadband wholesalers or last mile providers with new access	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
	15b-3. Broadband wholesalers or last mile providers with improved access	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
	15b-4. Total number of broadband wholesalers or last mile providers offering speeds of at least 25/3 Mbps	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5
	15b-5. Total number of broadband wholesalers or last mile providers offering speeds of at least 100/20 Mbps	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
	15b-6. Total number of broadband wholesalers or last mile providers offering speeds of at least 1/1 Gbps	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1

K. BROADBAND ACCESS KEY INDICATOR: NETWORK BUILD PROGRESS

NETWORK BUILD PROGRESS

Please use the following table to provide anticipated key indicators and progress of your infrastructure project. Except as indicated, information should be reported cumulatively from award inception through the end of the semi-annual period. Please write "N/A" if your project does not include this indicator.

NETWORK BUILD PROGRESS	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Year 5	
KEY INDICATOR	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2
16a. Total of new fiber miles (aerial or buried)	0	0	15	50	85	120	155	155	155	155
16b. Total of fiber miles leased	0	0	0	0	0	0	705	705	705	705
16c. Total of existing fiber miles upgraded	0	0	0	0	0	0	705	705	705	705
16d. Total of new microwave links	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
16e. Total of new towers	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
16f. Total of new interconnection points	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
16g. Total of signed agreements with broadband wholesalers or last mile providers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
16h. Total of potential agreements (i.e., agreements currently being negotiated) with broadband wholesalers or last mile providers (This Total should NOT be reported cumulatively)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	2

L. QUANTIABLE METRICS

FIBER OPTIC BASED

Quantifiable Metrics - Section designed to assist with **reporting** and **audit** purpose to quantify how much progress was made and track the location of where the progress was made.

17a. Fiber Optic Based	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Year 5	
	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2
17a-1. Is the fiber a buried/aerial or undersea application?	Aerial	Aerial	Aerial	Aerial	Aerial	Aerial	Aerial	Aerial	Aerial	Aerial
17a-2. Number of strands deployed	0	0	288	288	288	288	288	288	288	288
17a-3. Number of miles of buried fiber deployed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17a-4. Number of miles of aerial fiber deployed	0	0	15	50	85	120	155	155	155	155
17a-5. Estimated capacity of fiber (i.e. throughput)	0	0	57.6 Terabits	57.6 Terabits	57.6 Terabits	57.6 Terabits	57.6 Terabits	57.6 Terabits	57.6 Terabits	57.6 Terabits
17a-6. Deployment cost per mile of buried fiber optics	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
17a-7. Deployment cost per mile of aerial fiber optics	$35,000	$35,000	$35,000	$35,000	$35,000	$35,000	$35,000	$35,000	$35,000	$35,000
17a-8. Total Spent on Buried Fiber Deployment this reporting period	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17a-9. Total Spent on Aerial Fiber Deployment this reporting period	0	0	$10,080,000	$1,225,000	$1,225,000	$1,225,000	$1,225,000	$0	$0	$0
17a-10. Total spent on Fiber Deployment this reporting period	0	0	$10,080,000	$1,225,000	$1,225,000	$1,225,000	$1,225,000	$0	$0	$0
17a-11. Please provide any additional information about the Fiber Optic deployment (200 words or less)	At this point, we have released the RFPs for Environmental, Assessment and Design, Engineer, and Permit. Construction RFP will be done after design basis is completed.									
17a-12. Please provide the digital mappings (e.g., CAD, Revit, KMZ, KML) for the microwave nodes created during this reporting period.										

MICROWAVE BASED

17b. Microwave Based	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Year 5	
	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2
17b-1. How many microwave nodes have been deployed?	0									
17b-2. How many microwave nodes are operating for reporting period?	0									
17b-3. Installation cost per microwavable node	0									
17b-4. Number of new towers built to support microwave structure	0									
17b-5. If applicable, what type of tower was constructed (a) Monopole (b) Self-Support, or (c) Guyed during this reporting period?	Other									
17b-6. Average cost per tower installed	N/A									
17b-7. Total spend on Tower deployment this reporting period	0									
17b-8. Total spend on microwave deployment this reporting period	0									
17b-9. If you answered "other" to question 5a.6 or if it is a combination of multiple types, please provide a detailed narrative description detailing what type of tower or what combination of towers is used for the project and the their associated costs. (200 words or less).	No towers will be deployed as part of this MMG program.									
17b-10. Please provide the digital mappings (e.g., CAD, Revit, KMZ, KML) for each new aerial fiber and buried fiber equipment installed during this reporting period.										

SATELLITE

17c. Satellite	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Year 5	
	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2
17c-1. What satellite provider is being used?	N/A									
17c-2. What is the estimated capacity of the satellite link (i.e. throughput)?	N/A									
17c-3. What is the associated cost to use this satellite service?	N/A									
17c-4. Please provide any additional information about the Satellite deployment (200 words or less)	N/A									
17c-5. Please provide the digital mappings (e.g., CAD, Revit, KMZ, KML) for each new aerial fiber and buried fiber equipment installed during this reporting period.										

CERTIFICATIONS

Certifications

18. Please provide certification evidencing compliance with Federal labor and employment laws along with the requirements of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Middle Mile Grant Program, for the bi-annual period for which this report is being filed.

I certify that Scott County Telephone Cooperative is in compliance with Federal labor and employment laws along with the requirements of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Middle Mile Grant Program, for the bi-annual period for which this report is being filed.

19. Please provide certification evidencing compliance with the Build America, Buy America Act. The Build America, Buy America Act requires that all of the iron, steel, manufactured products (including but not limited to fiber-optic communications facilities), and construction materials used in the project or other eligible activities are produced in the United States unless a waiver is granted.

I certify that Scott County Telephone Cooperative is in compliance with the Build America, Buy America Act.

MM GRANT PROGRAM BI-ANNUAL REPORT CERTIFICATION

20. I certify to the best of knowledge and belief that this report is correct and complete for performance of activities for the purposes set forth in the award documents.

20a. Typed or Printed Name and Title of Authorized Certifying Official:	20c. Telephone (area code, number and extension):	276.452.7201
William J. Franklin, CEO	20d. Email Address:	billfranklin@sctc.org
20b. Signature of Certifying Official:		
x William J. Franklin	20e. Date:	10/25/2023