

1. Project Summary

Applicant's Name:

WillitsOnline LLC and its subsidiary company, Rural Broadband Now! LLC

Contact Person:

DeeLynn R. Carpenter, Project Development
SHN Consulting Engineers & Geologists, Inc.

335 South Main Street

Willits CA 95490

Telephone: 707-459-4518 / FAX: 707-459-1884

Email: dcarpenter@shn-engr.com

Project Title: Westport Last Mile Project

Proposed Project Location:

Westport Community, California located in Mendocino County

Project Type: Last Mile

CASF Funding Requested

Amount of Grant: \$161,500

Description of Project

WillitsOnline LLC and its subsidiary company, Rural Broadband Now! LLC, propose to deploy its Mega*Link ADSL2+ broadband service to the Westport, CA and the surrounding area (i.e. Westport Service Area). This project will employ the use of ADSL2+ to end user locations by deploying a hardened outdoor dslam colocated next to the ATT remote terminal that serves the Westport area. Middle mile connectivity will be provided by wireless microwave communications. Maximum attainable speeds will reach 24mbps down / 2mbps up, with initial service plans available of up to 6mbps down and 1mbps up.

Westport, the northernmost town of Mendocino County's was once the largest community, on the North Coast. When the lumber industry was at its peak, Westport was a town of about 20,000 residents, mostly loggers and fishermen. Today with an area population of just over 450 there is still a strong commitment to community. Westport is the site of Fort Bragg Unified School District's necessary small school, a general store, a number of state and private campgrounds, some vacation rentals and a few restaurants/inns. Subdivisions in the Westport Service area created 30 years ago are home to local residents and to part-time residents. Many Professionals who call Westport home have been unable to work from their own community due to the lack of Broadband services. *Reference* Letters of Support included under Item 17.

Under the California Advanced Services fund (CASF) Westport qualifies as an unserved area as defined as an area not served by any form of facilities-based broadband, or where Internet connectivity is available only through dial-up service or satellite.

Willits proposes to utilize these methods as to Market and as their Outreach Plans to the Westport Community:

- Word of mouth, by identifying community champions;
- Direct mail; and
- By sponsoring local community facilities such as libraries and schools.

Map of the Proposed Project

Reference attached Figure 1

List of Census Block Groups

060450102003

List of Zip codes:

95488 Westport, California

95437 Fort Bragg, California