Author Full Name: Jody Opheim Received Date: 05/04/2022 05:35 PM

Comments Received:

When creating the application process, keep at top of mind that the the rural areas who so desperately need fiber to the premise are the same entities that have very limited staff to complete the applications. Most small rural towns only have a mayor and a clerk - both often part-time. Long applications that require a lot of attachments and background work will mean that some of them do not apply because they do not have the capacity to take on the work. The same goes for the grant administration once awarded - they do not have time for frequent, involved reporting and reimbursement processes. These towns also do not have the cash lying around for matching funds. If a match is required, it will keep many from applying for funds.