2.4.C.1 Project Description and Timeline

Project Narratives must include a "Project Description and Timeline" for both ABDG-Rural and ABDG-Urban grant applications. Provide a detailed description of the infrastructure improvements for which funding is requested, including:

- The nature of the improvements
  This project will provide fiber infrastructure from Sanders, AZ to Wide Ruins which does not currently have fiber from any provider. The route will continue to Ganado, AZ where it will terminate at Cellular One Ganado Water site. This area has fiber by two other providers and SBI also has future build plans as well. By completing this route it will provide a new fiber route off of the Navajo Nation to the I-40 where SBI will work with Table Top/ Ponderosa for layer II services to H5 Data Center in Albuquerque, NM or Iron Mountain Data Center in Phoenix, AZ. This additional route off of the Navajo Nation is an important route that needs to be completed in efforts to improved commerce, quality of life, safety, education and Healthcare to the very rural and remote families that have been heavily affected by the pandemic and have been in the digital divide for far too long.

- How the proposed project addresses the broadband needs of the area(s) that it serves
  SBI is owns and operates its network in and around the proposed project area and has identified the Sanders to Wide Ruins as a gap without any fiber. There is however fiber in place from Wide Ruins to Ganado In the area requires major upgrades to modernize the antiquated infrastructure or the wholesale rate are out of line and do not offer the opportunity for open access, this is resulting the services offered by SBI to the area to be close max capacity until further infrastructure improvement can be made. SBI provides wireless cell/data services, Layer II/III provider to residents, schools, FirstNet, government and healthcare facilities and will be able to quickly upgrade services to its customers.
- Number of community anchor institutions served
  8

- Number of households served
  4055

- Number of businesses served
  10

- Total population served
  15,240

- The anticipated economic development benefit achieved by construction of such improvements
  The proposed project will provide options for residential, small business and enterprise level broadband services which will allow residents in rural communities to expand their job opportunities with online jobs and the ability to drive ecommerce. Additional infrastructure will provide a more robust resilient service for government, healthcare and education facilities in the areas around the proposed route therefore attracting and retain quality team members that will live in and spend in their community of employment. The solution offers components that will assist in more robust coverage for First Net providing better communication for Healthcare in sparsely populated areas, these are the areas that fall in the gaps and cause families to move away from their communities.

- Total miles of fiber to be installed (if applicable)
  65.75

- Location of new fiber (aerial, underground or both?)
  Both Ariel and underground fiber will be installed

- Stated commitment to operate and maintain the network for a minimum of five (5) years upon

completion of the improvements
SBI has been in business over 25 years and intends to continue doing business in the proposed area for another 25 years. See attached

- The party or parties that will perform the infrastructure construction (if known)
  SBI will submit all resumes of the selected construction company for approval, if the state does not approve SBI will seek out another construction to team to assist in completing the proposed project.

- The intended uses of the ABDG Rural/Urban funds in respect to the construction or planning
  100% of the funding request is for construction.

- The specific information required under Section 1.4 (to the extent relevant)
  Eligible Broadband Provider - Founded in 1988, SBI is an FCC-licensed carrier and broadband provider.
  Navajo Nation Support – See letter included from Chris Becenti on behalf of the Navajo Nation

- A timeline for completion of the infrastructure improvements
  SBI is familiar with the permitting and ROW process and Tribal Lands and understands that permitting or construction delays can be commonplace, we can estimate the delivery date for the fiber portion of this bid to be roughly [redacted] after with the exception or permitting and ROW approvals.
- The description should also describe the amount of the cash "match" contribution to be provided, including:
  SBI is proposing cash match of [redacted] of the overall budget – see attached budget sheet.

- The timing of such match
  [redacted]

- The intended uses of the match
  [redacted]

- The identity of any sources other than the applicant who are responsible for such match or portions thereof
  SBI will provide the cash match without any assistance

- The nature of the commitment by the Applicant or other parties to deliver the match including whether such commitment is in writing and binding in all circumstances
  SBI is comitted to providing the proposed project once the project has been bound in writing.

2.4.C.2. Project Description and Timeline – Development (required)

This section should also identify, to the extent known:

- The nature and scope of the project
  SBI is proposing to build 65.75 route mile of new fiber in Apache County on the Navajo Reservation from Sanders, AZ to Ganado, AZ as depicted in attached maps. Not only will the proposed project provide new fiber to a dark area it will greatly enhance the communities and customer it supports in this very rural location and enable SBI to improve its wireless cell/data services, Layer II/III provider to residents, schools, FirstNet, government and healthcare facilities and will be able to quickly upgrade services to its customers. In addition this network will offer access to other carriers/ISP's interested in providing services in these areas.

- Type of technology to be utilized
  The proposed project is a combination of Ariel and Buried fiber. SBI will be providing last mile services at its own expense utilizing, wireless point to multipoint, point to point, fiber and or a combination of both fiber and microwave.

- Type of construction to be undertaken (aerial or underground)
  Bothe Ariel and Buried Fiber are being propose for this project

- Qualifications of the vendors/contractors
  Founded in 1994, SBI is an FCC-licensed carrier and broadband provider providing cell phone service plus fixed, mobile, wireless and fiber fed broadband. SBi supports residents, small business, enterprise and SLED customers in Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Colorado. The total service area including non-Tribal lands is currently larger than West Virginia, with approximately 300,000 residents, and growing. With headquarters in Show Low, AZ, SBI operates a modern 3G/4G LTE network on over 240 cell towers, with nearly 200 employees. Currently, the network uses a mix of 2G (GSM) and 3G (UMTS or W-CDMA) circuit switched technologies to support its Voice layer, while using 3G and 4G (LTE) packet-switched equipment to provide the Data layer. The network includes 223 2G sites, 229 3G sites, and 132 4G sites in various forms of overlays and service areas. SBi backhaul, middle mile and last mile services are comprised of fiber and licensed microwave
- Engineering analysis
  See attached maps

- Project approach
  The fiber routes have been designed to minimize disruption of the local residents, the environment, roads and existing utilities. The fiber cable will be sized to allow for future fiber requirements, in and around the relevant residential and anchor institutions to provide facilities to enable service speeds of 100/25 and 100/100 as required by the Grant.

  The detailed engineering will commence at contract award, the Engineers assigned to the project will work back through design to confirm/edit original engineering design. Upon completion SBI will finalize the project plan, develop BOM and order materials. Additionally SBI and their third party Permit vendor will perform an evaluation to determine what documentation, surveys, or studies may be required before the permitting process can begin. SBI will hold weekly project meeting for status updates and red flags, SBI will provide monthly or quarterly progress reports, whichever the ACA request.

  SBI will maximize its efforts to work quickly and effectively in order to deliver the proposed project in a timely manner. Once the fiber has been 100% tested and accepted, the fiber pairs to each location can be terminated and the physical end to end testing can begin. SBI will provide all closeout testing to the Arizona Commerce Authority at completion.

- Background of the project
  SBI is owns and operates its network in and around the proposed project area and has identified the Sanders to Wide Ruins as a gap without any fiber, other fiber that is in place In the area requires major upgrades to modernize the antiquated infrastructure and as result the services offered by SBI to the area are maximized until further infrastructure improvement can be made. SBI is owns and operates its network in and around the proposed project area and has identified the Sanders to Wide Ruins as a gap without any fiber, other fiber that is in place In the area requires major upgrades to modernize the antiquated infrastructure and as result the services offered by SBI to the area are maximized until further infrastructure improvement can be made. SBI provides wireless cell/data services, Layer II/III provider to residents, schools, FirstNet, government and healthcare facilities and will be able to quickly upgrade services to its customers. This option is a diverse path from the standard I-17 or I-40 corridor options

- Ways in which the project will improve redundancy and reliability, if any

This project will provide fiber infrastructure from Sanders, AZ to Wide Ruins which does not currently have fiber from any provider. The route will continue to Ganado, AZ where it will terminate at Cellular One Ganado Water site. This area has fiber by two other providers and SBI also has future build plans as well. By completing this route it will provide a new fiber route off of the Navajo Nation to the I-40 where SBI will interconnectwith Table Top/ Ponderosa for layer II services to H5 Data Center in Albuquerque, NM or Iron Mountain Data Center in Phoenix, AZ.

**IMPORTANT: review the "FIELDNAMES" worksheet for a description of the data below.
NOTE 1: the 2014-2018 American Community Survey data in this file are estimates; make sure to check the
NOTE 2: the list of tracts below can be joined with a spatial database of tracts to map the hard-to-count or

TRACT/COUNTY IDENTIFIERS						
GEOIDtxt	StateFIPS	StateAbb	StateName	CountyFIPS	CountyName	TractFIPS
04001944901	04	AZ	Arizona	001	Apache County	9449.01
04001944902	04	AZ	Arizona	001	Apache County	9449.02
04001945002	04	AZ	Arizona	001	Apache County	9450.02
04001945100	04	AZ	Arizona	001	Apache County	9451