

**Lee County Board
Dixon, Illinois**

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**IN SUPPORT OF BROADBAND “MIDDLE MILE” INFRASTRUCTURE
GRANT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, high-quality internet access is essential for Lee County citizens to work, learn, and communicate with one another, and it is therefore important that broadband access in unserved and underserved areas be improved and maintained;

WHEREAS, technology is transforming the agriculture industry, businesses, schools, government and other agencies, and such advances are largely dependent on maintaining strong, reliable internet connectivity; and

WHEREAS, the Lee County Board (Board) recognizes the importance of high quality internet access in the unserved and underserved areas of Lee County, and therefore established broadband expansion as one of its top five priorities for ARPA funding; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the benefit of developing public-private partnerships to invest in broadband expansion in an increasingly connected and digitally dependent world; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to participate in a regional broadband initiative with other counties and private partners; and

WHEREAS, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) “Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program” is a grant program to expand middle mile infrastructure, reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas, and increase the resilience of internet infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, the Lee County has an opportunity to participate in a regional broadband project by submitting a joint grant application for the NTIA Middle Mile Infrastructure Program with Ogle County and Syndeo, a private company with experience in broadband project engineering, installation and maintenance.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Lee County Board hereby supports the joint grant application to the NTIA “Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program as follows:

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Section 1. The Board authorizes Lee County’s participation in the grant application totaling \$28,642,000 million dollars. Grant submission deadline is September 30, 2022 at 11:59 PM EDT. Notice of the Award will be on or about March 1, 2023. The buildout of the project has to be completed no later than five (5) years after the date the grant is made available to the grantee.

Section 2. The Board authorizes the allocation of \$1.7 million dollars of grant match in the event the grant is awarded (15% of the broadband infrastructure proposed for Lee County), and acknowledges the match dollars will be payable over the course of the 5-year construction of the project. The Board further acknowledges and understands Ogle County will serve as the lead applicant and their grant match allocation is \$2 million (15% of the broadband infrastructure proposed for Ogle County), and the grant match allocation for Syndeo is \$4.3 million (15% of the broadband infrastructure proposed for Lee and Ogle Counties plus equipment).

Section 3. The Board authorizes the Board Chair to issue a letter of certification and/or a standby letter of credit for the grant application demonstrating financial payment assurance of Lee County’s \$1.7 million grant match.

Section 4. The Board acknowledges the Middle Mile Grant (MMG) Program Opportunity Number is NTIA-MMG-2022; the MMG Program Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number is 11.033; the MMG CFDA Title is the “Middle Mile Grant”.

PASSED BY THE LEE COUNTY BOARD

THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2022

BY: _____
Lee County Board Chairman

ATTEST:

BY: _____
Lee County Clerk