



Lamoille FiberNet

www.lamoillefiber.net

Senate Finance Committee Testimony
February 19, 2021

Introduction

- Founded in July 2020 - we represent eight towns:
 - Belvidere
 - Cambridge
 - Eden
 - Hyde Park
 - Johnson
 - Morristown
 - Stowe
 - Waterville
- The population of the region we serve is approximately 23,000 total, with addresses located on over 500 road miles.



Updates

- Our greatest asset is our active, deeply engaged board — as seen by how much has been accomplished in only six months:
 - Completed start-up administration: policies, insurance, etc.
 - Completed feasibility study and business plan.
 - Completed pole data collection in priority areas: Cambridge, Waterville, Belvidere, Eden and Johnson.
 - Partnered with two area supervisory unions to extend internet access to students who did not have other options for remote learning (second round of CARES Act funding). Also extended access for two libraries.
 - Engaged in regular outreach through Front Porch Forum.



2021 Financial Needs: Operations Management

Goal: Keep the CUD operational

- Sustain the position of the District Administration/Operations Coordinator throughout the entire year (we currently have funding for the first three months in 2021) - **\$45,000**
- Sustain Clerk and Accountant positions - **\$10,000**
- Invest into a secure email, data and communications system that enables compliance with Public Records Act - **\$5,000**
- Sustain community outreach through Front Porch Forum throughout 2021 (we currently have funding for the first 5 months): **\$2,000**

TOTAL Operations: **\$62,000**



2021 Financial Needs: Pre-construction

Goal: Transition to pre-construction

Lamoille FiberNet's recently drafted business plan is predicated on developing public-private partnerships with ISPs currently operating in the region. We need funding for:

- Consultant/legal counsel to guide us through the process of preparing RFPs and public-private partnership agreements with the ISPs. **\$20,000**
- Design/Engineering, public ROW permitting and utility attachments applications for a 50-mile pilot project. **\$225,000**
- Construction grant/loan applications writer. **\$20,000**
(Grants are preferred and will help with keeping service rates more affordable)

TOTAL Preconstruction for 2021: **\$265,000**

