

## **USDA Rural Development has approved a grant of \$2,203,767**

**Program:** Community Connect Grants

**State/County:** AK/Matanuska-Susitna

**Congressman:** AK-00 (project); AK-00 (awardee)

**Senators:**

**Recipient:** Matanuska Telephone Association, Inc.

**Recipient Contact:** Eric Anderson

**Mailing Address:**

**Email Address:**

**Phone Number:** 907-761-2795

**Project Description:** Matanuska Telephone Association, Inc. (MTA) will use Community Connect grant funding provided by the RUS to construct fiber optic cables from MTA's existing fiber cables out to existing copper and microwave fed equipment sites and add one new site. The project will enable MTA to expand its current broadband service offerings in the community so that customers will have the ability to subscriber to service with speeds ranging from 5 Mbps to 10 Mbps. MTA is working closely with the Matanuska Susitna Borough School District to provide enhanced broadband service to the Glacier View School. The project will also fund the construction of a community center where all residents will have access to free service at the Broadband Grant Speed of 5 Mbps (upload and download speeds combined) for at least two years.

**People Who Will Benefit:** 508

**Total Project Cost:** \$2,203,767

**RUS ID:** AK1411-A23

## **USDA Rural Development has approved a grant of \$1,418,502**

**Program:** Community Connect Grants

**State/County:** AK/North Slope

**Congressman:**

**Senators:**

**Recipient:** Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative, Inc.

**Recipient Contact:** Steve Merriam, CEO/General Manager

**Mailing Address:**

**Email Address:**

**Phone Number:** 630-206-0447

**Project Description:** Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative, Inc will utilize Community Connect grant funding to provide the Point Hope PFSA with the ability to construct a broadband network to provide broadband services to the residents and businesses with in the PFSA.

The types of services to be offered by ASTAC in the PHA PFSA include high-speed Internet, local telephone service and custom calling features, long distance telephone service, and Ethernet transport services. Funding for this project will allow ASTAC to prepare the Point Hope access network for an undersea fiber connection that is planned for 2016/2017. The high-speed Internet service deployed over the FTTH & VDSL equipment with the Point Hope Project will have a superior user experience to other technologies. The speeds will be faster and more reliable when compared to that of traditional DSL or wireless product offerings, with the new FTTH & VDSL system the ability to move from a TDM voice circuit to a VoIP circuit is possible. This provides the possibility for additional IP-based calling features.

**People Who Will Benefit:** 508

**Total Project Cost:** \$1,418,502

**RUS ID:** AK1412-A23

## **USDA Rural Development has approved a grant of \$3,000,000**

**Program:** Community Connect Grants

**State/County:** AK/North Slope

**Congressman:** Young, Don (AK 00)

**Senators:** Murkowski, Lisa (AK), Sullivan, Dan (AK)

**Recipient:** Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative, Inc.

**Recipient Contact:** Mrs. Clover McNeil

**Mailing Address:** 4300 B Street, Suite 501 Anchorage, AK 99503

**Email Address:** clover@astac.net

**Phone Number:** 907-564-2680

**Project Description:** Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative, Inc. will utilize \$3,000,000 in Community Connect grant funding to construct 70 mile fiber route to eliminate the current satellite backhaul that supports the existing customers, build approximately a 5 mile Fiber-to-the-Premises system to benefit approximately 150 residents and 37 businesses, and upgrade an existing wireless system to an LTE network in the Atquasuk, North Slope Borough, Alaska service area. This broadband network will provide significant benefits to this remote area by improving their economy, educational access, public safety and quality of life. A community center will be provided in an existing building where residents can access the Internet free of charge for at least two years.

**People Who Will Benefit:** 150

**Other Funding:** \$3,570,011

**Total Project Cost:** \$6,570,011

**RUS ID:** AK1412-B23