



# Cochise County Board of Supervisors

*Public Programs...Personal Service*  
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January 28, 2025

Arizona Commerce Authority  
Sandip Bhowmick, State Broadband Director  
Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program  
100 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 400  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Valley TeleCom BEAD Funding Application

Dear Mr. Bhowmick,

I am writing to you regarding a proposal submitted by Valley Telecom Group for BEAD funding to expand and improve internet services in rural areas of Cochise County. Valley is a community-based provider that has been serving members in Cochise County for over 60 years. In that capacity, they have proven to be a reliable provider for our region.

If this project is approved, the more rural residents of Cochise County will have access to fiber internet with minimum speeds of 100mbps/25mbps.

The pandemic has emphasized the essential need for high-speed broadband internet access for education, commerce, and healthcare. This grant, when approved, will increase access to high-speed internet, expanding opportunities for residents to obtain higher education, have critical access to telemedicine, and possibly work remotely, all of which greatly improve the quality of life for a rural community.

This project directly supports the Cochise County Board of Supervisors Strategic Work Plan 2021- 2024, specifically Priority 1 Economic Development Countrywide, Enhance broadband capabilities in rural areas.

This application is consistent with the goal of expansion of reliable high-speed broadband internet access in rural Cochise County communities. We respectfully ask that you give this proposal full and fair consideration as you make this important funding decision.

Respectfully,

Frank Antenori, Chair  
Cochise County Board of Supervisors

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