

LEWIS COUNTY HIGH SPEED EDUCATION NETWORK

A COLLABORATIVE TECHNOLOGY
PROJECT TO SUPPORT STUDENTS

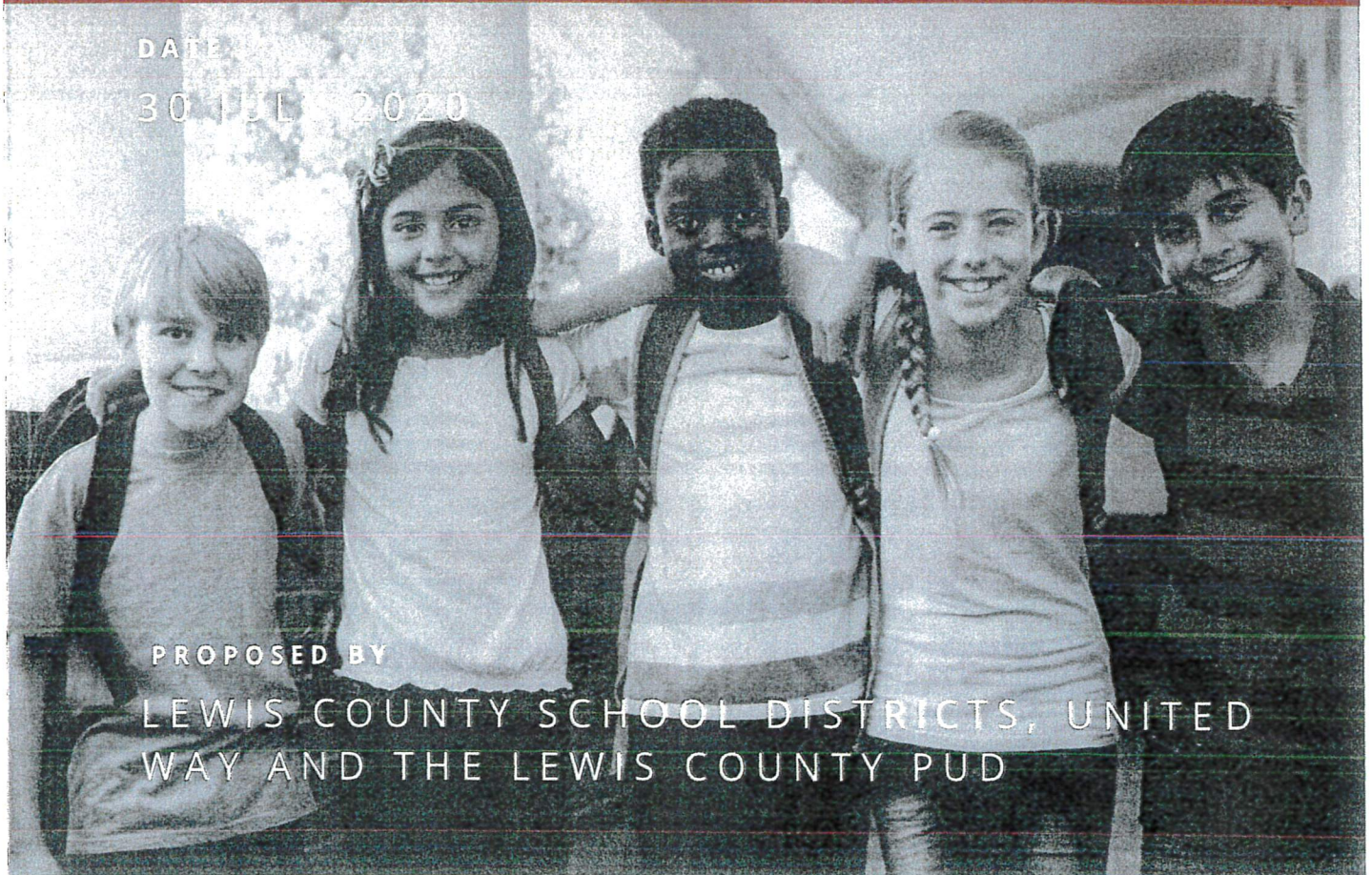
TOGETHER WE CAN PROVIDE ALL LEWIS COUNTY STUDENTS ACCESS
TO HIGH-QUALITY, HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND TO ENSURE EQUITY IN
ACHIEVING EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS BOTH NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

DATE

30 JUL 2020

PROPOSED BY

LEWIS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS, UNITED
WAY AND THE LEWIS COUNTY PUD



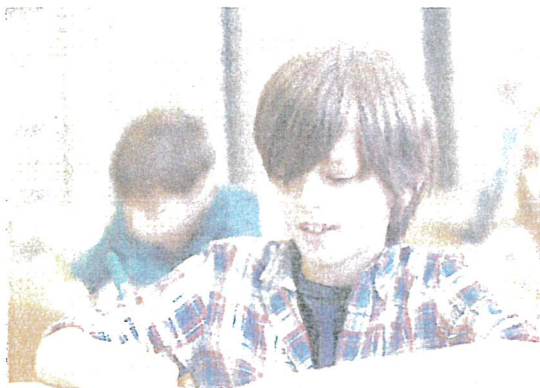
ANTICIPATING AND OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

The upcoming school year will bring a variety of challenges to Lewis County students and their families. For many students, a particularly daunting hurdle will be the lack of high-speed, dependable broadband internet access. This lack of service effectively eliminates their ability to participate in either a hybrid or fully online school model. This is a major concern, given the current hybrid and fully online educational models being proposed in response to COVID-19. As of the writing of this proposal, over 50% of students in Washington will be starting school fully online, and it is anticipated that all students will be forced to do school online at least part of this next school year.

To support these students, the Lewis County School Districts are partnering with ToledoTel, US Cellular, and other local communications and internet

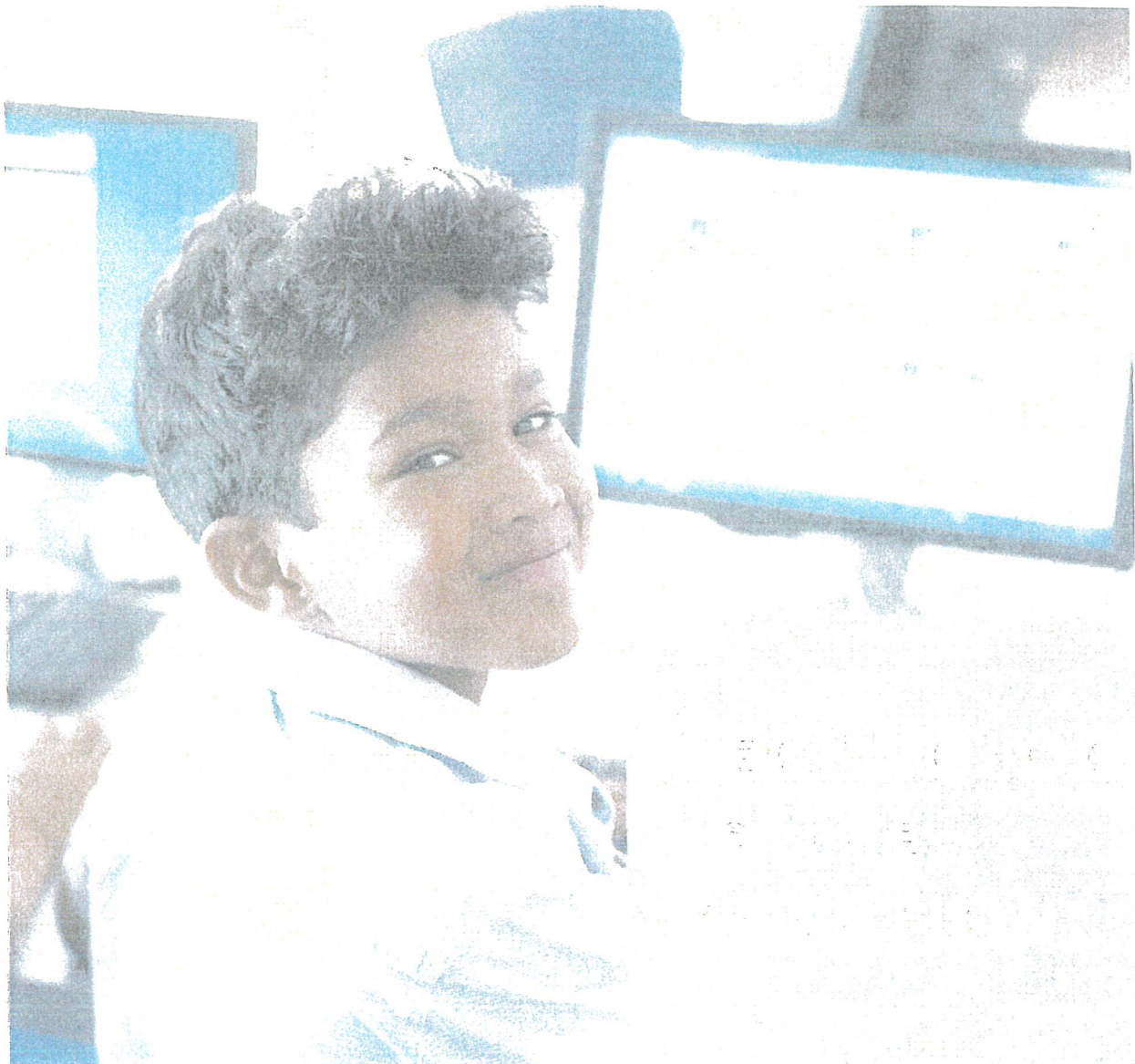
providers, to deliver high speed, high-quality internet connections to students and their families to ensure equity of access to basic education services. As part of this effort, we are engaging with vendors who provide local internet access to Lewis County residents to examine cost sharing or zero-cost models for families who are socio-economically disadvantaged or who have lost income due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

Using this multi-pronged approach to provide high-speed internet services will ensure that equitable access to educational and related social service resources delivered through schools remains available for all students and families in Lewis County.



OUR PURPOSE

The purpose of this project is to ensure students have all the tools necessary to weather the educational challenges brought on by the COVID-19 virus. To do so, we must facilitate access to educational resources and learning assistance through technology-based solutions. This project will connect approximately 700 households to broadband services and support a digital learning environment for all. In addition, by focusing on connecting families of school-age children, we are simultaneously providing opportunities for online employment to family members who must stay at home due to COVID-19 school closures.



HOW WILL IT WORK?

Through a cooperative agreement, local providers will connect families with high-speed services in areas where this option currently exists. For example, cable companies will provide internet services to an unserved student family through an existing home connection. In return, the family, the district or a third party resource will pay a discounted rate for that service.

If a student family has an available internet provider, the resource pool will provide a one-year commitment to pay discounted service fees. If a family does not have access to an existing internet connection, then a service provider will first connect the student's home. Fees will then be paid for the same one-year commitment.

Where existing broadband infrastructure does not exist, WiFi providers such as ToledoTel will connect to available fiber and provide connection via point-to-point wireless connections. Where possible, cellular providers such as US Cellular will provide 4G hot-spots delivering broadband speeds to the student's home.

This multi-channel approach leverages existing infrastructure throughout the county where services are already in place to rapidly connect students and families in those areas. In parallel, students living in the more rural areas of the county will be connected through the wireless nodes installed by WiFi and cellular providers.

Importantly, these services will be connected in a manner that does not impede the existing efforts or agreements to develop and construct a longer-term solution for broadband services throughout the County. These services will only be available for the period of time necessary to gain access to educational instruction and community resources for all Lewis County students until the longer-term solutions envisioned by the County can be delivered.



WHO NEEDS SERVICE?

Broadband service options vary widely within the boundaries of Lewis County School Districts. As an example, below is data already collected and analyzed by the Chehalis School District.

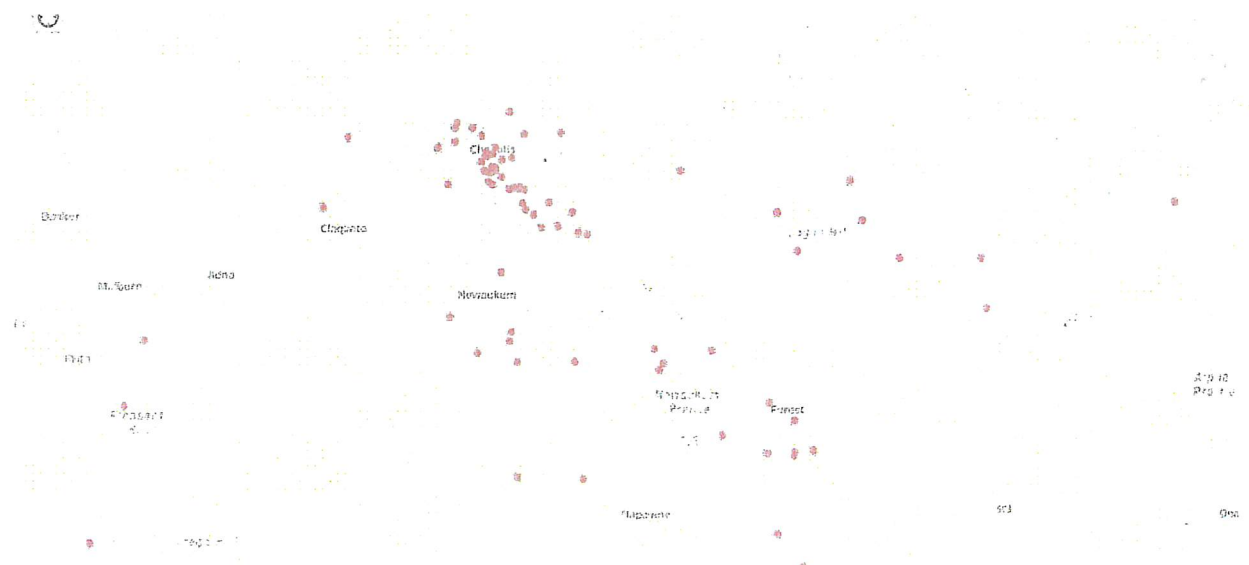
To determine which students need service, the District conducted a survey to identify students without current internet access. The first survey resulted in over 100 students without internet access. Additional research is showing that this number is likely two to three times higher.

Of the first set of student survey data, non-identifiable information was extracted using the District student information system. This file was then imported into a geographical information mapping system (GIS) to geo-locate each student's home.

This allowed us to visually determine which students were close to an existing service provider and which students lived in areas of the District without a current service provider. Below are exhibits detailing the number and location of these students.

Student families in the first survey have been contacted to verify internet connectivity challenges and to determine connection options.

Exhibit #1



Of the 101 students in the first survey, 61 of those students are in an area where broadband service is likely available but the home is currently not connected.

Exhibit #2

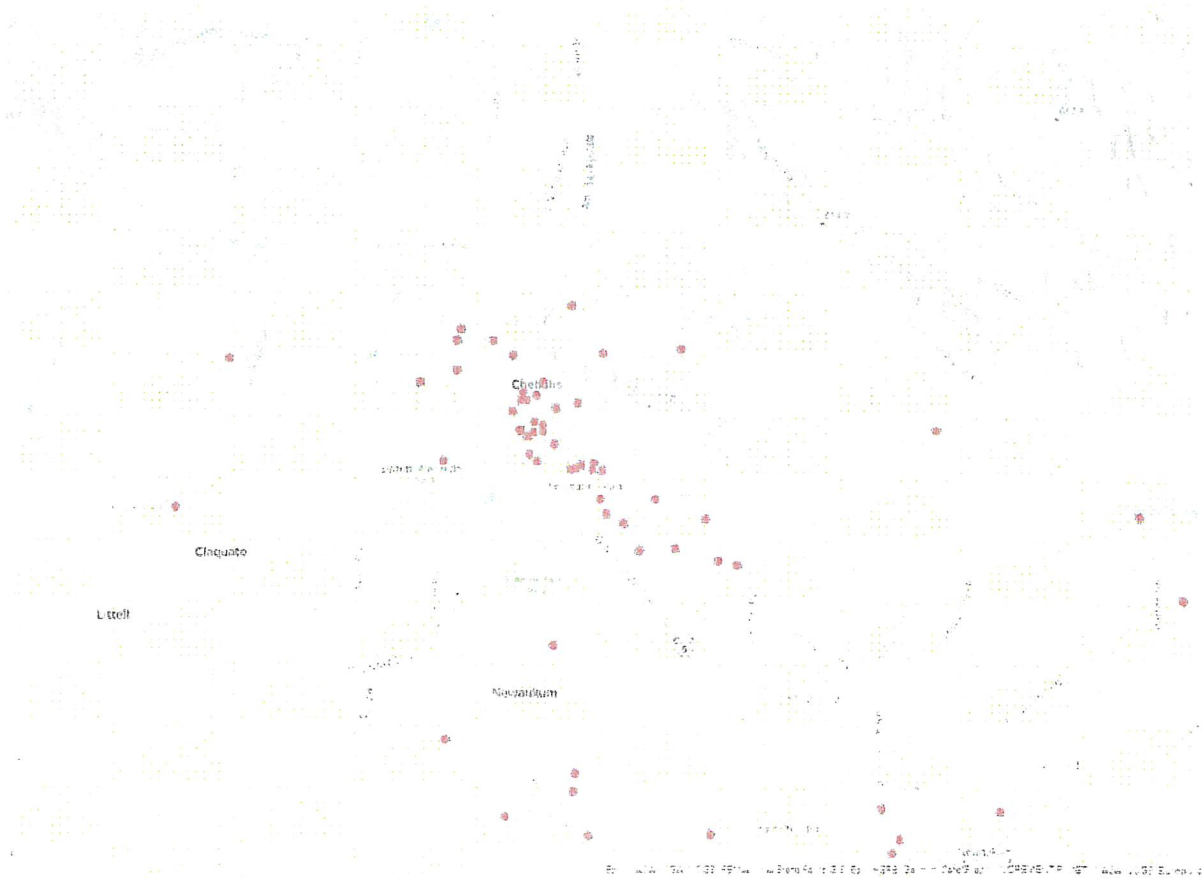


Exhibit #3

NEXT STEPS

In the coming days and weeks, the project team will leverage the proven process already underway in the Chehalis School District to develop an individual broad band access plan for each district, school and student in the County. This effort will entail contacting the various service providers, conducting site evaluations, determining costs for each implementation, and designing a connection plan for the Lewis County High Speed Education Network.

Once these details are finalized, the execution phase will begin with a project goal of having all students connected to the internet within thirty days of the start of the 2020-21 school year.

We realize this is an ambitious goal. However, given the educational environment that is being created to provide a high-quality learning experience for all students, the objectives of this project are critical and non-optional. We must provide equitable access to blended learning and online education for all our students and their families.



INTEGRATING RESOURCES

Our effort will include a combination of funds from school districts, CARES Act funds, nonprofit and community service organizations, foundations and the private-sector. All constrained funds will be expended in a fashion to mitigate any necessary deadlines.

We anticipate the resources necessary to connect all students for the next school year to be approximately of \$650,000. Local foundations and private-sector contributors are ready to match, and exceed, the County's contribution of the \$150,000 related to this proposal. Any consideration by the County for releasing additional funds would further ensure this critical work can take place in the shortest amount of time.

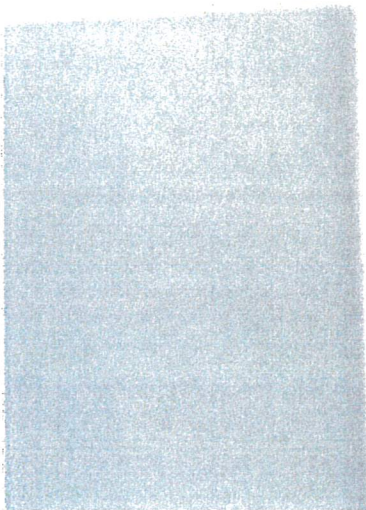
In addition to the resources related to this proposal, we are continuing to secure additional financial resources, including grants, provider discounts and contributions, to further ensure equitable access to online education for all students in Lewis County.



SCOPE OF WORK

The scope of work for this project is ambitious, but attainable. Below is an itemized list of measurable steps and milestones.

1. Collect CSV files from the 13 school districts county-wide that identify which students do not have an internet connection.
2. Contact each family on the list to verify location and status of internet connection, as well as financial needs.
3. Geo-code all students and identify connection options and solutions.
4. Contact internet providers to coordinate connections and installations.
5. Continuously monitor implementation effectiveness to ensure students have consistent high-quality service and adequate bandwidth speeds to meet the demands of the household learning environment.
6. Coordinate with all partners and providers to ensure short-term solutions do not impede or impinge upon long-term solutions focused on the development of a county-wide broad band solution.
7. Review project progress on a weekly, monthly and quarterly basis.
8. Generate reports to key stakeholders that demonstrate success against agreed upon benchmarks and milestones.



PROJECT SCHEDULE

Below is an estimate reflecting a project schedule that would start the first week of August and complete all work related to these funds prior to October 1, 2020

Upon award of this project by the County, we will further define the schedule and include information on weekly and monthly updates.

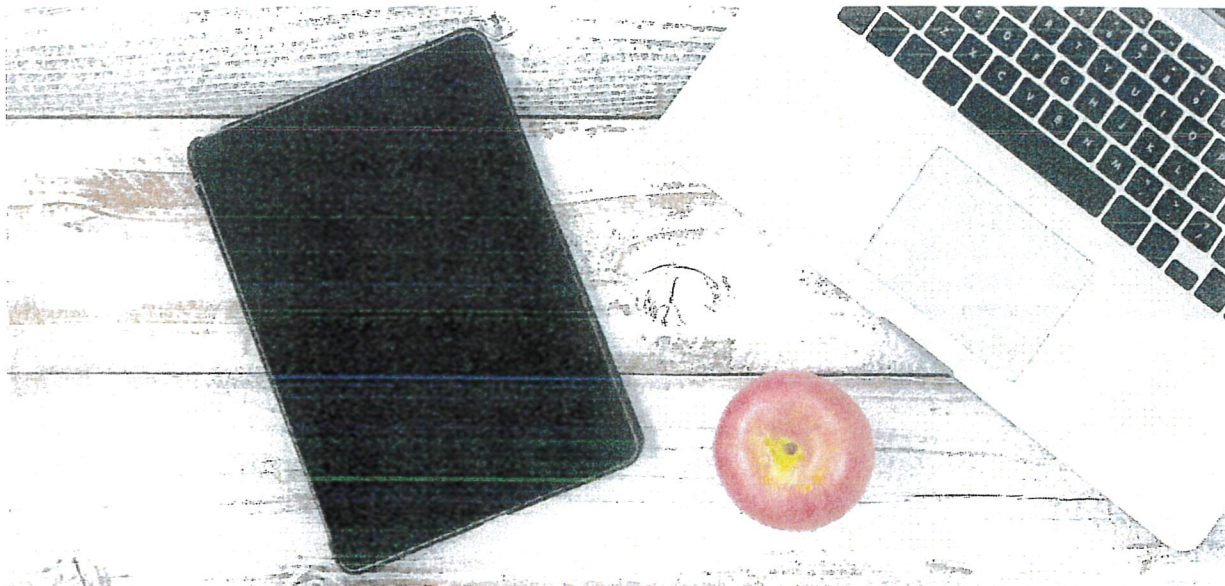
ic	Start Date	Finish Date	Aug 2020	Sep 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020
☐ Collect student data from school districts	Aug 3, 2020	Aug 14, 2020				
☐ Contact families to verify need and location	Aug 10, 2020	Aug 21, 2020				
☐ Geo-Code all students - determine connection options	Aug 10, 2020	Aug 14, 2020				
☐ Coordinate with providers to get students connected	Aug 17, 2020	Oct 30, 2020				
☐ Monitor and validate installations and bandwidth speeds	Aug 17, 2020	Oct 30, 2020				
☐ Verify solutions do not conflict with County long-term vision	Aug 17, 2020	Sep 17, 2020				
☐ Review progress	Aug 10, 2020	Nov 13, 2020				
☐ Provide stakeholder reports	Nov 16, 2020	Nov 30, 2020				



PROJECT BUDGET

The budget associated with this project looks at the project and financial management, the fees and services associated with the connection provided to students and the tasks necessary to complete this important work. The budget has been presented in a way that allows scalability predicated on the number of households served. It is important to understand that through our resource integration model and our partnership model, we believe we can achieve full funding support for this budget with your help.

Task	Hours	Rates		Total Cost
Project Management and Oversight	250	\$	250	\$ 62,500
Financial Management	150	\$	150	\$ 22,500
Estimated fees for ISP services to student homes	700	\$	468	\$ 327,600
Equipment and Installation Fees	250	\$	400	\$ 100,000
Collect CSV files from the 13 school districts county-wide	130	\$	100	\$ 13,000
Geo-code all students and identify connection solutions	150	\$	150	\$ 22,500
Confirm the connection solution will meet each household's needs	115	\$	55	\$ 6,325
Contact ISP Providers to coordinate connections and installations	250	\$	100	\$ 25,000
Continuously monitor implementation effectiveness	700	\$	55	\$ 38,500
Coordinate with all partners and providers	50	\$	250	\$ 12,500
Establish key metrics that validate project achievements	50	\$	150	\$ 7,500
Review project progress on a weekly, monthly and quarterly basis.	25	\$	125	\$ 3,125
Generate reports to key stakeholders	25	\$	125	\$ 3,125
Total Project Costs			\$	644,175



PARTNERS

This project is the result of a dynamic and collaborative partnership between the Chehalis School District, ToledoTel, Teater-Crocker Inc., United Way and the Lewis County Board of Commissioners.

We look forward to working with all providers, businesses and organizations that would like to participate in this effort. This is a very inclusive project and we believe that *many minds create great ideas.*



OUR TEAM

Our team consists of a number of local education and technology experts. This team has experience in the delivery of large scale technology solutions to education organizations, not only in Lewis County, but across the state and the nation. We pride ourselves on taking on seemingly difficult and sometimes impossible projects and bringing them on-line, on-time and on-budget. We would like to introduce ourselves.



Phil Crocker, Teater-Crocker Inc.

Mr. Crocker offers a broad range of strategic visioning, detailed execution and creative problem- solving skills demonstrated in both public education and business leadership. This blending of best-practices from the private sector with a passion and understanding of K-12 education processes and systems allows for the delivery of creative, replicable, research-based solutions to systemic challenges in public education. He has designed, implemented and managed successful improvement projects across the spectrum of education focusing on the use of data and metrics to identify strategic improvements and then implement research-proven, long- term solutions. Mr. Crocker has designed and implemented solutions for multi-state, federally- funded projects, multiple state Departments of Education, and school districts throughout the country ranging in size from 1,000 to 100,000 students.



Joe Clark, Community Liaison / Education Technology Specialist

Mr. Clark has over 25 years of experience working in the public sector, including senior leadership positions with local school districts, Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the U.S. Department of Education. His areas of expertise include policy and legislative analysis, capital improvement planning, community engagement, transportation planning, budget and finance and strategic planning. He has a depth of experience, particularly within the context of transportation, relating to organizational effectiveness, staffing and performance, financial systems and communication planning. His other proficiencies include operational systems and analysis; transportation management, routing and vehicle maintenance; geographical information systems (GIS) analysis and technology systems. He has a depth of experience, particularly within the context of the public sector, relating to project management, and large scale data collection systems. Mr. Clark has served as a school board director for the past nineteen years and has worked with various local, state, and national organizations in this capacity. He was the assistant director of transportation for the Centralia – Chehalis Pupil Transportation Cooperative, and the Deputy Director of Pupil Transportation for the State of Washington.

**United Way (corporate profile) Project Fiscal Agent**

At United Way of Lewis County, we unite community resources to invest in solutions that lift families out of poverty in our community. Our board, staff, donors, volunteers and community partners are committed to creating lasting, sustainable changes that transform lives and build a thriving community for us all. We exist because issues such as poverty, homelessness and educational achievement require the collaboration of all sectors including for-profit businesses, non-profit organizations, all levels of government and all levels of education. In order to improve lives in Lewis County, United Way of Lewis County focuses on three areas of impact: early childhood education, affordable housing, and access to resources. Our community impact approach is unique - we not only address people's immediate needs, but we also work toward changing systems so that people can avoid challenges altogether. It is about investing in the present and the foundation, as well as the future. A healthy community learns well, earns well, and lives well. We believe that every family facing poverty deserves a fighting chance at success. With your support, together, we can change the story for struggling families in Lewis County.

**ToledoTel (corporate profile)/ service partner**

ToledoTel is a family owned Local Exchange Carrier headquartered in Toledo, Washington, USA. ToledoTel provides facilities based telecommunications and broadband services to Toledo and other communities in Washington State. For almost a century the Ramsey family has lead ToledoTel. Much in communications technology has changed, but little has changed in the organization's purpose of connecting people and enriching the community. All services are delivered over our state-of-the-art network, and backed by professional customer service and local technicians. ToledoTel's strategic vision is to build an end-to-end network of fiber optics that entails redundant routes throughout the Northwest Region, as well as direct fiber connections to the customers' premises. Our network allows us to provide the latest in voice, broadband data, and media services such as, high speed Internet, over-the-top applications, special access circuits, and hosted solutions for business and public institutions. We feel this commitment to infrastructure benefits our local economy, which will be more and more dependent on telecommunications and Internet services in the future.



ToledoTel

Lewis County Education Network

Letter of Support

Board of Community Commissioners,

At ToledoTel, we have been supporting school districts across Lewis County for years. Now as Lewis County develops strategies to address high-speed network connectivity for all students during the COVID virus pandemic, ToledoTel is once again a key partner. The Lewis County Education Network is an effort to bring the private-sector and public-sector together in a way that brings immediate benefit to the students and families of our local school districts. ToledoTel is a founding partner in this effort and has already identified several ways we can support the technical implementation necessary to get kids connected.

In the coming months, we will work with the LCEN to use some of the latest technological tools in the industry to provide connectivity to homes. We understand the vast topographical challenges that face an effort like this and can support the decision-making process with regards to various solutions in hopes of lowering the costs of installation. Furthermore, we can help to extend the limited resources associated with this project to ensure they go farther and reach more of the students.

The Board of County Commissioners can rest assured that this team, with its educational leadership, community support and technology expertise, will partner to meet the goals of this tremendously important project. We understand the benefits this will bring to our students, families, schools, and communities to support education for all.

Fred W Rider

Fred W Rider

ToledoTel, Sales Engineer



July 30, 2020

UNITED WAY 2020-2021

OFFICERS

Court Stanley, *President*
Port Blakely
Gretchen Moore, *President-Elect*
Pacific Mobile Structures
Christian Bruhn, *Vice President*
Centralia College
Angie Brown, *Past President*
Lewis County Title
Richard DeBolt, *Secretary*
Representative, 20th Legislative District
Donna Olson, *Treasurer*
Lewis County-Retired
Lynn Braun, *Resource Development Chair*
Cardinal Glass FG
Derek Burger, *Major Gifts Chair*
Edward Jones
Doris Brumsickle, *Community Impact/Investment*
Centralia College Trustee

BOARD MEMBERS

Andrea Culletto
Twin Transit
Jeff Davis
Onalaska School District
Dianne Dorey
Lewis County Assessor
Amy Howlett
Security State
Brandon Johnson
SCJ Alliance
Mary Catherine McAleer
Weyerhaeuser
Sue Muller
Lewis PUD-Retired
Heather Pinkerton
Chehalis School District
Gerda Stafford
Providence
Dr. Richard Stride
Cascade Community Healthcare
Sandy Yanish
TransAlta

STAFF

Debbie Campbell
Executive Director
Linda Breen
Executive Assistant
Angela French
Resource Development
Linda Lee
Finance

United Way of Lewis County

Lewis County Education Network

Lewis County Board of County Commissioners,

I am writing this letter of support for the Lewis County Education Network (LCEN) in hopes that you will fully fund this critically important project. At United Way of Lewis County, we have identified education as one of our focus areas as we work to lifting families out of poverty – 30% by 2030. Unfortunately, intergenerational poverty and lack of accessible resources to all has created many of the issues our community is faced with today. This important effort provides a solution to deliver high-speed internet services to 700 students county-wide so that they can continue their education in the upcoming school year. It will be especially difficult for students in the 2020-21 school year with the hybrid learning model of working from home in combination with a limited on-site schedule at their school. Teachers are having to incorporate new strategies and instructional techniques to deliver the quality of education we have all know and come to respect here in Lewis County. Yet, we know has hard as teachers will try, this learning environment is going to be challenging.

Now imagine if your family does not have high-speed internet access. How can we expect these children to learn at the same rate as their peers who do have access to quality broad band service? How can we create a fair and equitable environment for these students?

The Lewis County Education Network with your financial support is paving the way to provide all students in Lewis County with these tools. Through a use of a variety of broad services and service providers, the LCEN is connecting students to networks in a way that is both equitable and attainable. The cost of the average connection is approximately \$40 a month. Again, with your help and support, LCEN will coordinate the equipment installation, the broad band services, and the billing so these students can focus on their schoolwork. As a County on moving forward, we can allow our most precious resource, our children to be left without the 21st century skills and tools to succeed.

Please support this effort with any all resources you have available. The future of our children depends on it.

Sincerely,

Debbie Campbell
United Way of Lewis County
Executive Director



Boys & Girls Club of Lewis County

Our mission is to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

The Boys and Girls Club of Lewis County fully supports the Lewis County High Speed Education Network project. At Club, we operate with three pillars for all of our programming and care for kids: healthy lifestyles, academic excellence and citizenship. We know how critical it is for kids to succeed academically. This project aims to lessen the gap in academic progress between the haves of internet access and the have nots. In our new era of work from home and learn from home, this connection is vitally important.

We continue our efforts to provide a safe, quality, caring environment for K-12 students as well. We are developing virtual programming and launched the "Quara-teen" program last Spring to keep connected with our teenage Club members while they were at home. By increasing student connectivity across the County, this project also makes it possible for us to connect and support more kids in a virtual manner. It is the type of effort that can be leveraged in multiple ways, from our type of Club programming and support to telehealth appointments to improving work from home options for parents and more. The return on the investment may not be easily calculated, but we are confident it is significant and long-lasting.

We applaud the effort of this coalition and we encourage funders to make this a priority effort. We cannot afford for our students in our communities to fall behind due to lack of internet access and then be less able to compete in school, post-secondary opportunities and job markets as a result. This project serves students now and also shores up the future for our students and community.

Sincerely,

Kelly S. Smith Johnston

Kelly Smith Johnston, Board President

On behalf of the Board of Directors for Boys and Girls Club of Lewis County



July 31, 2020

To the Lewis County High Speed Education Network,

Our mission in the Chehalis School District is to provide an equitable education for all students. Some key learnings from last spring were that although our staff and students are resilient to change and can adapt to a distance learning environment - our infrastructure did not provide access for all. With insufficient internet access and cell service in and around Chehalis, some of our families struggled to stay connected. It becomes an issue of educational justice when the students, without the proper tools, remain marginalized. As we face a blended learning environment in the fall with the possibility of a fully online learning environment, we need to address this issue with great urgency.

The Chehalis School District supports the work of the Lewis County High Speed Education Network. We rely on their success for our student achievement goals to succeed. Our children need to be able to be learners today so they can be leaders tomorrow. Every child deserves to have an equal opportunity to realize their full potential, and we proudly support this effort to bring digital access for the surrounding communities.

We appreciate the partnership with ToledoTel, Lewis County PUD, Teater-Crocker Inc., United Way, and the Lewis County Board of Commissioners. This collaboration is a celebration of our community and what we can accomplish together.

Sincerely,

Dr. Christine Moloney
Superintendent

Dr. Christine Moloney
Superintendent

Dr. Brian Fox
Assistant Superintendent

Heather Pinkerton
Director of Business and Operations