USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

Rural Development

RUS Telecommunications Program

1400 Independence Ave, SW
Room 4121 - Stop 1590
Washington, DC 20250

Voice 202.720.0800

November 24, 2025

Mr. John Mullins
Director
County of Hickman
115 Murphree Avenue
Centerville, Tennessee 37033-1443

Re: Grants.gov Application # GRANT14379026

Dear Mr. Mullins:

I am pleased to congratulate you on your organization's selection for $532,328 grant under the FY 2025 Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Grant Program administered by the Rural Utilities Service (RUS). The RUS designation for your grant is TN0780-A16.

Although we are very glad to be making this grant to County of Hickman, we would appreciate if you did not announce this grant offer until USDA makes a formal announcement.

In the near future, you will receive legal documents for your execution. This will formalize the agreement and enable you to request funds. If you wish to view the grant document, you will find a blank copy on our DLT website under the To Apply tab at:

https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/dlt_grant_agreement.pdf.

To generate the legal documents, we request that you send an email to dltinfo@usda.gov, confirming that (1) **County of Hickman** is the correct legal name of the entity, and (2) Mr. Mullins can sign on behalf of County of Hickman and should receive all correspondence regarding the TN0780-A16 grant.

If the entity's legal name is incorrect, please send an email to dltinfo@usda.gov specifying the correct legal name along with acceptable evidence of legal existence. Further, if Mr. Mullins is not the representative who can sign on behalf of County of Hickman, please provide the name, title, phone number and email address of the correct representative.

Please provide your email response to dltinfo@usda.gov by December 8, 2025.

A copy of your final budget is enclosed. Revisions, if any, are explained in detail at the bottom of the budget. While the budget has been reviewed, **items are still subject to meet program requirements for eligibility**. Please work with your General Field Representative (GFR) if you have any questions or concerns about line-item eligibility.

We look forward to working with you to bring the benefits of advanced telecommunications services to rural America.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Sincerely,

Shekinah D. Pepper

SHEKINAH PEPPER, Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator
Loan Origination and Approval Division
Telecommunications Program

Enclosure

cc: Patrick Jaynes, State Director, Tennessee
Tyler Hayes, General Field Representative, Tennessee

Application Number: DLT-2025-083

Executive Order 14173 Certification

As identified in Executive Order (EO) 14173, *Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity*, it is the policy of the United States to protect the civil rights of all Americans and to promote individual initiative, excellence, and hard work. Furthermore, the Secretary of Agriculture has officially established as a priority via Secretary's Memorandum 1078-004 the assurance that the Department's grants, cooperative agreements, and other similar arrangements do not support programs or organizations that promote or take part in diversity, equity, and inclusion ("DEI") initiatives or any other initiatives that discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or another protected characteristic.

By applying for or accepting federal funds from USDA, recipient(s) certify compliance with all applicable Federal antidiscrimination laws and that complying with those laws is a material condition of receiving federal funding for purposes of 31 U.S.C. § 3729(b)(4). Recipients are responsible for ensuring subrecipients and contractors also comply.

_____ _____

Signature Date