

December 2, 2020

Senator Cecile Bledsoe, Co-Chair
Representative Jeff Wardlaw, Co-Chair
Arkansas Legislative Council
500 Woodlane Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Senator Bledsoe and Representative Wardlaw,

As required by Section 29 of Act 139 of 2020, I have enclosed five (5) Rural Broadband I.D. grant awards for approval by the Arkansas Legislative Council. The UAMS Institute for Digital Health & Innovation (IDHI) Technical Review Committee completed a thorough evaluation of the applications submitted by the cities and counties. I have enclosed copies of the successful applications with supporting information for your review.

Rural Broadband I.D. Grant Awards

Little River County – Primary Contact, Judge Mike Cranford – Award Amount \$75,000
Eagle Ridge Property Owners Association – Primary Contact, Mr. John Park – Award Amount \$75,000
City of Tull – Primary Contact, Mayor William Davis – Award Amount \$40,000
City of Ward – Primary Contact, Mayor Charles Gastineau – Award Amount \$75,000
City of Sherwood – Primary Contact, Mayor Virginia Young – Award Amount \$75,000

The grants are available to help cities, incorporated towns, counties and unincorporated communities conduct broadband due-diligence business studies. The studies are required in federal grant and loan applications for broadband infrastructure. Communities can use their broadband due-diligence business studies to apply for funding from:

The Federal Communications Commission's Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Program
The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural eConnectivity Pilot Program (ReConnect)
The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Bill; and
Other federal grants or loans for broadband development programs.

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Sanford Jr., M.D.
Interim Director
Institute of Digital Health and Innovation
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences