

**APPLICATION FOR CRAFTSBURY BUSINESSES:  
FREE HOOK-UP TO NEW FIBER NETWORK**

Prior to filling out this form, please see the backside for information about eligibility for hook-up assistance and for more about the new, very high-speed Internet option soon to be available to roughly half of all town locations.

Business Name:

Nature of Business:

Business Owner(s):

Business Physical Address:

Contact (Phone & Email):

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Please complete all of the following questions and sign the declaration at the bottom.

1) **When did this business begin operating?** *Give month & year if possible* \_\_\_\_\_

2) **How many employees work at this business?** *Self-employed should count self in the appropriate category. Contractors who spend at least a quarter-time working solely for this business may be counted. Enter seasonal employees as half- or quarter-time as appropriate.*

(Full-time) \_\_\_\_\_ (Half-time) \_\_\_\_\_ (Quarter-time) \_\_\_\_\_

3) **Does this business produce \_\_\_\_\_, process \_\_\_\_\_ or sell \_\_\_\_\_ locally grown food?**  
*Check all that apply.*

4) **How central is Internet access to your business operations?** *Check one*  
(Not Very) \_\_\_\_\_ (Somewhat) \_\_\_\_\_ (Quite a bit) \_\_\_\_\_ (Essential) \_\_\_\_\_

5) **How important would access to reliable and affordable, very high-speed Internet be to improving the operation of this business?** *Check one*  
(Not Very) \_\_\_\_\_ (Somewhat) \_\_\_\_\_ (Quite a bit) \_\_\_\_\_ (Essential) \_\_\_\_\_

6) **Do you believe business would grow as a result of this access?** *Circle one Yes / No*

**If yes,** please estimate the number of *additional* employees this business might employ as a result of growth due to improved Internet speeds and reliability?

(Full-time) \_\_\_\_\_ (Half-time) \_\_\_\_\_ (Quarter-time) \_\_\_\_\_  
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I attest that this business employs fewer than 50 employees and earns less on average than \$1 million in *gross* revenue per year.

Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_

## RELIABLE HIGH-SPEED INTERNET IS COMING TO CRAFTSBURY IN 2018

Town residents said that improved Internet service – faster and more reliable – was a top priority for the future at public town-wide planning sessions convened by the Vermont Council on Rural Development in the fall of 2015. After weighing alternatives, the Town of Craftsbury sought and received just over \$312,000 in federal grants from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) and Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC). Those funds, in addition to a \$25,000 match from the Town and in-kind donations, are paying for construction of the town's very own fiber optic network.

The Town of Craftsbury Network is currently under construction by Eustis Cable Enterprises of Brookfield, Vt, with completion expected by May. The fiber network consists of several "branches" of various lengths off of a state-owned "trunk line" that runs from Hardwick to Newport. The town will lease space on its network to an Internet Service Provider that will provide Internet and phone services via fiber at competitive rates to anyone living along the route. Both the state and the town network routes are shown in an accompanying map, as well as a verbal description of where service should be available.

### LIMITED FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST SMALL BUSINESSES IN HOOKING UP

The Town's USDA grant contains an earmark to help small businesses pay for connecting to the new fiber network. An Internet Service Provider will typically charge an upfront fee, with rates dependent on the length of contract. The town will provide at least a dozen free standard connections to qualifying businesses.

To qualify for assistance, a business MUST (1) be located within the Town of Craftsbury along the route of EITHER the state OR town fiber network OR Pear Networks extensions and (2) have fewer than 50 employees and earn less than \$1 million gross revenue. This is the USDA's definition of a "small business." Home-based businesses are eligible.

The town hopes to be able to provide additional free standard connections, as many as 25, if funds are available once construction is complete.

### THE FORM ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE IS THE APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE

There will also be a version of this form available to fill out online on the town's website. If more businesses apply for assistance than there are funds available, several factors will be weighed in accordance with grant requirements to set an order of priority. A point system will be used as follows:

- *1 point* for every full-time job expected to be created or saved as a result of improved Internet access. Point fractions will be given for part-time positions.
- *2 points* for new businesses; opened or will open between May 2015 and June 2018
- *3 points* for businesses located within the town's state-designated village centers in Craftsbury Village, Craftsbury Common and East Craftsbury (pending).
- *1 point* each for the production, processing or selling of locally grown food. For example, a business that produces, processes and sells will receive 3 points.

In the case where businesses receive the same total point score, preference will be given to those for whom the Internet is central to their business, as well as those that provided letters of support for the Town's grant applications.

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE 4 P.M. ON APRIL 30, 2018**

Craftsbury Town Clerk/ P.O. Box 55/ Craftsbury, VT/ 05826