Organization:	University of Utah
Project Name:	Utah Anchors: A Community Broadband Project
Project Type:	Infrastructure
State(s):	Utah
Federal Award:	$13,401,096

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Utah Anchors: A Community Broadband Project plans to enhance and expand the Utah Education Network (UEN) by deploying fiber-based Ethernet broadband services to 130 anchor institutions across the state, including elementary schools, public libraries, charter schools, and Head Start centers. The project expects to enable these anchor institutions to move from copper-based T1 or slower connections to fiber-based Ethernet broadband connections with speeds of 10 to 100 Mbps. The UEN currently coordinates and supports the telecommunications needs of more than 300 community anchor institutions across Utah.

The Utah Anchors: A Community Broadband Project also proposes to:

- Serve a Head Start center that serves the Ute Indian Reservation.

- Leverage new and existing infrastructure to better meet the affected communities' overarching education, business, healthcare, and public safety needs.

- Spur the availability of widespread affordable broadband services for local consumers, including as many as 35,000 households, 300 businesses, and 300 public safety entities, by enabling local Internet service providers to connect to the project's open network.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The University of Utah supervises and manages the Utah Education Network (UEN), a consortium of public education partners including the Utah System of Higher Education and its 10 universities and colleges, the Utah State Office of Education, local school districts, and the state's library system. UEN, authorized by the Utah State Legislature and under the supervision of the University of Utah, currently manages a 1,727-mile network and has managed advanced network services to anchor institutions since 2004.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Frontier Communications
- OneTel
- Qwest Communications
- University of Utah
- University of Utah Office of Information Technology
- Utah Center for High Performance Computing
- Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development
- Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
- Utah Rural Telecommunications Association
- Utah State Division of Technology Services
- Utah State Library Division and Public Libraries
- Utah State Office of Education
- Utah Tele-health Network