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Organization:	Nelson County of Virginia
Project Name:	Nelson County Virginia Broadband Project
Project Type:	Infrastructure
State(s):	Virginia
Federal Award:	\$1,826,646

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Nelson County Virginia Broadband Project plans to enhance and expand broadband Internet services in unserved and underserved areas of rural Nelson County, Virginia, by deploying 31 miles of new fiber and four new wireless tower sites, and directly connecting 13 community anchor institutions. The anchor institutions expected to receive direct connections to the new network are seven county government facilities, four K-12 schools, the Blue Ridge Medical Center, and one library. The project plans to provide speeds from 10 Mbps up to 1 Gbps and spur more affordable broadband Internet service for as many as 1,500 households, 250 businesses, and an additional 30 community anchor institutions by allowing Internet service providers to connect to the project's open network.

The Nelson County Virginia Broadband Project also proposes to:

- Enable the Blue Ridge Medical Center to deploy telemedicine capabilities and enhance collaboration with health care specialists at the University of Virginia.
- Enhance public safety by allowing emergency services personnel to communicate and transmit vital patient data en route to a hospital.
- Provide residents, students, and teachers greater access to multimedia educational information and distance learning opportunities.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

Nelson County is a rural area located between the cities of Charlottesville and Lynchburg. The county has a record of designing, building, and operating physical network infrastructure, and established the Nelson County Broadband Authority to manage the proposed network. For four years, representatives from local government, businesses, residents, healthcare providers, schools, a local electric cooperative, and incumbent cable and wireless providers have worked to improve the county's communications infrastructure. The proposed project also has strong community support, obtaining letters of interest from three last mile service providers, the Blue Ridge Medical Center, county representatives, community anchor institutions, and other local entities.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Blue Ridge Medical Center
- Central Virginia Electric Cooperative
- International Broadband Electric Communications, Inc.
- Nelson Cable, Inc.
- Nelson County School Board

Data provided in the project description is based on information supplied by the applicant. An executive summary of this application can be found on www.broadbandusa.gov.

For press-related inquiries, contact 202-482-7002 or press@ntia.doc.gov. For the general public, contact BTOP@ntia.doc.gov.

