



BROADBANDUSA

CONNECTING AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES

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Organization:	County of Rockbridge
Project Name:	Connect the Dots: Rockbridge Broadband Initiative
Project Type:	Comprehensive Community Infrastructure
States:	Virginia
Federal Award:	\$6,993,399

ABOUT THE PROJECT

With many of its residents still relying on dial-up and copper-based services, the **County of Rockbridge**, Virginia, estimates the region has a broadband adoption rate below 40 percent. Through the Rockbridge Area Network Authority (RANA), a public-private partnership that includes local governments and Washington and Lee University, the Rockbridge Broadband Initiative proposes to construct 134 miles of new fiber in west central Virginia to bring broadband services to community anchor institutions in support of improved healthcare, education, and public safety in the region. The new network is intended to cover the entire community, reaching as far north as Goshen and as far south as Natural Bridge, and would include two segments running west from Lexington to Collierstown and Kerrs Creek and east to Buena Vista. The project also proposes to link 95 percent of all public safety entities, mitigating the area's decades-old public safety communication challenges created by mountainous terrain.

The Rockbridge Broadband Initiative also proposes to:

- Connect almost all of the community anchor institutions in the county with speeds between 100 Mbps and 1 Gbps, including all 14 K-12 public schools, 23 public safety entities including all area volunteer rescue squads and fire departments, four libraries, the Dabny Stuart Lancaster Community College and three other institutions of higher learning, three healthcare facilities, and five government buildings and centers.
- Facilitate more affordable and accessible broadband service for up to 13,900 households and 1,300 businesses by enabling local Internet service providers to utilize the project's open network.
- Increase opportunities for online continuing education, online certification renewals, instructional video conferencing and academic testing.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The Rockbridge Area Network Authority is a state-recognized authority created to represent a partnership among four of the major planners and beneficiaries of project. Three of its five members represent the three jurisdictions in the area: Rockbridge County, Lexington, and Buena Vista. The fourth member represents Washington and Lee University, which has offered the majority of the local matching funds for the project, while the fifth member represents the 1,480 or so businesses in the area, including existing broadband providers.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Virginia Global Communications Systems
- Washington and Lee University
- City of Lexington
- City of Buena Vista

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.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandusa.

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

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