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Organization:	Delta Communications, dba Clearwave Communications
Project Name:	Illinois Broadband Opportunities Partnership – Southern
Project Type:	Comprehensive Community Infrastructure
State:	Illinois
Federal Award:	\$31,515,253

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Delta Communications plans to deploy a high-speed fiber middle mile network across a 23-county region of southern Illinois to address the lack of adequate broadband access for community anchor institutions in many of the region's rural, economically distressed communities. The project plans to double Delta's network size by constructing 740 new miles of fiber in the proposed service area. The project will directly connect 232 community anchor institutions with speeds between 10 Mbps and 1 Gbps, including 111 K-12 public schools, 28 public safety entities, 23 libraries, nine community colleges, Southern Illinois University, and 60 healthcare facilities. The network plans to offer points of interconnection for last-mile providers in all 31 communities in the proposed service area.

The Illinois Broadband Opportunities Partnership also proposes to:

- Partner with the Counties of Southern Illinois Next Generation 9-1-1 consortium and local hospitals, police, fires and EMS agencies, along with Southern Illinois University Police Department, to implement the nation's first standards-based Next Generation 911 public safety system.
- Facilitate more affordable and accessible broadband service for approximately 300,000 households and 55,000 businesses by enabling local Internet service providers to utilize the project's open network. At least three existing broadband providers have stated their plans to utilize the network.
- Interconnect with Illinois Century Network (ICN), which provides a gateway to Internet2 for K-12 schools, libraries, and non-research higher education institutions.
- Enable broader participation in the Southern Illinois Health Information Exchange Initiative to simplify health information access and improve communications among providers and clinicians.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

Delta Communications, doing business as Clearwave Communications, is a facilities-based local exchange carrier that has been providing advanced network services, primarily to businesses and community anchor institutions, for the past eight years. It currently serves 1,100 business customers across 22 communities in southern Illinois.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Counties of Southern Illinois 9-1-1 Association
- Illinois Broadband Opportunities Partnership, East Central

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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