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Organization:	NebraskaLink, LLC
Project Name:	Connecting Nebraska Communities
Project Type:	Comprehensive Community Infrastructure
State:	Nebraska
Federal Award:	\$11,547,866

ABOUT THE PROJECT

NebraskaLink, a partnership between seven local telecommunications providers, proposes to deploy a highspeed, middle mile fiber-optic network across nearly the entire state of Nebraska. The proposed Connecting Nebraska Communities' nearly 2,000-mile network, including 450 miles of newly constructed fiber in western Nebraska, will serve community anchor institutions as well as at least 23 last-mile broadband providers that have expressed an interest in using the network to provide local consumer service, improving access to public safety entities, schools and community colleges, healthcare facilities, and libraries.

The project also plans to interconnect with the South Dakota Network, another BTOP grant recipient, to enhance the region's middle-mile broadband capabilities, including facilitating enhanced services for the Indian tribes of Nebraska's northeast, the Omaha and the Winnebago, that would be able to connect with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Aberdeen, South Dakota.

Connecting Nebraska Communities also proposes to:

- Connect as many as 100 community anchor institutions with speeds between 100 Mbps and 10 Gbps, including 33 K-12 public schools, eight public safety entities, three libraries, nine community colleges, and four other institutions of higher learning, 34 healthcare facilities, and ten government buildings and centers.
- Facilitate more affordable and accessible broadband service for up to 85,000 households and 8,000 businesses by enabling local Internet service providers to utilize the project's open network.
- Improve public safety services in Nebraska by providing much-needed capacity for existing public safety networks and facilities, and enabling the development of the state's planned wireless public safety network.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

NebraskaLink is comprised of American Broadband Nebraska Communications, Consolidated Telephone, Great Plains Communications, Hamilton Telecommunications, Hartelco, Nebraska Central Telephone Company, and Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company. They have extensive experience engineering, managing, and installing voice, and data, and ISP services.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Nebraska Library Commission
- Elkhorn Valley Economic Development Council



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.