



# BROADBANDUSA

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<b>Organization:</b>	<b>Bloomington Communications Inc.</b>
<b>Project Name:</b>	<b>Van Buren County Fiber Ring</b>
<b>Project Type:</b>	<b>Comprehensive Community Infrastructure</b>
<b>State:</b>	<b>Michigan</b>
<b>Federal Award:</b>	<b>\$5,646,473</b>

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Van Buren County Fiber Ring project is a direct response to the unmet high-speed Internet needs of the school district and local municipalities in and around Van Buren county. The project area, in southwest Michigan along Lake Michigan, demonstrates a lack of success in attracting commercial investment in broadband infrastructure.

This project expects to deploy a 147-mile network to bring speeds of between 10 Mbps and 1 Gbps to the region's community anchor institutions. In addition, four of the computer centers to be deployed as part of the \$895,000 BTOP Round One Public Computer Center award to Michigan State University will be located in libraries which intend to connect to the Van Buren Fiber Ring project.

The Van Buren County Fiber Ring project also proposes to:

- Construct 131 miles of new fiber, expanding Bloomington Communication's existing network eight-fold and facilitating more affordable and accessible broadband service for up to approximately 13,500 households and 1,000 businesses in Van Buren, Berrien Springs, and Pullman by enabling local Internet service providers to utilize the project's open network.
- Provide service to as many as 40 community anchor institutions, including two public safety entities, 12 K-12 schools, 10 libraries, 15 local government facilities, and South Haven Community College. An additional 16 community anchor institutions in the region could purchase service on the network.
- Support improved government services for residents, including distance learning, video arraignments in the South Haven courts, and information sharing among public safety offices.
- Interconnect with BTOP awardee Merit Network, Inc. in South Haven and Benton Harbor to link Van Buren schools and libraries to other schools and libraries across Michigan.

### ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

Bloomington Communications is a subsidiary of the Bloomington Telephone Company, which has provided communications services in Michigan since 1905, when the residents of Shaw, a small Michigan town, each decided to contribute \$14 to build a telephone hub in the neighborhood. The company currently provides telephone, Internet, and satellite services in the Greater Kalamazoo area.

### PROJECT PARTNERS

- City of South Haven

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](http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandusa).

For press-related inquiries, contact 202-482-7002 or [press@ntia.doc.gov](mailto:press@ntia.doc.gov). For the general public, contact [BTOP@ntia.doc.gov](mailto:BTOP@ntia.doc.gov).

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