



BROADBANDUSA

CONNECTING AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES

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Organization:	JKM Consulting, Inc.
Project Name:	Project BEAR (Broadband for East Alabama Region)
Project Type:	Comprehensive Community Infrastructure
State:	Alabama
Federal Award:	\$6,269,197

ABOUT THE PROJECT

In the rural, economically distressed east-central Alabama region that includes Calhoun, Talladega, Clay, and Randolph Counties, many valuable community organizations rely on slower, copper-based service for their Internet access, and some have no broadband service at all. **JKM Consulting's** Project BEAR proposes to deploy a 176-mile fiber network that includes 88 miles of new fiber to provide high-speed, affordable broadband services and directly connect more than 40 community anchor institutions in the four-county region. The project also plans to deploy six wireless access points to facilitate last-mile consumer service in isolated rural areas like Fort McClellan in Anniston, Alabama, and the Talladega National Forest. The project intends to bring fiber to local Public Safety Access Points and other emergency agencies, and strengthen healthcare delivery by connecting rural hospitals such as Clay County and Wedowee Hospital to urban hospitals, enabling telemedicine services such as participation in the Alabama Pediatric Network. The project also expects to enhance local educational opportunities by connecting six community centers, increasing the quality of local after-school and homework programs.

Project BEAR also proposes to:

- Connect as many as 44 community anchor institutions with speeds between 100 Mbps and 1 Gbps, including 11 K-12 public schools, nine public safety entities, six libraries, two community colleges and three other institutes of higher learning, five healthcare facilities, and one government building.
- Facilitate more affordable and accessible broadband service for up to 52,800 households and 3,700 businesses by enabling local Internet service providers to utilize the project's open network.
- Connect two major military installations in Alabama, one of which is now decommissioned and functioning as Small Business Administration-designated Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Zone.
- Interconnect in Anniston and Delta with the BTOP-funded Appalachian Valley Fiber Network project.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

JKM Consulting, a woman-owned business, has been managing the deployment of advanced broadband networks since 1998, performing network process and project management services to fiber service providers throughout the southern United States. JKM's technology division, M² Connections, seeks to promote the growth of businesses, educational institutions, and nonprofit organizations with a focus on enhancements through technology.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Anniston Fiber Optics
- Clay County Commission
- James Cable d/b/a CommuniComm Services
- East Alabama Regional Planning Commission

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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