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**Organization:** State of Louisiana Board of Regents

**Project Name:** Louisiana Broadband Alliance

**Project Type:** Infrastructure

**State(s):** Louisiana

**Federal Award:** \$80,596,415

**ABOUT THE PROJECT**

The Louisiana Broadband Alliance, a collaboration among six state agencies, plans to deploy more than 900 miles of fiber-optic network to expand broadband Internet service in some of the most economically distressed regions of Louisiana. The new network intends to provide direct connections for more than 80 community anchor institutions including universities, K-12 schools, libraries, and healthcare facilities. The 3,488-square-mile service area includes 12 impoverished parishes targeted by the state's Louisiana Delta Initiative and a separate five-parish area that is home to four federally-recognized American Indian Tribes. The new network would connect to the Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI), a more than 1,600 mile fiber-optic network that connects Louisiana and Mississippi research universities to National LambdaRail and Internet2.

The Louisiana Broadband Alliance project also proposes to:

- Provide broadband speeds between 10 Mbps and 1 Gbps to universities, libraries, hospitals and other community anchor institutions, most of which are in underserved areas. The enhanced broadband capabilities will promote education, research, and healthcare delivery in some of Louisiana's neediest areas.
- Spur more affordable broadband Internet for an estimated 100,000 households, 15,000 businesses, and 1,200 anchor institutions, by enabling local Internet providers to connect to the project's open network at 38 points of interconnection. Three local providers have already expressed interest in using the new network to expand service into unserved and underserved areas.
- Provide high-speed broadband service to McNeese State University to support a cultural preservation project with the local Coushatta tribe of American Indians.

**ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY**

The State of Louisiana Board of Regents is the lead agency for the Louisiana Broadband Alliance, a newly created consortium of six state agencies with proven ability to serve rural Louisiana. The Board of Regents has deep experience with state and federal grants, having administered more than \$80 million in state and federal funding for higher education institutions. For the past four years, the Board of Regents has managed the Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI).

**PROJECT PARTNERS**

- Louisiana Department of Education
- Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals
- Louisiana Educational Television Authority
- Louisiana Geographic Information Center
- Louisiana State University Agricultural Center's Delta Rural Development Center

Data provided in the project description is based on information supplied by the applicant.

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