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<b>Organization:</b>	<b>Bristol Virginia Utilities Board</b>
<b>Project Name:</b>	<b>Southwest Virginia Middle Mile Project</b>
<b>Project Type:</b>	<b>Comprehensive Community Infrastructure</b>
<b>State:</b>	<b>Virginia</b>
<b>Federal Award:</b>	<b>\$22,698,010</b>

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

**Bristol Virginia Utilities Board's** (BVU) Southwest Virginia Middle Mile Project is a 388-mile fiber addition to its existing network that would bring up to 10 Gbps middle mile service to a rural, eight-county region of southwestern Appalachian Virginia. Seven of the eight targeted counties qualify as economically distressed, with per-capita incomes that are 80 percent or less of the national average. All eight counties lack adequate broadband services. Building on BVU's existing network, the project aims to spur connections and improved service to an estimated 120 community anchor institutions, 5,600 households, and 220 businesses in Bland, Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, and Wythe Counties.

The Southwest Virginia Middle Mile Project proposes to:

- Enable middle-mile connectivity to educational institutions, improve access to employee re-training tools, and address low high-school and college graduation rates with distance learning technologies.
- Facilitate more affordable and accessible broadband service for up to approximately 19,000 households and 500 businesses by enabling local Internet service providers to utilize the project's open network.
- Extend the broadband-fueled success of the Russell County Regional Business Technology Park to additional areas, improving the region's attractiveness to both new and existing employers, while promoting entrepreneurship and business innovation.

## ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

Bristol Virginia Utilities Board is a municipally-owned system, providing electric, water, and fiber communications services to the City of Bristol, Virginia; Washington County, Virginia; and Abingdon, Virginia. The organization was founded in 1945 to manage a regional electric system originally created by the Tennessee Valley Authority. BVU currently operates a 900-mile fiber network and was the first municipal entity in the nation to deploy an all-fiber network offering voice, video, and data services.

## PROJECT PARTNERS

- Cumberland Plateau Company
- Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission (VTC)
- Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

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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