



**FOR MORE
INFORMATION**

www.recovery.gov
www.broadbandusa.gov

Organization:	Critical Hub Networks, Inc.
Project Name:	Puerto Rico Bridge Initiative
Project Type:	Infrastructure
State(s):	Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
Federal Award:	\$25,829,178

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Puerto Rico Bridge Initiative plans to provide fast, affordable broadband connectivity for last-mile Internet service providers and underserved areas of Puerto Rico, including the islands of Culebra and Vieques, by establishing a broadband “bridge” to the United States mainland and deploying a high-capacity middle-mile network on the islands. The project plans to purchase a 10 Gbps undersea fiber-optic cable directly connecting to Miami and deploy more than 180 miles of terrestrial middle-mile microwave network using 11 towers. The network will offer speeds from 100 Mbps to 1 Gbps to anchor institutions and last-mile providers. More than 1,700 community anchor institutions are expected to be directly connected, including more than 1,500 K-12 schools.

The Puerto Rico Bridge Initiative also proposes to:

- Offer a 25 percent broadband discount to all K-12 schools to improve education and distance learning.
- Reduce the cost of transporting Internet traffic to the mainland United States and spur more affordable broadband Internet service for as many as 1.2 million households, 47,000 businesses, and nearly 2,200 anchor institutions on the islands.
- Support job creation and job opportunities, and enhance government services, by delivering high-speed broadband capabilities to anchor institutions.
- Establish a local peering point to keep Puerto Rico-bound Internet traffic on the islands, thus reducing associated transit costs and lowering broadband costs generally.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

Critical Hub Networks, Inc. has more than 15 years of experience as Puerto Rico's first Internet service provider. The Puerto Rico Bridge Initiative Steering Committee, consisting of eight members from the government, community anchor institutions, not-for-profit organizations, and Internet service providers, will govern the project while Critical Hub Networks will oversee planning and operations. The project involves several Small Disadvantaged Businesses.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- AeroNet
- AWS
- AWV Communications, Inc.
- Ayustar
- Culebra Wireless Net
- Expert Networks
- PRW.Net
- Puerto Rico Department of Education
- VOZ de Puerto Rico

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.broadbandusa.gov.

For press-related inquiries, contact 202-482-7002 or press@ntia.doc.gov.
For the general public, contact BTOP@ntia.doc.gov.

