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Organization:	Florida Rural Broadband Alliance
Project Name:	Florida Rural Middle Mile Networks - Northwest and South Central Regions
Project Type:	Comprehensive Community Infrastructure
States:	Florida
Federal Award:	\$23,693,665

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Large portions of the northwestern and south-central regions of Florida have been designated by the Governor as Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern (RACECs) due to a disparity in income and access to education and healthcare services. Community anchor institutions in these RACECs often lack the necessary broadband infrastructure to thrive in the modern economy. The **Florida Rural Broadband Alliance's** Florida Rural Middle Mile Networks project proposes to deploy an 1,800-mile microwave-based middle-mile network across two of Florida's three RACECs to support and improve healthcare, educational opportunities, library services, economic development, and public safety services. The Florida Rural Broadband Alliance brings together multiple local and tribal governments, economic development agencies, and commercial partners in a collaborative effort to address the unmet broadband needs of this area of the state.

The Florida Rural Middle Mile Networks project also proposes to:

- Connect as many as 190 community anchor institutions with minimum speeds of 10 Mbps including 41 K-12 public schools, 30 public safety entities, 28 libraries, seven community colleges and 13 other institutions of higher learning, 24 healthcare facilities, and 31 government buildings and centers.
- Facilitate more affordable and accessible broadband service for up to approximately 174,000 households and 16,000 businesses by enabling local Internet service providers to utilize the project's open network.
- Unite local governments, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, and private companies and economic development agencies to oversee and manage the network.
- Interconnect with BTOP Round One \$30.1M awardee North Florida Broadband Authority, which will serve the third of the three Florida RACECs.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The Florida Rural Broadband Alliance is a newly-formed regional collaboration of local governments, tribal and community representatives, for-profit entities, and economic development agencies from rural and economically disadvantaged communities located throughout 15 counties within two of the state's Rural Areas of Critical Economic Concern. The Alliance's project partners include organizations with decades of network management experience.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- CityNet
- Government Services Group, Inc.
- Hardee County Industrial Development Authority
- Hendry County Board of County Commissioners
- Rapid Systems, Inc.
- South Florida Community College

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.

Made possible by the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

