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Organization:	Iowa Communications Network
Project Name:	Bridging the Digital Divide for Iowa's Communities
Project Type:	Comprehensive Community Infrastructure
State:	Iowa
Federal Award:	\$16,230,118

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The economic and geographic challenges of serving a predominantly rural state like Iowa can result in limited high-speed Internet service outside of the state's major metropolitan areas. The **Iowa Communications Network (ICN)** plans to utilize its partnerships with key anchor institutions and other service providers to address this problem and bring enhanced broadband capabilities to all 99 of the state's counties. ICN's Bridging the Digital Divide for Iowa's Communities project proposes to upgrade its existing 3,000-mile network to provide 10 Gbps-capable points of presence in each county, while enabling a system upgrade for as many as 1,000 community anchor institutions statewide to 1 Gbps Ethernet service. Community anchors served by this project will include over 50 libraries, 800 educational institutions, and 1,000 government facilities. ICN's partnership with non-profit Iowa Health System will allow for a comprehensive statewide fiber network that serves public sector, private sector, and non-profit entities.

Bridging the Digital Divide for Iowa's Communities proposes to:

- Provide infrastructure enabling the Sac & Fox Tribe in central Iowa, which currently lacks broadband service altogether, to deploy last-mile broadband service.
- Connect to BTOP grant recipient Iowa Health System's (IHS) network to provide high-speed access to additional communities statewide while utilizing IHS's long-haul connection to facilitate information sharing between K-12, libraries, hospitals, community colleges, public safety agencies, and other community anchor institutions in Iowa, Chicago, and Denver.
- Enable Iowa Emergency Management to use advanced web-based emergency management applications and provide over 300 Iowa Department of Public Safety offices statewide with reliable high-speed connections to local law enforcement agencies.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

Iowa Communications Network has 17 years of experience serving over 2,600 nonprofit sites in Iowa. Through partnerships with education, medicine, the judicial system, government agencies, and the National Guard, ICN brings data, voice and live, full-motion video to over 700 classrooms around Iowa, located in schools, National Guard armories, libraries, hospitals, and federal and state government offices.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Sac & Fox Tribes of the Mississippi in Iowa
- Winnesheik Medical Center
- Iowa Health System

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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