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<b>Organization:</b>	<b>Zito Media Communications II, LLC</b>
<b>Project Name:</b>	<b>Northeastern Ohio and Northwestern Pennsylvania Fiber Ring Project</b>
<b>Project Type:</b>	<b>Infrastructure</b>
<b>State(s):</b>	<b>Ohio and Pennsylvania</b>
<b>Federal Award:</b>	<b>\$6,136,904</b>

**ABOUT THE PROJECT**

The Northeastern Ohio and Northwestern Pennsylvania Fiber Ring Project intends to create a 382-mile fiber ring with 10 gigabits of capacity through the counties of Geauga, Ashtabula, and Trumbull in Northeastern Ohio, and the counties of Erie, Crawford, and Mercer counties in Northwestern Pennsylvania. These areas generally have high unemployment and low income and are generally underserved in terms of broadband due to low population density. The project plans to deploy 342 miles of new fiber and 40 miles of leased fiber to directly connect an estimated 60 community anchor institutions at speeds from 10 Mbps to 1 Gbps, including hospitals, schools, public safety agencies, colleges, and libraries.

The Northeastern Ohio and Northwestern Pennsylvania Fiber Ring Project also proposes to:

- Facilitate affordable broadband Internet service for local consumers, including as many as 135,000 households, 5,000 businesses, and more than 100 community anchor institutions, by allowing local Internet service providers to connect to the project's open network.
- Enable local hospitals, medical facilities, and schools to use telemedicine, distance learning, and other bandwidth-intensive applications to enhance health care delivery, education, and job creation in the region.

**ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY**

Zito Media Communications II, LLC is a last mile provider in the region and a subsidiary of Treasure Lake, L.P., which provides service to community anchor institutions, medical facilities, educational institutions, public safety institutions, and government entities in Pennsylvania. Zito currently provides the underlying infrastructure that serves the Pennsylvania Mountain Health Alliance to provide high-speed data connections to 14 rural hospitals, many of which are the sole hospital in their respective counties. Additionally, Zito currently connects more than 10 school districts in Pennsylvania, and, in several districts, ties schools together with 1 Gbps data connections. Zito plans to work with regional, state, and federal economic development organizations in the construction of the network.

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](http://www.broadbandusa.gov).

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