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Organization:	Peoples Telephone Cooperative
Project Name:	East Texas Medical and Educational Fiber Optic Network
Project Type:	Comprehensive Community Infrastructure
State:	Texas
Federal Award:	\$28,825,356

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The East Texas Medical and Educational Fiber Optic Network, proposed by **Peoples Telephone Cooperative**, plans to deploy broadband service to educational, healthcare, and government organizations across an economically distressed 13-county area in eastern Texas. The project plans to connect community anchor institutions, especially hospitals, in Camp, Delta, Fannin, Franklin, Hopkins, Hunt, Lamar, Rains, Red River, Smith, Titus, Van Zandt, and Wood Counties to one another and to the University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler, which serves as the region's hub for medical care and education.

By providing expected access speeds between 5 Mbps and 100 Gbps, the network intends to enable medical simulations for remote hospitals and a variety of distance learning opportunities, including remote participation in public health graduate courses taught from Houston and other educational offerings in nursing and related medical professions.

The East Texas Medical and Educational Fiber Optic Network also proposes to:

- Nearly triple the fiber in the area by constructing 659 new miles of fiber and incorporating 221 miles of existing fiber to offer a variety of wholesale services to potential last-mile partners.
- Facilitate more affordable and accessible broadband service for over 100,000 households and 10,000 businesses by enabling local Internet service providers to utilize the project's open network.
- Provide direct connections to as many as 190 anchor institutions, including as many as 50 K-12 schools, 107 government buildings, and 23 healthcare providers, as well as seven community college campuses: North Texas Community College campuses in Mt. Pleasant and Pittsburg; the Paris Junior College campuses in Paris, Sulphur Springs, and Greenville; the Tyler Junior College campus; and the Grayson County College and the Texas A&M Commerce which links to the entire Texas A&M network.
- Provide connectivity to Region 8 Education Service Center and the independent school districts included in the 13 county area.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

Peoples Telephone Cooperative (PTC) has been providing telecommunications services for over 50 years. PTC's 24/7 network operations center currently supports voice, wireless, Internet, and business communications services; the company plans to leverage these assets in constructing its BTOP-funded network.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- East Texas Council of Governments

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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