



BROADBANDUSA

CONNECTING AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES

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Organization:	University of Arkansas System
Project Name:	The Arkansas Healthcare, Higher Education, Public Safety, & Research Integrated Broadband Initiative
Project Type:	Comprehensive Community Infrastructure
State:	Arkansas
Federal Award:	\$102,131,393

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The **University of Arkansas** plans to deploy a new middle-mile fiber network across every county in the state that will extend, integrate, and enhance the capabilities of two major community-serving networks already in existence across 42 economically distressed and underserved counties in the Mississippi Delta region of Arkansas: the Arkansas Telehealth Oversight & Management (ATOM) Network and the Arkansas Research & Education Optical Network (ARE-ON). The ATOM Network represents a partnership between healthcare, higher education, public safety, and research community organizations in Arkansas with limited bandwidth and equipment, while ARE-ON is the state's only publicly owned fiber optic network serving four-year universities. The project intends to enhance the healthcare and education components of both networks by enabling remote clinical consultations and electronic record exchange, while connecting the networks' educational partners to state research networks as well as Internet2 and the National Lambda Rail. The project also plans to enhance first responder and other emergency services by providing broadband connectivity to ambulance dispatchers, the Arkansas Trauma Communications Center, and the Arkansas Bioterrorism Network.

The Integrated Broadband Initiative also proposes to:

- Construct 380 miles of new fiber while greatly increasing the capacity of over 5,600 miles of existing fiber to provide speeds between 1.5 Mbps and 100 Mbps to anchor institutions.
- Facilitate more affordable and accessible broadband service for approximately 548,000 households and 61,000 businesses by enabling local Internet service providers to utilize the project's open network at 34 points of interconnection.
- Provide direct connections to approximately 475 anchor institutions, including one public safety entity, eight libraries, 22 community colleges, 14 other institutions of higher education, 423 healthcare facilities, and six government buildings and centers.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

Founded in 1871, the University of Arkansas system has more than 66,000 students and 17,000 employees, and serves as a driving force in the state's economy. Since 1991, the university has operated a 60-site broadband healthcare network overseeing 483 hours of daily interactive video, and is the centralized management and scheduling service for the state's healthcare broadband network.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- State of Arkansas
- Arkansas Hospital Association Metropolitan Emergency Management System
- Community Health Centers of Arkansas
- Arkansas Association of Two-Year Community Colleges

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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