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Organization:	University of Wisconsin – Extension Service (UWEX)
Project Name:	Building Community Capacity through Broadband
Project Type:	Comprehensive Community Infrastructure
State:	Wisconsin
Federal Award:	\$29,884,914

ABOUT THE PROJECT

To address broadband capacity needs in some parts of Wisconsin, the **University of Wisconsin – Extension Service** proposes to deploy a middle-mile fiber network enabling connections to a hybrid WiMAX/Wi-Fi network in certain communities across the state. With a focus on four demonstration communities -- Platteville, Superior, Wausau, and the Chippewa Valley region, including smaller municipalities like Rice Lake, Fall Creek and Mondovi -- the Building Community Capacity through Broadband project intends to bolster local economic development, educational opportunities, telehealth initiatives, and employment and job training opportunities. For example, the project would improve communications between healthcare providers and emergency medical services in the Eau Claire and Chippewa metropolitan areas. The network would enable greater file-sharing and imaging capacity for the Luther Midelfort Hospital, a member of the Mayo Health System, along with 15 other healthcare facilities.

The Building Community Capacity through Broadband project also proposes to:

- Construct 529 new fiber miles while utilizing over 100 miles of existing fiber to offer services at speeds between 1 Gbps and 10 Gbps to potential local Internet service providers. Speeds for wireless service will be up to 10 Mbps.
- Facilitate more affordable and accessible broadband service for approximately 139,000 households and 9,000 businesses by enabling local Internet service providers to utilize the project's open network at over 20 points of interconnection.
- Provide direct connections to as many as 182 anchor institutions, including as many as 41 public safety entities, 29 K-12 schools, two libraries, 10 community colleges, 10 additional institutions of higher learning, 28 healthcare facilities, and 43 government buildings and centers.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The University of Wisconsin Extension was founded nearly 100 years ago to extend Wisconsin's educational programs and to address the relevant social, economic, environmental, and cultural issues of its citizens. UWEX has significant experience conducting outreach and providing assistance to Wisconsin communities.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- CCI Systems
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation
- Wisconsin Educational Communications Board
- Chippewa Valley Inter Networking Consortium
- Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College
- Dozens of towns, counties, and school districts providing in-kind matching to facilitate the project
- WiscNet

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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