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Organization:	OSHEAN Inc.
Project Name:	BEACON 2.0
Project Type:	Comprehensive Community Infrastructure
States:	Rhode Island and Massachusetts
Federal Award:	\$21,739,183

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Rhode Island's **Ocean State Higher Education Economic Development Administration Network (OSHEAN)** is proposing a new fiber-optic backbone network to connect community anchor institutions and offer interconnection points for local broadband providers in all five counties in the state, as well as Bristol and Plymouth Counties in southeastern Massachusetts. The BEACON 2.0 network proposes service speeds between 1 Gbps and 10 Gbps to community-serving-institutions to enable higher education, research, remote healthcare, and many kinds of economic development and job training applications. The network would serve 14 university and community college locations, including the Community College of Rhode Island, New England Institute of Technology, University of Rhode Island, and the Naval War College. The project also plans extensive engagement with public safety entities, including the Rhode Island State Police and the Narragansett Indian Tribal Police, to enable rapid data and video transfer.

BEACON 2.0 also proposes to:

- Connect up to 50 community anchor institutions, including as many as four public safety entities, 13 government facilities, four community colleges, ten other institutions of higher education, and 15 healthcare providers, with the capability to serve approximately 500 additional anchor institutions.
- Construct 339 miles of new fiber and incorporate 90 miles of existing fiber to facilitate more affordable and accessible broadband service for up to 349,000 households and 8,000 businesses by enabling local Internet service providers to utilize the project's open network.
- Leverage a Round One Public Computer Center (PCC) grant to OSHEAN, which intends to provide more than 600 computers and 10 mobile computer centers to 71 library branches in the state.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

OSHEAN, founded in 1999, is a consortium of non-profit organizations dedicated to the development of a communications infrastructure for Rhode Island's research, educational, and public service community. OSHEAN currently has 30 members, mainly in Rhode Island but also in Massachusetts, and provides a variety of services for its members, currently operating a 612-mile educational network.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Brown University
- Care New England Health System
- Community College of Rhode Island
- CharterCARE Health Partners
- State of Rhode Island Division of IT
- New England Institute of Technology
- Rhode Island Network for Educational Technology, Inc.
- United States Naval War College
- Fibertech Networks, LLC
- Deepwater Wind, LLC
- Northeast Research and Education 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.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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