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Organization:	Iowa Health System
Project Name:	Iowa Healthcare Plus Broadband Extension Project
Project Type:	Comprehensive Community Infrastructure
State:	Iowa
Federal Award:	\$ 17,714,919

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Rural healthcare facilities in Iowa such as hospitals, physicians' offices, and research labs often suffer from limited or no access to broadband services adequate to meet their specialized needs. **Iowa Health System's** (IHS) Iowa Healthcare Plus Broadband Extension Project proposes to make significant upgrades to the health system's existing 3,200-mile fiber network that serves over 200 healthcare facilities across the state and bolster their wireline capabilities with wireless technology. The open architecture of IHS's newly upgraded network will also enable local Internet service providers to provide improved high speed Internet access to as many as 650,000 households, 134,000 businesses, and an additional 1,800 community anchor institutions. IHS's partnership with non-profit Iowa Communications Network, another BTOP grant recipient, will allow for a comprehensive statewide fiber network that serves public sector, private sector, and nonprofit entities.

The Iowa Healthcare Plus Broadband Extension Project proposes to:

- Enhance healthcare delivery, diagnosis, research, and instruction, especially to economically distressed and/or rural areas, by providing speeds between 100 Mbps and 5 Gbps at more affordable rates.
- Deploy 21 new WiMAX microwave towers to provide wireless service to community anchor institutions across the state, including 15 community college campuses.
- Enable state healthcare providers to use electronic health record exchange, video monitoring facilities, and telehealth applications with urban healthcare facilities in Denver and Chicago.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

Iowa Health System, a private nonprofit entity, is the state's first and largest integrated health system, serving nearly one of every three patients in Iowa through its relationships with 24 hospitals and more than 140 physician clinics in both urban and rural communities in Iowa and western Illinois. HealthNet connect, the wholly-owned IHS subsidiary that will manage the project, provides services to IHS's 11 largest hospitals, including rural hospitals, across the state.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Iowa Communications Network
- Fiberutilities Group, LLC

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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