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Organization: North Florida Broadband Authority

Project Name: Ubiquitous Middle Mile

Project Type: Infrastructure

State(s): Florida

Federal Award: \$30,142,676

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Ubiquitous Middle Mile project plans to bring high-speed broadband services to underserved areas in 14 North Central Florida counties through the deployment of a 1,200-mile fixed wireless broadband network which will enhance economic development, education, and public services throughout the region. The network plans to directly connect more than 300 community anchor institutions at speeds of 10 Mbps to 1 Gbps. These anchor institutions include public schools, universities, libraries, healthcare facilities, public safety organizations, and government agencies.. The project, which was jointly created by the area's local governments, will utilize 128 existing wireless towers and sites, and is designed to withstand the weather hazards endemic to the region.

The Ubiquitous Middle Mile project also proposes to:

- Link private sector commercial service providers with public sector not-for-profit organizations in the state government-designated North Florida Rural Area of Critical Economic Concern (RACEC).
- Significantly expand the broadband capabilities of public safety and first responder agencies.
- Spur faster and more affordable broadband Internet service for local consumers, including an estimated 150,000 households, 27,000 businesses, and 1,400 anchor institutions, by enabling all local Internet providers to connect to the project's open network.
- Act as a backbone for state e-government initiatives targeting low-income, unemployed, aged, and other vulnerable populations.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The North Florida Broadband Authority, a collaboration of 14 North Florida county governments and eight municipalities, is focused on cultivating new middle mile infrastructure to deliver high speed broadband access for improved sustainable economic development, educational resources, and access to advanced healthcare services. The North Florida Broadband Authority has retained the services of Government Services Group, a consulting firm with a combined 45 years of experience in developing and managing large-scale infrastructure projects for both government and commercial clients, to oversee the design, management, and operation of the proposed network.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Authority Membership
- Government Services Group
- North Florida Economic Development Partnership
- Workforce Florida

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.broadbandusa.gov.

For press-related inquiries, contact 202-482-7002 or press@ntia.doc.gov. For the general public, contact BTOP@ntia.doc.gov.

