Organization:	**Columbia County Georgia Information Technology Department**
Project Name:	**Columbia County Community Broadband Network**
Project Type:	**Infrastructure**
State(s):	**Georgia**
Federal Award:	**$13,483,004**

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Columbia County Community Broadband Network plans to build a 220-mile, county-wide fiber middle mile network to connect nearly 150 community anchor institutions and enhance health care, public safety, and government services throughout this eastern Georgia county. Anchor institutions expected to be connected at broadband speeds of 100 Mbps to 10 Gbps include K-12 schools, fire and emergency facilities, public libraries, Augusta Technical College, and the Columbia County Health Department. The project also plans to facilitate the creation of a high-capacity data center at the Medical College of Georgia, support a sophisticated county-wide traffic and water control system, and construct five wireless towers to enhance public safety communications as well as improve wireless communications capabilities throughout the region.

The Columbia County Community Broadband Network project also proposes to:

- Create 60 free Wi-Fi hotspots in public locations to expand broadband Internet access for the public.
- Encourage economic development, job creation, and education by enhancing broadband capabilities for critical community facilities in underserved areas of the county.
- Improve health care delivery in the area and enable the use of electronic health records for patients at the Medical College of Georgia.
- Facilitate more affordable and accessible broadband service for up to approximately 33,000 households and 2,400 businesses by enabling local Internet service providers to connect to the project's open network.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The Columbia County Georgia Information and Technology Department has significant experience providing broadband services to county residents and community anchor institutions. It currently operates a network of nine sites linked to a newly completed data center. This project is widely supported throughout the county, including support from more than 20 county, municipal, and other organizations, including one small disadvantaged business.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Advanced Technology Group
- Augusta Preparatory Day School
- Augusta Technical College
- City of Grovetown
- City of Harlem
- Columbia County Board of Education
- Columbia County Cares
- Columbia County Chamber of Commerce
- Columbia County Community Connections
- Columbia County Development Authority
- Columbia County Fire and Rescue/Emergency Services
- Columbia County Health Department
- Columbia County Library Board
- Columbia County Senior Center
- Columbia County Sheriff's Office
- Georgia Department of Labor
- Georgia State Patrol
- Georgia Technology Authority
- Knology
- Medical College of Georgia
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers