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Organization:	Executive Office of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Project Name:	Enhancing Connectivity in Northern Pennsylvania
Project Type:	Infrastructure
State(s):	Pennsylvania
Federal Award:	\$28,784,014

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Enhancing Connectivity in Northern Pennsylvania proposes to increase broadband Internet connection speeds for community anchor institutions and underserved areas isolated by difficult, mountainous terrain across the northern half of the state. The project will leverage Pennsylvania's existing microwave public safety communications network by adding a parallel 150 Mbps Ethernet backbone stretching 649 miles across the state, as well as 612 miles of fixed wireless links. The Commonwealth, working with last mile providers, expects to connect at least 530 anchor institutions to this shared backbone and the public Internet. The project will enhance the interoperability of public safety communications across the region, improve health and safety services, and allow emergency medical service providers to connect to trauma and medical specialists quickly and reliably.

The Enhancing Connectivity in Northern Pennsylvania Project proposes to:

- Serve 32 counties in the east-west corridor of Pennsylvania north of Interstate 80, including the cities of Titusville, Dubois, Scranton, and Wilkes-Barre.
- Connect approximately 160 strategic state institutions to the state's middle mile infrastructure in Northern Pennsylvania.
- Focus on high-bandwidth connections to schools and other educational institutions to support distance learning for all age groups, including use of full-motion video and videoconferencing.
- Enable all service providers to directly connect to the open-design network, which can make broadband more easily available for nearly 1 million households; over 200,000 businesses; and over 2,600 anchor institutions, including 1,500 public safety and medical facilities, over 900 public and private schools, and 142 public libraries.
- Make Pennsylvania state government services more easily available to rural and low-income residents across the region.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has the in-house expertise and ability to construct, operate, and manage this new system using the same management team that constructed and operates the existing microwave public safety communications network. The Office of Public Safety Radio Services that currently operates a 24-7 Network Operations Center for this public safety network has the capacity to monitor the new broadband network as well. The Commonwealth's project includes more than 50 state and county government agencies and many public safety, health, and planning and development institutions.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Pennsylvania Departments of Education; Labor & Industry; Health; Community & Economic Development; and Public Welfare
- Ten Local Development districts
- Appalachian Regional Commission
- Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency

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.
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Made possible by the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

