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Organization:	Executive Office of the State of West Virginia
Project Name:	West Virginia Statewide Broadband Infrastructure Project
Project Type:	Infrastructure
State(s):	West Virginia
Federal Award:	\$ 126,323,296

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The West Virginia Statewide Broadband Infrastructure Project plans to bring high-speed Internet access to this vastly underserved region by expanding the state's existing microwave public safety network and adding about 2,400 miles of fiber. The expanded statewide network expects to directly connect more than 1,000 anchor institutions, including public safety agencies, public libraries, schools, government offices, and other critical community facilities at speeds of up to 45 Mbps. As a result of this project, every K-12 school in the state will have a high-speed Internet connection. In addition, access to healthcare, distance learning opportunities, and broadband and video applications for emergency first responders will be greatly expanded. The project intends to spur affordable broadband service impacting more than 700,000 households, 110,000 businesses, and 1,500 anchor institutions, by allowing local Internet service providers to connect to the project's open network.

The West Virginia Statewide project also proposes to:

- Upgrade Internet access significantly at an estimated 471 schools, 176 public libraries, 53 Public Safety Answering Points, 184 telemedicine sites, 34 jails, 11 Planning and Development Councils, 55 county courthouses, and the Green Bank research observatory. Nearly 800 additional law enforcement offices and fire departments are expected to benefit from the enhanced broadband capabilities and services offered by last-mile providers.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The Governor's Office for the State of West Virginia will manage the project. West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin signed legislation creating the Broadband Deployment Council, an entity designed to facilitate innovative, quality, and affordable broadband to all West Virginians. As a result, the state designed the broadband deployment strategy to enhance critical anchor services to citizens as well as address demand and sustainability issues. The state is partnering with Verizon, Alexander Utilities, and Harris Stratex and others on the design, construction, and operation of the current network and for this project.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- 53 Public Safety Answering Points
- Alexander Utilities
- Frontier
- Harris Stratex
- Verizon
- West Virginia Broadband Deployment Council
- West Virginia Department of Commerce
- West Virginia Department of Corrections
- West Virginia Department of Education
- West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources
- West Virginia Interoperable Working Group
- West Virginia Library Commission
- West Virginia Regional Jail Authority and Correctional Facility Authority

Data provided in the project description is based on information supplied by the applicant.

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

