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Organization: Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois

Project Name: Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband

Project Type: Infrastructure

State(s): Illinois

Federal Award: \$ 22,534,776

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband project plans to construct 187 miles of fiber-optic broadband network to provide high-speed connectivity to area community anchor institutions and support fiber-to-the-home services in four low-income neighborhoods. Known as a leader in computer networking technology, the University of Illinois plans to bring its experience to bear as it works to close the digital divide in Urbana-Champaign. The project will directly connect 143 anchor institutions, including 40 K-12 schools, 17 social service agencies, 14 healthcare facilities, nine youth centers, four public library systems, and two higher education institutions. A majority of these institutions expect to receive their first high-speed Internet connection via this project. The project proposes to create a fiber-to-the-home pilot project for 2,500 low-income households to purchase an affordable high-speed Internet service plan from commercial providers. In addition, the project expects to spur affordable broadband Internet access for local consumers, including up to 50,000 households and 3,700 businesses, by enabling local Internet service providers to connect to the project's open network.

The Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband project also proposes to:

- Provide speeds of at least 100 Mbps.
- Work with education, healthcare, public safety and government service organizations to improve access to services and a range of applications for area residents and businesses.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The lead organization, the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana, has 22 years experience in the design, implementation, and operation of 591 miles of networks for the campus, region, and community. The University and the cities of Champaign and Urbana collaborated to create the Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband intergovernmental consortium to support the project. The University's Campus Information Technologies and Educational Services, which plans to oversee the implementation and operations of the proposed network, has a full-time staff of 280, a budget of \$42 million, and a strong record of working with the city and social organizations to share the benefits of connectivity with the community.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Champaign Telephone Company
- Champaign Unit 4 Schools
- Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District
- City of Champaign
- City of Urbana
- Lincoln Trail Library System
- State of Illinois
- University of Illinois
- Urbana-Champaign Sanitary District
- Urbana Unit 116 Schools

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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