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| Organization: | Citizens Telephone Co-Operative |
| Project Name: | New River Valley Regional Open Access Network |
| Project Type: | Comprehensive Community Infrastructure |
| State: | Virginia |
| Federal Award: | \$9,237,760 |

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Many of the community anchor institutions in the rural seven-county New River Valley region of Virginia are unable to access high-speed, affordable broadband services. To help address this problem, **Citizens Telephone Co-Operative** proposes to construct 186 miles of new fiber to expand and enhance their existing network through its New River Valley Regional Open Access Network project. The project proposes to deploy the new fiber in Wythe, Pulaski, Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Roanoke, and Botetourt counties, significant portions of which are economically distressed. Citizens Telephone plans to enhance services for state and local emergency services providers while connecting both campuses of the New River Community College as well as four public school systems.

The New River Valley Regional Open Access Network also proposes to:

- Connect more than 50 community anchor institutions with speeds between 10 Mbps and 10 Gbps, including 32 K-12 public school buildings, three public safety entities, both New River Community College campuses and two other institutions of higher education, four healthcare facilities, and 11 government facilities.
- Facilitate more affordable and accessible broadband service for approximately 68,000 households and 1,300 businesses by enabling local Internet service providers to utilize the project's open network.
- Leverage a grant from the state of Virginia to build a 24-mile fiber route to connect to the open networks of the Bristol Virginia Utilities Board and Virginia Tech Foundation, both prior BTOP awardees.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

Citizens Telephone Co-Operative, a member-owned telephone cooperative in the Floyd and Fort Chiswell, Virginia region, has provided various communications services since 1914. The company has extensive experience managing grants to deploy networks, including the 2008 construction of a 222-mile open access network with funds from the Virginia Tobacco Commission.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- New River Valley Network Wireless Authority
- Bristol Virginia Utilities Board
- Virginia Tech Foundation

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.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandusa.

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

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