



# BROADBANDUSA

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<b>Organization:</b>	<b>Biddeford Internet Corp. (d.b.a. GWI)</b>
<b>Project Name:</b>	<b>Three Ring Binder</b>
<b>Project Type:</b>	<b>Infrastructure</b>
<b>State(s):</b>	<b>Maine</b>
<b>Federal Award:</b>	<b>\$25,402,904</b>

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Three Ring Binder project proposes to create an open access fiber-optic network extending to the most rural and disadvantaged areas of the state of Maine – from the Saint John Valley in the north, to the rocky coastline of downeast Maine, to the mountainous regions of Western Maine – linking the unserved and underserved areas of the state together with a modern communications network. The project proposes a 1,100-mile network that will pass through more than 100 communities make broadband more readily available to 110,000 households, 600 community anchor institutions, and a number of last mile service providers. The public-private partnership expects to provide 100 Mbps broadband capabilities for University of Maine campuses, community colleges, government facilities, public safety departments, the MaineREN research and education network, and rural healthcare clinics and hospitals. The project plans to benefit clinics and hospitals by allowing for more immediate contact with clinical healthcare specialists and by increasing the collaboration of local community-based healthcare providers with specialists in major metropolitan areas.

This project proposes to:

- Provide middle mile fiber for broadband service providers to bring cost-effective, high-speed broadband services to areas without access.
- Connect 51 anchor institutions – 10 campuses and outreach centers of the University of Maine System, three community colleges, and 38 government facilities.
- Attract businesses by establishing geographically diverse, fiber-optic routes through Western Maine to Northern New Hampshire and Vermont, and through Eastern and Northern Maine to New Brunswick.
- Create the infrastructure necessary to support existing and diversified industries.
- Enable and promote interconnection of local fire, police, safety, and emergency management agencies.

## ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

Biddeford Internet Corp. (d.b.a. GWI), founded in 1994, provides service via an existing fiber network through 51 central offices in all 16 Maine counties. The Three Ring Binder project will be operated by Maine Fiber Company and will be built by Telecom Strategies & Facilities, GWI, and the University of Maine System. These organizations have been partners over the years in a variety of fiber projects in rural Maine.

## PROJECT PARTNERS

- Catalyst@EDU
- Internet 2
- Maine Fiber Company
- Maine InfoNet
- NetworkMaine
- Pioneer Broadband
- Telecom Strategies & Facilities
- University of Maine
- University of Maine System

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](http://www.broadbandusa.gov).

For press-related inquiries, contact 202-482-7002 or [press@ntia.doc.gov](mailto:press@ntia.doc.gov).  
For the general public, contact [BTOP@ntia.doc.gov](mailto:BTOP@ntia.doc.gov).

Made possible by the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

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# Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

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## DISCLAIMER

This map serves for illustrative purposes only and does not reflect precise coverage areas or network lines.

An executive summary of this application can be found in the Application Database on [www.broadbandusa.gov](http://www.broadbandusa.gov).

