Organization: Public Utility District of Pend Oreille County

Project Name: Pend Oreille County Public Utility District (PUD) Broadband Network

Project Type: Infrastructure

State(s): Washington

Federal Award: $27,257,838

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Pend Oreille County PUD Broadband Network project plans to bring high-speed, affordable broadband to underserved areas of Pend Oreille County in northeastern Washington State, which borders Idaho and Canada. The proposed fiber-to-the-premises network would deploy approximately 526 miles of fiber-optic cable to deliver last-mile broadband Internet services and facilitate critical network redundancy in this rural area. The project plans to offer affordable, high-speed broadband access to as many as 3,200 households, 360 businesses, and 24 community anchor institutions.

The Pend Oreille County PUD Broadband Network also proposes to:

- Stimulate economic development and growth in this economically distressed, low-density area of Washington State by improving access to high capacity, affordable broadband services.
- Enhance broadband capabilities for health care facilities, higher education institutions, and government offices.
- Provide wholesale service speeds from 10 Mbps up to 1 Gbps to other carriers and service providers, and retail speeds of 1 Mbps to 1 Gbps to households, businesses, and critical community facilities.

ORGANIZATION’S HISTORY

Established in 1936, the Public Utility District of Pend Oreille County, Washington, produces hydroelectric power and distributes electricity to approximately 8,500 customers, and owns and operates nine District water distribution systems. The District also currently operates approximately 125 miles of fiber-optic backbone, stretching from Spokane to near the Canadian border, and has made excess system capacity available to the rural communities of Pend Oreille County. The District also provides advanced network services to anchor institution networks.