ABOUT THE PROJECT

The prevailing broadband speeds available to many of northeastern Ohio’s vital community institutions and government agencies are insufficient to provide necessary services to consumers in economically distressed parts of the region. OneCommunity’s Transforming NE Ohio project proposes to build 900 new miles of fiber, leveraging another 2,000 miles of existing network, across 20 counties. OneCommunity expects to directly connect almost 800 community anchor institutions, including public safety entities, health care centers, K-12 schools, and higher education institutions at speeds between 100 Mbps and 40 Gbps, while enabling high-speed last-mile service throughout the region.

The Transforming NE Ohio project proposes to:

- Connect an estimated 140 public safety agencies, 111 health care centers, 241 K-12 schools, 19 higher education institutions, 38 libraries, and 247 government buildings.
- Spur affordable broadband access for local consumers and businesses, including as many as 2.1 million households and 210,900 businesses, along with up to an additional 6,400 community anchor institutions, by enabling local Internet service providers to connect to the project’s open network.

ORGANIZATION’S HISTORY

Established in 2003 to accelerate the use of IT to transform health, education, workforce and government in northern Ohio, OneCommunity brings a seven-year history of building public-private partnerships to help connect more than 1,500 community anchor institutions across the region. It leverages over 500 miles of donated fiber-optic rings from various network providers, and its board members include representatives of the private sector, higher education, philanthropic foundations, and economic development organizations. OneCommunity is a partner in the Ohio Middle Mile Consortium, which includes fellow BTOP grantee ComNet in western Ohio and Horizon Telecom, Inc. in southeastern Ohio. The Consortium collaborated with Ohio’s Office of Information Technology, Department of Administrative Services, and OARnet, the State’s Academic and Research network, to integrate their service platform across 88 Ohio counties.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Zayo Bandwidth
- Consolidated Electric Cooperative
- Cisco Systems
- Medina Port Authority
- Juniper Networks
- Lorraine Community College