****Executive Summary

The One Maryland Broadband Consortium will build the One Maryland Broadband Network ('OMBN') bringing high-count middle-mile fiber optics to every Maryland county. This comprehensive community infrastructure will directly connect and serve 1,166 community anchors and other points of interest including 469 schools (K-12), 311 public safety facilities, 255 government facilities, 68 libraries, 18 community colleges and other anchor and community support organizations. Through partnerships, OMBN will also offer cost-effective, high-bandwidth middle-mile capacity to enable private carriers to bridge the last mile through their own investments to Maryland's many underserved residents and vulnerable communities. The OMBN is comprised of a consortium of public and private partnerships that include the following key partners: the State of Maryland's Department of Information Technology Network, who operates networkMaryland, the State's data network; the Inter-County Broadband Network (ICBN) which is an established consortium of 10 Maryland local government jurisdictions; the Maryland Broadband Cooperative (a rural nonprofit telecommunications company); the University of Maryland System; and Mid-Atlantic Crossroads (MAX), a GigaPoP consortium. In addition, OMBN has submitted numerous letters of support and interest from last mile providers, private companies and other local government and state agencies that will participate and utilize the middle mile network. Leveraging the established and successful state-run networkMaryland network, the OMBN will provide a single statewide intergovernmental network, connecting to community anchor institutions in urban/suburban and rural areas via networkMaryland and Howard County, a subrecipient of the grant. Howard County represents the ICBN, a consortium of 10 Maryland local governments located in the central portion of state. ICBN will own and operate infrastructure built using BTOP grant funds. ICBN will interconnect 10 existing local government silo networks and will span 4,200 square miles, including urban, suburban, and some rural communities. In total, ICBN will pass about 1.8 million households (for a total of 4.7 million people), and roughly 71,000 businesses. In addition, the project will directly connect 866 community anchor institutions using Gigabit Ethernet technology, and reach unserved and underserved areas including vulnerable populations in Annapolis and Baltimore. Further, ICBN will offer dark fiber leases to all qualified entities that commit to use the ICBN middle mile fiber as a platform for building out the last mile. Multiple private sector last mile providers have expressed strong interest in leveraging ICBN's middle mile fiber for this purpose in several unserved areas of Maryland. Together with existing networkMaryland fiber infrastructure, ICBN consortium will provide the fiber link that will completely bridge the gap between rural eastern and western Maryland. Through an MOU with the State, the county consortium will provide networkMaryland with at least 12 strands of fiber on all fiber built with BTOP funds that will enable the entire state to be interconnected. The second sub-recipient is
the Maryland Broadband Cooperative, Inc. (MdBC), whose members provide competitive last-mile services to businesses and residential customers. This portion of the network will span almost 6,000 of Maryland’s 9,844 square miles, primarily along State identified unserved and underserved areas on the Eastern Shore and in Southern and Western Maryland. MdBC will provide managed optical services to its members, which will provide the performance and flexibility necessary to open the global market to rural Maryland. The 15-county MdBC service area includes a population of 913,862, with 403,854 households and 25,090 businesses. The proposed OMBN will leverage the extensive capabilities and decades of experience of the State government and participating local governments in operating fiber optic networks. It will create a stable and sustainable network that will focus on connecting anchor institutions that serve vulnerable communities and the public interest, while creating the middle-mile infrastructure necessary to enable private operators to develop innovative last-mile networks throughout the State, including in underserved areas of urban poverty and unserved rural areas that lack any infrastructure at all. Recognizing Maryland’s unique geographic position surrounding much of Washington, D.C., the proposed OMBN project also seeks to facilitate an interoperable homeland security network that extends from the National Capital Region to the Delaware, Pennsylvania and West Virginia borders. This aspect of the proposed project represents a significant regional and national imperative: 1. Given the many federal institutions located in the jurisdictions, and the tens of thousands of federal employees who live there, the network could play a key role in ensuring a more robust continuity of operations plan for federal government agencies. 2. Many of the rural and suburban areas within the service area are first- and second-line evacuation routes in the event of a terrorist attack or natural disaster (e.g., a flu pandemic) in Washington, D.C. Given that public school buildings would be called into service as evacuation shelters, connecting those buildings and all hospitals and public health clinics in the service area would substantially improve the success of current evacuation plans. Likewise, connecting all emergency operations centers in the service area would improve the federal and jurisdictional approach to these challenges and needs. The OMBN includes a variety of proposed services and which together will improve education, public safety, and healthcare, and help the public and private partners meet residents’ other key needs. For example: 1. Education: The network will connect 18 community colleges, 469 K-12 schools, and hundreds of thousands of children to untold educational resources over fiber optics, bringing the world into the classroom in an interactive, high-capacity way through partnerships with Maryland Public Television, and other educational content providers. OMBN will also interconnect with MAX, and the University System of Maryland Academic Telecommunications System (UMATS), bringing those schools a range of innovative content from colleges and universities in Maryland and beyond. 2. Public safety: The proposed network will enhance emergency communications, interconnect operations centers, allow for web-conferencing and enable and enhance regional emergency communications. This includes building fiber to every Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), enabling the upgrade to the Next-Generation 911 system. 3. Healthcare: One Maryland seeks to connect hospitals and health care professionals and medical parks in the proposed service area. In addition to addressing a critical need, such connections will also help the jurisdictions meet the requirements of the ARRA’s Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act. The One Maryland network would also directly support other funded ARRA projects. As stated, OMBN will also significantly lower the barriers to entry for private and non-profit companies that are interested in offering last-mile service to unserved and underserved residents throughout the
service area. Private carriers including Broadstripe, Freedom Wireless, Quantum Internet, and Litecast have submitted letters of interest to build out last-mile infrastructure leveraging the project's middle-mile infrastructure. Other private companies, including Ciena, Cisco, and Alcatel Lucent, have also submitted letters of support/interest in some cases offering discounts on services for the OMBN. One Maryland is requesting $139,708,442 million in BTOP funding, including all reasonable and appropriate permitting, construction, equipment expenses equipment expenses, and administrative fees. The consortium will be providing a $25.2% percent match comprised of $38,340,700 million in cash and $8,790,800 million in equipment and in-kind services. The total project cost, including the match, is $186,839,942 million. We anticipate that this project will provide broadband services directly and indirectly over 650,500 residences, businesses, and anchors by year 8 of the project. The number of jobs estimated to be created or saved as a result of the project is roughly 2031. The OMBN plan has deep private and public sector support, is strongly endorsed by Governor O'Malley, Senators Mikulski and Cardin and the entire Congressional Delegation. OMBN is critical for the future of Maryland and its citizens.