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<b>Organization:</b>	<b>DeKalb County Government</b>
<b>Project Name:</b>	<b>DeKalb Advancement of Technology Authority Broadband</b>
<b>Project Type:</b>	<b>Infrastructure</b>
<b>State(s):</b>	<b>Illinois</b>
<b>Federal Award:</b>	<b>\$11,864,164</b>

**ABOUT THE PROJECT**

The DeKalb Advancement of Technology Authority (DATA) Broadband project, a partnership between the DeKalb County Government, Northern Illinois University, and DeKalb Fiber Optic, plans to deploy a 130-mile fiber-optic network across DeKalb County and northern LaSalle County. The project is targeted to reach areas with a demonstrated need for high-speed, low-cost broadband access. The project expects to provide high-speed Internet connections between 10 Mbps to 10 Gbps to at least 60 anchor institutions, such as schools, hospitals, libraries, public safety entities, and numerous government agencies. The project will also enable broadband providers to interconnect with these facilities to provide broadband to households and businesses in unserved and underserved communities. The project design includes five networks overlaid on the fiber optic system— each network will be designed to meet the needs of a specific community: education and libraries, healthcare, the farming community, government and emergency services, and business and economic development.

The DeKalb Advancement of Technology Authority Broadband project also proposes to:

- Interconnect municipalities and provide backbone infrastructure for emergency services and disaster recovery.
- Connect to the Illinois Rural HealthNet, allowing medical facilities connected to this project to collaborate with specialists at larger facilities throughout the state and nation.
- Spur affordable broadband access for local consumers and local merchants, including 34,000 households and 3,600 businesses, by enabling local Internet service providers to connect to the project's open network. Three local service providers have already expressed interest in using the network.

**ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY**

The DeKalb County Government, Northern Illinois University (NIU), and DeKalb Fiber Optic created the DATA public-private partnership to provide oversight and project management. DATA is comprised of technical experts in communications, server management, and application management. NIU has designed and installed networks of this size and scope, and currently manages 175 miles of fiber network. The DeKalb Public Library, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Hiawatha School District, Cortland Community Library, the Kishwaukee Community Health System, and 40 other anchor institutions support the project.

**PROJECT PARTNERS**

- DeKalb Advancement of Technology Authority (DATA)
- DeKalb County Government
- DeKalb Fiber Optic
- Illinois Century Network
- Illinois Rural HealthNet
- Internet 2
- Kishwaukee Community College
- Northern Illinois Technology Triangle
- Northern Illinois University

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).

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