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Organization:	State of Wisconsin Department of Administration
Project Name:	Wisconsin's Education and Library Broadband Infrastructure Buildout
Project Type:	Infrastructure
State(s):	Wisconsin
Federal Award:	\$22,978,367

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Wisconsin's Education and Library Broadband Infrastructure Buildout project proposes to directly connect 385 libraries, 74 school districts, and eight community colleges (including two tribal colleges) to the existing high-speed BadgerNet Converged Network by deploying 203 miles of new fiber-optic facilities to replace inadequate copper infrastructure in predominantly rural areas. The BadgerNet Converged Network is the largest state network of its kind in the United States and currently provides connectivity to more than 2,300 state and local government agencies, schools, libraries, and healthcare facilities. The additional fiber connections are expected to upgrade 17 percent of the state's schools and 81 percent of the state's libraries to broadband speeds of between 20 Mbps and 100 Mbps, strengthening their ability to serve underserved communities throughout the state.

Wisconsin's Education and Library Broadband Infrastructure Buildout project also proposes to:

- Spur faster and more affordable broadband Internet access service options for local governments, businesses, and consumers by supporting the development of high capacity middle mile infrastructure throughout the state and interconnecting with over 60 broadband service providers.
- Provide largely underserved rural areas of the state with access to the same broadband opportunities as connected areas.
- Strengthen the reliability of critical community services requiring communication of voice, data, and video for law enforcement at all levels.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The Wisconsin Department of Administration created the statewide BadgerNet Converged Network to provide telecommunications services, including broadband internet access, to state agencies, schools, libraries, and municipalities. The Wisconsin BadgerNet Access Alliance (WBAA) operates this 12,150-mile network as a partnership of independent telecommunications companies. The network is the largest of its kind in the nation, and BadgerNet provides connectivity to more than 2,300 state and local government agencies, higher education institutions, healthcare facilities, K-12 schools, and public libraries.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Blackhawk School Districts
- Cochrane Foundation School District
- Melrose Mindoro School District
- Pecatonica School District
- System and Resource Library Administrators Association of Wisconsin
- Wisconsin Association of Cooperative Educational Service Agency Administrators
- Wisconsin Association of Distance Education Networks
- Wisconsin Association of School Boards
- Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
- Wisconsin Educational Media and Technology Association
- Wisconsin Library Association
- Wonewoc Center School District

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.

For press-related inquiries, contact 202-482-7002 or press@ntia.doc.gov. For the general public, contact BTOP@ntia.doc.gov.

