

OneCommunity's Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) Grant: Key Terms & FAQ

Key Terms

Broadband – High-speed Internet access that is always on and faster than the traditional dial-up access. Broadband provides access to the highest quality Internet services — streaming media, VoIP (Internet phone), electronic medical records and e-government services, among others. Many of these current and newly developing services require the transfer of large amounts of data that may not be technically feasible with dial-up service, and in some cases, even DSL. With broadband, businesses, governments and other organizations can develop and deliver enhanced services – in areas such as health care, workforce development, education, e-government, and public safety – that reduce costs while improving citizens’ quality of life.

Middle mile – Fiber-optic broadband infrastructure that provides high-speed transport for voice and data services within a market without directly providing connectivity to end-users or end-user devices. The middle-mile component acts as a shared superhighway to each marketplace it serves, with built-in off ramps. Typically phone carriers, cable, and other private network providers would use the off ramps to extend this robust, affordable service to local businesses and residents directly through “last-mile” service.

Anchor institutions – Includes schools, libraries, hospitals, universities, governments, community colleges and other public or nonprofit institutions that provide outreach, access, equipment and support services to facilitate the greater use of broadband service by vulnerable populations, including low-income, unemployed and senior citizens. OneCommunity’s network connects anchor institutions to ensure the development of an affordable and sustainable broadband program.

Open network – Infrastructure that is built to be shared so other service providers can leverage it to deliver low-cost broadband services to their local community networks and customers. This ensures that the infrastructure is a sustainable investment that can be utilized by an entire community.

FAQ

Project Overview

Q: What does the Comprehensive Community Infrastructure grant provide?

A: The \$45 million grant to Cleveland nonprofit OneCommunity and its partners funds 64% of a \$70 million project that will add nearly 1,000 miles of fiber-optic cable to OneCommunity’s high-speed broadband network, enlarging the total network footprint to more than 2,300 miles of operational, middle-mile fiber across 27 counties.

Q: What is the source of the grant?

A: The grant is coming from funds made possible by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. Specifically, this grant is from the Department of Commerce’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). The NTIA awarded this

Comprehensive Community Infrastructure grant through its Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP). Check out www.broadbandusa.gov for more information.

Q: Who will be receiving the grant funding and what will they do with it?

A: OneCommunity has partnered with Lorain County Community College, the Medina County Port Authority, and OARnet (the state's higher education network). All contributed matching funds and will receive grants over 30 months for the deployment of services within their own networks. The funding will be used by OneCommunity and its implementation partners to construct the middle-mile fiber and contribute to the last-mile construction for anchor institutions. Anchor institutions will be working with OneCommunity to coordinate connection and service options. OneCommunity has the responsibility of constructing, implementing, interconnecting and operating the network service for the sub-recipients.

Q: How is the grant divided among the partners?

A: OneCommunity - \$39.4 million
Lorain County Community College - \$1.1 million
Medina County Port Authority - \$1.6 million
OARnet - \$1.8 million

Q: Are there any high-speed, fiber-based services already available today?

A: Yes, OneCommunity and the Ohio Middle Mile Consortium have fiber and fiber services available in select areas throughout Northeast Ohio and the state. OneCommunity and OMMC acknowledge that much of Ohio does not have adequate access to affordable, robust broadband services. In fact, that's what prompted the formation of OneCommunity back in 2003 and has prompted our rapid expansion since. This year alone, OneCommunity and its partners have invested more than \$13 million to further extend its service capabilities to hundreds of anchor institutions across numerous counties in Northeast Ohio. This new award allows us to go deeper and wider across the region. Contact info@onecommunity.org for information specific to your community.

Q: Didn't OneCommunity already win a stimulus award?

A: Yes, OneCommunity's coalition won an \$18.7 million grant for sustainable broadband adoption from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. Connect Your Community (CYC) is a two-year effort to ENGAGE, TRAIN, EQUIP and SUPPORT 26,000 low-income residents in five states to use the Internet. No infrastructure is involved. The CCI grant is separate and is for broadband infrastructure in Northeast Ohio.

Q: Which anchor institutions will benefit from the grant?

A: OneCommunity has identified thousands of anchor institutions that are in close proximity to the broadband expansion project. An estimated 800 anchor sites will be connected to the network by taking advantage of discounted rates made possible by the grant. Some anchors and providers will have access to segments of the network as early as the first half of 2011. We will publish our build-out timeline and prioritize areas according to demand and commitment from anchor tenants and local network providers.

Q: How does an anchor institution or service provider get access to the network?

A: Institutions or providers inquiring about availability, timing, and pricing or wishing to connect to the OneCommunity or Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (OMMC) network should contact info@onecommunity.org.

Q: Will individuals or businesses be able to get access to this network?

A: The project will provide an open, broadband network serving the region's local carriers, cable operators and private networks, which in turn will supply individuals and businesses a broader range of affordable broadband offerings, including Internet, video and voice services.

Q: Will OneCommunity develop an RFP for equipment and contract services?

A: OneCommunity has an internal procurement policy and consistently complies with all federal, state and other grant requirements. We post and distribute requests for proposals (RFPs) as required for equipment, construction, consulting, and other contractor services. Vendors and contractors can send their contact information and detailed service capabilities to info@onecommunity.org.

Q: What type of jobs will be created in Northeast Ohio? How was this calculated?

A: OneCommunity used the methodology suggested by the Council of Economic Advisors. Based on the amount invested by the federal government in the project (not including matching funds), OneCommunity arrived at the following job-years estimates:

Direct job-years: 192 (construction, engineering, operations, consulting)

Indirect job-years: 127 (equipment, fiber, peripherals, other material vendors)

Induced jobs: 180 (jobs created through "network effect" by adoption and meaningful use of broadband by impacted area businesses)

Read more here: http://www.whitehouse.gov/assets/documents/Job-Years_Revised5-8.pdf

Q: Whom should the media contact at the sub-recipient organizations?

A: OARnet
Susan Mantey
614-292-9457
susan@oar.net

Lorain County Community College
Marcia Ballinger
440-366-4073
mballing@lorainccc.edu

Medina County Port Authority
Bethany Dentler
330-722-9215
bdentler@medinacounty.org

Ohio Middle Mile Consortium

Q: What is the Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (OMMC)?

A: The Ohio Middle Mile Consortium (OMMC) is a public-private partnership among OneCommunity, Com Net, Inc., Horizon Telcom, and OARnet. The four organizations formed the consortium to create a comprehensive statewide plan to expand broadband infrastructure to the under-served and un-served areas of the state. Each of the three providers submitted its own independent application in partnership with OARnet. The three proposals were designed to complement each other, to be technologically integrated across the state, and to avoid any overlap. The OMMC today comprises more than 4,300 miles of operational optical fiber using state-of-the-art equipment, providing Ohio with an advanced, statewide telecommunications network dedicated to research, education and economic competitiveness. The grants, collectively, will add more than 3,600 fiber miles to help improve services across each county in the State. Visit www.ohiomiddlemile.org for more information.

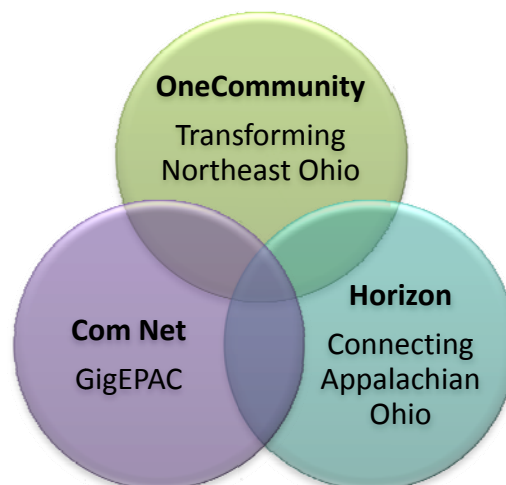
Q: Whom will OMMC serve?

A: OMMC will improve access to these broadband and related services for more than 8,000 public interest sites, including schools, training sites, health care facilities, government offices, public safety operations, libraries and others across all 88 counties in Ohio.

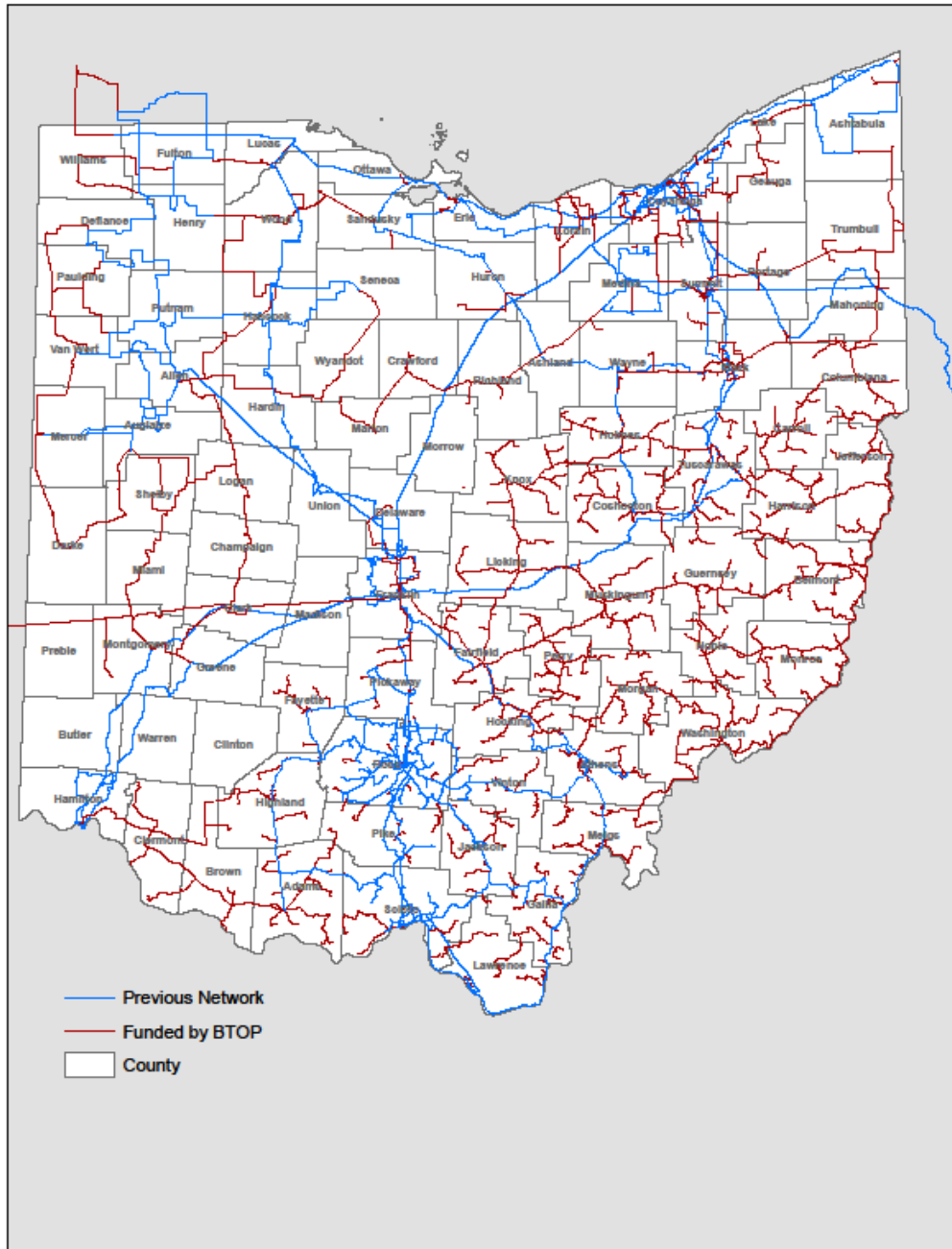
Q: How many jobs will the combined Ohio Middle Mile Consortium projects create?

A: In keeping with the objective of the ARRA to revitalize communities, the OMMC projects will stimulate the demand for broadband, spur economic growth, and create jobs. OMMC collaborators project the three proposals will generate 529 direct jobs, 464 indirect jobs and 559 induced jobs, with approximately 500 of those coming to Northeast Ohio. OneCommunity will also be hiring for selected positions.

Q: What are the three projects of OMMC?



State of Ohio Middle Mile Points of Presence with Network Inter-Connectivity



OneCommunity Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Network Expansion

