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Organization:	Navajo Tribal Utility Authority
Project Name:	Navajo Nation Middle/Last Mile Project: Quality Broadband for the Navajo People
Project Type:	Infrastructure
State(s):	Arizona, New Mexico, Utah
Federal Award:	\$32,190,067

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Navajo National Middle Mile/Last Mile Project proposes to bring high-speed affordable broadband services to the Navajo Nation by deploying 550 miles of new aerial fiber-optic cable and 59 new or modified microwave towers covering 15,000 square miles in Arizona, Utah, and New Mexico. The proposed service area has rugged terrain, significant poverty, and more than 60 percent of residents lack basic telephone service. The project expects to directly connect 49 Chapter Houses, which serve as community centers for the Navajo population, at speeds from 10 Mbps to 10 Gbps. Last mile wireless services will be offered at speeds between 1 and 3 Mbps through the project's wireless partner, Commnet Wireless.

The Navajo Nation project also proposes to:

- Spur more affordable broadband Internet service for as many as 30,000 households, 1,000 businesses, and an additional 1,100 anchor institutions, including public safety, health and social services, and emergency care facilities, by enabling any Internet providers in the region to connect to the project's open network.
- Supply broadband capabilities sufficient to implement telemedicine services such as remote diagnostics and patient consultation.
- Provide redundancy and connectivity in areas where fiber deployment is not feasible using upgraded microwave technology.
- Leverage a 30 percent match to maximize the use of federal funds.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The Navajo Tribal Utility Authority is a not-for-profit enterprise established by the Navajo Nation Council in 1959 to provide electric, water, gas, sewage, and solar utility services to the Navajo Nation and the Navajo People. The Utility Authority also owns, operates, and maintains a 24-tower microwave network, data center facilities, wide area networks, local area networks, business systems, and telephone networks in support of its utility services. The project has strong community support from educational, public safety, healthcare facilities, and the state governments of Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Chinle Agency Council
- Commnet Wireless
- Diné College
- Eastern Agency Council
- Fort Defiance Agency Council
- Navajo Area Indian Health Service
- Navajo Nation Department of Fire and Rescue Services
- Navajo Nation Public Safety Department
- Northern Navajo Agency Council
- Tuba City Regional Health Care Corp.
- Western Navajo Agency Council

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.

