

For More Information

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Organization: The Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI)
Project Name: **MassBroadband 123**
Project Type: Comprehensive Community Infrastructure

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute's **MassBroadband 123** application will build over 1,100 miles of fiber optic cable, creating a robust middle-mile network that connects 123 communities in western Massachusetts. **MassBroadband 123** will provide the necessary broadband infrastructure to foster economic growth, improve health care and education, and strengthen public safety.

The MBI collaborated with regional, state, and federal leaders to propose a network that will serve 333,500 households and 44,000 businesses over a geographic area covering over one-third of Massachusetts with more than one million residents.

MassBroadband 123 would:

- Connect over 1,392 anchor institutions, including public safety entities, community colleges, libraries, and other educational facilities.
- Maintain a publicly owned, open-access, middle mile network to allow network operators to provide affordable, quality last mile services.
- Stimulate the economy by creating jobs, and enabling businesses and higher education institutions to retain and cultivate an educated workforce.

PROJECT HISTORY:

Governor Deval Patrick and the Massachusetts Legislature created the Massachusetts Broadband Institute in 2008 to extend affordable, high-speed Internet access and broadband services across the Commonwealth. **MassBroadband 123** is strongly supported by Governor Patrick and members of the Massachusetts Congressional delegation and the Massachusetts Legislature. The MBI developed **MassBroadband 123** in partnership with the state's Information Technology Division, the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, and the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development.

FUNDING:

The MBI received a \$45.4 million grant under Round Two of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). The MBI and the Commonwealth will provide \$26.2 million in matching funds to bring the total investment in the project to \$71.6 million.

The Commonwealth's \$26.2 million in matching funds include:

- \$3.1 million — Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS)
- \$3.1 million — Massachusetts Information and Technology Division (ITD)
- \$20 million — Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI)