

# Fact Sheet

*Arkansas e-Link is leading an initiative to help make broadband services available to all Arkansans. This broadband expansion will help provide greater accessibility to telemedicine and distance & continuing education programs, especially to those in rural areas. Ultimately, increased access to broadband services helps communities grow and allows the state of Arkansas to remain competitive in the global economy.*

## About the Project

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) was awarded \$102 million by the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) within the Department of Commerce to support a statewide \$128-million broadband infrastructure that will serve community institutions across Arkansas. As recipient of this award, Arkansas e-Link will expand, integrate, and enhance the capabilities of two major existing community-serving networks: the *Arkansas Telehealth Network* as overseen by Arkansas Telehealth Oversight & Management (ATOM) and the *Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network (ARE-ON)*. Every county in Arkansas will benefit from this partnership of healthcare, higher education, public safety, and research organizations united in their needs for improved bandwidth and broadband-enabled equipment to better serve their communities.

Arkansas e-Link will utilize increased bandwidth and new equipment to support the platform for new and enhanced community services at 450+ statewide locations. As a product of this grant-funded initiative, the state's publicly supported community college students will be able to enroll in distance education courses in collaboration with the state's four-year universities, use fiber-grade Internet connections at computers on public college or university campuses, take or teach online courses and join in research or studies with other students and teachers across the state. The state's healthcare consumers, medical providers and researchers will have increased accessibility to real-time clinical consultations with remote specialists, virtual research collaboration and distance & continuing education. Arkansas e-Link unifies a diverse group of community institutions to significantly improve the state's broadband-enabled services.



**Overall Project Completion: 76%**

## State-of-the-Project

*During the months of July, August, and September (2012), Arkansas e-Link continued its deployment strategy phase and engaged in outreach and other activities which (cumulatively) have resulted in:*

- Deployment of 326 interactive video units and installation of 388 clinical assessment tools at healthcare sites.
- Installation of 295 public access personal computers.
- Connection of 244 long-term operating leased circuits/facilities.
- Implementation of approximately 99% of the video infrastructure systems.
- Delivery of e-ICU (electronic intensive care unit) equipment and associated software to Baptist Health. These devices will be assigned by Baptist Health.
- Outreach contact with 480+ Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) staff.
- Facilitation of Telehealth training to 144 CAIs (by South Central Telehealth Learning Center).
- Project overview and/or updates to the Hospital Preparedness Program, Office of Health Information Technology (OHIT), and State Senators/Representatives.

## ARE-ON, the program's sub-recipient, reports these project accomplishments:

- Placement of 11 new networks huts that are in process of being added to the network backbone.
- Completion of approximately 99% fiber lateral construction (46.75 of 47.05 miles).
- Deployment of optical ROADMS in three sites, with preliminary cold staging and inventory of remaining optical equipment completed.
- Completion of 565.80 of the total 715.89 miles of fiber by IRU providers, bringing the project total to 598.10 of 749.13 miles.
- Installation of core network routers at two sites.

## Key partner organizations:

Arkansas Association of Public Universities  
Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges  
Arkansas Center for Health Improvement  
Arkansas Children's Hospital  
Arkansas Department of Health  
Arkansas Department of Human Services  
Arkansas Department of Information Systems  
Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care  
Arkansas Telehealth Oversight & Management (ATOM)  
Arkansas Hospital Association  
Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network (ARE-ON)  
Arkansas State Library  
Baptist Health  
Community Health Centers of Arkansas  
Connect Arkansas  
Delta Regional Authority  
HomeCare Association of Arkansas  
Mental Health Council of Arkansas  
Methodist Family Health  
Metropolitan Emergency Medical System  
Pathfinder, Inc.  
St. Vincent Health System  
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

By August 2013, all 450+ sites will function on an "integrated network" fusing the Arkansas Telehealth Network as overseen by ATOM and the ARE-ON, benefiting from the following BTOP deliverables:

**Substantial bandwidth upgrades**  
**Significant network expansion**  
**Interactive video equipment additions**  
**Public computers for internet access**

Fully available after grant funding ends, these deliverables will provide the tools needed to enable participation in activities that once were available only in certain areas of Arkansas.



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For more information, to view map of participating community anchor institutions, and/or request promotional materials such as a Microsoft PowerPoint slideshow, please visit our web site: [www.arkansaselink.com](http://www.arkansaselink.com)

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