

# 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: 80%**

## State-of-the-Project

*During the months of October, November, December (2012), Arkansas e-Link continued its deployment strategy phase and engaged in outreach and other activities which (cumulatively) has resulted in:*

- Deployment of 476 interactive video units and 270 public access personal computers.
- Installation of 353 JedMeds and 215 stethoscopes (clinical assessment tools) at healthcare sites.
- Broadband installation at 374 sites.
- Implementation of approximately 99% of the video infrastructure systems.
- Facilitation of Telehealth training to 189 CAIs (by South Central Telehealth Learning Center).
- Project overview and/or updates to the UAMS Rural Health Fellows Roundtable and Advanced Communications and IT Joint Committee of the Arkansas Legislature.
- Initiation of media events for regional outreach and public relations (television and newspapers).
- Planning for launch of the Public Safety project contract.
- Outreach contact with 480+ Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) staff.
- Development of sustainability strategies for post-grant.

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

- Placement of 13 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).
- Connected Southern Arkansas University at Magnolia to the network.
- Completion of 716 miles of fiber optic cable by IRU providers.
- Installation of core network routers at two sites and optical equipment at three sites.

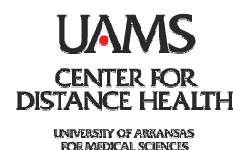
## Key partner organizations:

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)

*Disclaimer: This fact sheet is intended as general information only and does not carry the force of legal opinion. The UAMS Center for Distance Health is providing this information as a public service. This information and related materials are presented to give the public access to information about the grant award known as the BTOP project. You should be aware that while we try to keep the information timely and accurate, there will often be a delay between official publications of the materials and the modification of these pages. Therefore, we make no express or implied guarantees. We will make every effort to keep this information current and to correct errors brought to our attention.*