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BUSINESS COURIER

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Ohio gets \$30M broadband stimulus grant

Business Courier of Cincinnati

A public-private state partnership has been awarded \$30 million in federal stimulus funding for a project to extend broadband access in Ohio, including parts of Butler, Clinton and Warren counties.

The **Ohio Middle Mile Consortium**, a group of broadband providers around Ohio, sought the grant on behalf of the state. Gov. Ted Strickland said the funding will support the construction of 700 miles of high-capacity fiber to rural and underserved communities in 28 western counties. More than 300 jobs could be created as a result of the project.

The consortium is tied to the Ohio Academic Resources Network (OARnet), the technology arm of the **University System of Ohio**.

The Ohio Middle Mile Consortium is a group of four Ohio broadband and technology organizations including Com Net of Wapakoneta, OneCommunity of Cleveland, Horizon Telecom of Chillicothe and OARnet.

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