Note: Form instructions and definitions will be created to support the report. Instructional guidance and training will be developed. Numbering to be updated based on final approved form.

RECIPIENT NAME	DCN, LLC	**OMB Control No.**	OMB Control No. 0660-0052
		Expiration Date	Exp. Date: 2/28/2027

Middle Mile Grant Program Bi-Annual Performance Report								
A. GENERAL INFORMATION								
1a. Recipient Organization:	DCN, LLC	**1h. Award Identification Number:**	38-40-MM934					
1b. Recipient Street Address:	3901 GREAT PLAINS DR S	**1i. Report Date (MM/DD/YYYY):**	05/28/2025					
1c. City, State, and Zip Code:	FARGO, North Dakota 58104-3916	**1j. Final Report:**	**Yes**		**No**	X		
1d. Unique Entity Identification (UEI) Number:	N494JZQ81354	**1k. Report Period Start Date (MM/DD/YYYY):**	10/01/2024					
1e. Award Start Date (MM/DD/YYYY):	07/01/2023	**1l. Report Period End Date (MM/DD/YYYY):**	03/31/2025					
1f. Award End Date (MM/DD/YYYY):	06/30/2025							
1g. Name of Person Completing Report:	Seth Arndorfer							
B. PROJECT NARRATIVE								
Please use the section below to provide a project narrative of the project(s). This section aims to help reviewers better understand what project is being proposed and steps taken to achieve this goal.								
2a. A brief description of the recipient's organization and scope of work/project priorities.	DCN and its partner companies have more than 40,000 miles of fiber deployed across North Dakota. Our partners represent all the major local independent broadband service providers and serve more than 164,000 customers in 300+ communities. The Middle Mile project is composed of two elements, added middle mile fiber route miles, and upgrading electronics to support the increased network demand for current customers and bring connectivity to rural areas in North Dakota.							

2b. An overview of the significant outputs and outcomes to be accomplished in the project.	The project will add a total of 874.59 fiber route miles with 612.99 of new leased fiber route miles and 261.6 of new construction route miles. Electronics will also be upgraded to support the increased network demand and ensure the network has the capacity that is in demand from anchor institutions enabling them to serve critical services to the citizens of North Dakota and provide for future growth.
2c. How would the project meet the recipient's business and/or administrative need(s)?	The project will increase the capacity and resiliency of the Middle Mile Backbone serving the majority of North Dakota's critical anchor institutions, citizens, and business to alleviate the strain on the network due to continued growth in data consumption. With the majority of DCN's anchor institutions located in FCC defined rural and low-income areas, as well as the majority of the state being defined as rural, the additional fiber routes included in the project will undoubtedly reduce the latency experienced by end users in remote on insular areas and will provide access for rural businesses to grow and remain competitive.
2d. Provide an overview of key accomplishments achieved for this reporting period on the MM infrastructure project.	DCN has received all equipment. Ciena Node Installation and Commissioning is 100% complete, Segment Upgrades are 58 percent complete. Nokia Node Installation and Commissioning is 53 percent. RTC completed 100 percent network design and purchased 95 percent of equipment. Site preparation is 99% complete. Griggs has procured and deployed 95% of equipment. Equipment has been installed but not powered up. BEK completed network design, all easements were all acquired, and EHP work is 100 percent complete. All equipment has been deployed and tested. Project is in the process of closeout. DCT has completed 95 percent of network design, 98 percent of EHP work is complete and 95 percent of construction permits have been obtained. No materials have been purchased.
2e. Provide any roadblock experienced during this reporting period impacting the expansion of the MM infrastructure project (i.e., supply chain, availability of labor).	The project has not met the actual project milestones due to the EHP process not completed. There has been continued North Dakota SHPO delays on subrecipient DCT's project. NTIA and DCT are working together to address SHPO's questions and concerns. The most recent revised report was submitted to the ND SHPO in March 2025 for approval.
2f. Provide any barriers to improving job quality experienced during this reporting period.	None

C. INFRASTRUCTURE MILESTONE CATEGORIES AND PROJECT TIMELINE				
Please use the chart below to provide the start date and end date of your project.				
OVERALL PROJECT	**PROJECT DURATION**	**3a. PROJECT START DATE**	**3b. PROJECT END DATE**	
	730	07/01/2023	06/30/2025	

Please provide the start and end dates for each milestone category of your project. The duration is be based on the start and end dates of each category.

Please use the table provided to indicate your EXPECTED percentage of completion on a bi-annual basis for each year of your project. Year 1 begins with your award start date.

The percentage of completion should be based primarily on the expenditure of your project budget and should be reported cumulatively from award inception through the end of each semi-annual reporting period. For example, if you expect to complete a particular milestone within the first three periods of your project, the third period and all subsequent periods should state 100%.

*** Period 1 ends September 30 and Period 2 ends March 31. Additional columns may be added for a Year 6, Period 1 or 2, Baseline if the Period of Performance is 5 years.

Please write “0” in the duration field if your project does not include an activity. If necessary, please insert additional milestones at the end.

ANTICIPATED PROJECT MILESTONES***				Year 1 Baseline		Year 2 Baseline		Year 3 Baseline		Year 4 Baseline		Year 5 Baseline	
3c. MILESTONE CATEGORIES	3d. DURATION (Days)	3e. START DATE	3f. END DATE	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2
Overall Project	730	2023-07-01	2025-06-30	1%	50%	75%	100%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Environmental Assessment	200	2023-07-15	2024-01-31	50%	100%	100%	100%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Network Design	183	2023-07-01	2023-12-31	80%	100%	100%	100%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Rights Of Way	320	2023-11-15	2024-09-30	0%	75%	100%	100%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Construction Permits And Other Approvals	320	2023-11-15	2024-09-30	0%	75%	100%	100%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Site Preparation	320	2023-11-15	2024-09-30	0%	50%	100%	100%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Equipment Procurement	181	2023-10-01	2024-03-30	0%	100%	100%	100%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Network Build (all components - owned, leased, Indefeasible Rights of Use, etc.)	593	2023-11-15	2025-06-30	0%	50%	85%	100%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Equipment Deployment	546	2024-01-01	2025-06-30	0%	50%	85%	100%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Network Testing	546	2024-01-01	2025-06-30	0%	50%	85%	100%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Status of Procurement	181	2023-10-01	2024-03-30	0%	100%	100%	100%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Please use the table provided to indicate your ACTUAL percentage of completion on a bi-annual basis for each year of your project. Year 1 begins with your award start date.

The percentage of completion should be based primarily on the expenditure of your project budget and should be reported cumulatively from award inception through the end of each semi-annual reporting period. For example, if you expect to complete a particular milestone within the first three periods of your project, the third period and all subsequent periods should state 100%.

Please provide a brief description of the primary activities involved in meeting each milestone (a single description should be provided for each milestone, covering all periods in years one through N).

*** Period 1 ends September 30 and Period 2 ends March 31. Additional columns may be added for a Year 6, Period 1 or 2, Baseline if the Period of Performance is 5 years.

Please write the number “0” if your project does not include an activity. If necessary, please insert additional milestones at the bottom of the chart. Please add additional milestones as applicable.

ACTUAL PROJECT MILESTONES***	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5

		Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2
4a. MILESTONE	**4b. DESCRIPTION**	**Actual Milestone Completion (Cumulative)**									
Overall Project	DCN has received all equipment. Ciena Node Installation and Commissioning is 100% complete, Segment Upgrades are 58 percent complete. Nokia Node Installation and Commissioning is 53 percent. RTC completed 100 percent network design and purchased 95 percent of equipment. Site preparation is 99% complete. Griggs has procured and deployed 95% of equipment. Equipment has been installed but not powered up. BEK completed network design, all easements were all acquired, and EHP work is 100 percent complete. All equipment has been deployed and tested. Project is in the process of closeout. DCT has completed 95 percent of network design, 98 percent of EHP work is complete and 95 percent of construction permits have been obtained. No materials have been purchased.	4%	38%	57%	67%						
Environmental Assessment	The project has not met the actual project milestones due to the EHP process not completed. There has been continued North Dakota SHPO delays on subrecipient DCT's project. NTIA and DCT are working together to address SHPO's questions and concerns. A revised report was submitted to ND SHPO in March 2025 and is awaiting approval.	25%	93%	97%	99%						
Network Design	Subrecipient DCT has created the staking and routing maps. Awaiting SHPOs concurrence with the findings to finalize.	80%	98%	99%	99%						
Rights Of Way	Subrecipient DCT - Right of Ways created for staking sheets	0%	95%	97%	99%						
Construction Permits And Other Approvals	Several county, state, railroad, fish and wildlife permits and approvals obtained.	0%	40%	95%	99%						
Site Preparation	Subrecipients DCT and RTC have some site preparation yet to complete.	0%	46%	76%	80%						
Equipment Procurement	Subrecipients DCT and RTC have not completed all equipment procurement. DCT's technical change request was approved but equipment has not been procured. RTC has procured 95 percent of their equipment.	10%	60%	65%	80%						

Network Build (all components - owned, leased, Indefeasible Rights of Use, etc.)	Subrecipient DCT has not completed.	0%	0%	76%	76%						
Equipment Deployment	90% of the procured equipment has been deployed. Not all equipment for the project has been procured.	0%	25%	48%	55%						
Network Testing	84% of the deployed equipment has been tested or turned up.	0%	0%	40%	48%						
Status of Procurement	RTC has procured 95 percent of equipment but grant funds were not drawn down during this performance period. DCT's technical change was approved but they have not purchased any equipment.	0%	52%	60%	79%						

Subrecipient and Subawards

List of Subrecipient(s) that received a subaward or subcontract from the eligible entity and a description of the specific project for which grant funds were provided.

Associate projects names to any subrecipient or subaward associated with grant, approved grant funds, and expenditures to date.

5a. Project Name	Status	5b. Project Description	5c. Subrecipient	5d. Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)	5e. Women's Business Enterprise (WBE)	5f. Labor Surplus Area Firm	5g. Awarded Funds	5h. Expenditures to Date	5i. Remaining Grant Balance	5j. % of work complete
Griggs County MM Transport Upgrade	Active	Griggs County will be upgrading electronics to support the increased network demand, will ensure the network has the capacity that is in demand from anchor institutions enabling them to serve critical services to the citizens of North Dakota.	Griggs County Telephone	**false**	**false**	**false**	$882000	$789283.76	$92716.24	89 %

400G Ring Upgrade	Active	RTC will be upgrading electronics to support the increased network demand, will ensure the network has the capacity that is in demand from anchor institutions enabling them to serve critical services to the citizens of North Dakota.	RTC Networks	**false**	**false**	**false**	$2673643.62	$0	$2673643.62	0 %
BEK Middle Mile Upgrade	Active	BEK will be replacing aging electronics and upgrade portions of buried fiber optic midddle mile backbone. Upgrading the middle mile network will futureproof the evergrowging bandwidth capacity needs for BEK subscribers	BEK	**false**	**false**	**false**	$2673643.61	$2349501.78	$324141.83	88 %
DCT Middle Mile Upgrade	Active	Dakota Central will be adding a total of 230+ new construction fiber route miles to our middle mile backbone infrastructure. This project builds additional redundant routes and subrings required for critical institutions served by the network .	Dakota Central Telecommunications Cooperative	**false**	**false**	**false**	$2673643.62	$0	$2673643.62	0 %

D. INFRASTRUCTURE BUDGET EXECUTION DETAILS

Please provide details below on your total budget and total fund expended to date for each budget element, including detailed disbursements of both matching funds approved and federal funds obligated from project inception through end of this reporting period. Figures should be reported cumulatively from award inception to the end of the applicable reporting period.

6a. Projected Budget Element	**6b. Federal Funds**	**6c. Non-Federal Funds**	**6d. Total Project Budget**	**6e. Total Federal Funds Expended to Date**	**6f. Total Non-Federal Funds Expended to Date**	**6g. Total Funds Expended**	**6h. Percent of Federal Funding Expended to Date (Cumulative)**
6a. Administrative and legal expenses	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A

6a. Land, structures, rights-of way, appraisals, etc.	$234,064.81	$262,045.43	$496,110.24	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	0%
6a. Relocation expenses and payments	$6,902.62	$8,177.38	$15,080.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	0%
6a. Architectural and engineering fees	$411,353.33	$450,576.67	$861,930.00	$21,920.86	$25,972.64	$47,893.50	5%
6a. Other architectural and engineering fees	$92,324.73	$107,675.27	$200,000.00	$52,489.68	$62,191.72	$114,681.40	57%
6a. Project inspection fees	$23,448.75	$27,779.25	$51,228.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	0%
6a. Site work	$3,661.87	$4,338.13	$8,000.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	0%
6a. Demolition and removal	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
6a. Construction	$2,685,480.96	$5,014,589.65	$7,700,070.61	$325,584.28	$274,474.18	$600,058.46	12%
6a. Equipment	$16,253,337.40	$20,323,462.56	$36,576,799.96	$13,289,394.17	$15,059,606.73	$28,349,000.90	82%
6a. Miscellaneous	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
6a. Subtotal	$19,710,574.47	$26,198,644.34	$45,909,218.81	$13,689,388.99	$15,422,245.27	$29,111,634.26	69%

6a. Contingencies	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
6a. Totals	$19,710,574.47	$26,198,644.34	$45,909,218.81	$13,689,388.99	$15,422,245.27	$29,111,634.26	69%

E. COMMUNITY BENEFIT AGREEMENT	
As stated in the MM Grant Program NOFO a Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) is an agreement signed by community benefit groups and a developer, identifying the community benefits a developer agrees to deliver, in return for community support of the project. Please use the fields below to state the Community Benefit Group and Developer Name and describe the activities in how this partnership has supported with the Middle Mile Infrastructure project (i.e. wage agreements, targeting hiring of apprentices and disadvantaged groups in labor marker, education and training opportunities, sub-contracting to local small business for construction, services, and supply chain needs).	
Description of Community Agreement	
7a. Community Benefit Group Name: Please provide the name of the Community Benefit Group	These questions were answered via file upload. **Number of Community Agreements:** 0 **File(s) Uploaded with Responses:**
7b. Developer Name: Please provide the name of the Developer.	
7c. Community Benefit Group and Developer Partnership: Please describe in the space below the nature of the partnership and how the MM grant funds being used are assisting to provide community support for the infrastructure project.	

F. CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Recipients must demonstrate that they have sufficiently accounted for current and future weather and climate related risks to new MM infrastructure projects. At present, weather and climate related risks to broadband networks include wildfires, extreme heat and cold, inland and coastal flooding, and the extreme winds produced by weather events such as tornadoes, hurricanes, and other weather events. Because retrofitted and new infrastructure for broadband might be expected to have a lifetime of 20 years or more, recipients must account not only for current risks but also for how the frequency, severity, and nature of these extreme events may plausibly evolve as our climate continues to change over the coming decades.

Climate Resiliency Risk Mitigation

This purpose of this section is for the recipient to demonstrate that they have sufficiently accounted for current and future weather and climate-related risks to new MM infrastructure projects. In particular, each recipient should demonstrate how they've addressed the known and identifiable risks of current and future projected weather and climate conditions through measures such as (but not limited to) choice of a technology platform suitable to the climate risk of the region, reliance on alternatives siting of facilities (i.e., underground construction where appropriate), retrofitting, or hardening of existing assets, and use of network redundancy to safeguard against threats to infrastructure.

8a. Were any geographic areas identified for this reporting period subject to an initial and/or updated hazard screening for future weather and climate related risk? If so, please provide the date of the screening and provide related documentation as an attachment to this report.

No

8b. Climate Resilience Category	8c. Date of Most Recent Hazard Screening	8d. Name and Title of Representative Completing Most Recent Hazard Screening	8e. Date of Report Completion

No files uploaded for Hazard Screening.

8f. Identified Risk: For your MM project, what are the potential weather and climate hazards that may be most important to be addressed that could impact the resiliency of the middle mile infrastructure deployed (i.e. wildfires, extreme heat and cold, inland and coastal flooding, extreme winds: tornadoes, hurricanes and other weather events)?

North Dakota can have extreme weather ranging from -60 degree to over 110-degree temperatures. With these fluctuations in temperatures also comes flooding, drought, hail, and freezing rain. Also, as an open prairie state, we have extreme winds that can gust up to 90 mph with an occasional microburst and tornados. As the climate continues to change over the coming decades, DCN and its subrecipients have accounted for these extreme weather conditions burying all fiber cable on this project underground. Burying the cable underground ensures maximum protection from wind, lightning and ice storms which are the most common cause of system failure or blackout.

8g. Weather and Climate Hazards: Were any significant climate or weather hazards experienced during this reporting period (i.e., floods, tornados) impacting infrastructure buildout or service? Briefly describe how you monitored for weather and climate caused issues for the reliability of the system. If so, please provide the date of the disaster, location and backup documentation related (i.e., news articles).
No Recipients monitored for weather by using real-time data from weather stations, satellites, and climate models to monitor conditions.
8h. Risks to Deployment of New Infrastructure: Has the team identified any risks impacting the deployment of new or repaired infrastructure due to current and future weather and climate-related threats during this reporting period?
No
8i. Risk Mitigation: How will the project avoid and/or mitigate the risk identified? If not applicable, please explain why.
To mitigate risk factors, DCN and the subrecipients shall follow all standard telecommunications practices. All fiber cable placed on this project shall be buried underground either via plow or bore at a minimum depth of 36 inches. Burying the cable underground ensures maximum protection from wind, lightning, fire, and ice storms which are the most common cause of system failure or blackout. The cable will be placed in the back five feet of public right of way to ensure minimum disturbance from routine ditch cleanings after storms. Fully armored fiber which utilizes a metal armored sleeve will be placed to prevent gophers and other rodents from chewing on the cable. The cable is resilient to temperature changes and is rated between -40°F to 185°F (per Commscope fiber specs). Being buried at a minimum of 36” helps to insulate the cable and hold its temperature during extreme cycles of weather.
8j. Additional Information: Is there any additional information you would like to share during this reporting period that the grant team should be aware of regarding the management of sustainable climate resiliency for your MM project?
No
8k. Additional Resources Has the team utilized the available resources to assist with mitigation and long-term planning efforts for this reporting period? If so, which resources? 2018 National Climate Assessment NOAA's 2022 State Climate Summaries NOAA Disaster and Risk Mapping Tool NOAA's Storms Event Database NOAA Climate Explorer and Digital Coast FEMA National Risk Index Consulted FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plans prepared by states in which they propose to build middle mile infrastructure to help identify key risk and hazards

No

G. Workforce
For projects receiving over $5,000,000 (based on expected total cost), as determined by the U.S. Secretary of Labor by subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the "Davis-Bacon Act"), all laborers and mechanics employed by contractors and subcontractors in the performance of such project are paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing.

Davis-Bacon Certification	
9a. Does the recipient have access to the information requested (all laborers and mechanics employed by contractors and subcontractors in the performance of such project are paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing?)	Yes

Local Hire Prioritization and Impact

Local hiring is a goal or requirement to hire people who live close to the place of work. This aim is often more specifically structured as a requirement for contractors awarded certain types of publicly funded projects to recruit a certain proportion of the people working on the project from a particular area. Please **provide all direct hires and contractors supporting** the MM Infrastructure project.

Please use the table below to describe how the project prioritizes local hiring.

Hires by Race, Ethnicity and Sex	Number of Hires																			
	Race/Ethnicity																			
	9b. Hispanic or Latino			9c. Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino																Totals
				9c-1. Men						9c-2. Women										
	9b-1. Men	9b-2. Women		White	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Asian	Native American or Alaska Native	Two or More Races	White	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Asian	Native American or Alaska Native	Two or More Races						

Number of Local Direct Hires	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
Number of Non-Local Direct Hires	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
Percentage of Local Direct Hires on Award	0%	0%		0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%						
Number of Local Subcontractors	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
Number of Non-Local Subcontractors	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
Percentage of Local Subcontractors on Award	0%	0%		0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%						

Davis-Bacon Act Wages
Please confirm if wages are at least prevailing*
*As stated in the MM NOFO as determined by the U.S. Secretary Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the "Davis-Bacon Act"), for the corresponding classes of laborers and mechanics employed on projects of a character similar to the contract work in the civil subdivision of the State (or the District of Columbia) in which the work is to be performed.

10a. Are wage rates at least the Davis-Bacon prevailing wage for all laborers?	No
10b. Please cite your source of how this information was gathered (for 10a).	Not applicable, no laborers have been hired during this reporting period
10c. Are wage rates at least the prevailing wage for all mechanics?	No
10d. Please cite your source of how this information was gathered (for 10c).	Not applicable, no mechanics have been hired during this reporting period
10e. If you answered "No" to either 10a. or 10c., please provide an attachment reporting the wages and benefits of workers on the project by job classification, and whether those wages are less than the prevailing wage.	

Workforce Demographic Data					
Jobs by Race, Ethnicity and Sex	Number of Jobs				
	Race/Ethnicity				
	11-a. Hispanic or Latino	11b. Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino			Totals
		11b-1. Men	11b-2. Women		

Workforce Demographic Data																					
	11a-1. Men	11a-2. Women		White	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Asian	Native American or Alaska Native	Two or More Races	White	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Asian	Native American or Alaska Native	Two or More Races							
Jobs Created	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						0
Jobs Retained	0	0		2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0						3

Unionized Workforce	
12-a. Does this project include some workforce elements that are unionized?	Yes
12-b. Are workers provided access to union educators/organizers on employer property or during the work day?	Yes
12-c. Does your MM project utilize a project labor agreement?	No
12-d. Did workers receive additional information or training about their workplace rights in addition to already required notice postings?	No

H. Workforce Continuity Plan
National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 158 (f)

As stated in the MM NOFO, if a recipient has not provided a certification that a project either will use a unionized project workforce or included a project labor agreement, meaning a pre-hire collective bargaining agreement consistent with section 8(f) of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 158 (f)), then the recipient must provide a project workforce continuity plan.

Workforce Continuity Plan
13a. Please describe the steps taken to ensure the project has ready access to a sufficient supply of appropriately skilled and unskilled labor to ensure construction is completed skillfully throughout the project's life (as required in Section III.B of the MM NOFO). As stated in the MM NOFO, the middle mile grant recipient is capable of carrying out the proposed project in a competent manner, including a plan to attract or retain an appropriate skilled and credentialed workforce.
DCN and all four of the subrecipients have robust training and certification processes, the bulk of which revolving around safety and equipment-specific learning. All offer Professional Certifications, In-House Training, and TT&S safety training. DCT additionally offers Labor-Management Partnerships with CWA and education assistance. BEK will use both internal and external workforce to complete this project. Training for existing BEK employees to install middle mile fiber is done internally and guided by a leadership team with more than 18 years of experience working with fiber installation. Equipment placement inside existing BEK offices will also be installed by well seasoned employees with over 20 years of experience. For the Fiber Installation, BEK will use external contractors that have proven record of success with Fiber installation.
For your MM project, please provide a brief description of efforts made to attract, train or retain a skilled and credentialed workforce.
DCN and all four subrecipients invest in personalized training programs to help employees develop essential skills and advance in their careers. This includes online courses, workshops, and mentorship opportunities. Additionally, efforts are made to recruit and support underrepresented groups, including women, people of color, and workers from rural and Tribal communities. This ensures a diverse and inclusive workforce.
Has the team offered any of the following resources to assist with maintaining a sufficient supply of appropriately skilled labor force for this reporting period? If so, which resources (please provide a brief description of any of the following that apply): Professional Certifications In-House Training Registered Apprenticeships Labor-Management Partnerships Partnerships with entities like unions, community colleges, or community-based groups
DCN and all four of the subrecipients have robust training and certification processes, the bulk of which revolving around safety and equipment-specific learning. All offer Professional Certifications, In-House Training, and TT&S safety training. Cybersecurity and systems training is continuously held throughout the year. DCT additionally offers Labor-Management Partnerships with CWA and education assistance.
13b. Please describe below, the steps taken to minimize risks of labor disputes and disruptions that would jeopardize the timeliness and cost-effectiveness of completing the MM project.
DCN, as well as all four subrecipients, abide by fair labor practices and standards. Two are direct employment, union-contracted employers. These two companies, RTC Networks and DCT, are part of Communications Workers of America union. The other two, Griggs and BEK Communications, are non-union but also directly employ their workers. All those involved abide by prevailing wage and local hiring standards. DCT negotiates a union contract on a three year term. Negotiations have never ended in a labor dispute or disruption in the past.
13c. Please describe below the steps to ensure a safe and healthy workplace that avoids delays and costs associated with workplace illnesses, injuries, and fatalities.
DCN, as well as all four subrecipients, offer TT&S safety training and adhere to all OSHA regulations. DCT - Workforce Safety Training and TT&S training are offered bi-monthly. We adhere to all OSHA regulations. BEK - Projects will be monitored under close engineering inspection. Weather delay are always presumed, accounted for and tracked in construction time schedules. Weekly safety meetings are held onsite of project activity to accurately determine workplace safety and compliance with specific projects until their completion. Yearly health vaccinations are offered to BEK employees.
13d. For your MM project, please provide a brief description below of efforts made to ensure a safe and healthy workplace.

DCN and all four of the subrecipients have robust training and certification processes, the bulk of which revolving around safety and equipment-specific learning. All offer Professional Certifications, In-House Training, and TT&S safety training.
Has the team offered any of the following resources to assist with maintaining a safe and healthy workplace for this reporting period? If so, which resources (please provide a brief description of any of the following that apply): Safety Training Certifications and/or Licensure Requirements for all relevant works (e.g., OSHA 10, OSHA 30, confined space, traffic control, or other training required of workers employed by contractors) Issues raised by workplace safety committees and their resolutions
DCT - Safety training is provided, along with education assistance for advanced communications/broadband technician certifications. BEK holds monthly safety meetings organized by a 3rd party training organization. Telecom Training and Safety (TT&S) is used to meet the requirements of OSHA training and compliance.

Subcontracted Entities Information			
As stated in the MM NOFO, if a recipient has not provided a certification that a project either will use a unionized project workforce or included a project labor agreement, meaning a pre-hire collective bargaining agreement consistent with section 8(f) of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 158 (f)), then the recipient must provide a project workforce continuity plan.			
13e. Please provide the name(s) below of any subcontracted entities performing work on the project, and the total number of workers employed by each entity.			
13e-1. Name of Subcontracted Entity Performing Work	**Status**	**13e-2. Total Number of Workers within this Subcontract**	**13e-3. Job Categories of Workers Supporting Project within this Subcontract**
13f. Please describe below the steps taken to ensure that workers on the project receive wages and benefits sufficient to secure an appropriately skilled workforce in the context of the local and regional labor market.			
DCN, as well as all four subrecipients, abide by fair labor practices and standards. All those involved abide by prevailing wage and local hiring standards.			

I. ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS	
Please provide Anchor Institution (AI) data for the current period only (not cumulative). Please add rows as needed.	
14a. Anchor Institution Name	

14b. Street Address	No files were uploaded for this nonobligatory section.
14c. City	
14d. State	
14e. Type of Anchor Institution	
14f. Interconnection with 1,000 Feet of AI Enabling Gig Symmetrical Service	
14g. Narrative Description of how the Anchor Institution may benefit from the Grant Funded Infrastructure	

J. BROADBAND ACCESS KEY INDICATOR: SUBSCRIBERS AND SPEED

Please use the following table to provide anticipated key indicators with the projected totals for each beneficiary category, access type and speed category for your infrastructure service or project. Except as indicated, information should be reported cumulatively from award inception through the end of the bi-annual period for Bi-Annual Indicators. Please write the number "0" if your project does not include this indicator.

*** Period 1 ends September 30 and Period 2 ends March 31. Additional columns may be added for a Year 6, Period 1 or 2, Baseline if the Period of Performance is 5 years.

PROJECTED NUMBER OF SUBSCRIBERS AND SPEED	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Year 5	
ACCESS TYPE	**Period 1**	**Period 2**	**Period 1**	**Period 2**	**Period 1**	**Period 2**	**Period 1**	**Period 2**	**Period 1**	**Period 2**
15a. Anchor Institutions (AIs)* **										
15a-1. Total Number of AIs passed	1145	1145	1145	1145						
15a-2 Number of AIs within 1,000 feet of the middle mile infrastructure	1145	1145	1145	1145						
15a-3. Total number of AIs served	1145	1145	1145	1145						
15a-4. AIs with new access	0	0	0	0						

15a-5. AIs with improved access	0	664	878	950						
15a-6. Total number of AIs served with speeds of at least 1/1Gbps	1145	1145	1145	1145						
15b. Broadband Wholesalers or Last Mile Providers* **										
15b-1. Total number of broadband wholesalers or last mile providers served	13	13	13	13						
15b-2 Broadband wholesalers or last mile providers with new access	0	0	0	0						
15b-3. Broadband wholesalers or last mile providers with improved access	0	13	13	13						
15b-4. Total number of broadband wholesalers or last mile providers offering speeds of at least 25/3 Mbps	13	13	13	13						
15b-5. Total number of broadband wholesalers or last mile providers offering speeds of at least 100/20 Mbps	13	13	13	13						
15b-6. Total number of broadband wholesalers or last mile providers offering speeds of at least 1/1 Gbps	13	13	13	13						

K. BROADBAND ACCESS KEY INDICATOR: NETWORK BUILD PROGRESS

Please use the following table to provide anticipated key indicators and progress of your Infrastructure project. Except as indicated, information should be reported cumulatively from award inception through the end of the bi-annual period. Please write the number "0" if your project does not include this indicator.

*** Period 1 ends September 30 and Period 2 ends March 31. Additional columns may be added for a Year 6, Period 1 or 2, Baseline if the Period of Performance is 5 years.

NETWORK BUILD PROGRESS***	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Year 5	
KEY INDICATOR	**Period 1**	**Period 2**	**Period 1**	**Period 2**	**Period 1**	**Period 2**	**Period 1**	**Period 2**	**Period 1**	**Period 2**
16a. Total of new fiber miles (aerial or buried)	0	0	233	233						

16b. Total of fiber miles leased	0	0	623	623						
16c. Total of existing fiber miles upgraded	0	0	2654	2654						
16d. Total number of new microwave links	0	0	0	0						
16e. Total number of new towers	0	0	0	0						
16f. Total number of new interconnection points	0	0	0	0						
16g. Total number of signed agreements with broadband wholesalers or last mile providers	13	13	13	13						
16h. Total of potential agreements (i.e., agreements currently being negotiated) with broadband wholesalers or last mile providers (This Total should NOT be reported cumulatively)	0	0	0	0						

L. QUANTIFIABLE METRICS

Quantifiable Metrics - Section designed to assist with **reporting** and **audit** purpose to quantify how much progress was made and track the location of where the progress was made.

*** Period 1 ends September 30 and Period 2 ends March 31. Additional columns may be added for a Year 6, Period 1 or 2, Baseline if the Period of Performance is 5 years.

17a. Fiber Optic Based ***	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Year 5	
	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2
17a-1. Is the fiber a buried/aerial or undersea application?	buried/aerial	buried/aerial	buried	buried						

17a-2. Number of strands deployed	0	0	384	384						
17a-3. Number of miles of buried fiber deployed	0	0	34	34						
17a-4. Number of miles of aerial fiber deployed	0	0	0	0						
17a-5. Estimated capacity of fiber (i.e. throughput)	0	0	400	400						
17a-6. Deployment cost per mile of buried fiber optics	$0.00	$0.00	$18,823.00	$20,293.25						
17a-7. Deployment cost per mile of aerial fiber optics	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00						
17a-8. Total Spent on Buried Fiber Deployment this reporting period	$0.00	$0.00	$4,360,307.26	$495,304.34						
17a-9. Total Spent on Aerial Fiber Deployment this reporting period	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00						
17a-10. Total spent on Fiber Deployment this reporting period	$0.00	$0.00	$4,360,307.26	$495,304.34						

17a. Fiber Optic Based *, Long Text Responses and File Uploads**	
Current Period (Year 2, Period 2)	
17a-11. Please provide any additional information about the Fiber Optic deployment (200 words or less)	Digital maps for the 34 miles were provided with Year 2 Period 1 bi-annual report.
17a-12. Please provide the digital mappings (e.g., CAD, Revit, KMZ, KML) for the new aerial fiber and buried fiber equipment installed during this reporting period.	

17b. Microwave Based ***	**Year 1**	**Year 2**	**Year 3**	**Year 4**	**Year 5**

	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2
17b-1. How many microwave nodes have been deployed?	0	0	0	0						
17b-2. How many microwave nodes are operating for reporting period?	0	0	0	0						
17b-3. Installation cost per microwavable node	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00						
17b-4. Number of new towers built to support microwave structure	0	0	0	0						
17b-5. If applicable, what type of tower was constructed (a) Monopole (b) Self-Support, (c) Guyed, or (d) Other during this reporting period?	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A						
17b-6. Average cost per tower installed	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00						
17b-7. Total spend on Tower deployment this reporting period	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00						
17b-8. Total spend on microwave deployment this reporting period	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00						

17b. Microwave ***, Long Text Responses and File Uploads	
Current Period (Year 2, Period 2)	
17b-9. If you answered "Other" to question 17b-5 or if it is a combination of multiple types, please provide a detailed narrative description detailing what type of tower or what combination of towers is used for the project and the associated costs. (200 words or less).	
17b-10. Please provide the digital mappings (e.g., CAD, Revit, KMZ, KML) for the microwave nodes created during this reporting period.	

17c. Satellite ***	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5

	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2	Period 1	Period 2
17c-1. What satellite provider is being used?	NA	0	N/A	N/A						
17c-2. What is the estimated capacity of the satellite link (i.e. throughput)?	0	0	0	0						
17c-3. What is the associated cost to use this satellite service?	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00						
17c. Satellite *, Long Text Responses and File Uploads**										
Current Period (Year 2, Period 2)										
17c-4. Please provide any additional information about the Satellite deployment (200 words or less)	N/A									
17c-5. Please provide the digital mappings (e.g., CAD, Revit, KMZ, KML) for the satellite network accessed during this reporting period.										

Certifications
18. Please provide certification evidencing compliance with Federal labor and employment laws along with the requirements of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Middle Mile Grant Program, for the bi-annual period for which this report is being filed.
DCN, LLC, and all subrecipients, are in compliance with federal labor and employment laws along with the requirements of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and Middle Mile Grant Program, for the bi-annual period for which this report is being filed.
19. Please provide certification evidencing compliance with the Build America, Buy America Act. The Build America, Buy America Act requires that all of the iron, steel, manufactured products (including but not limited to fiber-optic communications facilities), and construction materials used in the project or other eligible activities are produced in the United States unless a waiver is granted.
All materials purchased are covered under the NTIA Middle Mile waiver dated 4/19/2023. Limited Applicability Nonavailability Waiver of the Buy America Domestic Content Procurement Preference as Applied to Recipients of Middle Mile Grant Program Awards. **File Uploaded:** BEK MMG Inventory Report_4.30.24 OCC FINAL.xlsx, Griggs Inventory Report_07.24.24 OCC FINAL.xlsx, DCN MMG Inventory Report_01.24.24 OCC FINAL (1).xlsx, RTC Inventory Report_4.7.25.xlsx

20. I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that this report is correct and complete for performance of activities for the purposes set forth in the award documents.	
20a. Typed or Printed Name and Title of Authorized Certifying Official:	Seth Arndorfer
20b. Signature of Certifying Official:	Seth Arndorfer
20c. Telephone (area code, number and extension):	7013233000
20d. Email Address:	sarndorfer@dakotacarrier.com
20e. Date:	05/28/2025