The Kansas Office of Broadband Development was established in 2020 to help ensure that all Kansans have the opportunity to live, work, learn and compete in a global economy by improving universal access to quality, affordable and reliable broadband. The Office is housed within the Community Development Division of the Kansas Department of Commerce. As the state's lead economic development agency, Commerce strives to empower individuals, businesses and communities to achieve prosperity in Kansas.

**2020/2021 BROADBAND ACCELERATION GRANT:**

**BLUE VALLEY TECHNOLOGIES – BERN**

**ABOUT THE NEED**

Bern, Kansas is one of many places left behind in terms of broadband and is economically disadvantaged. Blue Valley Technologies goal is to construct and deploy an FTTP (Fiber to the Premise) network inside the town limits of Bern. At the completion of the project, Blue Valley Technologies will be able to deliver fiber broadband services to 100 residential locations, six anchor institutions, eight local businesses and three municipal organizations. This network will be capable of delivering broadband up to 1 Gbps symmetrical service, allowing customers to have a stress free experience when it comes to daily tasks such as remote work, telehealth appointments and distance learning.

**ABOUT BLUE VALLEY TECHNOLOGIES**

Blue Valley Technologies is a wholly owned subsidiary of Blue Valley Tele-Communications, Inc. Blue Valley Technologies received one Connectivity Emergency Response Grant in addition to their Broadband Acceleration Grant to better assist in broadband deployment to underserved communities. Blue Valley Technologies received community support from the City of Bern, Duffer’s Repair and Supply, Bern Fire Department, Bern/Sabetha Veterinary Clinic, AHRS Construction, Northeast Kansas Library System and the State Bank of Bern.

**Total Project Investment:**

$510,714

**Award Amount:**

$255,357

**In Partnership With:**

Nemaha County, Bern, Kansas