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## Who is The Quilt?

The Quilt is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation that represents over 30 of our country's most advanced state research and education networks (RENs). The Quilt is a member-funded organization which receives significant volunteer contributions from its participants to support our initiatives. As a network of networks, The Quilt is a trusted forum where our members come together to exchange ideas, share best practices, leverage expertise and speak with a single voice on issues of common interest. With similar missions, these organizations collaborate at a national level to collectively advance networking in support of the research and education goals of the institutions each serve.

Most of the state network members of the Quilt began service by providing high-capacity data services to higher education. Over time, and with the help of the BTOP program, many of our networks have expanded to provide broadband services to schools, libraries, state and local government agencies, non-profit organizations, health care, and private industry engaged in research and educational partnerships. About ½ of our members participate in the E-rate program, either as consortium filers (4 organizations) filing on behalf of a number of their member institutions, or as an Internet access service provider (10 organizations).

While all our members are non-profits, they are funded, governed and structured differently. These fundamental aspects of the organizations reflect the diverse and complex environments of the communities and states in which they operate.

- 34% of Quilt members are 501c3 non-profit corporations;
- 40% of Quilt members are university-based organizations;
- 26% of Quilt members are either a division of the State Board of Regents, State Dept. of Higher Education or another State Government agency.

## **R&E Networks Are Bridging the Gap to Schools, Libraries and Other Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs)**

Research and education networks (RENs) have several core competencies that allow them to provide high-value services to schools and libraries, such as:

- Per their missions, research and education networks (RENs) are instrumental in providing access to advanced networking services to extended communities that would otherwise not have access to such services, including higher education institutions, K-12 schools, libraries, state and local government agencies, health care, and other non-profit organizations.
- Most R&E Networks own and control their own middle-mile and some last mile network infrastructure. This allows R&E Networks to respond to the unique requirements of community anchor institutions (CAIs) and support the sustained increases in bandwidth utilization by these institutions over time.
- As consortium purchasers, R&E Networks have a successful history of forming lasting public/private partnerships with commercial telecommunications carriers and other industry partners. These partnerships have resulted in the ability for schools, libraries and other CAIs to cost-effectively access R&E Networks' shared infrastructure while increasing revenue and lowering administrative costs for these commercial partners. (This benefit was specifically recognized in the National Broadband Plan, p. 154). The positives of consortium purchases extend into technical support where consortium buyers often get higher priority in technical support. Consortium buyers often get access to flexibly priced last mile circuits that allow connectors to grow into higher bandwidth commitments in an economical and efficient fashion.
- R&E Networks have been designed to meet the needs of some of the most demanding Internet users in the country: scientists, academics and researchers in our nation's leading academic institutions. These networks are engineered to support high-quality services that are consistent regardless of the number of users on the network. The networks must readily adapt to new experiments or projects that place new demands on the network. The network speed, quality, flexibility and support offered by R&E Networks also provide schools and libraries with exceptional service that adapts easily to specific demands of these users.
- Many of these R&E Networks received BTOP grant funding to build out middle mile infrastructure, upgrade broadband connections and add new connections to community anchor institutions in their states. These projects resulted in lower costs and increased capacity to K-12 schools and libraries and other community anchor institutions that previously did not have such broadband access at affordable prices.

8 Quilt Member BTOP CCI Recipients:

Almost 13,000 new, upgraded or leased fiber miles

Over 4,000 new and upgraded community anchor institutions connections

3 Quilt Member BTOP CCI Sub-recipients

Over 5,200 new, upgraded or leased fiber miles

Over 700 new and upgraded community anchor institutions connections

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The Quilt and Its Members

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