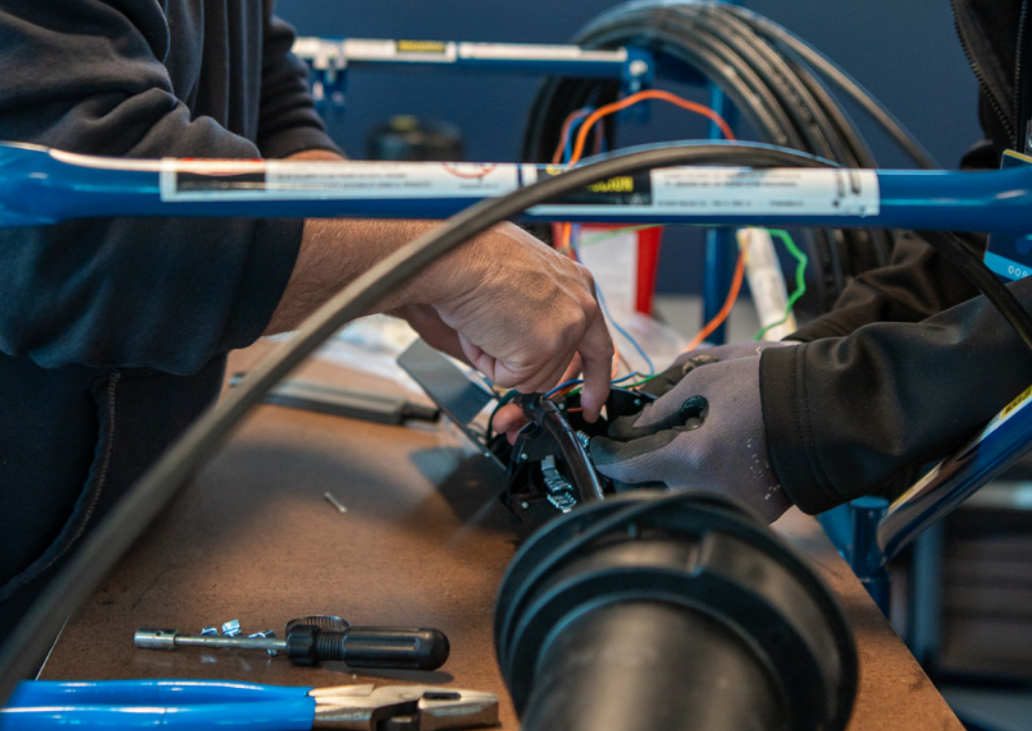


2025-2026

Indiana Fiber Technician Training Program





Program Overview

Indiana Electric Cooperatives and Hoosier Energy are partnering with the Fiber Broadband Association (FBA) to offer the Indiana Fiber Technician Training Program.

Today's high-speed fiber networks provide the bandwidth required for working remotely, distance learning, and modern healthcare. Skilled fiber technicians provide the quality and safe workmanship required for the networks to support

those needs. This course provides future technicians with the required professional skills while learning to work safely alongside electric infrastructure.

A focus on safety makes this program different from others. Telecommunications workers are exposed to the same inherent hazards as those who work with energized lines. Participants will learn the fundamentals of the electric system and be able to identify hazards to ensure they

know where to work, how closely they can work in proximity to energized lines and how to protect themselves.

Course graduates will be able to safely install, test, and troubleshoot components to completed systems, including subscribers' FTTH locations. Classes are designed to culminate in the FBA OpTIC certification, but technicians will benefit from immediate application to their daily work.

Build and develop the skills and safety knowledge required for entry-level employment as a fiber technician. This course covers the fundamental principles of safely installing, testing and maintaining fiber networks.

Course Outline

The program consists of 168 hours of classroom and hands-on skills training. It is carefully geared to specific skills needed to safely operate and maintain a fiber plant, regardless of manufacturer or topology. The program is vendor-neutral in terms of materials, tooling and topologies. The skills learned will be relevant in all fiber environments.



MODULE 1

SEPTEMBER 2-4, 2025

OCTOBER 7-9, 2025

General Safety*

- Electrical Hazards Awareness
- Traffic Safety
- Industrial Hygiene
- Biological Hazards
- Construction
 - Hand Tools
 - Drills and Saws
 - Ropes and Knots
 - Ladders
 - Ladder Rescue
 - Fiber Construction
 - Construction Standards

MODULE 2

NOVEMBER 4-6, 2025

Fiber Optic Safety

- Fiber Handling Safety
- Hand Protection
- Cable Stripping Safety
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Eye Protection
- Fiber Shards
- Laser

MODULE 3

DECEMBER 10-12, 2025

Fiber Optic Skills

- Fiber Optic Fundamentals – Jargon
- Fiber Optic Communications Basic Theory
- Types and Properties of Fiber Optic Cable
- Fiber Type Identification
- Termination and Splicing
- Types of Mechanical Splicer Identification
- Fusion Splicing

MODULE 4

JANUARY 6-8, 2026

Hardware and Cable Testing

- Optical Time Domain Reflectometer
- Light Source and Meter
- Visual Fault Locator
- Microscope

MODULE 5

FEBRUARY 3-5, 2026

Basic Trouble Shooting

MODULE 6

MARCH 3-5, 2026

Basic Fiber Optic Network Design and Installation

- Introductions to Standards and Codes

ELECTIVES

Once the certificate program is completed, electives will be offered based on interest.

Advanced Safety*

- Pole Climbing and Pole Top Rescue (40 hours)
- Trenching (8 hours)
- Confined Space (8 hours)
- Bucket Truck Operation and Material Handling (16 hours)

Advanced Skills

- Underground Locating* (8 hours)
- Advanced Testing and Trouble Shooting
 - Outage Restoration and Planning Workshop (24 hours)

Courses with an asterisk (*) will be taught by Hoosier Energy and Indiana Electric Cooperatives. All others will be taught by S&N Communications.

CERTIFICATION

Graduates will receive the Fiber Broadband Association OpTIC Path Certification.

This certification was developed by the major stakeholders who created and grew the fiber industry. They saw a need for a qualified workforce to enable the unprecedented broadband funding and implementation to be successful. The purpose is to help create a well-trained workforce that can properly install and maintain the networks.

The certification has garnered national, industry-wide acceptance. It is trusted by network operators and employers because of its:

- Specific relevance to needed skills
- Repetition and stacking of skills
- Cross relevance between classroom knowledge and hands-on application
- Career-long learning and growth

ABOUT S&N COMMUNICATIONS

S&N Communications, Inc. is a leader in turn-key fiber infrastructure, power distribution and gas construction, design services and underground utility locating services.

REGISTRATION

Classes are limited to 12 participants to ensure an interactive experience. There is a limit of one participant per cooperative. Indicate your cooperative's interest online at goiec.org/FTTP. The registration deadline is Aug. 1, 2025.

TUITION

\$4,500 per participant. The sponsoring cooperative is responsible for travel, lodging and meal expenses. One-third of the tuition will be billed in 2025 and two-thirds of the tuition will be billed in 2026.

Note: Per-person tuition is based on 12 participants per cohort. Tuition for non-IEC-member cooperatives is an additional \$1,000 per person.

LOCATION

All modules will be held at Indiana Electric Cooperatives, 11805 Pennsylvania Street, Carmel, IN 46032.

QUESTIONS?

Adam Lock, alock@indianaec.org or 260.413.4474

Matt Figg, mfigg@hepn.com or 812.360.0530