

USDA Rural Development has approved a grant of \$2,136,045

Program:	Community Connect Grants
State/County:	ND/Morton and Oliver
Congressman:	Cramer, (ND-001)
Senators:	Hoeven and Heitkamp
Recipient:	BEK Communications Cooperative
Recipient Contact:	Mr. Derrick Bulawa, Chief Executive Officer
Mailing Address:	200 E. Broadway PO Box 230 Steele, North Dakota 58482
Email Address:	derrick@bektel.coop
Phone Number:	701-475-2361
Project Description:	<p>BEK Communications Cooperative (BEK) will use \$2,136,045 of Community Connect grant funds to provide an opportunity to spark economic opportunities, facilitate educational aspirations, enhance healthcare and bolster public safety, in the unserved area of North East Morton County and South East Oliver County, North Dakota with deployment of Fiber-to-the Home (FTTH) technology, and the much needed services it can deliver. BEK will connect the Community Connect PFSA to their existing network by crossing the Missouri River. This will bring all the current and future BEK services and capabilities to this area in desperate need. This project will bring high-speed broadband capabilities to customers who otherwise have no broadband or lesser quality services such as dial-up, satellite or mobile wireless services, all of which offer speeds below the RUS defined broadband service level or lack the ability to deliver real-time services like IP Voice and IP Video. The proposed fiber network will be very flexible for future growth and will support the implementation of new technologies and new services anticipated in the future.</p>
People Who Will Benefit:	2,016
Other Funding:	\$2,827,215
Total Project Cost:	\$4,963,230
RUS ID:	ND1401-C23

USDA Rural Development has approved a grant of \$701,221

Program: Community Connect Grants

State/County: KY/Breathitt

Congressman: Barr, Andy (KY-06)

Senators: McConnell, Mitch (KY), Paul, Rand (KY)

Recipient: Crystal Broadband Networks, Inc.

Recipient Contact: Mr. Nidhin Johnson, President

Mailing Address: 5860 Main Street Clay City, Kentucky 40312

Email Address: njohnson@crystalbn.com

Phone Number: 630-206-0447

Project Description: Crystal Broadband Networks, Inc. will utilize RUS Community Connect grant funds to deploy high speed broadband internet services to the Proposed Funded Service Area (PFSA) of Breathitt County using Hybrid Fiber Coax Technology. The project also calls for deploying video and voice services to the entire PFSA. Breathitt County is often threatened with severe weather conditions, and other natural disasters. Breathitt County also suffers from the lack of modern telephone communications services. There is no reliable wireless cellular phone service in the area which compounds the difficulty in responding to Public Safety issues. Through funding provided by a Community Connect Broadband Grant, the community's fire and rescue personnel would have the ability to receive virtual real-time warnings as well as bringing online educational and work from home opportunities to all citizens. Broadband services would bridge the digital divide between Breathitt County and the surrounding

People Who Will Benefit: 508

Other Funding: \$110,799

Total Project Cost: \$812,020

RUS ID: IL1403-H23

USDA Rural Development has approved a grant of \$2,368,864

Program: Community Connect Grants

State/County: ND/Stutsman

Congressman: Cramer (ND-001)

Senators: Hoeven and Heitkamp

Recipient: Daktel Communications, LLC.

Recipient Contact: Mr. Keith Larson, Chief Executive Officer

Mailing Address: 213 2nd Avenue, NW Jamestown, ND 58401

Email Address: keithl@daktel.net

Phone Number: 701-652-6105

Project Description: Daktel Communications, LLC will use Rural Development funds to construct a Fiber-to-the-Premises (FTTP) system to serve an unserved rural area of Stutsman County, ND along highway 281, south of Jamestown, ND. Daktel has provided FTTP service in Jamestown since 2004 as part of a RUS Farm Bill Broadband Program loan and enjoys broad public support for the proposed expansion as part of this Community Connect Grant award.

People Who Will Benefit: 7,829

Total Project Cost: \$2,368,864

RUS ID: ND1402-A23

USDA Rural Development has approved a grant of \$2,520,874

Program: Community Connect Grants

State/County: LA/Natchitoches

Congressman: John C. Fleming, (LA-004)-project; Vance McAllister, (LA-005)-awardee

Senators: Mary Landrieu, David Vitter

Recipient: Nexus Systems, Inc.

Recipient Contact: Mr. Mark L. Stevenson, President

Mailing Address: 363 Venable Lane Monroe, Louisiana 71203

Email Address: msteve@nexussystems.net

Phone Number: 318-340-0750

Project Description: Nexus Systems, Inc will utilize Community Connect grant funds to provide the PSFA of Powhatan Louisiana with a high speed broadband fiber optics link. The fiber link will have a fiber count of 218 linking from Powhatan north and west to Mansfield and continuing north to the regional fiber hub in Shreveport Louisiana. The entities in the PSFA will be connected to the fiber system via a microwave tower which will provide a minimum of five Mbps for subscribers with up to 14 Mbps per user if desired in the future. Critical facilities can be directly connected to the fiber backbone. This infrastructure will be a robust broadband network to serve the PSFA of Powhatan Louisiana that is located in the sparsely populated, chronic economically challenged and persistent poverty Parish of Natchitoches Louisiana.

People Who Will Benefit: 292

Other Funding: \$457,268

Total Project Cost: \$2,978,142

RUS ID: LA1405-H23

USDA Rural Development has approved a grant of \$1,225,159

Program: Community Connect Grants

State/County: KY/Grant and TN/Macon

Congressman: Mitch McConnell (KY), Rand Paul (KY)

Senators: Lamar Alexander (TN), Robert Corker (TN)

Recipient: North Central Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Recipient Contact: Mr. Johnny McClanahan, VP Finance and Administration

Mailing Address: 872 Highway 52 Bypass East Lafayette, Tennessee 37083

Email Address: johnny.mcclanahan@nctc.com

Phone Number: 615-666-2151

Project Description: North Central Telephone Cooperative, Inc. will use Rural development funds to replace all plant facilities including the 40 year old air-core copper network containing loop lengths ranging from 15,000 to 48,000 feet with new Outside Plant (OSP) fiber (40.31 miles), service drops, Central Office Equipment (COE) and Customer Premise Equipment (CPE). The plant will be upgraded using an Active Ethernet (AE), Fiber to the Premise (FTTP) architecture. NCTC chose this AE – FTTP architecture because of proven reliability and because it is widely accepted as the most technologically “future-proof” facility configuration available. Upon completion, all MT Zion residents will have access to internet speeds ranging from 5 Megabits per second (Mbps) to a full 1 Gigabit per second (Gbps).

People Who Will Benefit: 864

Other Funding: \$266,390

Total Project Cost: \$1,491,549

RUS ID: TN1402-A23

USDA Rural Development has approved a grant of \$715,080

Program: Community Connect Grants

State/County: KY/Ohio, Henderson, Webster IN/Venderburgh, Warrick, Posey, Gibson

Congressman: Whitfield (KY-01), Bucshon (IN-08)

Senators: Mitch McConnell (KY), Rand Paul(KY), Don Coats(IN), Joe Donnelly (IN)

Recipient: Q-Wireless, LLC

Recipient Contact: Mr. Phillip Lambert, General Manager

Mailing Address: 3701 Communications Way Evansville, Indiana 47715

Email Address: phil.lambert@qwirelessbb.com

Phone Number: 812-759-7905

Project Description: Q-Wireless, LLC will utilize Community Connect grant funds to bring broadband services greater than 5Mbps to households and other locations in the PFSA, situated in and near Rosine, KY. It will also establish a community center at the existing fire station with four computer workstations connected to high-speed internet made available for free use by the public, in addition to free services to be provided to the fire station. The project will use wireless point-to-point middle mile to extend service to the PFSA and wireless point-to-multipoint last-mile equipment to end users.

People Who Will Benefit: 508

Other Funding: \$109,570

Total Project Cost: \$824,650

RUS ID: IN1401-B23

USDA Rural Development has approved a grant of \$3,000,000

Program: Community Connect Grants

State/County: VA/Dickenson

Congressman: Griffith VA-09

Senators: Warner and Kaine

Recipient: Scott County Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Recipient Contact: Mr. William J. Franklin, Chief Executive Officer

Mailing Address: 149 Woodland Street Gate City, Virginia 24251

Email Address: billfanklin@sctc.org

Phone Number: 276-452-9119

Project Description: Scott County Telephone Cooperative, Inc. will utilize \$3,000,000 in Community Connect grant funds to construct a broadband IP Ethernet network with one (1) gigabyte of bandwidth for 512 locations in Caney Ridge and surrounding area in Dickenson County, Virginia. This broadband service would tremendously benefit the Caney Ridge and surrounding area by boosting their economy and help promote economic development.

People Who Will Benefit: 2,061

Other Funding: \$450,000

Total Project Cost: \$3,450,000

RUS ID: VA1401-G23

USDA Rural Development has approved a grant of \$412,529

Program: Community Connect Grants

State/County: OK/McCurtain

Congressman: Mullin, OK-02

Senators: Inhofe and Coburn

Recipient: Valliant Telephone Company, Inc.

Recipient Contact: Mr. Tommy Dorries, Vice President

Mailing Address: 100 East Wilson Valliant, Oklahoma 74764

Email Address: telephon@valliant.net

Phone Number: 580-933-4400

Project Description: Valliant Telephone Company, Inc. will utilize Rural Development funds to deploy advanced fixed wireless internet service to the entire Proposed Funded Service Area. Residential & Business customers can enjoy speeds up to 10 Mbps. Garvin, once a small timber town in McCurtain County, OK, was originally home to the Choctaw nation. Garvin also suffers from the lack of modern telephone communications services. There is no reliable wireless cellular phone service in the area which compounds the difficulty in responding to Public Safety issues. A remote and rural area such as Garvin is often threatened with severe weather conditions, drought, and other natural disasters. Through funding provided by a Community Connect Broadband Grant, the community's fire and rescue personnel would have the ability to receive virtual real-time warnings as well as bringing online educational and work from home opportunities to all citizens. Broadband services would bridge the digital divide between Garvin and the surrounding communities. The community center and all critical community facilities will receive free broadband internet access for 2 years.

People Who Will Benefit: 683

Other Funding: \$57,354

Total Project Cost: \$469,883

RUS ID: OK1412-A23