

**USDA Telecommunications Awards  
November 13, 2018**

<b>Community Connect Grants</b>						
<b>State</b>	<b>Sen.</b>	<b>Rep.</b>	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Grants</b>	<b>Loans</b>	<b>Project Description</b>
KY, TN	Mitch McConnell Rand Paul (KY); Lamar Alexander Bob Corker (TN)	James Comer (KY 01) David Kustoff (TN 08)	West Kentucky Rural Telephone Cooperative	\$3,000,000		This Rural Development investment will be used to construct a fiber-to-the-home broadband system providing state-of-the-art services to 406 unserved homes and businesses in Weakley County, Tennessee. A new community center will also be constructed where residents can access seven computer terminals and WiFi, free of charge. This project will allow the residents and businesses in this area to access high quality voice, video, and broadband services so that it will be easier for them to access the economic, health care, educational, and quality of life opportunities these services enable. West Kentucky Rural Telephone Cooperative, headquartered in Graves County, provides advanced telecommunications services to 22 exchanges in Kentucky and Tennessee. The company will expand its system to this new community while contributing \$450,000 to help complete the project.
MN	Amy Klobuchar Tina Smith	Collin C. Peterson (07) Rick Nolan (08)	Consolidated Telephone Company	\$2,147,863		This Rural Development investment will be used to construct a fiber-to-the-home broadband system providing state-of-the-art services to 250 households and eight businesses in Todd County. A community center will also be located within the Moran Township Town Hall where residents can access two computer terminals and WiFi, free of charge. This project will allow the residents and businesses in this area to access high quality voice and broadband services so they can have better access to the economic, health care, educational, and quality of life opportunities such services enable. Consolidated Telephone Company, headquartered in Crow Wing County, provides advanced telecommunication services to 10 exchanges in Minnesota as the incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC). They also provide services as a competitive local exchange carrier in numerous areas surrounding ILEC exchanges with a total of approximately 13,000 customers. Consolidated will expand its system to this new and will contribute \$379,000 toward the project.
NC	Richard Burr Thom Tillis	Mark Meadows (11)	French Broad Electric Membership Corporation	\$3,000,000		This Rural Development investment will be used to bring high-speed internet to the greater Laurel community in Madison County. This area in the northwestern portion of the county includes more than 1,000 homes and businesses and currently has very limited access to high-speed internet service. This project would include construction of fiber optic lines on existing power poles throughout the community. These lines would then branch off and connect each home or business directly to the internet and would be a 100 percent fiber solution. This is the fastest, most reliable service available and would enable people in the greater Laurel community to receive the same level of service that others enjoy in the more urban areas. Having high-speed broadband in this area will help retain residents and stimulate growth. It will allow business expansion, creating more jobs and also allow people to work from home. It will provide children additional educational opportunities in a technology-driven system and give the elderly more health care flexibility. French Broad Electric Membership Corporation, headquartered in Madison County, has been in business for 77 years, serving a five county area of western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee. For the past 20 years, French Broad has been building and expanding a fiber optic network and currently more than 350 miles have been deployed serving 350 customers and expanding daily. This project will help spread that deployment while French Broad will contribute \$450,000 to help complete the project.

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NC, GA	Richard Burr Thom Tillis (NC); Johnny Isakson David Perdue (GA)	Mark Meadows (NC 11); Doug Collins (GA 09)	Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation	\$3,000,000		This Rural Development investment will be used to allow Blue Ridge Mountain EMC (Blue Ridge) to construct a high-speed fiber-optic network to all homes and businesses located within the Cherokee County, North Carolina proposed funded service area. This area is a remote and rural community in the southern Appalachian Mountains of western North Carolina. Blue Ridge is a rural electric cooperative and broadband services provider headquartered in Towns County, Georgia. It serves two counties in North Carolina and three in Georgia. This investment will help construct a high-speed, active Ethernet fiber-optic network which will enable Blue Ridge (and its affiliates) to offer voice, video, and data services to the 865 households and seven businesses within the area. The technology will allow for increased opportunities to access economic development, health care, educational, and quality of life resources that high quality communications services can bring to communities. A community center will also be established in a local general store where residents can access computer access terminals and WiFi service, free of charge.
ND	John Hoeven Heidi Heitkamp	Kevin Cramer (At Large)	BEK Communications Cooperative	\$2,828,547		This Rural Development investment will be used to construct a fiber-to-the-home broadband system providing state-of-the-art services to 126 households in Morton County, North Dakota. A community center will also be located within a facility at a local park where residents can access computer terminals and WiFi, free of charge; it will be contributed as part of BEK Communications Cooperative's (BEK) matching fund contribution. This project will allow the residents and businesses in this area to access high quality voice, video, and broadband services so that they may have easier access to the economic, health care, educational, and quality of life opportunities such services enable. BEK, headquartered in Kidder County, provides advanced telecommunications services to 20 exchanges in South-Central North Dakota as the incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC). It also provides services as a competitive local exchange carrier in several areas surrounding their ILEC exchanges with a total of approximately 9,000 customers. BEK will expand their system to this new community and contribute \$549,155 to help complete the project.
OK	James Inhofe James Lankford	Markwayne Mullin (02)	Pine Telephone Company	\$2,128,950		This Rural Development investment will be used to construct a fiber-to-the-home broadband system providing state-of-the-art services to 163 households and 16 businesses in Pushmataha County. A community center will also be established within the service area where residents can access computer terminals and WiFi, free of charge. This project will allow the residents and businesses in this area to access high quality voice, video, and broadband services so that they may be able to better access the economic, health care, educational, and quality of life opportunities such services enable. Pine Telephone Company, headquartered in McCurtain, Oklahoma provides advanced telecommunications services to five exchanges in Southeastern Oklahoma as the incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC). It also provides services as a competitive local exchange carrier in several areas surrounding their ILEC exchanges with a total of approximately 4,500 customers. It will expand the system to this new community and will contribute \$340,400 toward the project.
OK	James Inhofe James Lankford	Markwayne Mullin (02)	Pine Telephone Company	\$1,391,949		This Rural Development investment will be used to construct a fiber-to-the-home broadband system providing state-of-the-art services to 163 households and 16 businesses in Pushmataha County. A community center will also be established within the service area where residents can access computer terminals and WiFi, free of charge. This project will allow the residents and businesses in this area to access high quality voice, video, and broadband services so that they may be better able to access the economic, health care, educational, and quality of life opportunities such services enable. Pine Telephone Company, headquartered in McCurtain, provides advanced telecommunications services to five exchanges in southeastern Oklahoma as the incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC). It also provides services as a competitive local exchange carrier in several areas surrounding their ILEC exchanges with a total of approximately 4,500 customers. It will expand its system to this new community while contributing \$265,400 toward the project.

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OK	James Inhofe James Lankford	Markwayne Mullin (02)	Pine Telephone Company	\$2,528,001		This Rural Development investment will be used to construct a fiber-to-the-home broadband system providing state-of-the-art services to 167 households and 6 businesses in the Pushmataha County, Oklahoma area. A community center will also be established within the service area where residents can access computer terminals and WiFi, free of charge. This project will allow the residents and businesses in this area to access high quality voice, video, and broadband services so that they may have better access to the economic, health care, educational, and quality of life opportunities such services enable. Pine Telephone Company, headquartered in McCurtain, Oklahoma provides advanced telecommunications services to five exchanges in Southeastern Oklahoma as the incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC). It also provides services as a competitive local exchange carrier in several areas surrounding their ILEC exchanges with a total of approximately 4,500 customers. The company will expand its system to this new community by contributing \$450,400 toward the project.
OK	James Inhofe James Lankford	Markwayne Mullin (02)	Choctaw Nation	\$2,987,850		This Rural Development investment will be used to construct a hybrid fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) and fixed wireless system on unserved portions of the Le Flore County, Oklahoma service area, passing approximately 300 households and 15 businesses. All customers will receive at least 25 Mbps/3 Mbps data service with service tiers up to 1 Gbps/100 Gbps available on the FTTH system. This project will increase access to high quality broadband Internet service, increase economic development, health care, educational, and public safety opportunities for this unserved community. The project will also deploy a community center in Hodgen School where members of the community can access computer terminals and WiFi service, free of charge. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, headquartered in Bryan County, is a sovereign tribal government covering approximately 10,613 square miles in Southeastern Oklahoma. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma will contribute \$450,000 to help complete this project.
TN	Lamar Alexander Bob Corker	Scott Desjarlais (04)	Ben Lomand Communications LLC	\$1,813,443		This Rural Development investment will be used by Ben Lomand Communications (Ben Lomand) to construct state-of-the-art Fiber to the Premises facilities to enable high speed broadband, voice, and video in a service area remotely located at the northernmost adjoining borders of Franklin and Marion counties in Tennessee. Ben Lomand, headquartered in Warren County, is a competitive local exchange carrier for the proposed funded service area. This grant will connect 265 households to broadband and bring positive economic benefits to all by increasing educational, health care, and public safety opportunities and facilitating 21st century lifestyles within the community. A community center will also be established within the service area where residents can access computer terminals and WiFi, free of charge for at least two years. Ben Lomand will contribute \$320,021 toward this project.
UT	Orrin Hatch Mike Lee	John Curtis (03)	Emery Telecommunications & Video Inc.	\$2,084,072		This Rural Development investment will be used to provide fiber-to-the-premises service to the community of San Juan County, Utah, passing 111 households. These unserved households will gain access to state-of-the-art voice, video, and data services enabling access to the economic development, health care, educational, and quality of life opportunities through advanced communications facilitates. A community center will also be located within the Mexican Hat-Halchita School where residents can access computer terminals and WiFi, free of charge. Emery Telecom, headquartered in Emery County, Utah, is a "non-profit" cooperative that was formed to service the needs of the residents in East-Central Utah. It is part of the larger Emery Telecom corporate family which has been providing telecommunications service since 1950. Emery Telecom will contribute \$367,777 toward the project.

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UT	Orrin Hatch Mike Lee	John Curtis (03)	Emery Telecommunications & Video Inc.	\$839,520		This Rural Development investment will be used to provide fiber-to-the-premises service to the community of Grand County, Utah, passing 191 households. These unserved households will gain access to state-of-the-art voice, video, and data services. This will enable access to the economic development, health care, educational, and quality of life opportunities through advanced communications facilitates. A community center will also be established where residents can access computer terminals and WiFi, free of charge. Emery Telecom, headquartered in Emery County, is a nonprofit cooperative that was formed to service the needs of the residents in East-central Utah. It is part of the larger Emery Telecom corporate family which has been providing telecommunications service since 1950. Emery Telecom will contribute \$209,880 toward the project.
UT	Orrin Hatch Mike Lee	John Curtis (03)	Emery Telecommunications & Video Inc.	\$449,894		This Rural Development investment will be used to provide fiber-to-the-premises service to the community of San Juan County, Utah, passing 178 households. These unserved households will gain access to state-of-the-art voice, video, and data services, enabling access to the economic development, health care, educational, and quality of life opportunities advanced communications facilitates. A community center will also be established where residents can access computer terminals and WiFi, free of charge. Emery Telecom, headquartered in Emery County, is a non-profit cooperative that was formed to service the needs of the residents in East-central Utah. It is part of the larger Emery Telecom corporate family and has been providing telecommunications service since 1950. Emery Telecom will contribute \$112,474 to help construct the project.
VA	Mark Warner Tim Kaine	Morgan Griffith (09)	Scott County Telephone Cooperative	\$3,000,000		This Rural Development investment will be used to construct a fiber-to-the-home broadband system providing state-of-the-art services to 554 households and 20 businesses in Scott County. A community center will also be established within the service area where residents can access computer terminals and WiFi, free of charge. This project will allow residents and businesses in this area to access high quality voice, video, and broadband services so that they may be able to better access the economic, health care, educational, and quality of life opportunities such services enable. Scott County Telephone Cooperative (SCTC), headquartered in Scott County Virginia provides advanced telecommunications services to six exchanges in southwestern Virginia as the incumbent local exchange carrier, providing service to approximately 4,900 customers. SCTC also acts as a competitive local exchange carrier in six other areas and also provides services as a competitive local exchange carrier in several surrounding southwestern Virginia counties. It passes an additional 10,000 homes with these systems with facilities passing an additional 1,700 homes currently under construction. SCTC will be expanding its system to this new community and contributing \$450,000 to help complete the project.
VA, NC	Mark Warner Tim Kaine (VA); Richard Burr Thom Tillis (NC)	Scott Taylor (VA 02); Walter B. Jones (NC 03)	Eastern Shore Communications LLC	\$1,799,911		This Rural Development investment will be used to build a hybrid fiber and fixed-wireless high-speed network. It will be capable of servicing the proposed funded area with speeds of at least 25 megabits downstream and 3 megabits upstream. The program will provide access to free internet service for residents through computers installed at a local community center. It passes through approximately 3,000 households in the Camden County, North Carolina service area. A community center will also be established in a library in the service area where residents can access computer terminals and WiFi free of charge. This project will provide high-quality voice and broadband services so residents and businesses can access the economic, health care, educational and quality-of-life opportunities. Eastern Shore Communications LLC, headquartered in Northampton, Va., provides high-speed broadband internet services to residential and commercial customers in Maryland, North Carolina and Virginia.
<b>Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans</b>						

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IA	Chuck Grassley Joni Ernst	Rod Blum (01)	Lamotte Telephone Company Inc.		\$5,885,000	This Rural Development investment will be used to improve the delivery of telecommunications services to 2,480 customers in Jackson and Dubuque counties. In addition to more robust residential services, educational opportunities as well as business competitiveness will be enhanced.
KY	Mitch McConnell Rand Paul	Harold Rogers (05)	Thacker-Grigsby Telephone Company Inc.		\$20,528,000	This Rural Development investment will be used to construct 427 miles of fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) service in the Cody and Pippa Passes exchanges, and in a portion of Hindman. This improvement will complete the company's migration to an all FTTP system. The project will serve approximately 30,000 customers.
NM	Tom Udall Martin Heinrich	Steve Pearce (02)	Tularosa Basin Telephone Company Inc.		\$11,821,000	This Rural Development investment will be used to make system improvements in the exchanges of Carrizozo, Cloudcroft, and Tularosa for 9,764 of its customers. Tularosa proposed to construct 176 miles of fiber-optic facilities, construct new fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP) facilities and upgrade digital subscriber line (DSL) and FTTP electronics. The improvements will allow Tularosa the ability to enhance services and provide subscribers voice and higher broadband speeds. All subscribers in the system will have access to minimum broadband speeds of 10 megabits per second (Mbps) upload and 1Mbps download.
<b>Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee Program</b>						
AR	John Boozman Tom Cotton	Bruce Westerman (04)	Arkansas Rural Internet Services LLC		\$19,884,000	This Rural Development investment will be used to construct a fiber-to-the-home broadband system within Dallas, Calhoun and Ouachita counties in rural southern Arkansas. The deployment of this system will enable rural residents and businesses to access high-speed broadband internet. The system will not have data limits. It will provide media and video services as well as telephone service with unlimited long distance. These services will provide enhanced educational and economic opportunities. Approximately 5,100 subscribers will be served. Also, there are an estimated 24,500 people in their service footprint.
				\$33,000,000	\$58,118,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>						