



**United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development**

**Rural Business-Cooperative Service ~ Rural Housing Service ~ Rural Utilities Service
Washington, D.C. 20250**

**SUMMARIES OF 2003 COMMUNITY CONNECT BROADBAND GRANTS
September 24, 2003**

ARIZONA

San Carlos Telecommunications Utility, Inc.; San Carlos, Arizona

Grant Amount -- \$164,280

Contact: Vernon James, General Manager

The San Carlos Indian Reservation agencies serving San Carlos Apache members do not have broadband service at any location. Even the Bureau of Indian Affairs does not have email or dial up Internet service. The Reservation is a major factor in fighting forest fires in the northeastern region of Arizona. Asynchronous Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) equipment will be added to telecom sites to cover the town area of San Carlos. The San Carlos Education Department, San Carlos Forest Resources Program, San Carlos Police Department, and the San Carlos Adult/Juvenile Detention Center are critical facilities that will participate in the project.

ALASKA

Kake Tribal Corporation; Kake, Alaska

Grant Amount -- \$804,162

Contact: Duff W. Mitchell, Chief Operations Officer

Kake, Alaska is a small village on Kupreanof Island with a population of 710 people. The residents are primarily Native Alaskans of Tlingit heritage, going back before explorers came to North America. The project will bring broadband services to local citizens and businesses, left behind the rest of the Nation in regards to the Internet information revolution. The initiative will integrate the community Internet access center with long distance learning programs to enable citizens to access continuing professional education requirements as well as take college courses already offered through Alaskan Universities. Free Internet service will be provided to the Kake School District, the local public health clinic, and public emergency services including fire, police, and EMT services.

CALIFORNIA**Oacys Communications Inc.; Richgrove, California****Grant Amount -- \$454,507****Contact: Ted Olson, President**

Richgrove, California is an agricultural community with a per capita income of only 68 percent of the national average and unemployment of over 15 percent. Poverty among families with small children can range as high as 30-60 percent. A unique blend of citizen and community organization leadership, such as the local irrigation district, all businesses and local essential community services, have brought this project together. The community will benefit from economic, educational and public safety opportunities.

IDAHO**BitSmart Corporation; Horseshoe Bend City, Idaho****Grant Amount -- \$104,820****Contact: John Serra, President**

The BitSmart Corporation and the Horseshoe Bend School District have been working cooperatively to provide much needed broadband services to the city government, businesses and residents in the community. Participating in the project in addition to the school district will be the City Council. The project will be a combination of standard copper transmission and microwave distribution. Bandwidth and Internet access will be provided by means of T1 service originating in Boise, Idaho. The City has designated two city-owned water towers as locations for broadcast sites. Improved educational opportunities, connection of essential public services, and improved business development opportunities will all be benefits of this project.

First Stop Internet, LLC; Deary, Idaho**Grant Amount -- \$ 137,358****Contact: Kevin Owen**

Deary, Idaho is a small, unincorporated rural community. The community faces an unemployment rate of almost 14 percent. The project will provide the citizens with access to remote learning opportunities, enhanced community building resources for entrepreneurs, and access to businesses, products and markets across the world. The project will improve the facilities and services available to the Sheriff's office and the Dreary Rural Fire District. Improved communication capabilities of both departments will improve the time-use efficiency of both public safety organizations.

First Stop Internet, LLC; Potlatch, Idaho**Grant Amount -- \$85,966****Contact: Kevin Owen**

Potlatch, Idaho is a small rural community with a population of 791. Schools, library, fire department, sheriff's department, as well as economic development organizations will cooperate and benefit from this project. Development of local jobs is a primary goal of this project.

ILLINOIS**B & J Computers; Vergennes, Illinois****Grant Amount -- \$364,871****Contact: Ms. Carole Spurling, President**

Vergennes, Illinois is a small rural community with a population of 491. The residents have suffered from the decline of the coal industry. The community has no existing broadband service hampers both essential services and possible economic development. The elementary school, community center, fire department, ambulance service, city government and water department will all participate and benefit in the project. Broadband service will allow the establishment of home based businesses and encourage established community businesses to expand. Marketability and employment opportunities for residents will be increased due to the availability of online education, training and professional certification.

Mt. Vernon.Net, Inc.; Blueford, Illinois**Grant Amount -- \$309,703****Contact: John Scrivner**

The Mayor of Blueford has established a Broadband taskforce, which together with Mt. Vernon.Net, Inc., has set out a vision for the future with specifics and timetables for how this new technology can revive the village's economic problems. The project will create a wireless network, designed to work like a corporate infrastructure with homes, police, emergency rescue, businesses, and telemedicine connected together. Residents will be able to telecommute from their homes; students download class work from class websites and police, fire and emergency crews save lives and protect property more efficiently.

IOWA**City of Ocheyedan, Iowa****Grant Amount -- \$136,988****Contact: Robert Truckermiller**

Ocheyedan, Iowa is a rural farm area community located in the northwest Iowa county of Osceola. The effort to bring Broadband service to the community is a citizen driven project looking to improve both economic opportunities and public service. The funds will be used to deploy a broadband transmission service through a special base station to be located on top of the grain elevator located in Ocheyedan. This station, in turn, will enable area residents for an area of approximately five miles to have access to such technologies. The project will establish the Ocheyedan library as a critical community facility, providing access to broadband services to all residents and also providing a series of marketing/promotional/educational activities. The local telecommunication committee consists of area businesses, City Council, school representatives, farmers, the local Cooperative Elevator Association, the Ocheyedan Economic Development Corporation and the County Economic Development Office.

TRX, Inc.; Arlington, Iowa
Grant Amount -- \$239,980
Contact: John W. Adams, President

This project will provide the people in the rural community of Arlington, Iowa high-speed broadband Internet access where is not affordable without this grant. The Arlington Public Library, City of Arlington, Arlington Volunteer Fire and Ambulance Service and Starmont Community School System are community organizations that will participate and benefit from this project. The Arlington Public Library will be the Community Center for the project, providing free public access to ten Computer Access Points. The Library and the applicant, TRX, Inc., will work together to provide computer and Internet training to the public.

KANSAS

Pixius Communications, LLC; Walton, Kansas
Grant Amount -- \$328,715
Contact: Jay Maxwell

Walton, Kansas is a community of 284 people with no Internet access. The town library and the local elementary school will remodel an underused room for the purpose of providing the community access to Internet connected computers. The applicant, Pixius, will help hire and manage personnel to help teach new computer skills free of charge. In addition to improved educational opportunities, the broadband service will connect police, fire, and other government facilities to high-speed communications necessary to serve the community.

KENTUCKY

Kenergy Corporation; Calhoun, Kentucky
Grant Amount -- \$132,333
Contact: Dean Stanley, President

This project will establish a Community Center, located in the Health and Human Services Center providing 10 computers to be available to local citizens. In addition, the County Health Department, Adult Education/Literacy Program, Emergency Medical/Ambulance Service and the Sheriff Substation will be connected to the high-speed broadband service. Other McLean County school and government facilities will be connected through the use of fixed wireless equipment.

New Cities Foundation; Bellefonte, Kentucky
Grant Amount -- \$213,094
Contact: Ms. Sylvia Lovely, President

Bellefonte, Kentucky is a small community with limited financial resources and no high-speed broadband service. The residents of the community have higher unemployment rates and lower educational levels than is the average in Kentucky. With the grant funds, the applicant will install an engineering base station and activation of wireless modems including one at the fire station/police station, one at city hall and ten at the church

basement/community center located adjacent to city hall. The wireless service is available up to five miles for businesses and residences providing high-speed availability. The wireless Internet service works through the installation of a small fifteen-foot antenna placed on the local water tank.

New Cities Foundation; Raceland, Kentucky

Grant Amount – \$276,920

Contact: Ms. Sylvia Lovely

Raceland, Kentucky is a small community with limited financial resources and no broadband service. The community is challenged with above average unemployment rates and a large number of residents needing additional education and training. The grant will provide for an engineering base station installation and activation of wireless modems including two at schools, one at the fire station/police station, one at city hall and 24 at the Raceland Community Center located adjacent to city hall. Participating in this project will be the Campbell Elementary School, the Raceland Independent High School, the fire station/police station, and the community center.

SouthEast Telephone, Inc.; Phelps, Kentucky

Grant Amount -- \$215,183

Contact: Darrell Maynard, President

Phelps, Kentucky is in Pike County, deep in the mountainous heartland of eastern Kentucky. Due to poverty and unemployment rates, the Appalachian Regional Commission designates the county as an “economically distressed county”. Participants in this project will include the ARH Phelps Clinic, Good Shepard Nursing Home, Majestic Family Resource Center, Majestic Grade School, Phelps Ambulance Service, Phelps Area Technical Center, Phelps Army ROTC, Phelps Branch Library, Phelps Elementary and High School, Family Resource Center, Volunteer Fire Department, and the Presbyterian Health Center.

MARYLAND

Allegheny Communications Connect, Inc.; Oakland, Maryland

Grant Amount -- \$1,140,772

Contact: John W. Flinko, Vice President

Oakland, Maryland is located in Garrett County, the most western county in Maryland. The leadership of the community has developed a diverse group of initiatives, but still need fast, dependable broadband service to take the economy and quality of life another step forward. The project will enhance educational opportunities for both students and adults, improve health care, increase safety and security of residents, and accelerate Oakland’s economic development by featuring telecommunication infrastructure to attract new businesses. A total of 17 community organizations are participating in this project, including major critical community facilities such as the Garrett County Memorial Hospital, the Board of Education, County Emergency Management, County Community Action Committee, and the Ruth Enlow Library.

MICHIGAN**Air Advantage, LLC; Port Hope, Michigan****Grant Amount -- \$219,176****Contact: Scott Zimmer, President**

Port Hope is a small rural town, population 310, located on the “tip of the thumb” in Michigan. The funds for this grant will be used to enhance fire, police, ambulance and public sector organizations through high-speed connectivity and access to the Internet. This will also improve educational and information opportunities, telemedicine services and enhanced communications. The project establishes the Port Hope Community Center as a place where residents will have high speed Internet access. This connectivity will open the door to affordable broadband services to businesses for Internet access and business-to-business communications. It provides one more tool to be used for economic development.

Air Advantage, LLC; Unionville, Michigan**Grant Amount -- \$214,532****Contact: Scott Zimmer, President**

Unionville, Michigan is a rural town with a population of 620 people. The funds for this grant will be used to enhance fire, police, ambulance and public sector organizations through high-speed connectivity and access to the Internet. This will also improve educational and information opportunities, telemedicine services and enhanced communications. The project establishes the Unionville Community Center as a place where residents will have high speed Internet access.

MISSISSIPPI**Break Away Technologies; Friars Point, Mississippi****Grant Amount -- \$892,023****Contact: Ms. Linda Watson, Executive Director**

Friars Point, a small, rural, Mississippi community has banded together to develop this project. Participants include the Friars Point City Government (including fire and police departments, Coahoma Community College, Friars Point Elementary School, local businesses and churches. Each participant will benefit from the high-speed broadband communications capability as well as contributing to the community. Better education opportunities, improved communication between essential public safety units, as well as new business opportunities will all be an end result. Improved health care will come from the reopening of the Aaron Henry Health Clinic which had closed its doors in Friars Point due to lack of personnel. The Clinic will be equipped with state of the art video conferencing systems networking it to physicians and health care professionals in nearby Clarksdale.

NEBRASKA**Crawford Cultural Center, Inc.; Crawford, Nebraska****Grant Amount -- \$153,338****Contact: Ms. Georgia M. Keightley**

Crawford, Nebraska is a small rural community of 1107 citizens in the Nebraska panhandle. The nearest urban center is over 319 miles away. The single purpose of the project is to bring broadband service to the community. Two local businesses are facing either moving or limitation on growth, directly tied to broadband connectivity. The Community Connectivity Center will be housed in the city owned hospital building and will provide access for local citizens to use the computers. Participants in the project will include the police department, water department, a nursing and assisted care facility, the fire and rescue department, Legend Buttes Health Services, Crawford Public library and the Crawford City Schools.

OHIO**GMN Tri County CAC, Inc.; Woodsfield, Ohio****Grant Amount -- \$383,284****Contact: Gary M. Ricer, Executive Director**

This project will be a wireless broadband service including a community center with 26 computer terminals for the public to use. Training classes will be offered twice a month. Participants include the county commissioners, critical community facilitators, and the Monroe County Office of Economic Development. All critical community facilities will be connected, including schools, sheriff's office, emergency squads, volunteer fire departments, libraries, and city governments.

OKLAHOMA**Vida Communications; Minco, Oklahoma****Grant Amount -- \$148,990****Contact: Clayburn Curtis, CEO**

Minco is located in Gray County, Oklahoma. One of the main goals of bringing broadband service to the community is the need for high-speed communications to detect and warn against tornadoes. Local officials believe "real time" information on weather could result in increasing the warning time before a tornado 1000 percent. The Minco Fire department and other emergency service providers have been desperately looking for a way to improve effectiveness in tornado alerts. In addition, the community suffers from a tough, agricultural based, agriculture economy. Global access, improved literacy and enhanced economic opportunities, individual and community challenges for the town and the county. The community connect center of opportunity will offer a significant first step as a magnet for opportunity, entrepreneurship and connectivity. Critical community organizations participating in this project include the Minco City Hall, the police department, the fire department the Minco Public School, along with the Community Center.

PENNSYLVANIA**Western Pennsylvania Internet Access, Inc.; Shanksville, Pennsylvania****Grant Amount -- \$281,617****Contact: Roy L. Fritz, Jr., President**

Shanksville is a small community with 245 residents and a very limited infrastructure. The Shanksville-Stonycreek School District is comprised of three small municipalities; Shanksville Borough, Stonycreek Township, and Indian Lake Borough. Both directly and indirectly, students and residents of all three municipalities will benefit. The availability of broadband service will improve the school district's curriculum, provide professional development opportunities for teachers and improve instructional practices. Shanksville was thrust into the National scene September 11, 2001 when Flight 93 crashed near the town. There continues to be a growing number of people visiting the site and looking for information about what happened that day. The school district and Western PA Internet Access, Inc. tried to accommodate a live web-cast for the families of the Flight 93 heroes, but were unable to do so because of the very limited infrastructure. With this grant, a community center housed at the school district will give visitors and media personnel high-speed access only a few minutes for the crash site. In addition to the school system, the Shanksville Volunteer Fire Company and other public safety agencies will be participants in this project.

TEXAS**AMA Wireless, LLC; Higgins, Texas****Grant Amount -- \$217,053****Contact: Douglas Campbell, COO**

The citizens and businesses of Higgins, Texas, population 425, will receive fixed broadband service from a transmitter on top of the local grain elevator. Participating in the project will be the Higgins City government, the Lipscomb County Sheriff's Office (Higgins Branch), the Higgins/Lipscomb County Fire Department and emergency Medical Services. Severe weather warnings, communications with public safety organizations, and improved business opportunities for the citizens will be the result of this grant.

AMA Wireless, LLC. Lipscomb, Texas**Grant Amount -- \$217,303****Contact: Douglas Campbell, COO**

Lipscomb, Texas may be one of the smallest communities to receive a community connect grant, population 50, but it is important to the 3,000 residents of Lipscomb County. Lipscomb is the county seat of Lipscomb County and the primary center of government for a county that is far from state, national, and even regional services. The Lipscomb County Court House and all of the county offices housed there, the Lipscomb County Sheriff's Office, and the Lipscomb County Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services are participants and will be better able to serve the vast county with broadband service and high-speed communications.

Blue Moon Solutions, Inc.; Crystal City, Texas**Grant Amount -- \$500,000****Contact: Christonya Hill, COO**

Crystal City is a rural, economically challenged community in South Texas. The grant funds for this project will be use to design, build, and deploy broadband transmission service to critical community facilities. Included in those facilities are public schools, public libraries, public medical clinics, public hospitals, community colleges, public universities, as well as law enforcement, fire, and ambulance stations. Public safety, educational opportunities, health care, and economic development are closely tied as benefits of this project.

Blue Moon solutions, Inc; Zapata, Texas**Grant Amount -- \$500,000****Contact: Ms. Christonya Hill, COO**

Zapata, Texas is and rural and economically challenged community with a population of 4,856. Located in South Texas, it faces a number of economic challenges. Funds from this grant will be used to design, build and deploy a broadband transmission service to critical community facilities. Public schools, libraries, medical clinics, hospitals, community colleges, public universities, as well as law enforcement, fire, and ambulance stations are included in the critical facilities participating in this project. Improved educational opportunities, better medical care, more economic development, and better public safety make up the goals of this project.

UTAH**UBTA-UBET Communications; Myton, Utah****Grant Amount -- \$\$556,685****Contact: Bruce H. Todd, GM & CEO**

Myton, Utah is a very small, rural and economically under-developed community. UBTA-UBET Communication will extend DSL-based services within the community, extending DSL service to residents, businesses, and critical community facilities. In the community center, 10 computers will be linked to the Internet and made available for public use. Participants include the elementary school, the Conamore School - for children with disabilities, the city library and the fire department. All of these will work to improve economic opportunity, community safety, and open new doors for educational development.

VIRGINIA**Town of Shenandoah, Virginia****Grant Amount -- \$643,493****Contact: Larry Dovel, Town Manager**

The Town of Shenandoah, in Page County, is a small, rural, community in the heart of Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. Due to factory/plant closing, Shenandoah and Page County have lost over 900 jobs in the past 12 months. Lack of technology infrastructure is one of the most serious barriers to economic revitalization. Broadband Internet access will provide Shenandoah with the technology infrastructure it requires to attract new business to the area. This high-speed service would open up a world of educational and professional training opportunities to area residents. Broadband service will also provide critical community facilities with access to a greater network of professionals to improve and enhance their quality of service. Participating organizations include the Town Office, Shenandoah Community Computer Center, the Police Department, Fire Department, Rescue Squad, Community Library, a satellite office for the Page Memorial Hospital, the sole doctor's office and the sole dentist's office in town. The Shenandoah Pharmacy is the only pharmacy in town and they are participating.

WASHINGTON**Town of Concrete, Washington****Grant Amount - - \$440,000****Contact: Robin Feetham, Mayor**

The town of Concrete, Washington, population 93, will use these grant funds to establish the broadband infrastructure necessary to support a Community Network and help to jump-start a stalled local economy. This local network will provide critical community facilities, businesses and residents with affordable and reliable access to the world market through the Internet. In addition, the project will provide free public access to information technology resources, initiate adult education, family literacy and workforce development, support development of local partnerships with other organizations and governments, as well as promoting small and home-based E-business opportunities to help stimulate local economic development.

WEST VIRGINIA**Gateway Telecom, LLC; Bethany, West Virginia****Grant Amount -- \$182,000****Contact: Douglas A. Dawson, Chief Technical Officer (CTO)**

The community of Bethany, West Virginia is a small rural community, challenged by both economic resources and isolation. The per capita income average is 74 percent of the national average. Lack of broadband infrastructure is a major barrier to economic development and improved educational opportunities. Grant funds for this project will provide broadband access to the participating critical facilities, create a broadband community center, and make training available to Bethany residents on how to use a computer and use the Internet. Participating critical community facility organizations include the Bethany Primary School, Bethany College, Fire Department, Town Hall, and Emergency Medical Service.

Gateway Telecom, LLC; Middleborne, West Virginia**Grant Amount -- \$192,000****Contact: Douglas A. Dawson, CTO**

The community of Middleborne, West Virginia is a small, rural, economically challenged community that does not have high-speed Internet capability. The per capita income average is 58 percent of the national average. Grant funds will provide broadband access to residents and to participating critical facilities including the Tyler County Public Library, Tyler County Sheriff's Office, Middleborne Volunteer Fire Department, Middleborne Community Center, Health Services and Boreman Elementary School. Training will be provided to residents for computer and Internet use.

Gateway Telecom, LLC; Pine Grove, West Virginia**Grant Amount -- \$181,000****Contact: Douglas A. Dawson, CTO**

Pine Grove is a small, resource challenged, community with a population of 701. The average per capita income is 69 percent of the national average. The primary goal of this project is to improve the educational and economic opportunities of the community. Valley High School will be a primary beneficiary of high-speed broadband service, providing students with access to modern technology and multi-media equipment. Participating critical facilities will include the Pine Grove Police Department, Wetzel County Emergency Squad, Pine Grove Fire Department, Pine Grove Library, and Valley High School. The grant provides important economic development opportunities by creating a broadband community center with access and training to the general public.

Mountain Champion Community First; Richwood, West Virginia
Grant Amount -- \$275,000
Contact: Robert C. Johnson, Vice Chairman

The city of Richwood is located in a remote and mountainous area of West Virginia that traditionally relied on timber and coal for their primary source of revenue and jobs. The population has dropped 30 percent over the past 20 years. Community leaders are acutely aware of the need to develop the appropriate infrastructure to retain talented young people in the community, attract new businesses to area, and provide an enhanced quality of life for existing and new residents. Lead entities on this project include Mountain Champion Community First, the City of Richwood, PowerUP, Inc, Cherry River Elementary School, Richwood Junior and Senior High Schools, Nicholas County Board of Education, Glenville State College, and the West Virginia University Institute of Technology. In addition, the Richwood City Building Commission, the Richwood Fire Department, the Richwood City Hall, the Richwood Public Library, and the Richwood Area Community Hospital. Also participating will be the Richwood detachment of the West Virginia Department of Public Safety.