

Telecommunications Program

Community Connect 2004 Awards

Community Connect Broadband Grant Awards Listing By State

Alaska

Anvik Traditional Council

Anvik, Alaska

\$280,310

Contact: Carl Jerue, 907-663-6322

Congressional District: AK-01

The goal of Anvik Traditional Council is to become the provider of affordable high-speed internet services to all residents, business, and institutions within Anvik, Alaska. The system will have a satellite link and create overlapping wireless "hot spots" for coverage in the entire community. The project will provide broadband access to the school and clinic for distance learning and telemedicine. Community access points will provide adults with distance learning opportunities, including obtaining their GED. Anvik is a predominantly subsistence economy and the increased bandwidth will enable local and community business to participate in the internet economy and increase the sale of value-added seafood products, arts and craft, and other products. Residents will also be able to earn additional income by providing data processing services via the internet.

Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative, Inc.

Nuiqsut, Alaska

\$60,497

Contact: David Fauske, Phone: 907-563-1932

Congressional District: AK-01

This grant will provide the Village of Nuiqsut with first-time broadband service. Nuiqsut is a remote Arctic village of 433 people which experiences freezing temperatures 297 days a year. A broadband path to the Internet will be established into Deadhorse, AK over an existing microwave route. Broadband will be delivered to homes and businesses using DSL technology. Internet traffic will be handled

economically and efficiently by equipping Nuiqsut with equipment to enable it to interface with the applicant's satellite mesh technology. Demographic barriers to broadband adoption will be overcome by equipping a community center with computers and Internet access free of charge for two years.

Arizona

Havasupai Tribal Council

Supai, Arizona

\$1,247,705

Contact: Linda Mahone, 928-448-2731

Congressional District: AZ-02

The project will provide wireless broadband internet service to the community of Supai, Havasupai Reservation, Arizona. The remote location in the southwest corner of Grand Canyon National Park makes it necessary to transport heavy equipment into the community by helicopter, since the only other way to reach Supai is by foot or on horses. The project will connect all community critical facilities, businesses, the elementary school, and homes on the reservation which has a population of 503. Public safety and health organizations will have improved communications, which can be life-saving in emergency situations. The community center will be accessible to residents for information research, education, marketing and promotion, and personal or business communications using high-speed internet. All center workstations will have GED and other self-paced interactive learning software installed and the center will also provide basic computer and internet skill training to end-users. The project will create a tribal website and digital community bulletin board to enhance communication within the tribal organization and with community members.

Colorado

Sunflower Telephone Company

Sheridan Lake, Colorado

\$299,944

Contact: Patrick Morse, 620-227-4400

Congressional District: CO-04

Sheridan Lake leaders and residents see high-speed access as an engine for economic growth. Broadband Internet access means that agricultural scientists and farmers in this community of 66 residents will be able to track weather patterns, and research or plan accordingly. Sheridan Lake's students gain the advantage of enriched curricula including multimedia interactions that will improve their educational standing. Local businesses and government will be able to reduce expenses and increase efficiency in operations with an Internet connection with significant data transfer speeds. Sunflower Telephone will deploy a relative simple, though very long, broadband

network employing existing central offices and telecommunications backbone, and adding one new fiber optic cable transport facility and one new carrier serving area.

Michigan

Crystal Automation Systems, Inc.

Walkerville, Michigan

\$444,363

Contact: Jerry Weissberg, 989-831-8800

Congressional District: MI-02

Students, public safety personnel and farmers are among the 254 residents of Walkersville, MI who will benefit from Crystal Automation Systems, Inc.'s, efforts to bring broadband access to rural Michigan. Police and firefighters will gain access to online training and be able to comply with State reporting requirements for online transmission of information. The schools will connect to the Internet faster, increasing students' access to enhanced curricula and improving administrative efficiency. Crystal will employ the company's expertise in wireless Internet access to deploy a point to point network to bring high-speed access to the village, and point to multipoint distribution to the residents, with appropriately sized capacity for critical facilities like the fire station.

Mississippi

Town of Benoit

Benoit, Mississippi

\$370,508

Contact: Bert Nokes, 662-742-3751

Congressional District: MS-02

The project will bring a wireless broadband system to the Mississippi Delta agricultural community of Benoit which has a population of 611. In a community faced with high poverty, unemployment, and outmigration, broadband will expand the economic and educational resources available to local residents. The project will utilize the city's already existing water tower as the location for base station antennas. The broadband control center will be located in the municipal offices in downtown Benoit and the town will deploy residential and commercial antenna units at the various locations as needed by subscribers. The project will connect the Ray Brooks School (K-12), the Benoit Public Library, as well as the police and fire departments. The community center will be established on the school campus and offer all community residents broadband access, including continuing adult education, such as professional certifications and GED classes via Mississippi Virtual GED.

New Mexico

Pueblo of San Ildefonso

Pueblo San Ildefonso, New Mexico

\$472,906

Contact: Dale Martinez, 505-455-2273

Congressional District: NM-03

The 450 people of Pueblo of San Ildefonso and the surrounding communities of El Rancho, Jacona, La Mesilla, Jaconita and Nambe will receive basic broadband services from this project. The Pueblo will employ broadband wireless technology to reach locations where only slow (14.4Kb/sec), expensive (long-distance) wireline Internet connections exist. In addition to providing residential access, the project will enable the Pueblo government to enhance and streamline core public services including Head Start, tribal courts, cultural and social services, and community health outreach efforts.

Oklahoma

Barking Wind Corporation

Wapanucka, Oklahoma

\$379,900

Contact: L. Jay La Moure, 469-576-8208

Congressional District: OK-02

The 445 residents of Wapanucka, OK face challenges, including the lack of a library, hospital, police department, that Barking Wind will address by providing broadband Internet access to the community. High speed online connections will establish online city services to benefit the residents, including the remote monitoring of water resources, and a Web presence to assist with economic development efforts. The community will have access to computer training and education in e-commerce; students will have access to distance learning programs and enhanced curricula. The project's technology includes the wireless broadband equipment, which uses unlicensed radio spectrum. Barking Wind will establish a wireless backhaul connection for Internet connectivity in addition to a T1 connection.

Cherokee Nation Businesses Inc.

Braggs, Oklahoma

\$699,074

Contact: M.A. Lechtenberger, 870-421-1100

Congressional District: OK-02

Cherokee Nation Businesses, Inc., will offer broadband Internet access to 301 residents of the town of Braggs, OK. The company will use fixed wireless broadband access technology to serve residences and businesses, and will provide free service to public safety and other community service offices, as well as a community center where people can go for access to and training on the Internet.

Cherokee Nation Businesses Inc.

Hulbert, Oklahoma

\$682,074

Contact: M.S. Lechtenberger, 870-421-1100

Congressional District: OK-02

Information and technology are essential ingredients of healthy and viable communities. Residents of Hulbert, OK know this, and Cherokee Nation Businesses, Inc., will provide broadband access to the 543 residents of the town using fixed wireless broadband access technology. The project includes a community center which will offer free community access to computers with broadband, to facilitate training and stimulate interest in the service.

Cherokee Nation Businesses Inc.

Okay, Oklahoma

\$682,074

Contact: M.A. Lechtenberger, 870-421-1100

Congressional District: OK-01

Information and technology are essential ingredients of healthy and viable communities. Cherokee Nation Businesses, Inc., will provide the 597 residents of Okay, OK, broadband access using fixed wireless broadband access technology. Community service facilities and a community center will be provided with free access.

Cherokee Nation Businesses Inc.

Redbird, Oklahoma

\$699,074

Contact: M.A. Lechtenberger 870-421-1100

Congressional District: OK-01

Information technology is essential to rural education, business, and community government. Cherokee Nation Businesses, Inc. will provide broadband access to the 153 residents of the town of Redbird, OK. The company will use fixed wireless broadband access technology to serve residences and businesses, and will include fee service to community facilities. The project includes a community center which will offer free access and training to those unfamiliar with the benefits of broadband, or unable to otherwise afford the service.

Cherokee Nation Businesses Inc.

Vian, Oklahoma

\$682,074

Contact: M.A. Lechtenberger, 870-421-1100

Congressional District: OK-02

Information and technology are essential ingredients of healthy and viable

communities. Cherokee Nation Businesses, Inc. will bring fixed wireless broadband to the community of Vian, Oklahoma, population 1,362. It will connect City Hall, the school, and the police and fire departments. The public school library will contain a community center accessible to residents that will provide one-on-one assistance with broadband and internet usage.

South Dakota

RC Communications

Corona, South Dakota

\$544,099

Contact: Pamela Harrington, 605-637-5211

Congressional District: SD-01

RC Communications, Inc., will bring high-speed Internet access and cable television to the 112 people living in Corona, SD. The project will help Corona's residents develop new job skills, increase educational opportunities afforded to students, and provide expanded access to goods and services available over the Internet for the entire community. The project includes construction of a community center, to house publicly-available computers, fiber to the premises (FTTP) for all premises in Corona. Corona's leaders believe that broadband access, a new "every-day" essential for thriving communities, will help them to stem out-migration and stimulate economic growth.

Utah

Uintah Basin Telecommunications Association

Randlett, Utah

\$733,193

Contact: Bruce Todd, 435-622-5007

Congressional District: UT-02

Randlett, UT, with a population of 224, will receive DSL-based services from new and existing fiber optic and twisted pair cabling and electronics from Uintah Basin Telecommunications Association with this RUS grant. The new high-speed network will ensure that public safety personnel have access to online training and data sources, and will increase community interaction through both local and Internet-based bulletin boards. Connections to the community center, Head Start, and residents' homes will increase the availability of distance learning opportunities from Utah State University and other entities.

Virginia

Scott County Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Nickelsville, VA

\$586,737

Contact: William Franklin, 276-452-7224

Congressional District: VA-09

The RUS grant to Scott County Telephone Cooperative, Inc., will fund a community center in Nickelsville, VA, including computers and staff for 2 years. Scott telephone will also provide a fiber to the premises (FTTP) network for the town, in an effort to bolster economic development opportunities, as the area's economy transitions away from complete reliance on production agriculture. "Always-on" Internet access can encourage new business migration, telecommuting and local entrepreneurs. The 440 residents of Nickelsville will benefit from this cooperative effort among area organizations.