

Award summaries for Community Connect Broadband Grant Program 2005

ALASKA

Hughes Village Council

Hughes, Alaska

\$278,871

Contact: Ella Sam, 1st Chief, 907-889-2239

Congressional District: AK-01

County: Yukon-Koyukuk Borough

This project will bring broadband to the community of Hughes, Alaska, population 78. The tribally owned system will have a satellite link and create overlapping wireless “hot spots” for coverage in the entire community. Hughes is predominantly a subsistence economy, where the residents are primarily engaged in hunting, fishing and harvesting of wild plants. The increased bandwidth will enable community businesses to increase their sales. The tribe will also operate and maintain a web site to facilitate the sale of arts and crafts as well as value-added seafood products. Residents will be able to earn income by providing data processing services. The use of videoconferencing would also allow the delivery of educational content into homes as well as the community center. The broadband service will enhance the ability of the both the Tribal and municipal government to access programs, services, information and funding available to improve the economic, social and spiritual well-being of residents.

ARIZONA

Hopi Telecommunications, Inc.

Moenkopi, AZ

\$750,000

Contact: Brent Kennedy, President and General Manager, 928-522-8428

Congressional District: AZ-01

County: Coconino

This project will bring broadband services to the community of Moenkopi, Arizona, which is located remotely from the core portion of the Hopi Reservation. The community of 901 residents is challenged by high unemployment and low household income. This project will operate a point-to-multipoint unlicensed wireless broadband network connecting residents, schools, law enforcement, fire department and the community center. The grant will create distance learning opportunities, such as advanced placement courses for students. Residents will have better access to news and information. Artists, craftsmen, community businesses, government agencies, and schools will be better positioned to participate in the digital economy on a local, regional and worldwide basis.

CALIFORNIA

Tule River Tribal Council

Tule River Indian Reservation, CA

\$795,630

Contact: Neil Peyron, Chairman, 559-781-4271

Congressional District: CA-21

County: Tulare

The Tule River Indian Reservation is a very rural community of 566 people with limited employment, education and health care opportunities. A fiber network will link tribal members and key community resources to broadband services within and outside the reservation community. The Tule River Tribal Council will provide a community-based network of services to support the educational and social development of reservation residents and to provide a basis for further economic development activities. In addition, the project will provide an infrastructure to support telemedicine services at the Tule River Health Center and other medical facilities on the reservation and to improve public safety and fire prevention and control.

IDAHO

Direct Communications Star West, Inc.

Oxford, ID

\$198,292

Contact: Jeremy Smith, General Manager, 208-548-2345

Congressional District: ID-02

County: Franklin

The goal of the Oxford Fiber to the Premises broadband project is to provide the basic infrastructure to bring many advanced telecommunications services to the residents of the area in order to improve the quality of their lives and support the long-term viability of the community. Oxford is a very small (population 53) agricultural community. The project will consist of deploying optical fiber from Star West's backbone network to a point in the town of Oxford and fiber distribution throughout the town via existing and new optical fiber and electronics. FTTP service will be extended to residents, businesses and a community center. The community center will be made available for both scheduled instruction periods and open access, where any resident will have Internet access and email, community bulletin boards, web hosting features, and the capability for future services such as state educational resources, distance learning, and telemedicine.

LOUISIANA

Bayou Internet, Inc.

Dodson, Louisiana

\$758,227

Contact: Jerry Scroggin, General Manager, 318-323-0011

Congressional District: LA-04

County: Winn Parish

Dodson, Louisiana, a village of 357 residents in north central Louisiana, is challenged by poverty, geographic isolation, infrastructure deficiencies, and the out-migration of many of its young adults. Broadband transmission service will be delivered to the town via point to point wireless towers and use a 900 Mhz non-line of sight system to deliver broadband service to the end user. The project will bring broadband to a modular community center, Dodson Town Hall, Dodson Police and Fire Departments, Dodson Family Medical Center, Winn Parish Library, and Dodson High School. Affordable broadband access will substantially contribute to initiatives currently planned for improvements of community infrastructure. Broadband access will enhance economic development in the community and provide affordable internet access for education and health care for citizens, improving the quality of life for all families in this small community.

Infinity Wireless, Inc.

Pioneer, Louisiana

\$442,500

Contact: Lynn Johnston, President, 318-428-1644

Congressional District: LA-05

County: West Carroll Parish

This project will bring wireless broadband to Pioneer, Louisiana, a small town of 171 residents in northeastern Louisiana. The technology will utilize a non-line of sight 900 MHz broadcast system. The project will provide broadband service to the local fire department, police department, ambulance service, post office, and elementary school. Students will benefit from better research tools and teachers will have access to workshops via videoconferencing. Local farmers, mainly sweet potato producers, will have broadband access that will enable them to use real time video to reach retailers and compete more effectively.

MISSISSIPPI

Town of Schlater, Mississippi

Schlater, Mississippi

\$343,638

Contact: Jason Colquett, Mayor, 662-658-4868

Congressional District: MS-02

County: Leflore

With this grant funding, the Town of Schlater will create a community-owned wireless broadband network which will create economic opportunities in this west-central Mississippi community. This system will offer many resident first time access to the internet and all of its educational and health resources. Video services will be added in the second year of full operation. The primary goal is to allow all 388 residents to participate in the new economy of the 21st Century in a manner that is socially responsible and economically advantageous for the community.

Village of Glendora

Glendora, Mississippi

\$325,405

Contact: Johnny Thomas, Mayor, 601-940-2599

Congressional District: MS-02

County: Tallahatchie

This fixed wireless technology project will bring broadband connectivity to the community of Glendora, a small northwestern Mississippi Delta village of 285 people. This community suffers from high poverty and unemployment. The project will connect the public library, health clinic, police department, and volunteer fire department. A cotton gin building owned by the city will be used to set up a community center, which will be used to offer a variety of educational and training services to residents. Residents will benefit from better educational and economic opportunities by improved access to information, prescription medicines, job search and GED college correspondence courses. Businesses will benefit from fast and reliable access to information, which can increase their productivity.

NEW MEXICO

Pueblo of San Juan

San Juan, NM

\$565,963

Contact: Joe Garcia, Governor, 505-852-4400

Congressional District: NM-03

County: Rio Arriba

San Juan Pueblo is one of the smallest pueblos in New Mexico, with 2,342 persons residing on approximately 19,000 acres. The project will provide access needed to strengthen the Pueblo's vocational and educational goals and attract new business on tribal lands. It consists of the installation of wireless telecommunications to twelve critical community facilities in seventeen different locations, and 90 tribal residences. The community facilities house eighteen tribal departments including the San Juan Community School, the Governor's office and tribal library, wellness center and diabetes program, boys and girls club, senior citizen's center, law enforcement and tribal courts, and community health and Indian child welfare. Ninety tribal residences will be connected to the wireless system, allowing children and adults to participate in the educational programs remotely as well.

Sacred Wind Communications, Inc.

Huerfano, New Mexico

\$436,461

Contact: John Badal, CEO, 505-250-1284

Congressional District: NM-03

County: San Juan

This wireless network broadband project will serve Huerfano, current population 379, located in a remote and rural section in the northeast of the Navajo Nation. Poverty, isolation, inferior health care, insufficient public safety, and poor educational service are part of this community's way of life. The project will bring broadband connectivity to the following locations: Huerfano Chapter House, the Huerfano Ha'naadl'ii Community Center, the senior center, and the Ha'naadl'ii Dormitory School. Residents will benefit by receiving preventative health information and medical alerts, receiving crime alerts, conducting e-commerce, enrolling in university and certificate programs, and receiving online job training. Students will benefit by after school academic research training and information about college applications and financial assistance. The project will offer free basic computer, Internet and webpage design classes at the community center.

OKLAHOMA

Gold Tower, LLC

Oktaha, OK

\$551,321

Contact: John Hemphill, Manager, 918-834-2200

Congressional District: OK-02

County: Muskogee

The project will consist of a fixed broadband wireless access network that will deliver data rates from 256 Kbps to 45 Mbps, and next-generation IP applications and services to business and residential customers in Oktaha, OK (population 327). The network architecture for this network is a licensed OC3 ringed backbone with point-to-multipoint (PMP) broadband radios. Critical community facilities such as City Hall and the Oktaha Public School will be served by the network. The community center will encourage adult education by allowing community members to reserve specific time for broadband access to complete required courses.

PUERTO RICO

Islanet, Inc.

Orocovis, Zona Urbana

\$568,569

Contact: Gary Lasher, President & CEO, 787-999-4500

Congressional District: NA

County: Orocovis Municipio

This project will bring broadband to Orocovis, Zona Urbana, a small community located in the mountains of rural Puerto Rico. Orocovis, population 909, has high levels of unemployment and struggles to attract businesses due to lack of infrastructure such as broadband. Transporting telecommunication signals from the main hub in San Juan to this mountainous area requires three microwave line of sight paths. From a local microwave tower on the mountain, there is a line-of-sight to the Orocovis community. The project will use non-line-of-sight (NLOS) wireless technology to connect to the residential population of the area and the community center. The project will also connect the hospital, police station, firehouse, school, community center and public offices. Benefits to the community include: access to distance learning materials, use of online job postings, access to online government services, programs and resources.

SOUTH DAKOTA

City of Timber Lake

Timber Lake, South Dakota

\$393,309

Contact: Clyde Pfeifle, Mayor, (605) 865-3400

Congressional District: SD-01

County: Dewey

Timber Lake, population 443, intends to use grant funds to purchase the necessary equipment to build a Wireless Broadband Network (WBN) and provide free broadband service to critical community facilities including: schools, libraries, medical clinics, hospitals, higher education institutions, law enforcement, fire, and ambulance. Timber Lake will also create and operate a “state-of-the-art” community center that provides public access points, free broadband access, e-commerce incubator for small businesses, distance learning and high tech professional certifications to community residents.

TEXAS

City of Los Indios

Los Indios, TX

\$432,695

Contact: Diamantina Aguilar, Mayor, 956-399-4255

Congressional District: TX-27

County: Cameron

Los Indios, TX is a rural and economically challenged community, population 1149, in Cameron County, TX. Los Indios has suffered from an economy which has been in a recession over an extended period of time. This project will improve education, healthcare, security and the overall economy in the community by building a wireless broadband network. Free broadband service will be provided to critical community facilities including schools, libraries, medical clinics, hospitals, higher education institutions, law enforcement, fire and ambulance. Los Indios will also create and operate a state-of-the-art Community Center that will provide public access points, free broadband access, an e-commerce incubator for small businesses, distance learning, and high tech professional certifications to community residents. The project will facilitate the use of private and public partnerships to create long-term sustainability for economic development.

City of Encinal

Encinal, TX

\$511,229

Contact: Javier Mancha, Mayor, (956) 948-5226

Congressional District: TX-28

County: La Salle

With this funding, the City of Encinal intends to build a wireless broadband network to serve this community of 629 residents. The grant will provide free broadband service to critical community facilities including: community center (Ruth Carr Building), City Hall, Municipal Court & Constable Pct. 2, church hall, volunteer fire department, elementary school, Hecho En Encinal (a nonprofit arts and culture center), and Water Supply Corporation. Encinal will create and operate a state of the art community center that provides public access points, free broadband access, an e-commerce incubator for small businesses, distance learning, and high tech professional certifications to community residents. The proposed model will enable the community, small businesses, and residents to unite efforts by utilizing private and public partnerships to create long-term sustainability for economic development.

UTAH

The Fellowship for Strengthening the Future of Families, Town of Hanksville

Hanksville, UT

\$512,655

Contact: Connie Foutz, Executive Director, (435) 542-3238

Congressional District: UT-02

County: Wayne

In this community of 250 people, citizens are challenged by many economic barriers due to the rural location and lack of technology. The funds from this grant will provide construction of a wireless broadband network and provide free broadband access to critical facilities including town building, EMT, Bureau of Land Management, LDS Church, Utah Department of Transportation, fire department, elementary school, health clinic, and police department. Hanksville will also create and operate a community center that will provide public access points, free broadband access, an e-commerce incubator for small businesses, distance learning, and e-work job training opportunities for residents.

VIRGINIA

Lenowisco, Inc. I

Rose Hill, VA

\$506,048

Contact: Ron Flanary, Secretary, 276-431-2206

Congressional District: VA-09

County: Lee

This project will serve the community of Rose Hill, population 714, located in the central Appalachian Mountains of southwestern Virginia. The project will expand the Lenowisco Rural Area Network fiberoptic Ethernet backbone infrastructure to deploy broadband to this currently unserved area. The project will provide free access to the public library and the elementary school. A community center will be created through the expansion of the library building. The new computer center will provide on-site instruction and technical support in the use of broadband internet service, ranging from beginner computer and Internet introduction for senior citizens to advanced e-commerce strategies for businesses. The project intends to bring affordable broadband connections to at least 40 homes and 10 businesses. Broadband will be an economic stimulus for retaining the region's businesses and creating new jobs in this impoverished area.

WASHINGTON

The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation

Nespelem, WA

\$359,828

Contact: Joseph Pakootas, Chairman, 509-634-2215

Congressional District: WA-05

County: Okanogan

Nespelem (population 212) is located in rural Okanogan County, WA, and is on the Colville Indian Reservation. Nespelem has suffered from high unemployment, persistent poverty and declining population. The grant will fund delivery of fiber optic broadband service to a terminus at Nespelem, connecting the proposed Community Technology Center to the terminus, and distributing broadband services to critical and other facilities, businesses and residences in and around Nespelem via a wireless network. Services available at the Center will include free public Internet access, classes and workshops, and access to a new community portal. In addition to the Community Technology Center, the project will provide connectivity to the Town of Nespelem, Nespelem Elementary School, Nespelem Emergency Medical Services/Fire Station and the Nespelem Senior Center.

WEST VIRGINIA

Town of Davy

Davy, West Virginia

\$280,360

Contact: Ken Gentry, Mayor, 304-656-7145

Congressional District: WV-03

County: McDowell

This wireless broadband project will bring broadband service to the community of Davy, West Virginia, population 373. High unemployment, chronic health issues, and geographical isolation have led to outmigration leaving only those who can not move on. The project will utilize microwave transmission as the main connection for the community and use 900 Mhz license-free wireless to connect with the individual user facilities. The project will connect the town's police department, fire department, and the community center. Free computer and software training classes will be offered at the community center. This grant will provide the town with much needed access to distance health care, job training assistance, and a portal to grow a local arts and crafts business and to attract tourists to a nearby ATV trail.