



Community Connect Awards – Alaska

2015 Grant Awards:

Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative, Inc.

Community: Point Hope

Grant Amount: \$1,418,502

Contact: Steve Merriam, CEO/General Manager, 907-564-2600

County: North Slope Borough, ALASKA

Congressional District: AK-At Large (project); AK-At Large (awardee)

The award of the Community-Oriented Connectivity Broadband Grant Program would provide the Point Hope PFSA with the ability to construct a broadband network to provide broadband services to the residents and businesses within the PFSA.

The types of services to be offered by ASTAC in the PHA PFSA include high-speed Internet, local telephone service and custom calling features, long distance telephone service, and Ethernet transport services. Funding for this project will allow ASTAC to prepare the Point Hope access network for an undersea fiber connection that is planned for 2016/2017.

The high-speed Internet service deployed over the FTTH & VDSL equipment with the Point Hope Project will have a superior user experience to other technologies. The speeds will be faster and more reliable when compared to that of traditional DSL or wireless product offerings, with the new FTTH & VDSL system the ability to move from a TDM voice circuit to a VoIP circuit is possible. This provides the possibility for additional IP-based calling features.

2013 Grant Awards:

Matanuska Telephone Association, Inc.

Community: Glacier View and Chickaloon

Grant Amount: \$2,941,246

Contact: Eric Anderson 907-761-2795

County: Matanuska-Susitna, Alaska

Congressional District: AK-00 (project); AK-00 (awardee)

The Community Connect grant to Matanuska Telephone Association, Inc. (MTA) will provide funding to construct fiber optic cables from MTA's existing fiber cables out to existing copper and microwave fed equipment sites and add one new site. The project will enable MTA to expand its current broadband service offerings in the community so that customers will have the ability to subscribe to service with speeds ranging from 5 Mbps to 10 Mbps. MTA is working closely with the Matanuska Susitna Borough School District to provide enhanced broadband service to the Glacier View School. The project will also fund the construction of a community center where all residents will have access to free service at the Broadband Grant Speed of 5 Mbps (upload and download speeds combined) for at least two years.

2012 Grant Awards:

Tanadgusix Corporation

St. Paul, Alaska

Grant Amount: \$554,140

Contact: Steven Sumida (907-278-2312)

County: Aleutians West (CA)

Congressional District: AK-01 (project); AK-01 (awardee)

Tanadgusix Corporation (TDX) is the ANCSA village corporation for the community of St. Paul, Alaska. TDX will use Rural Utilities Service funds to provide broadband services to residents, businesses, and critical community facilities in St. Paul, Alaska through the construction of a Fiber to the Premises (FTTP) network. The project will upgrade and overbuild TDX's aging Hybrid Fiber-Coax (HFC) network which is no longer capable of providing broadband services to the residences and businesses in St. Paul. Additionally, critical community facilities will receive two years of free broadband service and a Community Center will be made available where residents will have access to free internet service for at least two years. TDX will also offer training and technical support to residents in the community.

2008 Grant Awards:

Copper Valley Telephone Coop., Inc. Tatilek, Alaska

Grant Amount: \$1,000,000

Contact: David Dengel, (907) 835-2231

County: Valdez-Cordoza; 1st Congressional District

Rural Development funding was awarded to Copper Valley Telephone Coop., Inc. to provide broadband services to Tatilek, Alaska. Tatilek is a traditional Alutiiq coastal village, with 96% of the population being Alaska Natives. The Chugachmiut Clinic and the Tatitlek Community Center will receive free high speed internet access for two years.

2006 Grant Awards:

AP&T Wireless, Inc. Kasaan, Alaska

Grant Amount: \$1,031,133

Contact: Michael Garrett, 360-385-1733 EXT 160

County: Ketchikan Gateway

Rural Development funds will be used to deploy a wireless broadband system in Kasaan, Alaska. The community currently has an operational Community Center that will be open to the public so they may use the computers and high speed Internet funded by the grant. The local Volunteer Fire and Police Departments will now have Internet access and allow the residents to access outside medical facilities.

2005 Grant Awards:

Hughes Village Council Hughes, Alaska

Grant Amount: \$278,871

Contact: Ella Sam, 907-889-2239

County: Yukon Koyukuk

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.

2004 Grant Awards:

Anvik Traditional Council Anvik, Alaska

Grant Amount: \$280,310

Contact: Carl Jerue, 907-663-6322

County: Yukon Koyukuk

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 of 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

Grant Amount: \$60,497

Contact: David Fauske, 907-563-1932

County: North Slope Borough.

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.

2003 Grant Awards:

Kake Tribal Corporation Kake, Alaska

Grant Amount: \$804,162

Contact: Karl Lehr, 907-463-7737

County: Wrangell-Petersburg

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.

2002 Grant Awards:

Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska Angoon, Alaska

Grant Amount: \$294,590

Grant Contact: Ms. Myrna Gardner, 907-463-7386

County: Angoon

The Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska project will provide broadband service to residents and businesses in Angoon, Alaska. Angoon is located in southeast Alaska with a population of 572. In 2002, 50% of the adults in Angoon were unemployed and 27.9% of the population was living in poverty. Only dialup service is available for internet access. The broadband system is a wireless system with satellites being used as a backhaul. The system will provide connection speeds of 1.544 Mbps for the downlink and 512Kbs for the uplink. Free broadband service will be provided to the following critical facilities: City of Angoon, Angoon Community Association, Fire Station, public schools, and the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Corporation. The project will also provide citizens of Angoon, Alaska with free access to broadband in their community center. The community center will offer adult vocational education training courses, small business development courses and computer skills courses.

Yukon Telephone Company, Inc.; Ruby, Alaska;

Grant Amount: \$45,840

Contact Person: Don Eller, 907-373-6007

County: Yukon Koyukuk

The applicant will use RUS Grant funds to provide broadband connectivity in Ruby, Alaska. RUS Grant funds will provide equipment to enable broadband connectivity via ADSL technologies to at least 30 of the 188 resident of Ruby. Resident will enjoy minimum data rates of 512kbps. This system will utilize current infrastructure and will be operating at four different locations.