



Community Connect Awards – Arkansas

2011 Grant Awards:

Crystal Broadband Networks, Inc.

Birdsong Town, Arkansas

Grant Amount: \$570,800

Contact: Nidhin Johnson, (630) 206-0447

County: Mississippi

Congressional District: AR1 (project); IL9 (awardee)

Crystal Broadband Networks, Inc. will use Rural Utilities Service funds to provide wireless broadband services to the community of Birdsong Town, Arkansas. The location of the community in Tornado Alley has made its residents prime targets of catastrophic tornados. Real time weather radar and national weather updates are critical in saving lives, especially in remote areas without adequate tornado warning sirens. Broadband Internet access will allow local residents to receive advanced weather warnings. The community center and volunteer fire department will also receive broadband service free of charge for two years.

Cable Partner.Net, Inc.

Whelen Springs Town, Arkansas

Grant Amount: \$570,800

Contact: Arun Jayaprakash, (877) 725-6342

County: Clark

Congressional District: AR4 (project); TX24 (awardee)

Rural Utilities Service funds will be used to provide broadband services to the community of Whelen Springs Town, Arkansas through a wireless network. The city hall, post office and community center will receive two years of free broadband access. A community center will be established as part of the project and the awardee plans on conducting free classes for residents covering computer related subjects. The community will benefit from increased public safety, improved health care, additional educational opportunities, and other economic benefits.

2009 Grant Awards:

Buford Communications I, LP dba Alliance Communications Network Rondo, Arkansas

Grant Amount: \$681,070

Contact: Bennett W. Hooks III (913) 561-4411

County: Lee; 1st Congressional District

Rural Utilities Service funds will be used to provide broadband services to the community of Rondo, Arkansas through a hybrid fiber coax network. The town hall and community center will receive two years of free broadband access. The community will benefit from increased public safety, improved health care, additional educational opportunities, and economic benefits to all.

Buford Communications I, LP dba Alliance Communications Network Aubrey, Arkansas Grant

Amount: \$735,020

Contact: Bennett W. Hooks III (913) 561-4411

County: Lee; 1st Congressional District

Rural Utilities Service funds will be used to provide broadband services to the community of Aubrey, Arkansas through a hybrid fiber coax network. The town hall and community center will receive broadband services free of charge for two years. To promote e-commerce in the community, Buford Communications has offered to assist the local business owners with web page development and web hosting.

Buford Communications I, LP dba Alliance Communications Network La Grange, Arkansas

Grant Amount: \$667,120

Contact: Bennett W. Hooks III (913) 561-4411

County: Lee; 1st Congressional District

Buford Communications I, L.P. will use Rural Utilities Service funds to provide broadband services to the community of La Grange, Arkansas through a hybrid fiber coax network. A new community center will be established, providing the residents with continuing adult education through on-line courses and a meeting place for the community's private groups and clubs.



2008 Grant Awards:

Nexus Systems, Inc. Chidester, Arkansas

Grant Amount: \$683,009

Contact: Mark Stevenson, (318) 340-0750

County: Ouachita; 4th Congressional District

Nexus Systems, Inc. will use Rural Development funds to provide broadband service to the community of Chidester, Arkansas through a wireless network. Nexus will implement a community center in the main building of the Chidester Municipal Complex. Organizations that will receive broadband service free of charge for two years include: the town hall, police department, library, and senior citizens center.

Almega Cable, Inc. Reader, Arkansas

Grant Amount: \$656,454

Contact: Thomas Kurien, (817) 685-9588

County: Nevada; 4th Congressional District

Rural Development funds will be used to provide broadband services to the community of Reader, Arkansas through a Hybrid Fiber Coax CMTS network. The community will benefit from increased public safety, improved health care, additional educational opportunities, and economic benefits to all. The Town Hall, Volunteer Fire Department, Volunteer Rescue Squad, and the Reader Community Center will receive two years of free broadband access.

Almega Cable, Inc. Wabaseka, Arkansas

Grant Amount: \$591,835

Contact: Thomas Kurien, (817) 685-9588

County: Jefferson; 4th Congressional District

Almega Cable, Inc. will be providing broadband service to Wabaseka, Arkansas with Rural Development funding. Organizations that will receive broadband service free of charge for two years include: the Township Hall, the Police Department, the Volunteer Fire Department, the Volunteer Rescue Squad, and the Wabaseka Community Center. Broadband services will give students of Wabaseka research capabilities and access to potential opportunities for a higher education.



2007 Grant Awards:

Nexus Systems, Inc. Jerome, Arkansas

Grant Amount: \$ 685,091

Contact: Mark Stevenson, (318) 340-0750

County: Drew

Rural Development will provide Nexus System the funding for a wireless broadband infrastructure for Jerome, Arkansas. The community center will be housed in a renovated two room school house from 1930. The school is owned by the town of Jerome, and is listed on the National Historical Registry. The Mayor's office, the Jerome Constable, and the community center will all be enjoying the benefits of free broadband access for two years.

PC One Cable, LLC. Wilmar, Arkansas

Grant Amount: \$406,315

Contact: Jim Feeney, (201) 825-9090

County: Drew

Through Rural Development funds, PC One Cable, LLC will be providing broadband service to Wilmar, Arkansas. They are implementing a broadband coax infrastructure with a cable modem termination system for the broadband network. Many critical facilities will be enjoying the two (2) free years of broadband service. They include: Township Hall, Police Department, Volunteer Fire Department, Volunteer Emergency Response Team, and the Wilmar Community Center. Wilmar children attend school in the neighboring town of Monticello, the availability of broadband will assist with daily homework assignments and research projects.