



Community Connect Awards – North Dakota

2013 Grant Awards:

BEK Communications Cooperative

Community: Rural Barnes County North

Grant Amount: \$3,000,000

Contact: Derrick Bulawa 401-475-2361

County: Barnes County, North Dakota

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

BEK Communications Cooperative's (BEK) Community Connect project will provide an opportunity to transform citizens in the underserved area of Northern Rural Barnes County, North Dakota by empowering them with Fiber to the Home (FTTH) technology. BEK will connect the service area to its existing network with fiber optic back-haul. The project will bring high-speed broadband capabilities to customers who otherwise have no broadband or lesser quality services such as dial-up, satellite or wireless services, all of which offer speeds below the RUS defined broadband service level of 3 Mbps (upload and download speeds combined) and the lack the ability to deliver real-time services like IP Voice and IP Video. The proposed fiber network will introduce new capabilities not found today in these rural community's educational, healthcare and public safety institutions.

BEK Communications Cooperative

Community: Rural Barnes County South

Grant Amount: \$3,000,000

Contact: Derrick Bulawa (401-475-2361)

County: Barnes County, North Dakota

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

BEK Communication Cooperative (BEK) will utilize RUS grant funding to serve a very rural and sparsely populated area in the southern portion of Barnes County, North Dakota. The area to be served has suffered from out migration of its population and consolidation of farmsteads. BEK already provides advanced services to over 7,000 homes within 65 miles of the service area and is well suited to extend its existing services to this needy area. BEK will use RUS funding to deploy broadband service using Fiber to the Home (FTTH) technology. The project will bring high-speed broadband capabilities to customers who otherwise have no broadband or lesser quality services such as dial-up, satellite or wireless services, all of which offer speeds below 3 Mbps (upload and download speeds combined) and lack the ability to deliver real-time services like IP Voice and IP Video. The proposed fiber network will introduce new capabilities not found today in these rural community's educational, healthcare and public safety institutions.