

* Starting a
Community
Broadband
Initiative



“Making Communities Better with Broadband”

*Where to Begin

- *Start With Your Community
 - *Current Needs
 - *Demographics
 - *Strengths and Challenges
 - *Vision for the Future



*Where to Begin

*Evaluate the Current Landscape

- *Who are the existing service providers?
- *What type and level of services are available?
- *Are the services affordable to residents and businesses?
- *Understand the technology and where it is going.

*Where to Begin

- *Identify Partners and Stakeholders
 - *Service Providers, Hospitals, Schools, Businesses, First Responders, etc.
- *Identify Decision Makers
- *Seek Outside Help/Guidance
 - *Federal/State/Local
 - *Broadband success stories



*Identify Roadblocks

*Economic Conditions within Community

*Evolving Technology

*Industry Trends

*Legal and Regulatory Hurdles

*Remote Areas that are Costly to Serve



* Determine Route

- * Who will own and operate the network?
- * What technology should be deployed?
- * How much will it cost to construct?
- * What services and prices should be offered?
- * Identify funding sources, both public and private.

*Funding Sources

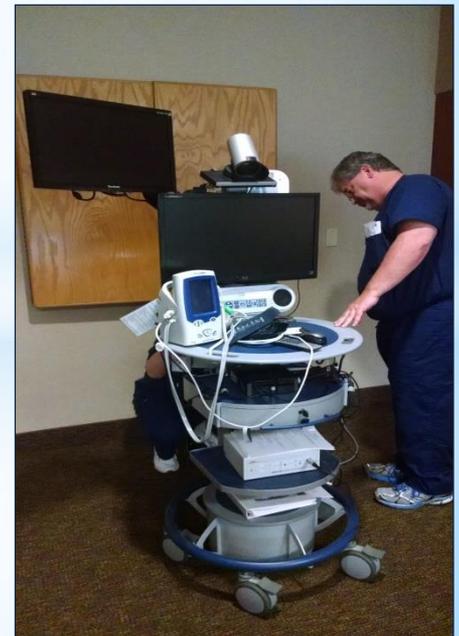
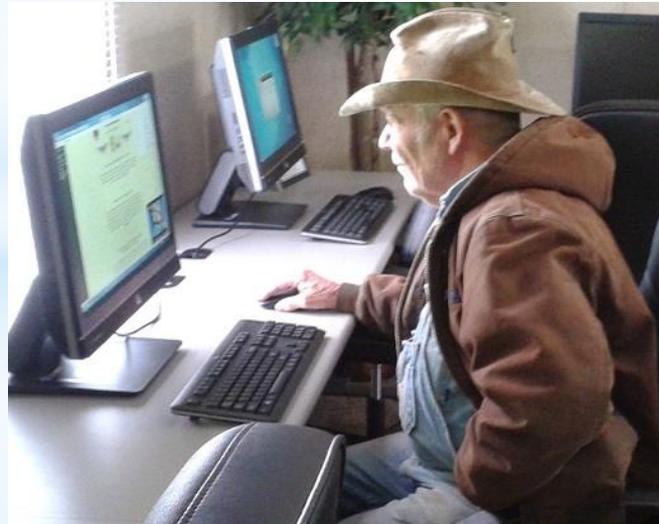
- *Internal Company or Organizational Funding
- *State or Local Funding
- *Private Banks
- *RUS Financing (grants or loans)

* Hit The Road

- * Network Construction - monitor timeline and costs
- * Detours may be necessary and unavoidable
- * Continue engaging partners and stakeholders
- * Community - key to success



* 21st Century Communities



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 **Questions**