



SE Oklahoma / Choctaw Nation Promise Zone 2-Day Workshop

Sponsored by USDA Rural Development

Agenda

TUESDAY, November 3, 2015

8:30 am - 9:00 am	Registration
9:00 am - 9:30 am	<p>Welcome and Opening Remarks Ryan McMullen, USDA Oklahoma State Office Director Keith B. Adams, Assistant Administrator, RUS Telecommunications Program</p>
9:30 am -10:00 am	<p>Congressional speaker: Senator James Lankford’s office Eddy Dempsey, Representative from the Office of Congressman Markwayne Mullin Judy Allen, Senior Executive Officer of Tribal Relations, Choctaw Nation</p>
10:00 am - 10:30 am	Networking Break
10:30 am - Noon	<p>Broadband Success Stories Panel Discussion Moderator: TBD Pine Telephone, Broken Bow, OK Northeast Rural Service, Vinita, OK ConnectHome Initiative</p> <p>Hear from current broadband service providers regarding the funding process, the challenges and rewards of building a broadband network, and how to get started.</p>
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	<p>Lunch Break Lunch provided by City of McAlester Tourism Department Dr. Stephen Smith, President of Eastern Oklahoma State College</p>
1:30 pm - 2:00 pm	<p>RUS Program Updates Laurel Leverrier, RUS Telecommunications Program How much in funds are available and the different programs for applying for financial assistance.</p>
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	<p>How to Get a Community Broadband Initiative Started Laurel Leverrier, RUS Telecommunications Program</p>
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	<p>The Pros and Cons of Different Broadband Technologies Steve Levine, RUS Telecommunications Program How to choose between different available technologies—from Fiber-to-the-Home to mobile broadband networks.</p>
3:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Networking Break
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	<p>The Community Connect Grant Program: What Makes a Winning Application? Chris Nemarich, RUS Telecommunications Program Tips for applying for Community Connect grants, what to think about going in, and what to prepare in advance.</p>
4:30 pm - 4:45 pm	<p>Wrap-up Bob Ehrlich, RUS Telecommunications Program</p>



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WEDNESDAY, November 4, 2015

8:00 am - 8:30 am	Registration
8:30 am - 9:30 am	<p>Environmental Protection Agency: Sustainable Communities and the Cool & Connected Project</p> <p>Ed Fendley, EPA Program Manager, Local Foods/Local Places, Office of Sustainable Communities</p> <p>Erin Okeefe, EPA Office of Sustainable Communities</p> <p>Come learn how construction does not have to be destructive and about a new program that will look at how broadband can help revitalize a community.</p>
9:30 am - 10:00 am	<p>FCC E-Rate Program</p> <p>Irene Flannery, Acting Chief, FCC Office of Native Affairs and Policy</p>
10:00 am - 10:30 am	Networking Break
10:30 am - 11:30 am	<p>Planning Your Community Broadband Roadmap and Overcoming Adoption Barriers</p> <p>Jean Rice, Senior Program Specialist, BroadbandUSA / NTIA</p>
11:30 am - 12:00 pm	<p>FirstNet Network: Using Broadband Technology to Meet Public Safety Needs</p> <p>Carl F. Rebstock, National Tribal Government Liaison First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet)</p>
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Lunch Break
1:30 pm - 2:00 pm	<p>RUS Substantially Underserved Trust Areas (SUTA) Provisions</p> <p>Bob Ehrlich, RUS Telecommunications Program, Policy and Outreach division</p> <p>Learn about the available benefits of the SUTA Provisions for those serving trust lands, what RUS Programs are covered by SUTA, and how to apply for SUTA consideration.</p>
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	<p>Rural Development Funding Opportunities</p> <p>Tom Roberts, Director of Multi Family Housing Programs, Oklahoma State Office</p> <p>Tommy Earls, Director of Single Family Housing Programs, Oklahoma State Office</p> <p>Brian Wiles, Director of Business & Cooperative Programs, Oklahoma State Office</p> <p>Jerry Efurd, Community Programs, Oklahoma State Office</p>
3:30 pm - 4:00 pm	<p>Wrap up</p> <p>Laurel Leverrier, RUS Telecommunications Program</p>