



3rd Annual Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortia Learning Summit

➤ All Consortia Roundtable

A forum for all consortia to gather and exchange their accomplishments in implementing their action plans in the past three years. Share best practices, outstanding gaps/needs, and challenges faced in achieving common broadband deployment, access, and adoption goals, focus on Action Plans/Steps Moving Forward to sustain the achievements of the consortia program.



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Map of Commission Approved Consortia Grants



2011-2014 CASF APPROVED CONSORTIA Resolutions T-17349, T-17355 and T-17445





Connected Capital Area Broadband Consortium Summary Report

Counties: Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba

Point of Contact: Jodi Mulligan, 916.325.1630, jodi.mulligan@valleyvision.org

Websites: <https://sites.google.com/site/connectedcapitalarea/>
<http://valleyvision.org/projects/broadband-in-the-sacramento-region>

Key outcomes of consortium achievements in 3 years:

- Action Plan Goals:
 - Develop a strategic plan for broadband infrastructure priority investments, aimed at increasing access to broadband.
 - Promote increased access, utilization and adoption of broadband with non-users.
 - Promote increased awareness and understanding among policymakers of the importance of broadband access for economic development and regional wellbeing.
 - Provide support to remove barriers impeding advancement of wireless broadband deployment.
 - Provide project management support for Sacramento Area regional consortium.

- Accomplishments:
 - Yolo Broadband Strategic Plan.
 - Broadband as a green strategy outreach, research, reports, and policy documents.
 - Mapping existing infrastructure and primary gaps.
 - Created the *Wireless Broadband and You* communications document.
 - Implemented Digital Access projects at four area high schools.
 - Created a working tri-fold broadband resource document for Yuba, Sutter and Sacramento Counties in three different languages.
 - Compiled an inventory of adoption and digital literacy assets in the region.
 - Convened stakeholders and community partners around key topical areas.
 - Developed and disseminated a newsletter called e-Connect.
 - The California Air Resources Board referenced the importance of broadband infrastructure within their AB 32 Scoping Plan update.
 - Promoted the pollution-reduction benefits of broadband to the EPA and to the California Office of Planning and Research among others.
 - Convened a local government official's roundtable on broadband.

- School2Home in Winters, City of Sacramento.

Best Practices Achieved:

- Creating a broadband strategic plan.
- Research and catalog inventory for infrastructure planning and development.
- Create timelines for grant application processes and identify funding resources.
- Created communications strategies to keep our region connected via e-newsletters, e-blasts, and quarterly convenings.
- Joined regional roundtables to represent CCABC and widen community networks.
- Provide technical and application assistance to community at large.
- Collaboration with organizations like Stride Center, CETF, CTN, public housing, and school districts.
- Create forums for the telecoms.

Challenges Faced:

- There are a lot of challenges with capacity for grant applications in our region.
- In certain counties like Yolo County, they don't have a lot of ISP options or they do not fall within a footprint enabling us to offer low-income solutions.
- We found in our broadband green work that there isn't a lot of quantifiable data at present to establish linkages between broadband and GHG reductions.

Outstanding Gaps/Needs:

- Money, data, community technology center, partners and capacity.

Future Sustainability Action Plan:

- We are currently working with RCRC, CETF, and the consortia to develop language for an urgency bill to transfer \$5-6 million from the loan account to the consortia account. We have all been tasked with calling our Supervisors who represent the member counties to ask for their support and for them to contact RCRC in support of this pending legislation.
- We have developed a plan to continue our e-newsletters and e-blasts for the next six months as well as hosting one more convening while we are working on this legislation.
- We have met with and will be meeting with key stakeholders in the region to discuss other funding options.

Central Coast Broadband Consortium Summary Report

Counties: Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey

Point of Contact: Steve Blum, 831-582-0700, steveblum@tellusventure.com

Website: centralcoastbroadbandconsortium.org

Key outcomes of consortium achievements in 3 years:

- Action Plan Goals: Infrastructure inventory, broadband policy, broadband development platform, CASF project development and support.
- Accomplishments: Seven CASF applications, including a 91-mile middle mile project; inventory of fiber, conduit, IT and wireless infrastructure; model policy package, including lead enactment by Santa Cruz County; data analysis, analytical technique development and creation of a web-based platform to support broadband infrastructure development generally and CASF projects specifically.

Best Practices Achieved:

Focus efforts on infrastructure development, with support for supply side – ISPs – and demand side – local agencies, economic development organizations and businesses.

Rely on field observations rather than requests for information.

Develop GIS analytical techniques that deliver data that's relevant to ISP business planning and provides a basis for project financing, and directs efforts to areas of the region with the greatest needs.

Find policy champions in local agencies and provide them with actionable policy documents and ongoing support.

Identify and support people, companies and other organizations that are pursuing projects that support the consortium's goal of infrastructure development.

Allocate budget for specific deliverables that will further consortia goals and condition payment on success, rather than backfilling organizational budgets or paying for ongoing staff time.

Challenges Faced:

Organizational inertia that obstructs information gathering – hence our reliance on field observations – and policy adoption.

Outstanding Gaps/Needs:

Greater policy adoption and more infrastructure projects.

Future Sustainability Action Plan:

Allocate budget for prepayment necessary to maintain the resources we have developed for a minimum of five years.

Maintain the consortium as an ad hoc group of people, companies and organisations that have an interest in broadband development and continue to rely, as we have for nearly 20 years, on voluntary participation in and cooperation with consortium activities.

Demonstrate the value of the services provided to ISPs and the community in order to obtain any necessary financial or in kind support going forward.

Central Sierra Connect Broadband Consortium Summary Report



Counties: (West) Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Mariposa & Tuolumne

Point of Contact: Kathleen K. Haff, 209.595.9297, haff.enterprises@gmail.com

Website: www.centralsierraconnect.org

Key outcomes of consortium achievements in 3 years:

- Action Plan Goals
 - Leadership Outreach & Management
 - Broadband Infrastructure & Support
 - Promote Increased Awareness, Application & Adoption for Specific Groups
 - Promote, Coordinate & Provide Opportunities for Access & Educational Assistance

- Accomplishments
 - Created strong leadership team that excelled in community outreach through various means to educate the community and involve them in regional issues of importance such as the Broadband Improvement Program (BIP) which helped immeasurably to correct the State broadband map with 766 responses to date.
 - Organized and held 2 Regional Summits to update community leaders and citizens on broadband issues facing our region which led to greater awareness, education and sense of urgency.
 - Successfully encouraged a Sierra foothills-based ISP (Cal.net) to apply for CASF grant funding for projects in all 5 CSC counties.
 - Innovative mapping initiatives in Year 1 and Year 3. Year 1 developed original mapping program internally to capture broadband data for residential and business status and needs. In Year 3, used local college class to map BIP challenge areas in the region.
 - Organized and launched a successful “Broadband 101” training program held in 3 different counties for Emergency Service personnel.
 - Created a robust broadband awareness campaign utilizing social media (Twitter, Facebook, CSC website, blogs), press releases, interviews, newsletters, Board of Supervisors meetings, etc. to heighten the public’s knowledge regarding our region’s need for greater broadband application, adoption and infrastructure.
 - Held major campaign with schools to get the word out to low income households regarding low cost internet service and other low cost goods to increase adoption by those who could least afford it.
 - Conducted surveys with disadvantaged population in 1 county to learn what barriers to access and adoption still remain.
 - Held extensive broadband face-to-face trainings for a large cross-section of new users, the disadvantaged and seniors populations, to increase education, access and adoption.

Best Practices Achieved:

- Through the BIP campaign, successfully increased the level of community involvement and awareness of the issues that still plague rural California in broadband deployment and adoption. This campaign helped to correct broadband map at the State level – and introduce “challenge” areas for our region.
- Through our non-stop broadband awareness campaign, substantially increased the level of community involvement all across the board – from elected officials to key stakeholders to influential community leaders and members. Raised level of thinking from broadband as a nice thing to have to broadband as a necessity.

Challenges Faced:

Extensive and ongoing delay in the completion of our middle mile fiber project (CVIN).

Outstanding Gaps/Needs:

Creation of community broadband policies conducive to infrastructure investment. (See “Challenges Faced”, above.)

Future Sustainability Action Plan:

Create, test, initiate and establish County Broadband Committees devised to continue our broadband efforts after the CSC consortium is gone.



East Bay Broadband Consortium Summary Report

Counties: Alameda, Contra Costa and Solano

Point of Contact: Linda Best, linda-best@comcast.net, 925-998-8742

Website: www.ebbroadband.org

Key outcomes of consortium achievements in 3 years:

Action Plan Goals: Developed Strategic Plan to implement two initiatives

- The East Bay Broadband Initiative to improve quality, speed and coverage of wireless, wireline and fiber broadband infrastructure in the East Bay.
- The East Bay Connects Digital Inclusion Initiative to promote increased access, adoption and utilization of Broadband among non-users.

Accomplishments:

- Infrastructure Initiative:
 - Developed comprehensive report and maps on existing broadband deployment in the East Bay, identifying gaps and needs and producing an East Bay Broadband “Report Card for cities and counties in the region.
- Produced a Power Point presentation on the importance of Broadband for economic development, vital public services and citizen engagement, which was presented to city councils, boards of supervisors, and business and community organizations .
- Encouraged local governments to adopt policies and ordinances to improve Broadband infrastructure, providing sample strategies and policies.
- Conducted a survey of county and city broadband initiatives to assess progress in Broadband infrastructure in the region by the end of Year 3.

East Bay Connects Digital Inclusion Initiative:

- Determined that there is significant digital divide in the East Bay with more than 20% of residents lacking access to Broadband; higher percentages for communities of color, seniors, low-income people, the disabled and immigrants.
- With OTX West, established Digital Inclusion Solution, which provides very low cost Broadband service, free computer, free literacy training and free tech support for new Broadband subscribers.
- Secured donation of 1,400 computers from Contra Costa County and 1,500 from Alameda County to support the Digital Inclusion Initiative.

- Prepared East Bay Connects Video being shown in reception offices of employment and human services agencies in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties highlighting advantages of Broadband; using video made presentations to numerous community groups on importance of Broadband.
- Provided 48 Digital Inclusion Solution workshops and secured Broadband subscriptions for 496 people who also received free computers, training and tech support.
- With Oakland Unified School District and OTX-West, designed and launched 1-to-1 around the Clock initiative to address the digital divide in Oakland, using Digital Inclusion Solution to provide students with access to computers and the internet in school, after school and in their homes, and began exploration of expansion of the program to other districts in the region.
- Joined with the Stride Center to maintain the Contact Center with one number to call for assistance in signing up for low-cost Broadband, free computer, free training and free tech support.

Best Practices Achieved:

- Necessity for broad public participation in formulating a regional strategy
- Need for presentations and other educational activities to increase awareness of the importance of broadband infrastructure.
- Importance of sharing strategies, policies, ordinances at the local level to make communities “broadband friendly”.
- Bridging the Digital Divide needs to include the four elements of the Digital Inclusion Solution: free computer, low-cost broadband subscription, training, tech support.
- Annual summits to help mobilize collaboration, report on progress, share best practices.

Challenges Faced:

- IT people in local government, agencies and institutions often don’t talk with one another. The Consortium has helped remedy that problem.
- Understaffed local governments often don’t have the bandwidth to place a high priority on broadband infrastructure which is so important to economic development and public services.

Outstanding Gaps/Needs:

- Need for systemic approach to engage low-income families to bridge the digital divide.
- Need to identify continuing sources of donated, used computers to support Digital Inclusion Solution.

Future Sustainability Action Plan:

- With OTX West, secured from the Thomas J. Long Foundation a \$2 million grant over 4 years to continue and expand the 1-to-1 Around the Clock, East Bay Connects and Digital Inclusion Solution in Oakland and throughout Alameda and Contra Costa Counties .
- Exploring with local LAFCOs opportunities to provide coordination of local agencies to promote broadband deployment.

Eastern Sierra Connect Regional Broadband Consortium Summary Report

Counties: Mono, Inyo, and Eastern portion of Kern **Point of Contact:** Nate Greenberg
Website: esrbconsortium.org (760) 924-1819
Social Media: Facebook: [ESCRBConsortium](https://www.facebook.com/ESCRBConsortium) ngreenberg@mono.ca.gov
Twitter: [@ESCRBC](https://twitter.com/ESCRBC)

Action Plan Goals:

- GOAL 1: Deploy broadband through connections with Internet Service Providers*
- GOAL 2: Provide information support so that area needs are assessed and up-to-date*
- GOAL 3: Promote regional projects that demonstrate broadband technology utility and connection*
- GOAL 4: Outreach to local/regional officials to implement policy and encourage deployment*
- GOAL 5: Promote residential and small business adoption through outreach and education*
- GOAL 6: Maximize the use of broadband technologies and adoption in anchor institutions*

Accomplishments:

- Providers
 - Encouraged 3 projects for approval for CASF funding (Boron, Stallion Springs, Crowley Lake)
 - 1. Encouraged 4 projects submitted for latest round of CASF funding for connectivity
 - 2. Increased regional demand for broadband and high level of bandwidth
- Information Support
 - Conducted 3 regional, annual Broadband Summits for collaborative regional planning
 - Widely dispersed public surveys and speed-test campaigns throughout region
 - Assessed need and developed action plans through unserved area stakeholders meetings
- New Regional Projects
 - Conducted several Summits and conference including joint CETF & USDA meetings
 - Developed demand through industry-specific workshops
 - Promoted county plan with public/private partnership solutions (eg: Obsidian Project)
- Policy
 - Conducted broadband policy workshops for Boards of Supervisors throughout region
 - Drafted broadband policies and aided in implementation in Inyo and Mono County
 - Initiated action committees in Eastern Kern County to develop and implement policy
 - Submitted communication infrastructure standards to Inyo National Forest Management Plan
- Adoption
 - Provided equipment to key public facilities for Wifi connections
 - Trained over 150 people through digital literacy programming
 - Acquired financial support for Cerro Coso Community College to conduct computer training
 - Developed the online presence of small, rural businesses and produced case studies
 - Provided over 50 webinars for small business develop in partnership with CSUB SBDC
 - Install 4 remote viewing sites which provided telecommunication opportunities

- Anchors
 - Conducted multiple workshops for telehealth with California Telehealth Network
 - Encouraged anchor adoption in partnership with California Broadband Cooperative

Best Practices Achieved

- Networked local/regional leadership and stakeholders together the common goal of broadband deployment
- Create an efficient and effective process for identifying opportunities to expand broadband use or adoption and connected it with funding options
- Conducted regular meetings and conferences which maintained deployment momentum and kept the public apprised of developments
- Developed the modernization conversation throughout a remote, rural region – focused community discussions on closing the digital divide

Challenges Faced:

- Assessment of connectivity and accurate speeds remains difficult (though CASF mapping is improving)
- Extremely remote communities remain unserved, as middle mile builds are cost prohibitive
- Providers continue to serve at a minimum standard – not reflective of the region’s capacity
- Lack of continuous funding for consortium to respond to gaps/needs identified below

Outstanding Gaps/Needs:

- Lack of regional cohesion to develop “gig cities” and attract businesses
- There is now a need for infrastructure standards at State level
- With a vast and diverse region, need assessments are necessary to continue meeting unmet needs
- Remaining middle mile builds that leave extremely remote communities unserved

Future Sustainability Action Plan:

- Adoption
 - Continue and expand digital literacy training
 - Focus on Tribal needs for digital literacy and computer skills training
- Economic Development
 - Provide business education to modernize and implement best practices with a regional plan
 - Encourage business growth and attraction with Digital 395 broadband capacity
- Policy
 - Develop Action Teams to develop and implement in governments without policies
 - Encourage State adoption of infrastructure standards in regions with broadband policies
- Information Support
 - Continue survey and mapping processes to update connectivity information
- Outreach
 - Connect unserved communities with ISPs who can meet needs
 - Continue general outreach to keep communities engaged in the broadband discussion
 - Identify funding opportunities for infrastructure builds and broadband technology growth

Gold Country Broadband Consortium Summary Report

Counties: Eastern Alpine, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer and Sierra

Point of Contact: Randy Wagner 530.635.2115 Randy@sedcorp.biz

Website: <http://goldcountryconsortium.wordpress.com>

Key outcomes of consortium achievements in 3 years:

➤ Action Plan Goals:

1. Promote and advance broadband deployments, access and adoptions

• Accomplishments:

- Built strategic partnerships with Internet Service Providers (ISP's)
- Collaborated with Fixed Wireless Internet Service Providers (WISP's)
- Instituted a "community meetings" approach to determine local issues, needs and wants
- Measured customer satisfaction with their broadband access and experience
- Mapped customer broadband service experience (ARC/GIS Mapping)
- Determined that CPUC California Broadband Maps were inaccurate and misleading
- Compelled CPUC to develop a state-wide GIS Working Group and to "ground-proof" maps
- Connected "unserved" customers and improved "underserved" 3-6 months after first contact
- Supported development of CASF grant proposals and one ARA grant implementation
 - Cal.NET/El Dorado County
 - Spiral Internet/Nevada County
 - Smarter Broadband/Nevada County
 - Sebastien/Placer County
 - Exwire/Nevada & Placer
 - Plumas Rural Electric/Sierra County

Best Practices Achieved:

- Community Meetings: Listened to the voice of the unserved, underserved and served
- Focus: Concentrated on the most "needy of the needy", and providing an immediate response
- "Ground-Proofing": Qualitative mapping
- Collaborative Partnerships: Developed strategic deployment relations with ISPs
- Fixed Wireless Internet Service: Leveraged technology which best supports our topography
- Fiber Optic Service: Supported strategic gigabyte projects serving Nevada & Placer

Challenges Faced:

- Leadership: Multiple agency involvement, lack of cohesive Federal and State strategy
- Ownership: Lack of local government leadership and funding
- Focus: Serving unserved, underserved and increasing adoption is significant effort

- Adoption: Should be a national or statewide campaign not local
- Mapping: Input controls are inadequate; “garbage-in, garbage-out”
- Nationwide Providers: Not motivated to partner nor be proactive
- Funding: CASF process is complex and expensive for WISPs who are generally small businesses
- Exit Strategy: No financial sustainability nor “hand-off” program plan

Outstanding Gaps/Needs:

- Each county should have a “State of County Broadband” assessment
- Each county should have an unserved, underserved, and adoption plan
- Each county plan should have a short, mid and long term vision
- Each county current ISP should be mandated to participate in the planning process

Future Sustainability Action Plan:

- Consortium funding should be continued for another three years
- Consortium and CASF funding should be managed with a 30/70 split or more
- Consortium should be funded for regional coordination across counties
- County CTO’s should lead local unserved and underserved technology deployment planning
- Counties should be incented to apply for Federal and State “matching” grant funds
- CPUC should fund a statewide Adoption Program aimed at public awareness and benefit
- Enhanced access to public lands to deploy services
- Enhanced partnership with Department of Education
- Enhanced engagement with Federal Economic Development Districts
- Enhanced engagement with Go-Biz, CALED and county economic development resources
- Enhanced engagement with Chambers of Commerce, business and “homeowner” associations



Inland Empire Regional Broadband Consortium Summary Report

Counties: Riverside County and San Bernardino County

Point of Contact: Martha van Rooijen, Consortium Manager, 951-845-4391, martha@iebroadband.com

Website for more information: www.iebroadband.com

Key outcomes of consortium achievements in 3 years:

- Action Plan Goals:
 - Identify unserved and underserved Priority Areas to help close the Digital Divide.
 - Develop and adopt the Inland Empire Broadband Infrastructure and Access Plan.
 - Foster and support CPUC California Advanced Services (CASF) applications in the Inland Empire.
- Accomplishments:
 - Inland Empire Priority Areas adopted in CPUC Resolution T-17443.
 - Inland Empire Broadband Infrastructure and Access Plan adopted November 6, 2014.
 - \$14 million CASF grant applications submitted for the Inland Empire to date, serving Priority Areas with more applications in the works.

Best Practices Achieved:

1. The Consortium brought, and continues to bring, elected officials, policy makers, IT professionals, engineers, business leaders, and key community stakeholders together to address broadband needs and close the Digital Divide in the Inland Empire.
2. The Consortium created and adopted the Inland Empire Broadband Infrastructure and Access Plan, which provides contextual framework for broadband issues and can be implemented by the region.
3. The Consortium fostered CASF grant applications through regular broadband forums and reaching out to Internet Service Providers to address unserved and underserved areas in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, as well as providing technical support and assisting with regional support for applications.

Challenges Faced:

- The Inland Empire Broadband Infrastructure and Access Plan needs to be implemented.
- The region needs higher broadband speeds and reasonable monthly costs.
- Mobile service is not an equal substitute for wireline internet at home or for business needs.
- Areas identified as “served” by CPUC mapping and field testing may not actually be served.
- Local government currently has no role in asking for or reviewing the type of broadband service provided in their community.
- Broadband conduit and/or fiber should be required in new housing, commercial and industrial development, as well as in public infrastructure projects.
- Services continue to go online, and in most cases, no consideration is given to how people connect to the internet to receive the service, which further deepens the Digital Divide.
- The Consortium fills a need in the region and needs funding to stay in operation.

Outstanding Gaps/Needs:

1. Smart region policies and actions are needed in the Inland Empire
2. Outreach activities need to continue so that the Inland Empire stays engaged in broadband infrastructure, public housing needs, service and cost issues to close the Digital Divide.
3. CPUC needs to keep mapping up-to-date to show broadband service gaps.
4. CPUC should revise its broadband policy to include higher minimum speeds, eliminate mobile in its definition of “served,” and include cost as a consideration.
5. Internet providers need to invest in more broadband infrastructure in the Inland Empire.
6. There are not enough digital literacy programs in the Inland Empire for the disadvantaged.
7. Per capita giving in the Inland Empire is much lower than statewide; therefore more outside funding is needed for the Consortium and the region to address broadband issues.

Future Sustainability Action Plan:

1. The Consortium will identify and apply for funding as available to support implementation of the Inland Empire Broadband Plan, and to continue working in the region.
2. The Consortium will continue to collaborate with CPUC, CETF, the Inland Empire Economic Partnership (IEEP), SmartRiverside, and its 35 members and many supporters in the region.
3. The Consortium will continue to work towards establishing additional partnerships.
4. The Consortium supports legislation for regional consortia and broadband in the state.



Los Angeles County Regional Broadband Consortium Summary Report

Counties: Los Angeles County

Point of Contact: Diana Rodriguez, 213-688-2802, drosdriguez@yplus.org

Website: <http://www.lacrbc.com>

Key outcomes of consortia achievements in 3 years:

Action Plan Goals:

Broadband Deployment, Access & Adoption

1. Digital Literacy: Provide 4,500 individuals with informative classes and workshops.
2. Create ESL Distance Learning Program
3. Open Lab: Provide 27,000 users with open lab computer & Internet access
4. Deployment: Provide 20,000 end-users with open WiFi connectivity via Hotspots
5. Adoption: Subscribe 1,500 L.A. County residents to broadband Internet
6. Outreach: Attend 90 Community Events
7. Host 40 Countywide & Local Town Hall Meetings
8. Conduct 2700 Demographic Surveys

Accomplishments:

Digital Literacy: Provided more than 100,000 students with digital literacy classes and workshops ranging from Internet basics to more advanced applications with an amazing number of ESL students enrolling in the distant learning program.

Adoption: LACRBC subscribed/verified over 2500 new broadband subscriptions as a direct result of its ongoing effort to promote low-cost broadband options in underserved communities.

Open Lab: The LACRBC surpassed this outcome by well over 1000% by allowing Individuals to search for employment, do homework, and complete college applications as well as other online activities.

The mobile classroom helped to provide on-the-spot classes/workshops and access to WiFi connectivity in communities where digital literacy options were limited or not available.

Outreach: Sub-regional leads hosted local & countywide town hall meetings as well as attended multiple community events, resulting in over 200,000 county residents/stakeholders being informed about the benefits & opportunities offered by the CPUC California Advanced Services Fund. Over 4,000 demographic surveys, 700 Telehealth surveys & 100 broadband usage surveys were conducted.

Deployment: Three senior living housing complexes were provided Internet connectivity enabling 200 residents to learn to engage on the Internet. The WiFi hotspots served approximately 50,000 end-users with open connectivity in public spaces.

Advocacy: The LACRBC sub-region leadership actively engaged in policy discussions to help shape public awareness and opinions in its goal to increase the broadband deployment and adoption rates in Los Angeles County.

Best Practices Achieved:

9. Achieved a better understanding of the broadband needs and requirements in each sub-region
10. Ongoing relationship building with ISPs
11. Enhanced discussions with elected officials and stakeholders
12. Built upon established collaborative partnerships with similar goals
13. Working as a team and coordination of efforts

Challenges Faced:

14. One of the more challenging tasks throughout the 3-year term was finding low-cost Broadband offers which met minimum criteria including coverage, speed and price points.
15. To understand and identify broadband service areas, including up/down speeds, infrastructure and services provided in the various communities throughout Los Angeles County.
16. Similar to underserved residential communities, we found that many small businesses also lack broadband connectivity and/or are not unaware of Broadband capabilities and/or benefits.

Outstanding Gaps/Needs:

Although there is a marked increase in the adoption rate in Los Angeles, there remains a significant number of residents who cannot access the Internet for one or more reasons.

Future Sustainability Action Plan:

The LACRBC will continue its mission of closing the digital divide in Los Angeles County by providing digital literacy, outreach, access and promoting of broadband connectivity.

North Bay-North Coast Regional Broadband Consortium Summary Report

Counties: Marin, Mendocino, Napa, Sonoma

Point of Contact: Tom West, Consortium Manager; tom@westfamily.org; 562-858-9378

Website: <http://www.mendocinobroadband.org/nbncbc/>

Key outcomes of consortium achievements in 3 years:

- Action Plan Goals to be achieved in two years (July 2014-June 2016):
 - Complete the development of community-based “last mile” plans for communities in each county starting with unserved and underserved communities;
 - Compile these community plans into a comprehensive countywide broadband plan for each county;
 - Integrate these county plans into an overall North Bay-North Coast Regional Broadband Plan;
 - Set the stage to pursue implementation of projects to meet the priority demands in each county and the region;
 - Identify potential deployment funding sources;
 - Work with service providers to make use of funding sources to deploy broadband; and,
 - Develop and implement meaningful adoption programs.

- Accomplishments in the first six months of Operation:
 - Governance structure of consortium was set up involving an Oversight Committee comprised of a county supervisor appointed by each of the four county Boards of Supervisors. The Oversight Committee guides the implementation of the Annual Work Plan.
 - A NBNCBC Management Team, consisting of a county manager and deputies for each county and a consortium manager and assistant was established. Each county management team works on its broadband activities independently, yet the four teams collaborate closely sharing information/best practices which permits for regional planning.
 - Each county team has engaged and met with stakeholders and providers to understand existing services and future plans, identify gaps and challenges to deployment, and to facilitate development, funding, and implementation of projects. The consortium is also working closely with county-based grassroots advisory groups.
 - 33 priorities areas (total) have been identified in our four counties.
 - Ground Truth testing of our 33 priority areas has resulted in a new layer called “consortia testing results” on the broadband map.

Best Practices Achieved:

- County management teams share knowledge, connections, and expertise with their colleagues from the other counties under the guidance of our consortium manager.
- Stakeholders and providers are being kept well-informed and engaged in the activities against the Annual Work Plan.
- Special reports have been prepared and submitted to the CPUC on the ground truth testing efforts of the Consortium.

Challenges Faced:

- The California Broadband Availability Map, which deems many census blocks “served”, and includes mobile service as a “stand-alone” rather than “complementary” service. Much effort and resources has gone into confirming or refuting the current designations to make them eligible for CASF grant funding.
- CASF grant application process and requirements make it extremely difficult for small local providers who do not have the resources to expend in making such an application with no guarantee of success.
- Broadband Silos, in which many sectors of the county do not interact and so opportunities for synergy and leveraging are missed. This includes E-rate, county government, public safety, tribes, etc.
- Lack of engagement by the larger telecom providers in this process.

Outstanding Gaps/Needs:

- Lack of affordable and accessible middle-mile infrastructure for rural area deployment. Without being a CLEC, small providers and WISPs are at the mercy of the big telecoms for pricing for middle mile fiber, if they can even access it at all. These high on-going costs do not allow their operating expenses to pencil out, even if a grant would allow for a build-out. Combined with low housing density, it makes it almost impossible for deployment in many areas.

Future Sustainability Action Plan:

- Engaging government at the county level to take responsibility and ownership for the future broadband through the work of our Oversight Committee, which includes a Board of Supervisors representative from each county, is the key to future success.

Northeastern California Connect Consortium (NECCC), and Upstate California Connect Consortium (UCCC) Summary Reports

Counties: NECCC - Butte, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, and Tehama
UCCC - Colusa, Glenn, Lake, and Sonoma (until 6/30/14; now a part of NBNCBC)

Point of Contact: Cathy Emerson, 916.295.4605, cmemerson@csuchico.edu

Website: necalbroadband.org; upcalbroadband.org

Key outcomes of consortium achievements in 3 years:

- Action Plan Goals
 - o Develop Northern CA Regional Middle Mile Infrastructure Plan (NCRMMI);
 - o Form an entity to lead norCal’s regional middle mile planning efforts, and submit a CASF
 - o Produce broadband backbone system and community last-mile plan for each county;
 - o Engage local, regional, community leadership to educate, advise, promote broadband;
 - o Distribute Broadband Availability survey and train residents, businesses and county government employees on how to collect public feedback speed testing;
 - o Develop CASF infrastructure applications;

- Accomplishments
 - o Created broadband backbone conceptual designs for every county, supplied documentation/language to each county to incorporate broadband as “fundamental infrastructure” into its general plan;
 - o Facilitated the formation of Golden Bear Broadband, LLC; submitted the NCRMMI plan as a CASF infrastructure project--- leveraging existing middle mile and deploying new infrastructure--- to interconnect 16 of CA’s northern counties via a redundant and reliable network;
 - o Identified 47 priority areas, none of which have access to backhaul;
 - o Developed “Public Feedback Instructions” guide;
 - o To date have initiated development of seven (7) separate infrastructure applications: 1 submitted, 2 nearing completion, 2 pending, 2 just started.

Best Practices Achieved:

- Determined that outreach and direct communication, targeting broadband champions one-on-one nets better results than email blasts to the masses
- Visiting each community, in person, listening, asking questions opens doors faster, more consistently than announcing benefits of an intangible thing, and/or delivering pre-determined solutions and assuming acceptance of either
- “On-site” speed test tutorials, development & distribution of “Public Feedback Instructions” Guide
- Efficient sourcing and formatting of broadband availability data required for CASF infrastructure application

Challenges Faced:

- 28% of state's landmass, 4% of overall state's population
- Lack of resources, limited travel budgets, great distances between communities deter cross-pollination, creating a county "silo" effect
- Lack of population density makes return on investment (ROI) difficult if not immediately achievable, un-attractive for the private, for-profit, free market enterprise companies
- Controlled by local mini-monopolies (Frontier---has fiber along Rt 299, but this supplies their backhaul, no efforts to run FTTH, too cost prohibitive; AT&T, Charter Communications, Comcast Cable, Century Link)
- Last mile service providers---typically the wireless service providers---have little access to affordable middle mile backhaul, unable to expand, improve or increase existing networks
- Due little/no access to middle mile backhaul or decent broadband service, real estate/property values dropping.

Outstanding Gaps/Needs:

- Legislation that
 - changes the focus from exclusively "last-mile", making state funds available for acquisition of/connection to/deployment of new "lit" fiber at the middle-mile;
 - removes "pro-rated" costs;
- Rethink how the CASF ratepayer surcharges are collected: who pays vs. who benefits;
- Capital necessary to sustain a network, and/or a change in industry paradigm to allow for longer-term return, 15, 20, 30 years, vs. 5-7 yrs.

Future Sustainability Action Plan:

- Leverage existing knowledge, skills and abilities (KSAs) of all involved to date with CA's Broadband Initiative;
- Provide research, analysis and training on broadband availability, adoption and penetration data, what it means, how to use it, how to leverage it;
- Support/assist development of CASF infrastructure applications, and/or private networks.

People can move away from the rural remote areas to access better broadband in the urban centers, but why should 3rd, 4th, 5th generations be uprooted when broadband technology is the one truly "green" innovation that can preserve the rural way of life?



One Million New Internet Users Summary Report

Counties: Los Angeles County, Orange County, San Bernardino County

Point of Contact: Larry Ortega, (323) 526-7331, lortega@onemillionniu.org

Website: www.onemillionniu.org

Key outcomes of consortium achievements in 3 years:

- Action Plan Goals: 3-year goals for NIU included 18 conferences and community meetings, sitting down with 120 organization leaders in hopes of securing 60 open labs or NIU Empowerment Hubs for the community to benefit from NIU curricula. Turning underused computer labs into NIU Empowerment Hubs was set to benefit an estimated 78,000 people. Of these thousands, NIU set a goal to train 2,370 parents using NIU curricula over three years. This would result in 108 graduation ceremonies and 908 modules completed by NIU graduates in post-course workshops.
- Accomplishments: What does NIU have to show for the last 3 years? NIU is the #1 broadband adoption training company in the country. NIU has achieved 20 million impressions through TV, newspaper and radio since its inception and 6.5 million impressions since the beginning of the grant. As of the second quarter under year three, NIU has far surpassed 100% completion in nearly every activity! With two quarters left to report on this year, NIU has already held 43 conferences or community meetings since 2012 that is over 200% complete. Over 1,000 people have attended these meetings and NIU has sat down with 195 key leaders with the aim of opening NIU Empowerment Hubs. This effort over the last three years has resulted in 63 NIU Empowerment Hubs established. When these 63 sites opened their doors to NIU, this paved the way for an estimated 81,900 people to gain Internet access. Still, job creation stood at the forefront of NIU's goals. As of August 2014, NIU has created 119 jobs. This number brings NIU to a 165% complete over three years! Along with this great success rate, NIU has trained 2,001 people, with six more months to report on. The number of graduation ceremonies also keeps rising, as of August 2014 NIU has held 117 ceremonies and NIU graduates have completed 980 modules in post-course exercises.

Best Practices Achieved:

- NIU graduates served as great trainers. Over half of the 45 NIU Trainers currently working with NIU are NIU Graduates. Some NIU trainers began as students unable to turn on a computer. Within a couple of quarters, having gone through NIU courses, they were ready to train others on how to use technology. A standout example of this is a NIU mom named Adriana. She went through NIU courses in 2012 having little knowledge of technology, but had great leadership skills. She has now become one of NIU's best trainers ever and mentors other NIU Trainers.

- NIU partnered with organizations who already had a group they were serving, NIU was then able to train their constituencies with great success. A great example of this was in December of 2014. NIU partnered with Anaheim City School District. Under this collaboration one-hundred and eleven (111) parents were empowered to change their lives through NIU training.
- NIU offered a menu of programs. Giving organizations different NIU curriculum to choose from proved to be very successful. In the spring of 2014 a Principal in West Covina had a vision for his students' families. He wanted them to be connected to health resources online. NIU was able to make his vision a reality with the Health and Nutrition through Technology program. Parents gained critical technology skills while gaining access to key health and nutrition resources. One mom shared that she not only went from not being able to turn on a computer to confidently navigating the Internet but she also knows some healthy recipes to make for her family,
- NIU Graduates served as NIU advocates. NIU Graduates were empowered to speak to key leaders and administrators to help promote NIU trainings. When NIU promoted classes to organizations, the game-changer always proved to be a NIU graduate. When NIU graduates shared their story and how NIU changed their life and that of their family, administrators saw the heart of NIU and what could be brought to the community they served. A NIU mom graduated in 2014 in Pomona and served as an awesome leader in Fontana, motivating other moms to speak out in NIU's behalf.

Challenges Faced:

- Over the three-year period, NIU found that keeping up with the demand of persons who are interested in NIU courses was challenging,
- Also, at times there was a lack of support from administrators and key leadership when the constituencies they served requested NIU trainings, many times if it was not a priority for the leadership team they were not open for adjustments based on the demand,
- Lining up the availability of the lab at each Empowerment Hub for NIU trainings with the CASF grant calendar proved to be quite challenging.

Outstanding Gaps/Needs:

- There is a great need for continued funding and support on a statewide level,
- Cooperation of leadership.

Future Sustainability Action Plan:

- NIU will continue to establish Empowerment Hubs and host NIU trainings for those in need.

Pacific Coast Broadband Consortia (BCPC) Summary Report

Counties: Ventura, Santa Barbara, & San Luis Obispo

Point of Contact: Bruce Stenslie, (805) 384-1800 ext. 24, bruce.stenslie@edc-vc.com

Website: <http://www.pcbroadband.org/>

Key outcomes of consortium achievements in 3 years:

- Action Plan Goals:
 - Collect data from stakeholders, map the region’s current broadband assets, identify requirements and opportunities, and compile these into an accessible database.
 - Enable the power of broadband as a catalyst for economic vitality through an infrastructure that supports the adoption of technology solutions for the creation of new jobs.
 - Address and resolve issues of disproportionality and increase access to broadband among underserved and low-income communities.
- Accomplishments (6 months):
 - Established a web site, and surveys for business needs and the collection of “Ground Truth” data.
 - Established an initial organization consisting of three county task forces.
 - Established a Tri-county GIS database for the collection and display of stakeholder maps.
 - Convened a policy & standards working group.
 - Commenced briefings to advocacy develop civic & political leadership.

Best Practices Achieved:

- Commence the pilot of an online collaborative web site using GroupSites.
 - Consider the opportunity for collaboration across all of the consortia.

Challenges Faced:

- Accelerated timeline / limited period of performance.
- Difficulty in navigating/meeting the various grant opportunities and criteria

Outstanding Gaps/Needs:

- Benchmarks & best practices for determining adoption

Future Sustainability Action Plan:

- Successfully secure project funding / launch strategic initiatives.
- Create a sense of ownership and compelling value among participants.

Redwood Coast Connect Broadband Consortium Summary Report

Counties: Humboldt, Del Norte, Trinity

Point of Contact: Connie Stewart, California Center for Rural Policy 707-826-3402, ces54@humboldt.edu

Website: Humboldt.edu/ccrp

Key outcomes of consortium achievements in 3 years:

Action Plan Goals:

- 4 broadband middle-mile builds in our region
- Policy changes and advocacy at the local, state and federal level that leads to easier deployment and adoption
- Increasing community awareness about broadband deployment and adoption issues
- Strong stakeholder network

Accomplishments:

- Two middle-mile broadband builds completed in the region. Two more high-priority builds applying for CASF funding in 2015.
- First ever Telecom Element in Humboldt County General Plan and other counties have passed ordinances to aid broadband deployment.
- Partnered with Humboldt County Board of Supervisors and Suddenlink to Sponsor Senator Wes Chesbro's legislation to increase penalties for intentionally cutting fiber lines. (AB 1782 which was signed by the Governor in 2014).
- Agencies in the counties that are bringing key local stakeholders together monthly
- Annual Broadband Forums that include all stakeholders from the region at the table.
- Ongoing dialog with state and federal agencies (FCC, USDA, CTA, CETF) that influence rural broadband policy, deployment and adoption.
- One of our regionally organizations has helped create and is an active participant in a strong nationwide rural network of broadband advocates working on municipal issues and media policy (Access Humboldt).
- Several of our regional organizations have helped create and are active in a national network that works on rural broadband policy (Access Humboldt and California Center for Rural Policy).

Best Practices Achieved:

- Super Active group of locally elected officials aware of the current status of deployment and adoption and constantly lobbying for additional support for the region.
- Successful annual forum that brings stakeholders, providers and state and federal leaders together to set regional priorities.
- Unique solutions to find matching funding for high priority builds.

Challenges Faced:

Matching funding for middle mile builds so we can build last mile to the most remote communities

Outstanding Gaps/Needs:

Finding a way to connect broadband funding for “siloes” deployment (health care, education etc.) to the greater needs of the communities. Students need internet at home and at school. Healthcare support could be delivered at home if people had internet at home.

Future Sustainability Action Plan:

RCC is designed with stakeholder organizations interested in broadband deployment, adoption and policy that have multiple funding sources. Many organizations have embedded broadband work into their missions and visions. The community existed prior to CASF funding and I believe it will continue regardless of CASF funding.

San Diego Imperial Regional Broadband Consortium Summary Report

Counties: San Diego and Imperial

Point of Contact: Jennifer Storm, 619-615-2953, jh@sandiegobusiness.org

Website: <http://www.sdirbc.org>

Key outcomes of consortium achievements in 3 years:

- Action Plan Goals:
 - Increase adoption and deployment in underserved and unserved communities
 - Identify and prioritize disconnected/low adoption areas
 - Develop accurate and improved maps
 - Conduct community surveys
 - Develop priority infrastructure and deployment projects

- Accomplishments:
 - Vastly improved the maps for San Diego and Imperial Counties; developed and received input via CalSPEED app, paper and web-based surveys.
 - Deployed broadband to more than 200 homes on Indian Reservations serving more than 600 residents; all service gaps on Reservations have been identified.
 - Conducted extensive research with various consortium stakeholders to determine areas most in need of infrastructure projects; identified two key areas for infrastructure proposals; discussed opportunities with ISPs including Time Warner, ViaSat and TDS Telecomm.
 - Donated more than 9,000 computers to San Diego County school children and their families through the *Connect to Compete* program in partnership with Cox Communications.
 - Connected new Wifi networks in Imperial County at public libraries and shared spaces to allow 1,500 new users to access the internet .
 - Conducted more than 100 community surveys related to broadband use and access with consortia members, partners and agencies including Able-Disabled Advocacy, Computers2SD Kids, the Imperial Library and EveryoneOn.

Best Practices Achieved:

- Established effective processes and procedures for evaluating broadband availability in rural areas.
- Established effective processes for gaining support and information from individuals in unserved and underserved areas.
- Coordinated data sharing from public surveys to internal use to exporting to CPUC.

Challenges Faced:

- Difficulty working with ISPs to expanding broadband in rural areas at a cost effective rate.
- Public surveys confusing for nontechnical users.

- Educating public and even partners on project objectives and “value” to be gained through participation and data sharing.
- Distributing marketing and communication materials to appropriate contacts in rural areas.

Outstanding Gaps/Needs:

- We need more public surveys completed in rural San Diego .
- At least one infrastructure application to be completed and submitted.
- Formal research/study on opportunities and requirements for infrastructure projects in rural target communities.

Future Sustainability Action Plan:

- Adoption
 - We must continue to work with ISPs such as Cox Communications who are willing to partner with consortium members such as Able-Disabled Advocacy to offer low-cost broadband options in low-income communities
 - Develop models for generating income through technology services and services delivered through technology such as healthcare, training, education and employment
- Deployment
 - Develop business models that will generate income through Internet services offered in rural areas
 - Develop and execute plans to provide services that are currently served by traditional ISPs



San Joaquin Valley Regional Broadband Consortium Summary Report

Counties: San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kings, and Western Kern

Point of Contact: Marianne Collins King, 559.278.0708, mcollinsking@csufresno.edu

Website: <http://sjvpartnership.org>

Key outcomes of consortium achievements in 3 years:

Action Plan Goals:

- 1) Obtain grant funding to seek and adopt broadband in rural communities to implement digital literacy
- 2) Collaborate with a major city to develop an agricultural pilot site
- 3) Co-organize an AgTech (agricultural technology) showcase in the San Joaquin Valley
- 4) Develop a case study that includes the adoption of a fiber network
- 5) Create a deployment plan

Accomplishments:

- The SJVRBC, and the San Joaquin Valley Rural Development Center, was awarded a 600,000 dollar CETF "Get Connected! San Joaquin Valley" grant seeking to expand broadband adoption in San Joaquin Valley's undeserved urban and rural communities. Well over 1,200 new internet adoptions in the San Joaquin Valley have been documented and 4,378 adults trained in digital literacy thus far.
- The SJVRBC partnered with the City of Fresno and its Strong Cities, Strong Communities team to develop an agricultural pilot site. The project's primary purpose is to expand broadband access in rural areas to promote the widespread deployment of broadband-enabled water efficient farming technologies. The SJVRBC and the City of Fresno continue to seek EDA funding for the initial phase of the project. The City of Fresno **adopted a 'dig once / open trench'** policy to accelerate broadband infrastructure deployment.
- The SJVRBC co-organized the **Fresno Agricultural Technology Showcase** with the Central Valley Business Incubator (CVBI) to support development of agriculture technology (AgTech) enterprises in Fresno with a focus on broadband water management technologies developed by the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Lawrence Livermore Laboratory.
- Developed a case study on the **Shafter Municipal Fiber Network** that connects key government, commercial, educational and industrial sites, to culminate a complete Fiber to the Home (FTTH) network.
- Developed a **San Joaquin Valley Broadband Deployment Plan** and an electronic **Blueprint toolkit** to benefit San Joaquin Valley communities and planners. Recommendations include accelerating deployment and incorporating next-generation broadband infrastructure in Agtech, Telemedicine, and Telehealth technologies and into industrial, commercial, residential or mixed-use projects.

Best Practices Achieved:

- Opportunity to outreach and connect with individuals and schools to incorporate Digital Literacy learning to adult students in rural and underserved areas
- Highlight the work of AgTech and continue our work and effort to deploy broadband in farmland regions
- Created a “trust” with those in the rural communities

Challenges Faced:

- The SJVRBC’s least served areas tend to be sparsely populated rural areas where traditional private sector investment may not always be economically viable. For this reason, the exploration of municipally-owned broadband, public-private partnerships, broadband co-ops, and other similar strategies to facilitate service in these areas. Some of these areas are in the foothills, so there is continual research for solutions for the mountainous topographies as well.
- “Buy-in” from the FCC and major ISP’s to invest in the rural areas – there needs to be a clear understanding that investment in the rural areas is smart for economic growth.

Outstanding Gaps/Needs:

- Again, “buy-in” from FCC and the major ISP’s to support the ongoing effort to bridge the digital divide in the underserved and rural regions of California.

Future Sustainability Action Plan:

- Expansion of Telehealth and Telemedicine
- Continuing efforts of AgTech – agriculture meets technology – increasing wireless broadband networks in rural parts of the San Joaquin Valley that will support AgTech and lead to job growth, water conservation, and higher crop yield/production.
- Continue the positive work and efforts of Get Connected! Parent University Digital Literacy
- Affordability / Reliability of Internet service in the rural regions
- Advocacy efforts via SJVRBC – expansion of Comcast Internet Essentials offer
- Potential project: “Plants not People” – involving West Hills Community College (Dr. Carole Goldsmith) and partnership board member (Robert Tse – USDA).
- Possible book machine placed within the Traver area of Tulare – continued training
- Potential broadband deployment for the Tule River tribe in Tulare County

Tahoe Basin Project Summary Report

Counties: Portions of El Dorado and Placer

Point of Contact: Bev Ducey; (W) 775.298.0267; (C) 530.412.1452; email: bev@tahoeprosperty.org

Website: <http://tahoeprosperty.org/speed>

Key outcomes of consortium achievements since May 16, 2014:

Action Plan Goals:

- 1) Collect and map current broadband infrastructure and related data within the Tahoe Basin, Alpine Meadows and Squaw Valley, using data already available from the CPUC, Connect Nevada and other agencies.
- 2) Conduct a community-wide broadband needs assessment and speed test and overlay this data with the data collected above.
- 3) Analyze the data above to determine the unserved and underserved areas within the Tahoe Basin, Alpine Meadows and Squaw Valley.
- 4) Assist interested Internet Service Providers (ISP) in writing a minimum of three infrastructure grants to the CPUC for broadband expansion in the identified unserved and underserved communities.
- 5) Facilitation of Cell Service Expansion

Accomplishments:

- **High Speed Internet Expansion**
 - Completed mapping of broadband service in the project area, including eligibility for state and federal subsidies and an evaluation of the population density and revenue potential of under and unserved areas.
 - Held in person and phone meetings with incumbent and potential competitive Internet service providers to discuss possible projects eligible for California Advanced Services Fund grants and loans. Conversation are on-going.
 - Met with residents to discuss broadband needs and gaps.
 - Met with federal, state, county and regional planning, transportation, public works, utilities and emergency services personnel to identify resources, needs and opportunities for partnership.
 - Identified potential middle mile solutions for prospective last mile service and infrastructure upgrades.
 - Began the process of evaluating and prioritizing potential partners and projects.
 - Complete Round 1 speed test and survey outreach, which resulted in 1,100 speed tests and over 600 surveys
 - All relevant data above was given to the CPUC for posting on the state's interactive map and added to our maps.
 - Community outreach continues through presentations to service and business groups, elected officials and one on one meetings with concerned/interested businesses and residents.
 - Documentation continues on underserved and unserved areas not represented on the map.
 - Expect to submit one to two CASF infrastructure grants this year.

- **Cell Service Expansion**

- Held meeting with TRPA, USFS and cell/tower providers to discuss the cell/tower companies' interest in participating in a feasibility analysis of each company's five year plan. The goal of the feasibility analysis is to identify the areas of common interest in expanding cell coverage and thereby determining the best co-location spots for those areas with the greatest mutual interest. All companies expressed interest in participating.
- Completed meeting with each company individually to define the data needed to be able to do the analysis. Companies have until March 15 to submit their plans for analysis.

Best Practices Achieved:

Leadership

Because the Tahoe Basin has extreme political, geographical, environmental and regulatory challenges, having a leadership team comprised of all these entities plus business, education and health is critical. The Tahoe Prosperity Center has representation from all these entities plus has relationships with key partners not represented on the board.

Leveraging CPUC Consortium Successes to Date

In addition to reaching out to incumbent providers, we are starting discussions with independent middle and last mile providers as an alternative solution to bringing service to underserved communities. Based on the work of all the earlier Consortiums, we can prioritize our outreach based on their successful relationships and outcomes. It has also been very helpful to learn what hasn't worked well from the other Consortium members.

Ground Truthing

We've developed a solution whereby our speed test data and targeted surveys are all captured within our own database at a very low cost, through the use of an API by Speed of Me. This site continues to be active and will be used in targeted outreach, as needed, during our application preparation phase. See www.tahoeprosperty.org/speed.

Cell Expansion Project

The goals of the cell expansion project are:

- a. Accelerate attainment of comprehensive cell coverage for the Lake Tahoe Basin
- b. Minimize impact on the environment
- c. Create a predictable and efficient process for cell coverage expansion
- d. Enhance public safety and environmental monitoring

We are achieving these goals through a partnership with the US Forest Service, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and the cell provider and tower companies. In summary, the Tahoe Prosperity Center is receiving all the 3 to 5 year expansion plans of the cell/tower companies and anonymously mapping those locations for a feasibility analysis by the USFS and TRPA with the ultimate goal of finding co-location center sites that will meet the needs of the majority of the requests. This is being watched by other units within the USFS as a possible model to replicate.

Challenges Faced:

Fragmented governance structure – Tahoe encompasses two states, portions of 5 counties and one incorporated city.

Unique environment – steep mountainous topography, extensive conifer forests, a large expanse of water within a very small montane watershed, extreme winter weather.

Regulatory hurdles – There are strict regulatory safeguards imposed by the US Forest Service, which manages 78% of the Basin land, and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) responsible for protecting the environment through regulating development.

Short Building Season – The building season in Tahoe runs from May 15 through October 15. No ground work can be done before or after that window.

Outstanding Gaps/Needs:

1. Independent middle mile fiber
2. Willing last mile partners
3. Projects where, even with grant funding, the ROI encourages investment

Future Sustainability Action Plan:

To Be Determined.