



Fact Sheet

What Can You Do to Help Make *MoBroadbandNow* a Reality?

- **Missouri was not awarded funding for a middle-mile project in Round 1. A middle-mile award in Round 2 is imperative for the success of Round 1 last-mile awards. (See *Broadband Awards to Date*)**
- Call or write letters of support to Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) and the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA), and your State Representatives. Help bridge the technological divide in the State of Missouri

2009 American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

- Appropriated \$7.2 billion and directed the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) and the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) to expand broadband access to unserved and underserved communities across the U.S.
- Federal goals were to increase jobs, spur investments in technology and infrastructure, and provide long-term economic benefits

What is *MoBroadbandNow*

- Public-private partnership in the State of Missouri; launched summer of 2009
- Aggressively competing for federal funds to ultimately expand broadband accessibility within 5 years to 95 percent of the total population of Missouri, a significant increase from the current projected accessibility of 79.7 percent

Why it is Needed

- According to a 2008 Missouri Public Service Commission study, nearly 1.5 million Missourians lack any access to high-speed Internet – compared to a total population of 6.0 million
- Access rates are 50% to 75% higher in more urbanized areas
- 24% of Missouri homes do not have broadband access, compared to the national average at 18%
- Critical lack of access to available broadband services, as well as competitive service provider options throughout the entire state
- Will help bring 21st Century Internet access to all Missourians

MoBroadbandNow's Strategy & Plan

- Collaboration among various state agencies and private partners– orchestrating a Round 2 broadband plan that is comprehensive, statewide and compliments and enhances Missouri projects previously awarded in Round 1 (*See Missouri Broadband Awards to Date*)
- Build a “middle-mile” backbone connecting community anchor institutions, bolstering economic development, and also allowing broadband service providers to deliver internet connectivity to businesses and residences at affordable prices
- Applications were selected that met federal and state criteria and also aligned geographically and functionally with each other (*Coverage map available online at www.transform.mo.gov*)
- In Round 2, as a result of a competitive project review process, the State of Missouri is supporting the middle, last-mile and other provider applications listed on the backside of this Fact Sheet
- Will potentially reach hundreds of community anchor institutions - including universities, K-12 schools, libraries, health-care facilities, and public safety entities
- Covers counties with the state’s longest-standing history of high unemployment rates, as well as being officially classified as “economically distressed”



How Will this Impact the Day-to-Day Lives of Missourians

Capacity, choice and speed are some of the obvious benefits of expanded broadband. What may not be as obvious is the potential that comes about when technology opens the door to opportunity. While rural America has often struggled to gain access to the highest level of education, health care, retail, and other services, the ability to connect people and ideas at the speed of light changes everything. Other benefits include:

Economic Development– High speed connectivity enhances the potential for current businesses, while providing the infrastructure to attract entrepreneurs, knowledge workers, and technology-based companies that would have not otherwise considered particular areas of the state nor this region of the country

Education– All levels of the education continuum, including primary, secondary, post-secondary, home-schooling, and continuing education programs, stand to gain incredible opportunities. High speed connectivity offers the promise of remote class instruction, shared course offerings, and teachers and administrators networking with peers

Healthcare– Telemedicine and telehealth have the potential to revolutionize health care in rural America by allowing rural providers and patients the opportunity of access to specialists, retrieval of health records, improved emergency response, reducing transportation costs, offering new alternatives for home health and e-visits, and connecting health professionals to their patients in real time.

Round 2 Supported Partners

Middle Mile

American Fiber Systems
BlueBird Media
BoyCom Cablevision
Sho-Me Technologies
SpringNet

Last Mile

Big River
Cass County
Co-Mo
Finally Broadband
Rural Missouri Broadband, Inc.
Socket
United Electric

Other Applicants

MO Department of Higher Education
YourTel America

Minority Providers

Roberts & Roberts

The availability of an expansive and affordable broadband fiber optic network will improve many aspects of our citizens' lives in the areas of agriculture, public safety, government administration, real-estate and land values, and the overall quality of life of Missourians. (*In Their Own Words* available online at www.transform.mo.gov)

Missouri Broadband Awards to Date

NTIA and RUS established a deadline for Round 1 applications of August 2009. The state partnered with a variety of firms and organizations for Round 1. To date, the Missouri awards from Round 1 are:

- NTIA awarded the Office of Administration approximately \$1.5 million for broadband data collection and mapping activities over a two-year period and approximately \$470,000 for broadband planning activities over a two-year period in Missouri, bringing the total grant award to almost \$2 million
- RUS awarded Ralls County Electric Cooperative, a \$9,548,909 loan and a \$9,548,908 grant to provide a fiber optic network to residential and commercial members and the underserved safety and anchor agencies in the service area
- RUS awarded Unionville, Missouri a \$5,140,458 loan and \$5,140,458 grant to provide broadband services to households, businesses, and key community organizations that are currently underserved
- NTIA awarded a multi-state consortium, Mission Economic Development Agency, a \$3.7 million public computer center grant with an additional \$2.5 million applicant-provided match to create 12 new public computer centers and expand five existing ones in cities across the country, including Kansas City, Missouri

Round 2 (and the last Round) applications were due the end of March 2010. Awards are expected to be announced late summer or fall of 2010.

Coverage Map

To view the proposed *MoBroadbandNow* coverage map or to learn more, visit www.transform.mo.gov today!

MOBroadbandNow Initiative
Kelvin L. Simmons, Commissioner
Office of Administration
State Capitol Building, Room 125
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Phone: 573.751.1851
Fax: 573.751.1212
Email: Kelvin.Simmons@oa.mo.gov
www.transform.mo.gov

