Partnership for a Connected Illinois
broadbandillinois.org

West Central eTeam Meeting
Illinois Broadband Innovation Tour- Macomb Stop
August 30, 2012, 10:30-12 pm
Macomb Area Economic Development Corporation, 510 N. Pearl St, Macomb, IL

Illinois Broadband Innovation Tour:

1. Introductions

2. Broadband Innovation Fund
   - Will grants be distributed geographically throughout the State?
     - Its based on merit of application, so nothing is pre-decided.
   - What is the funding timetable?
     - Funds must be allocated by the end of May 2013. Doesn't mean the program has to end.
   - What does the "generalize" facet of the questions mean?
     - Create a sustainable model that be duplicated in other regions.

eTeam Meeting Agenda:

3. Summary of previous eTeam Activities
   - Karen Poncin (IIRA) stated that we want to generate applications when opportunities come up. With short timelines, it's important to have partnerships built and project ideas in place. When there's an opportunity to bring 100K in to your region, we need to be able to turn in an application in a week. Main eTeam focus is to facilitate those opportunities. Clayton Black (PCI) is moving to Macomb to work on ground in region.

4. Updates from Providers
   - Cass Communications
   - Frontier Communications
   - McDonough Telephone

5. Taskforce Development
   - November 1 event in Carthage Taskforce
     - J Brown (Carthage Vet Services) stated the Hancock County team is planning a Nov 1 event similar to Jan 25. This one will be more Ag-centered, focused on wireless communication in Ag industry. Hoping to get farmers in attendance, looking for speakers &

vendors, audience is Ag community and crop industry. CVS Just hired COO from crop communications industry- good contact to utilize, lots of industry contacts, also working with Farm Bureau.
- o Karen Poncin stated that agriculture is a good niche that is not a focus of other eTeams. Good potential for being economic driver. Natural step to target this industry.
- o Brad Housewright (PCI): PCI can send a press release citing vendors. We can also do outreach to mobile wireless providers
- o J: Even those who aren't wireless play important part. Also want to bring Frontier, McDonough as a resource
- o Kim Zugmaier stated that Frontier is rolling out partnership with HughesNet, satellite Internet that is now offering faster speeds. It can reach more in to country and offer more wireless solutions.
- o Blanche Shoup (LWA 14) asked if there would be an opportunity to announce grant recipients across State, what they're doing, & have an eTeam table. Also do for broader Spring event.
- o Clayton Black (PCI): We do want to share ideas and can do so on winners and losers at all events. Also want to follow up with four gigabit challenge applications in the region.
- Henderson/Hancock County Education Access Taskforce
  - o John Meixner: K-12 opportunities in Henderson & Hancock county are limited with no infrastructure, can't utilize educational tools
  - o Blanche: Need to clearly define what need is and what ask is. Need to have a concrete need to work towards. Readiness Assessment.
- Grant Opportunity Timeline
  - o Anne Madonia (PCI): PCI wants to find other grant opportunities and opportunities to partner like on Blue Cross Blue Shields grant.
  - o Blanche Shoup: Need to share grant opportunities with specific fields. Would help to see timeline of state grants, especially DCEO, see when releases are & when they're due (annual grants).
- Sam Sudhakar mentioned Carl Sandburg College offers training but no public computer centers at the present time.

6. Take-aways - identifying deliverables
   - November 1 Event in Carthage
   - K-12 Access
   - Spring Business Event (Broader Audience)

7. Scheduling the next meeting: Virtual meetings are better than in-person.

8. Adjourn & Networking