

Kansas Broadband Data and Development Connect Kansas Grant Request Summary

Budget Summary:

The Kansas broadband mapping and planning federal grant request totals \$1,974,083 with \$1,474,083 dedicated to broadband mapping and \$500,000 for planning efforts. The state of Kansas and Connected Nation will provide \$552,705 in matching funds.

Mapping Summary:

Recognizing the connectivity challenges facing many of its rural residents, Kansas has embarked on an ambitious plan to make high-speed Internet more accessible and widely used throughout the state. In July 2009, the Kansas Department of Commerce launched the Connect Kansas initiative to lay the groundwork for increased broadband in Kansas' underserved areas.

A key component of the Connect Kansas initiative is the mapping of the state's current broadband availability. This effort is being supported by matching contributions of \$185,000 from the Information Network of Kansas and \$15,000 from Kansas Farm Bureau. The Kansas Department of Commerce contracted with Connected Nation, a national leader on broadband issues and technology, to assist with the mapping and planning efforts.

This grant application for Kansas enlists Connected Nation as the designated entity to provide the State of Kansas (via Connect Kansas) with broadband mapping as provided by the July 1, 2009 Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). Connect Kansas, by employing industry-standard GIS toolsets and experienced personnel, will deliver a comprehensive, granular map of existing broadband service. Connect Kansas, in conjunction with Kansas' broadband providers, will update these maps on a routine basis to reflect "real-time" broadband availability. Maps will be accessible to the general public via an interactive portal located at www.connectkansas.org. The interactive portal will also present overlaying data relevant to policymakers, providers, and consumers alike, including household density and other demographic information, topographical information, and civil infrastructure data. The map will be address-searchable and will depict geographical areas such as municipalities, cities, townships, political districts, state and federal lands, and tribal boundaries.

In order to provide potential entrepreneurs seeking to apply for RUS or NTIA grants with the broadband infrastructure build-out information required for their applications, Connect Kansas will also release and maintain a Census Block level map of the available broadband in the state. The interactive map and associated downloadable database will detail the identification number of each of the 173,107 Census Blocks in Kansas, the total number of households per Block, and the number of households with available broadband service per Block.

Planning Summary:

The Connect Kansas initiative is a public-private partnership uniting local government entities, businesses, and citizens around the shared goal of increased broadband in Kansas' underserved areas. Connect Kansas will utilize the data gathered throughout the mapping process to inform the initiative's planning efforts. Requested funding of the Connect Kansas Planning component focuses on five areas, with the purpose of increasing the efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability of broadband efforts in the state of Kansas. The general outline for the approach to planning has been developed by a multi-stakeholder group within the state, most of whom have been meeting since late spring 2009. The group is

composed of representatives from the Department of Commerce, State CIO's office, the State GIS coordinator, state Department of Agriculture, the State Library, the state public utilities commission, rural health care, education, aging, and the statewide educational network. In addition, the planning approach has been informed by a series of seven regional meetings with key stakeholder groups conducted across the state in June 2009 to identify issues and opportunities for addressing broadband challenges in the state.