



209-21 7
**Governor Culver Announces
\$90 Million in Federal Grants
to Improve Broadband Access**
Projects create jobs, enhance technology

Governor Chet Culver today announced seven federal grants totaling more than \$90 million that will enhance broadband and fiber network connectivity in Iowa. The funds come from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

"This is an exciting time for Iowa," Governor Culver said. "These grants will enable Iowans to aspire to the next level of opportunities utilizing broadband and further the possibilities for Iowa education, health, safety, transportation, and economics. This money will not only create hundreds of jobs during the deployment phase, but it will also bolster these Iowa communities for many years to come. It will be a lasting legacy for the ARRA bill."

The grants awarded are as follows:

Iowa Communications Network will receive a \$16.2 million grant from the Department of Commerce with an additional \$7.6 million applicant-provided match to upgrade an existing 3,000-mile network with direct high-speed connections for thousands of community institutions. Iowa Communications Network's project stands to benefit over 4,500 community institutions. Of the 99 counties in the state, 17 are economically distressed and will be served by this project. Approximately 100 jobs will be created initially.

Iowa Health System will receive a \$17.7 million grant from the Department of Commerce with an additional \$9.9 million applicant-provided match to upgrade and enhance the health system's existing fiber network that provides connections to over 200 healthcare facilities. In addition, the funding will facilitate more access to broadband service for residents and businesses statewide. High quality broadband is very useful for the moving of medically important data. Approximately 100 jobs will be created initially.

The Farmers' Telephone Company of Riceville will receive a \$9,367,926 loan and \$9,367,927 grant from USDA and \$4,683,963 in private investment to construct a fiber-to-the-premises network, allowing Farmers Telephone Company to provide greater than 20Mbps broadband access in the exchange areas of Little Cedar, New Haven, Plymouth, Riceville, Marble Rock, Greene, St. Ansgar and Stacyville. Approximately 250 jobs will be created initially.

Approximately 250 jobs will be created initially.

Grand River Mutual Telephone Corporation will receive a \$2,788,293 loan and \$6,506,016 grant from USDA. The funding will provide broadband service to the towns of Lorimor, Murray, Thayer, and their surrounding rural areas via a fiber-to-the-home network.

Ellsworth Cooperative Telephone Association will receive a \$1,580,609 loan and \$3,688,087 grant from USDA. The Ellsworth Fiber-to-the-Home Broadband Deployment Project will provide high speed Internet service in the communities of Ellsworth, Garden City, and their surrounding rural areas via a fiber-to-the-home network.

Breda Telephone Corp. will receive a \$783,572 loan, \$1,828,337 grant from USDA and \$2,611,909 in private investment from USDA. This project will allow high speed Internet and video services to reach all of the customers in the Breda and Lidderdale exchanges, in addition to their present landline phone services.

Bedford Times-
Press
Bedford, IA
Circ. 1538
From Page:
2
7/7/2010
45473



County:
Taylor





Grand River Mutual Telephone Corporation will receive a \$6,081,258 loan and \$14,189,603 grant from USDA. The funding will provide broadband service to the towns of Corydon, Millerton, Allerton, and Lineville, IA, and Powersville, Mo., and their surrounding rural areas.

The federal Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), established through the U.S. Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration, was appropriated \$4.7 billion for federal awards to eligible entities. Guidelines for BTOP, created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act), is to expand access to broadband services in the United States by awarding grants for: deploying broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas, enhancing broadband capacity at public computer centers, and promoting sustainable broadband adoption. For more information about BTOP visit www.broadbandusa.gov.

Bedford Times-
Press
Bedford, IA
Circ. 1538
From Page:
2
7/7/2010
45473