



Advancing Community Broadband: A Summer Discussion Series

May 20, 2010 - Stakeholders' Community Building Meeting

Meeting Notes

A group of stakeholders came together to discuss the advancement of community broadband (See Meeting Participants Document). The meeting was centered on important issues in broadband, concerns with the current BTOP process, and creating an effective group moving forward. An agenda for the June 24th meeting was also discussed.

Important Issues

- Consumer awareness, truth in billing,
- Tools for people to judge their service
- Serving underserved communities
- Incentives for investors to put up funding, tax breaks
- Access in schools and in homes
- Defining the necessary skills: the ability to produce media is a critical skill

Concerns

- Higher education institutions, industry, and government should work together to produce public good products – logistics and resources are the biggest frustration.
- It appears that more resources are going to unserved rural communities than to underserved urban areas.
- A lot can be accomplished through education and outreach. The group shouldn't necessarily wait for BTOP funding.

Collaboration

- Ideas should be brought together for a coordinated technology strategy.
- There are many reasons to collaborate: from a political perspective a larger group is likely to receive more attention; overlap is eliminated; and the group can take advantage of economies of scale.
- The National Broadband Plan should be viewed as a first step in the process leading to thinking about connecting places with applications.
- In order to demonstrate the need persuasively, media on different community stories should be gathered.
- The group should get involved with the policy process in Washington.

Next Steps

- Continue to bring people together for the upcoming meetings.
- Represent the work online with multimedia, links to relevant projects and research.
- Bring in practitioners and discuss best practices.
- Develop language describing the project.
- Have a conference call in order to plan the agenda for the June 24 Meeting.

Schedule of Meetings

June 24, 2010 - Community Based Broadband: Models for Success

July 29, 2010 – New York City’s Sustained Broadband Adoption Effort

All meetings will be held from 10:30am to 1:00pm in Carleton Lounge, 4th Floor (Campus Level) Mudd Building, 120th Street and Amsterdam Ave.