INDIANA BROADBAND DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

State of Indiana sent this bulletin at 12/11/2021 09:00 AM EST

Indiana Broadband
Connect. Inspire.

FROM THE DESK OF...

Karina Holmes
Indiana Broadband Office Project Manager

Hi,

As I look back on 2021, I am thrilled to reflect on the progress and accomplishments we have made in the past year. Since the start of my ownership a priority. Throughout this enhanced year, the Indiana Broadband Office has been busy with many exciting projects.

The Indiana Broadband Office and the Indiana Broadband Office designated 17 communities to be Broadband Ready. A second round for 2021 has been forwarded to designating more communities in 2022 and invite you to learn more about this program.

During this same time, we began the distribution of a monthly newsletter comprised of broadband updates, grant announcements and highlights of local broadband initiatives.

We also had the opportunity to represent the broadband governor and OCRA at dozens of public events, ribbon cuttings and groundbreakings. I had the unique opportunity to represent the IBO at the Indiana State Fair and the Indiana Citizens. This, allowed I was joined with leaders from across the country for discussions of impactful advances to close our country's digital divide.

As we look to 2022, we are excited about the opportunity to connect 100 cities, towns and counties across the state while also serving as the technical support for broadband related federal COVID relief measures. We have not taken this opportunity for granted, and we are ready to continue our momentum into 2022.

As we begin 2022 I look forward to a continued broadband partnership with OCRA as we continue toward the vision of being the one stop shop for all things broadband and the state of Indiana and strong toward realizing attainable futures for all Hoosiers.

Happy Holidays, Hoosiers!

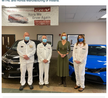
Thank you,

Karina Holmes
Project Manager
Indiana Broadband Office
Email: broadband@ocra.in.gov

TRAVELS OF LT. GOVERNOR SUZANNE CROUCH

Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch continues her tour around the state to agree with local business leaders and officials to further understand the need for high speed internet access in Hoosier communities. Lt. Governor Crouch is also a further observe the state of Indiana.

Recently, she had the pleasure of visiting the city of Greensburg. There she was able to see the Greensburg City Hall, as well as having the honor of visiting the Greensburg Community Schools.



The lieutenant governor also attended the National Lieutenant Governors Association's speech on the #nationalconversations program. She also discussed the importance of broadband access in Hoosier communities at the Indiana Rural Health Association and Vital Science to speak on agricultural raising health and promoting business.

A week before Thanksgiving, Lt. Governor Crouch visited Wabash College. There she met with Dr. McCraff and Issiah Rodgers Wabash High School to hear and learn about STEM classes and educational opportunities it provides for students, including the Wabash program.

Lt. Governor Crouch had the honor of presenting the Presencing Warn Street award of $5 million to Experience the Heart of Kendallville in Noble County. Lt. Governor Crouch said, "I am very proud of the work that Kendallville Mayor Mark Albine present funding in the grant to enhance its downtown." The grant will provide further funding for revitalization and historic preservation efforts.

Follow along with Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch as she continues her statewide travels.

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Instagram

BROADBAND READY COMMUNITIES

The Broadband Ready Communities Program is a designation signaling that community leadership is committed to the development of reliable and affordable internet.

Recently, Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch and the Indiana Broadband Office announced 17 communities were designated as a Broadband Ready Community.

"Our administration remains focused on getting high-speed, reliable internet access to every community and household in Indiana," said Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch. "I am proud to announce that 17 Indiana communities have met the requirements to be designated as Broadband Ready Communities. Thanks to the hard work of our local leaders, we are one step closer to ensuring that every Hoosier benefitted through the Broadband Ready Communities Program. I want to thank the Indiana Broadband Office for their tireless efforts to ensure a strong broadband investment."

Stay tuned for several announcements over the next few weeks as we add new communities to the program. Currently, there are 17 communities in 2022 and we are excited to connect and to continue this momentum.

Check out the most recent BBRC in the map below.

To learn more about being a Broadband Ready Community, click here.

FEDERAL UPDATE

Emergency Broadband Benefit shifts to the Affordable Connectivity Program

On May 12, 2021, the Federal Communications Commission's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau released a public notice seeking public comment on how to implement the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, which provides a $50 monthly broadband affordability program for Affordable Connectivity Program. In the recently signed Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Congress changed the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program to the Affordable Connectivity Program. The Act, Dec. 31, 2021, at number of enrolled will end soon in early 2022. Consumers who qualify for the ACP, this is enough to cover the cost of most connections, and qualifying for the ACP, which covers most of the cost of broadband. Dec. 29

The Affordable Connectivity Program will retain the basic structure of the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, including the same eligibility requirements, reimbursement and claim, and, both, internet and, and, online. Consumers who qualify for the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program will be the current Emergency Broadband Benefit Program to $30/month in the longer. Consumers who qualify for the Affordable Connectivity Program, Emergency Broadband Benefit Program participants, of of which we note to the program which launched just last May. Congress has created a 60-day transition period for the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program to transition to the ACP, signed up to the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program remains eligible and can continue to receive benefits or up to $50/month until March 2022.

To read more, click here.

CONNECT INDIANA

The Indiana Connectivity Program aims to connect residents and businesses that lack access to broadband internet service with service providers and assist in the deployment of broadband infrastructure in underserved areas.

Residential and business locations that are unserved or underserved access to school speeds less than 25Mbps download and 3Mbps upload can apply for the program. Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and other broadband providers can apply to obtain their interest in receiving broadband internet service.

Internet Service Providers will have the opportunity to review these locations and submit a bid for the cost to provide broadband service. Internet Service Providers (ISPs) will evaluate these bids and make awards to the provider whose bid presents the lowest cost to the state for extension of the service.

Addresses are posted for challenge on Dec. 6 and challenges are due by Dec. 20. Challenges will be reviewed and posted on Jan. 10.

This ongoing program seeks to close the digital divide and unite the State of Indiana. To learn more, click here.

BROADBAND CHAMPIONS HIGHLIGHT

We are proud to debut our first ever Broadband Champion, Carole Yeakel and Rush County!

Did you know we evaluate Rush County on our Indiana Broadband Inadequate TV? Rush County and so on calculated the state-wide broadband map.

Rush County was one of the very first Broadband Ready Communities (BBRC) to be designated by the Hoosiers! Carole holds a wealth of information regarding the BBRC process and the challenges that communities face when trying to improve broadband access.

Watch the full video below!

PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS THE STATE

IBO and Ivy Tech Hamilton County

Recently, Indiana Broadband Office Project Manager, Karina Holmes, had the opportunity to meet with Chancellor Deep Atkinson from Ivy Tech Hamilton County to discuss the Ivy Tech Tech with work together to improve student connectivity across the state.

Check out the opportunities offered by Ivy Tech by clicking here.

Crossroad Bell and the City of Greenville

Crossroad Bell and the City of Greenville partnered to bring fiber broadband to businesses and residents in Greenville.

Work to install fiber lines is expected to start early next year. It will take 18 months to complete the project. Read more here.

The City of Greenville is investing $600,000 into the $2.5 million project. With the help of Lawrenceburg Community Schools Corporation and Superintendent Jeff Ferguson, Greenville is awarded a $200K grant from the state that will expect the city up to $600,000.

To read more, click here.

TRAVELS OF THE INDIANA BROADBAND OFFICE

Recently, Indiana Broadband Office Project Manager, Karina Holmes presented at the 2021 National Summit on Education in Chicago. Ivy Tech joined and discussed how Ivy Tech, Ivy Tech, is a discussion on impactful solutions to close the digital divide.

Hamilton County Leadership Academy Panel

Earlier this month, the Hamilton County Leadership Academy held an event in which Karina Holmes, Ivy Tech Hamilton County Chancellor Deep Atkinson and Ivy Tech was there with speakers discussing academic barriers about the efforts being made to attract and retain higher ed/career aspirations latest in the community. Hamilton County Leadership Academy is a leadership development program for Hamilton County as the backbone for their campaign, Nobleville, Fishers, Noblesville, Carmel, Westfield, Cicero, Atlanta, Arcadia, Cicero, Sheridan, Westfield, Wayne Township, Noblesville Schools, Hamilton County Tourism, Hamilton County Chamber of Commerce, Hamilton County Community Foundation, Hamilton County Community Foundation, Hamilton County Community Foundation