

2018 Broadband Summit: Connecting Hoosier Communities

Broadband Resources



Data & Studies

To help provide some background and context, Purdue Center for Regional Development (PCRD) has published several academic articles explaining the cost and impact of broadband deployment:

- **“Estimation of the Net Benefits of Indiana Statewide Adoption of Rural Broadband”** - outlines net benefits that could be obtained from installation of rural broadband served by Rural Electric Member Cooperatives (REMC) in the state.
- **“Broadband’s Impact: A Brief Literature Review”** - covers broadband impact on various industries by highlighting some of the research findings.

National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Digital Nation Explorer

This explorer enables easy tracking of metrics about internet use over time. Simply choose a metric of interest from the drop-down menu. The default map mode depicts percentages by state, while chart mode allows metrics to be broken down by demographics and viewed as either percentages of the population or estimated numbers of people or households.

Maps

Find your community’s speed, technology, and providers:

- FCC Broadband Map
- Indiana Broadband Map (*currently updating*)

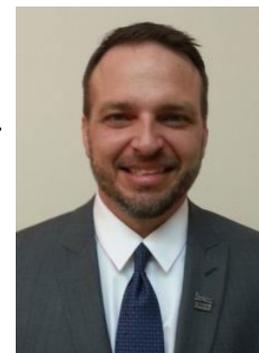
Local Legislation

Looking for ways to ensure your current ordinances support broadband infrastructure investment? Look at these examples:

- Broadband Ready (IEDC) - Sample Ordinance
- Tax exemption for Broadband - Morgan County Infrastructure Development Zones

New Director

Have you met Scott Rudd? He was hired as the Director of Broadband Opportunities by Lt. Governor Crouch in August, 2018.



Before joining the State, Scott most recently served as the town manager and economic development director for the town of Nashville, Ind. There he oversaw seven town commissions, three task forces, directed four departments and served as the town’s public information officer over the course of the last four years.

Broadband Ready

Administered by the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC), the Broadband Ready Communities Development Center was created as a tool to encourage broadband development throughout Indiana by serving as an information resource and certifying local communities as being broadband ready.

A Broadband Ready Community certification sends a signal to the telecommunication industry that a community has taken steps to reduce barriers to broadband infrastructure investment. While investment in broadband infrastructure is not guaranteed to follow once a community obtains the certification, reducing the regulatory hurdles that deter investment is a key step towards creating an environment ripe for broadband investment.

Links and more information can be found at: www.in.gov/ocra/2336.htm.

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Funding Sources

State

OCRA Broadband Readiness Planning Grant – The purpose of this grant is to help communities and other stakeholders understand the definition of broadband, the current state of broadband within their community, and outline their vision of broadband for the future. CDBG program criteria will be required and the grant amount will be a minimum of \$50,000. OCRA announced five pilot communities consisting of towns/regions in September, 2018. This grant may become apart of the CDBG Planning Grants in future rounds.

HEA1065

In March 2018, HEA1065 was passed concerning high speed internet service. A link to the bill can be found on our website.

Federal

BroadbandUSA presents this guide to key federal programs that offer funding for broadband-related projects. Funding for broadband projects, including deployment, public access, adoption and planning initiatives, is available through a number of agencies across the federal government. When reviewing the funding sources in this guide, readers should pay close attention to the following:

- The purpose of each program
- Potential restrictions on funding
- Rules for eligibility

As this guide only provides an overview of funding sources as of the time of publication, communities should also examine the agency websites and review the most recent funding announcements to determine if a funding opportunity matches their needs.

BroadbandUSA has also published the **BroadbandUSA: Guide to Federal Funding of Broadband Projects** that may answer questions from communities on how to access federal funding to support broadband

planning, public access, digital literacy, adoption, and deployment.

USDA

- **Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan Program**
- **Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee**
- **Community Connect Grants**

Upcoming

Governor Holcomb recently announced \$100 million in rural broadband funding that will provide critical funding for unserved and underserved communities. USDA also has a significant funding pool that will soon be announced to serve unserved rural and agricultural areas. Both of these programs are currently under development and the OCRA broadband page will be updated as soon as information becomes available.

Resources to get you started

BroadbandUSA

“Implementing a Broadband Network Vision:

A Toolkit for Local and Tribal Governments” -

Provides information on moving from planning to implementation along with detailed steps for deploying infrastructure.

“Sustaining Broadband Networks: A Toolkit for Local and Tribal Governments” - Provides you with advice, best practices on the following topics:

- Develop a business plan
- Analyze customer needs
- Evaluate operational effectiveness, expenses
- Expand service offerings

“Connectivity with a Purpose: Considerations for Planning Digital Inclusion Efforts” - This short guide

helps leaders consider factors that could impact or influence their digital inclusion efforts. Considerations are questions that will help users evaluate their local demographics, identify resources and assess the current state of broadband connectivity.

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