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Community Technology

WV Local Government Leadership
Academy

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Community Development

- Technology can be used to address community development issues
 - Planning and Zoning
 - Public Safety
 - Economic Development
 - Environmental Protection
 - Infrastructure, Utilities and Services

What can Technology Do?



- Faster, more accurate information
- Cost effective records management
- Better communication flow
- Reach more people
- More access to broader range of services
- Update information

Community Technology Applications



- Telecommunications
 - Email, Video Conference, webinars
- Telemedicine
- E-Commerce
- E-Government
- E-Learning
- Tele-working (telecommuting)

More applications



- Public Safety
- Special needs populations
 - Disabled
 - Elderly
- Utilities
- Business Assistance
- Tourism
- E-commerce and entertainment

Some Projects



- Chef Farmer Marketplace: an on-line market for WV farmers to sell to WV Chefs
- Home health monitoring: helping to check in with home bound seniors providing for aging –in-place
- Distance Education: Providing performances from the Clay Center to be broadcast to rural counties

Projects



- Site locator for Main Street buildings increasing market for potential business location.
- WV Chamber on-line e-commerce training for small business including webinars providing for greater reach at less cost.

More projects



- On-line citizen service request by local municipality which helps track calls and aggregates information for budget and management planning.
- Database of WV expatriates to be used in recruitment to available positions, projects or connections.

What can you do?

- Put this on your agenda, local leadership is critical!
- Understand what is happening now in your community
- Incorporate community technology in strategic plan... have a community technology plan.
- Pursue opportunities to improve and expand your technology: computers, broadband....

Why is this important?



- Global Economy: Rural communities could be on level field with technology or way behind without.
- Provide for possible growth of our declining communities
- Cost efficient and effective
- At some point, there won't be an option... we can get in step now!



Resources

- “Getting Online 2.0: a small-town guide to creating 21st century communities”
- National Center for Small Communities (<http://www.smallcommunities.org/ncsc>)



Connecting Communities Community Use of Digital Technology Assessment

Stage	Residential	Commercial (Manufacturing/Retail/Service)	Public (Government/Schools/Healthcare)
1	<p>Less than half of the homes have an Internet connection.</p> <p>Email and browsing are the only Internet applications used by most adult Internet users.</p> <p>Some students use the Internet for school assignments.</p>	<p>Few local businesses have Web sites.</p> <p>Some businesses use the Internet to communicate with customers and suppliers and search for supplies.</p>	<p>There is limited public discussion about the benefits of technology in the community.</p> <p>Few local governments and nonprofits have Web sites that provide detailed information about the organization and its services.</p>
2	<p>About half of the homes have an Internet connection.</p> <p>Some adults use the Internet to compare prices for big ticket items.</p> <p>Very few of the homes with broadband access have a broadband connection.</p> <p>Most K-12 students use the Internet to access school assignments.</p> <p>Some of the older adult population use email to communicate with family and friends.</p>	<p>The majority of businesses in the community have informational Web sites.</p> <p>Some businesses allow some employees periodically to telework.</p> <p>Some larger businesses encourage employees to take work-related classes online.</p>	<p>Most local public entities have Web sites that provide detailed information about the organization and its services. Local government web sites have a calendar and forms.</p> <p>Classes about the Internet and computers, free access and high speed Internet are available at a public site.</p> <p>Most schools have web sites offering access to homework assignments and communication with teachers.</p> <p>Hospitals and clinics are evaluating telemedicine.</p> <p>At least one organization is working to increase the availability and adoption of broadband in the community.</p>
3	<p>A majority of the homes in the community have an Internet Connection.</p> <p>Many residents purchase broadband service where it is available.</p> <p>Some high school seniors are taking college-level classes online.</p> <p>The majority of parents with K-12 students use the Internet to track assignments or communicate with teachers.</p> <p>Many older adults use email to communicate with family and friends.</p>	<p>Few businesses allow employees to telework one or two days a week.</p> <p>Many local businesses have web sites that allow customers to purchase goods online.</p> <p>Employee training on new technology is a priority.</p> <p>Many businesses are using VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) phone service.</p> <p>At least 10% of businesses outsource most of their computing services.</p>	<p>Telecommunication infrastructure is included in the community's comprehensive plan.</p> <p>Some government applications are available online and many forms such as building permits are downloadable.</p> <p>All schools have interactive web sites offering access to homework assignments and communications with teachers and administrators.</p> <p>Some healthcare providers have informational Web sites. Hospital routinely transmits lab reports and medical images electronically.</p>
4	<p>Most residents purchase broadband service where it is available.</p> <p>Many adults are taking classes or continuing education online.</p> <p>Many older adults are accessing healthcare information online.</p>	<p>Several retailers and manufactures sell goods out of state or internationally.</p> <p>Many businesses permit some employees to telework one or two days/week.</p> <p>Many businesses encourage employees to take work-related classes online.</p>	<p>Public entities have Web sites that enable residents to respond to surveys, pay bills, and register for events online.</p> <p>Hospitals and clinics have secure web sites that allow patients and doctors to access medical records.</p> <p>School Web sites enable parents and students to access student records, homework assignments and pay fees online.</p>
My Rank	Today _____ YR 1 GOAL _____	Today _____ YR 1 GOAL _____	Today _____ YR 1 GOAL _____

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Welcome to Connecting Rural Communities

A guide to community information technology

Connecting Rural Communities is a guide to enhancing the use and adoption of information technology tools and infrastructure in rural communities.

Cooperative extension educators and community leaders can use this guide to:

- Help communities understand what connected communities are and their potential
- Conduct community capital and technology assessments
- Engage the community in a visioning process to identify goals for the adoption and use of technology
- Design projects that help the community reach their goals
- Facilitate the implementation of the community projects
- Help communities document their progress and tell their story



Search this site:

What do you have? and need?



Community Telecommunications Inventory

A telecommunications inventory is a key component of any community broadband infrastructure project. The inventory will identify existing technology resources in the community and equally important, what resources are missing. Developing a community telecommunication inventory requires persistence and hard work. Any inventory should be viewed as a work in progress that is regularly updated at least once each year.

A telecommunications inventory would be a valuable project for any Connecting Rural Communities leadership team seeking to improve broadband service. Consider including chamber of commerce staff, information technology (IT) staff from larger businesses in the community, county information technology staff and school district information technology staff for membership on the telecommunications inventory project team.

There is no central repository containing the information needed for community telecommunication inventory. The information is available but it will require persistence. Once completed the inventory will provide the information needed to identify projects that will improve broadband availability in your community and local resources that can help carry out the projects.

Following are the steps for gathering the information for a comprehensive telecommunications



Questions and Issues

This presentation will be posted on

www.benedum.org

Thank you!