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Broadband Initiatives

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Missouri Broadband - 2016

Percent of Total Population without Access

- 0% - 9% - Better than national avg
- 10% - 19% - Better than MO avg
- 20% - 59% - Equal to MO avg
- 59% - 82% - Worse than MO avg
- 83% - 100% - Worse than national avg

Source: FCC 2016 Broadband Progress Report
Current Status

• State’s Broadband Plan in its third draft. Narrative being developed and plan to launch in early summer.

• Framework and procedures of the Broadband Grant Program being developed.

• Developing tools and surveys that can be utilized in broadband planning efforts by communities, counties or regions.
Broadband Surveys

• Broadband provider survey launched the week of April 15th, survey disseminated to all providers within the industry. Survey closes on Friday, April 17, 2019.

• Community leaders survey and interviews being developed by a research team through Missouri S&T, process will launch in July 2019. Research aimed at documenting the behaviors and risks experienced by leaders contemplating broadband infrastructure investment.

• Community surveys — a common assessment tool that can be utilized by communities, counties, and regions. Early discussions about launching a statewide survey campaign with key stakeholder groups in late summer 2019.
Broadband Funding Opportunities

• USDA’s $600M ReConnect Program is accepting applications for broadband projects:
  • May 31 Deadline for Grants
  • June 21 deadline for Grant/Loan Combo
  • July 12 deadline for Loans

• FCC – Connect America Fund II – awaiting final subsidy awards to be granted to winners of the auction.

• FCC – announced at the White House earlier this month, the $20B Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, more details to come.

• State of Missouri – Rural Broadband Grant Program headed to Budget Conference Committee ($2.5-$5.0M).
Mapping Missouri’s Broadband

• All Things Missouri - https://allthingsmissouri.org/
• FCC Connect America Fund Map - https://data.usac.org/publicreports/caf-map/
• Pilot Projects Underway:
  • Missouri’s Broadband Fabric - https://www.ustelecom.org/broadband-mapping-initiative-action-center/ - one of two states in the program
Next Steps

• Launch the Broadband Plan and implement the strategies identified.
• Identify 3-5 priorities from the provider survey to undertake for implementation or improvement.
• Host the Missouri Broadband Leaders Academy, June 9-10, 2019:
  • Visit http://www.cvent.com/events/broadband-leaders-academy/event-summary-4cbe8cc51adb48e5a4407a26811f06d0.aspx to register.
• Launch the Broadband Grant Program late summer 2019.
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