

# Connectivity

## Connectivity Issue

**Connectivity:** Extending high-speed internet access to the entire region increases telecommuting opportunities, provides greater access to customers and markets for businesses, and allows all residents access to civic resources and commerce.

## Connectivity Issue Goal

**Connectivity:** The number of households in the region served by high-speed internet-services rises from the current level of 40% to 95% served. The (region/rural areas) community is willing to invest to increase coverage. This will include both public and private investment in service.

### Recommendation 1

**Access across the region:** Ensure all households in the region have high-speed internet access which meets common state standards.

#### Action Step 1A

**Access:** Promote, support and develop high-speed internet access throughout region for telecommuting, educational benefits, and supporting business activity.

### Recommendation 2

**Efficiency:** Local units of governments will work across political boundaries to share equipment costs/facilities for more efficient delivery of high-speed internet.

#### Action Step 2A

**Efficiency in installation:** Lay conduit for fiber optics when upgrading sewer and water or digging trench.

### Recommendation 3

**Access for entrepreneurs:** Provide access to technology needs and support to retain businesses and encourage potential entrepreneurs

#### Action Step 3A

**Economic development:** Determine the compatibility and interface between communications, smart grid technologies, and internet systems. Develop a recruiting initiative encouraging technology-oriented companies to explore opportunities offered in non-urban spaces.

#### Action Step 3B

**Telecommuting:** Create a business plan that facilitates legitimate telecommuting jobs and promotes high-speed internet connection in the region. Upgrade and expand high-speed internet infrastructure in housing so residents may work from home.

#### Action Step 3C

**Map of access sites:** Develop map or list of accessible sites within region to conduct web-type meetings, free Wi-Fi etc.

### Recommendation 4

**Access for children:** All school aged children will have access to a computer with high-speed internet capabilities.

#### Action Step 4A

**Support sites:** Make available sites providing educational, internet, support, financial resources, etc.

Recommendation 5

***Funding:*** Identify and pursue state, federal, and philanthropic grants to fund connectivity recommendations.