



# National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program  
Evaluation Study

Order Number D10PD18645



## Progress towards BTOP Goals: Second Interim Report on CCI, PCC, and SBA Case Studies

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# Executive Summary

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## About the Evaluation Study

On September 17, 2010, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) awarded a task order to ASR Analytics, LLC (ASR) to complete an Evaluation Study of the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP).<sup>1</sup> The scope of work includes an assessment of the benefits that BTOP grants are having on broadband availability and adoption, and in achieving economic and social benefits in areas served by the grantees.<sup>2</sup> ASR is also required to provide NTIA with all data that created a foundation for the analysis and conclusions, as well as all data that could be utilized by future researchers.<sup>3</sup> A complete description of the methodology used in the evaluation study is available in the *BTOP Evaluation Study Design*.<sup>4</sup>

This study includes two *Interim Reports* and a *Final Report*. The *Interim Reports* are designed to provide detailed information on the baselines against which future analysis will be compared, present a rigorous and defensible methodology incorporating all data available at the time, and provide an interim analysis of the initial economic and social impacts of BTOP grants.<sup>5</sup>

Between July 2011 and November 2013, ASR conducted forty-two site visits with twenty-seven different BTOP grantees (the evaluation study sample). The evaluation study team performed a total of 413 site visit interviews between July 2011 and November 2013. ASR submitted a case study report after each site visit. The results presented in case study reports are primarily qualitative, with quantitative data provided where feasible. Each case study report included the following descriptions:<sup>6</sup>

- How the grantee maximized the impact of the BTOP investment.
- Successful techniques, tools, materials, and strategies used to implement the project.
- Best practices and evidence from third parties, such as consumers and anchor institutions, as to the impact of the project in the community.

This *Interim Report* summarizes and synthesizes the social and economic impacts presented in the forty-two case study reports accepted by NTIA under this task order. The information presented in this report captures the social and economic impacts of the BTOP projects in the evaluation study sample and is not an evaluation of any grantee, subgrantee, or partner.

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## About BTOP

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) appropriated \$4.7 billion in federal funding to NTIA to implement BTOP.<sup>7</sup> In 2009 and 2010, NTIA invested approximately \$4 billion in 233 BTOP projects benefiting every state, as well as five territories and the District of Columbia. As of June 30, 2013, 163 projects remained in active status, and 61 projects had completed their project activities.<sup>8</sup> As of June 30, 2013, NTIA had provided extensions until no later than September 30, 2013 to fifty-one grant recipients and extensions for no later than August 31, 2014 to four grant recipients.<sup>9</sup> NTIA funded three types of projects under BTOP:<sup>10</sup>

- **Public Computer Centers (PCC)** projects establish new public computer facilities or upgrade existing facilities in order to provide broadband access to the public or to specific vulnerable

populations, such as low-income individuals, the unemployed, seniors, children, minorities, and people with disabilities.

- **Sustainable Broadband Adoption (SBA)** projects focus on increasing broadband Internet use and adoption, especially in vulnerable populations where broadband technology has traditionally been underutilized.
- **Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI)** projects deploy new or improved broadband Internet facilities to connect households, businesses, and community anchor institutions (CAI) such as schools, libraries, hospitals, and public safety facilities.

## Progress towards Recovery Act Goals

The Recovery Act instructed NTIA to implement BTOP to promote five core purposes.<sup>11</sup> The following examples summarize the evaluation study team's findings, described in more detail in the individual case study reports.

- Provide access to broadband service to consumers residing in unserved areas of the country, and provide improved access to broadband service to consumers residing in underserved areas of the country.
  - The PCC projects provided computer and broadband resources, such as hardware, software, training, and support, to vulnerable populations. PCC grants provided access to equipment and broadband primarily through public computer centers and limited distribution of computers to individuals. In ten of the thirteen quarters in the award period, PCC grantees had a combined total of at least one million weekly users.
  - SBA projects provided affordable computer and broadband access by distributing personal devices, such as laptops, and providing access to affordable broadband subscriptions to eligible individuals. SBA projects also provided training to vulnerable populations in the targeted service areas.
  - CCI projects provided broadband services over fiber-based or microwave open access networks to unserved and underserved areas of the country. As of September 30, 2013, CCI projects had constructed nearly 7,000 points of interconnection with BTOP-funded middle mile infrastructure and had signed more than 600 agreements with third-party service providers and broadband wholesalers. By the end of September 30, 2013, CCI projects had deployed 43,095 miles of new network fiber. Grantees had leased an additional 36,418 miles of new fiber and upgraded an additional 25,740 miles of existing network fiber. Finally, CCI grantees leased 6,248 miles of existing network fiber.
- Provide broadband education, awareness, training, access, equipment, and support to (1) schools, libraries, medical and healthcare providers, community colleges and other institutions of higher learning, and other community support organizations; (2) organizations and agencies that provide outreach, access, equipment, and support services to facilitate greater use of broadband services by vulnerable populations (e.g., low-income, unemployed, seniors); and (3) job-creating strategic facilities located in state- or federally designated economic development zones.
  - All PCC and SBA projects in the evaluation study sample implemented strategies surrounding broadband education, awareness, training, access, equipment, and support to implement the grants.

BTOP projects are intended to support the deployment of broadband infrastructure, enhance and expand public computer centers, and encourage sustainable adoption of broadband service.

All PCC and SBA projects in the evaluation study sample implemented strategies surrounding broadband education, awareness, training, access, equipment, and support to implement the grants.

- PCC projects supported this goal through the establishment of public computer centers as fundamental elements of their programs to promote computer and broadband access and adoption. As of September 30, 2013, PCC grantees had installed nearly 50,000 workstations. Grantees also upgraded more than 2,000 broadband connections and installed 2,000 wireless broadband connections.
- As of the third quarter of 2013, CCI projects had connected almost 20,000 CAIs.
- Improve access to, and use of, broadband service by public safety agencies.
  - Each of the CCI projects in the evaluation study sample enabled public safety activities, with the exception of Zayo Bandwidth's Indiana Middle Mile Fiber for Schools, Communities, and Anchor Institutions project.
  - Grants focused on Public Safety activities were not included in the sample of PCC and SBA projects.
- Stimulate the demand for broadband, economic growth, and job creation.
  - The PCC and SBA projects fostered the demand for broadband at the individual level. As of September 30, 2013, more than 800,000 households and more than 7,000 businesses were reported as subscribing to broadband as a result of SBA programs.
  - CCI projects had a strong impact on promoting affordable pricing on a cost per MB basis, which may stimulate the demand for broadband, economic growth, and job creation in the future. Based on the data available from 82 CAIs interviewed by the evaluation study team, ASR found that these CAIs paid a median price of \$111 per Mbps per month before BTOP, and a median of \$1.50 per Mbps per month after connecting to BTOP-funded networks. Before BTOP, the median CAI subscription speed was 30 Mbps. After BTOP, the median subscription speed was 750 Mbps. The amount spent on broadband connectivity remained fairly constant, with median total monthly cost remaining steady at \$1,500 per month.
  - CCI grants in the evaluation study sample created more than 2,000 jobs due to project expenditures. PCC and SBA grants created a similar number of jobs, each generating at least 600 jobs in three and six reporting quarters, respectively.

CAIs interviewed during case study site visits paid a median price of \$111 per Mbps per month before BTOP, and a median of \$1.50 per Mbps per month after connecting to BTOP-funded networks.

# Section 1. Introduction

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This section provides a description of the grantees selected for inclusion in the evaluation study and summarizes the methodology and data used as a basis for the case study reports and for this report.

## 1.1 Methodology

This *Interim Report*, and the case studies that support it, is part of a larger mixed-methods study of the social and economic impacts of BTOP. The methodology used for the analysis presented in this report is a comparative case study analysis of twenty-seven BTOP-funded projects. Case study analysis is a preferred strategy when “how” and “why” questions are raised and, through a mixed methods approach, is a complement to quantitative analysis.<sup>12</sup> In June 2014, ASR will deliver a draft *Final Report* that quantitatively and qualitatively assesses the economic and social impact of BTOP grants (including CCI, PCC, and SBA projects). The centerpiece of the *Final Report* will be an assessment of how and to what extent BTOP grant awards have achieved economic and social benefits in areas served by the grantees. This assessment is expected to draw on both the qualitative results presented here and on further quantitative analysis described in Section 10, below.

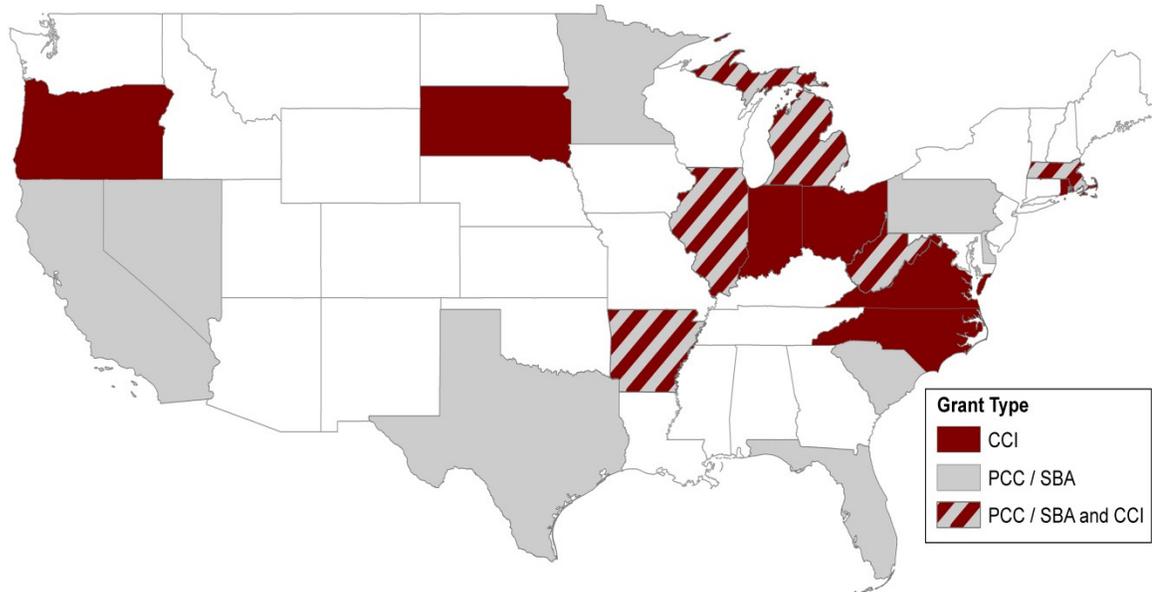
To create this report, the evaluation study team used comparative case study analysis to evaluate the economic and social impacts of twenty-seven BTOP projects. The evaluation study team prepared case studies based on an analysis of activities leading to the acceptance and use of broadband Internet and computer technologies through field research, interviews, and analysis of secondary sources. PCC and SBA grantees were visited twice, once early in the project lifecycle to develop a baseline understanding of grant activities (described throughout the report as Round 1), and once near the end of the project lifecycle to better understand outcomes and impacts (described throughout the report as Round 2). The evaluation study team only made one visit to CCI grantees, and most CCI projects were not complete at the time of the site visit. ASR will contact each grantee during the second quarter of 2014 to understand the extent to which programs initially funded by BTOP are able to continue operating without BTOP funds. ASR will use the results from these follow-up interviews to round out the conclusions presented in the *Final Report*, to the extent possible.

## 1.2 Grants in the Evaluation Study Sample

NTIA selected eight PCC, seven SBA, and twelve CCI grants to provide a representative sample of projects for this evaluation study. The selection of grants was purposeful and not meant to yield a statistical sample. The *BTOP Evaluation Study Design* describes the process for selecting projects for the evaluation study.<sup>13</sup> NTIA selected grants taking into consideration the wide variation of project goals, award and completion schedules, and targeted geographic areas. Logistical considerations, including budgetary and travel planning considerations, were also taken into account in making the selection of grants. The grantees selected for the study were under no obligation to participate, and some grants that were initially selected elected not to take part in the evaluation study. In these cases, NTIA identified a replacement. No grantees dropped out during the course of the study.

As shown in Figure 1, the twenty-seven grantees in the evaluation study sample are located in twenty different states. This figure does not highlight the grantee service areas, but rather summarizes the geographic diversity of the grants selected.

**Figure 1. Evaluation Study Sample Grantee Locations**



### 1.2.1 Selected PCC Grants

The following eight PCC grants were selected for inclusion in the evaluation study sample:

- The **Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA)** received \$698,924 in BTOP funds and proposed \$541,144 in matching funds. The project proposed to rehabilitate and improve CHA's broadband training by reopening and expanding three public computer centers, replacing twenty-four workstations, adding sixteen new workstations, and reinstating the CHA's educational programs.<sup>14</sup>
- The **Delaware Division of Libraries (DDL)** received \$1,899,929 in BTOP funding and proposed \$1,008,094 in matching funds for the Delaware Library Job/Learning Labs project. This project proposed to address the online access needs of economically vulnerable communities in Delaware, with a focus on the unemployed and underemployed that request job-searching assistance from public libraries.<sup>15</sup>
- **Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU)** received \$1,477,722 in BTOP funding and proposed \$410,399 in matching funds for the Center for Public Computing and Workforce Development (CPCWD) project. This project proposed to provide workforce development opportunities focused on industry certifications, education, customized training, and virtual learning services.<sup>16</sup>
- The **Las Vegas-Clark County Urban League (LVUL)** received \$4,680,963 in BTOP funding and proposed \$2,236,060 in matching funds for the Nevada Public Computer Centers (NVPC) project. The project proposed to provide access to computers and training to low-income and high-unemployment communities in Clark County, Nevada.<sup>17</sup>
- **Michigan State University (MSU)** received \$6,056,819 in BTOP funding and proposed \$1,540,541 in matching funds for the Evidence Based Computer Center II project. The project proposed to expand or create more than 200 PCCs in colleges, public libraries, public housing

developments, tribal community centers, and other community support organizations across the State of Michigan and to equip them with about 2,400 computers.<sup>18</sup>

- The **South Carolina Technical College System (SCTCS)** received \$5,903,040 in BTOP funding and proposed \$1,551,183 in matching funds for the Reach for Success project. The project proposed to provide PCCs to SCTCS students and members of the communities surrounding the technical colleges to increase their employability and to prepare them for successful careers.<sup>19</sup>
- **Technology for All (TFA)** is a nonprofit organization that uses technology to create opportunities in low-income communities. TFA received \$9,588,279 in BTOP funding and proposed \$2,671,099 in matching funds for the Texas Connects Coalition (TXC2) project. The project proposed to create PCCs and networks that provide access to broadband technology, to promote computer literacy, and to permit digital inclusion for all Texans.<sup>20</sup>
- **WorkForce West Virginia (WFWV)** is a state agency that seeks to increase employment, improve the quality of the workforce, and enhance job retention and earnings. WFWV received \$1,901,600 in BTOP funds and proposed \$568,000 in matching funds for the One Stop Public Computer Center Modernization project. This project proposed to update nineteen employment resource centers across the state.<sup>21</sup>

## 1.2.2 Selected SBA Grants

The following seven SBA grants were selected for inclusion in the evaluation study sample:

- The **C.K. Blandin Foundation (C.K. Blandin)** seeks to strengthen communities in rural Minnesota, especially the Grand Rapids area. C.K. Blandin received \$4,858,219 in BTOP funding and proposed \$1,525,777 in matching funds for the Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities (MIRC) project. The MIRC project proposed to create technologically and economically vital rural communities by improving broadband adoption, job growth, and wealth creation opportunities. In addition to mobilizing eight statewide partners, the MIRC project funded eleven Demonstration Communities. Each of the Demonstration Communities independently designed and implemented a range of projects within a geographic community.<sup>22</sup>
- The **California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF)** was established in 2005 as a nonprofit corporation by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). CETF received \$7,251,295 in BTOP funds and proposed \$2,109,377 in matching funds for the Broadband Awareness and Adoption (BAA) project. The project proposed to facilitate broadband adoption in vulnerable communities in Los Angeles, the Central Valley, Orange County, San Diego, and the Inland Empire.<sup>23</sup>
- The **City of Chicago** received \$7,074,369 in BTOP funds and proposed \$1,769,066 in matching funds for the Smart Chicago project. The project proposed to improve the quality of life of residents in target communities through digital technology and the Internet by increasing the programmatic depth of existing broadband awareness and adoption efforts.<sup>24</sup>
- **Connect Arkansas** is a private, nonprofit organization promoting economic growth within Arkansas. Connect Arkansas promotes broadband education, use, and access throughout the State of Arkansas. Connect Arkansas received \$3,702,738 in BTOP funding and proposed \$1,037,247 in matching funds for the Expanding Broadband Use in Arkansas Through Education project. The project proposed to improve economic competitiveness, to improve healthcare provision, and to increase technology use among Arkansans.<sup>25</sup>
- The **Foundation for California Community Colleges (FCCC)** provides funding and learning opportunities for students in the California Community College (CCC) system. FCCC received \$10,944,843 in BTOP funding and proposed \$3,179,057 in matching funds for the California Connects project. The project proposed to provide access to broadband and training for digital literacy, workforce development, and lifelong learning.<sup>26</sup> Two partners deliver FCCC grant services: the Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) program, which serves first-generation community college students with demonstrated financial need and residents in

their communities; and the Great Valley Center (GVC), which offers noncredit courses and workshops for residents of California's Central Valley.

- **Future Generations Graduate School (Future Generations)** employs community-based approaches to addressing major social challenges. Future Generations received \$4,461,874 in BTOP funding and proposed \$1,160,092 in matching funds for the Equipping West Virginia's Fire and Rescue Squads project. The project proposed to provide broadband access to West Virginians in low-income and rural communities.<sup>27</sup>
- The **Urban Affairs Coalition (UAC)** operates and manages a wide range of programs, services, and public policy initiatives that focus on community issues within the Greater Philadelphia, Pennsylvania area. UAC received \$11,804,015 in BTOP funding and proposed \$5,623,966 in matching funds for the Freedom Rings project. The project proposed to reduce barriers to broadband adoption through programs for increased access, awareness, and digital literacy training.<sup>28</sup>

### 1.2.3 Selected CCI Grants

The following twelve CCI grants were selected for inclusion in the evaluation study sample:

- **Clearwave Communications (Clearwave)** is a facilities-based communications company that offers a range of telecommunications services to business and residential companies. Clearwave received \$31,515,253 in BTOP funding and proposed \$13,879,767 in matching funds for the Illinois Broadband Opportunities Partnership (IBOP) – Southern project. This project proposed to deploy a high-speed, fiber-based middle mile network across a twenty-three county region in southern Illinois to improve broadband access for CAIs in rural and economically distressed communities.<sup>29</sup>
- **The Executive Office of the State of West Virginia (West Virginia)**, as a member of the West Virginia Broadband Deployment Council, works to make broadband affordable and accessible to all West Virginians. West Virginia received \$126,323,296 in BTOP funding and proposed \$33,500,000 in matching funds to expand existing broadband infrastructure and the state's microwave public safety network. The project proposed to add 900 miles of fiber and connect more than 1,000 CAIs.<sup>30</sup>
- **Lane Council of Governments (LCOG)** is an association of local governments that provides member governments with services that include regional planning, coordination, program-development, and service delivery. LCOG received \$8,325,530 from NTIA and proposed \$2,113,505 in matching funds. LCOG proposed to improve a high-speed, fiber-optic backbone and deploy a new fiber-optic network across Lane County, Douglas County, Klamath County, and the Klamath Tribal regions in western Oregon. The project also proposed to improve broadband access for CAIs in rural and underserved communities.<sup>31</sup>
- **Massachusetts Technology Park (MassTech)**, a public agency that fosters economic development in Massachusetts, is composed of three divisions. One of these divisions, the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), was created to work with municipalities and broadband service providers to bridge the digital divide in Massachusetts. MassTech received \$45,445,444 from NTIA and proposed \$26,200,000 in matching funds to implement the MBI: MassBroadband 123 (MB123) project. The project proposed to deploy a high-speed, fiber-based network in western Massachusetts to provide the region with the same broadband connectivity available in the eastern part of the state.<sup>32</sup>
- **MCNC** was founded in 1980 to stimulate economic development through technology research and initiatives. MCNC received \$75,757,289 from NTIA and proposed \$35,760,038 in matching funds to implement the North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative (NCRBI) project. The project proposed to expand the work proposed in MCNC's other CCI project by building a 100 Gbps middle mile infrastructure, including a 3 Mbps wireless network.<sup>33</sup>
- **Merit Network, Inc. (Merit)** is a nonprofit broadband service provider that manages networks for education and nonprofit institutions throughout the State of Michigan. NTIA awarded Merit

\$33,289,221 to implement the Rural Education Anchor Community Healthcare Michigan Middle Mile Collaborative (REACH-3MC) project. Merit proposed \$8,322,306 in matching funds. The project proposed to deploy a high-speed, fiber-based middle mile network through Michigan's Lower Peninsula to serve institutions, businesses, and households.<sup>34</sup>

- The **Mid-Atlantic Broadband Cooperative (MBC)** provides telecommunications solutions to isolated rural communities in southern Virginia. MBC received \$16,044,290 from NTIA and proposed \$4,011,073 in matching funds to implement the Middle Mile Expansion for Southern Virginia. The project proposed to expand MBC's existing fiber network to reach K-12 schools, community institutions, and industrial parks in seventeen counties and five cities in southern Virginia.<sup>35</sup>
- **OneCommunity** is a nonprofit organization dedicated to accelerating the adoption of information technologies to drive economic development and support health, education, and government services in northeast Ohio. OneCommunity received \$44,794,046 from NTIA and proposed \$25,188,433 in matching funds to implement the Transforming NE Ohio project. The project proposed to build 900 miles of new fiber and leverage its existing network to connect CAIs throughout the twenty counties in northeastern Ohio.<sup>36</sup>
- **OSHEAN** is a consortium of nonprofit organizations that seeks to provide innovative Internet-based technology solutions to its members and their communities. OSHEAN received \$21,739,183 from NTIA and proposed \$10,737,808 in matching funds to implement the Beacon 2.0 project. The project proposed to expand and upgrade OSHEAN's Beacon 1.0 612-mile fiber network initially built in Rhode Island to connect up to 50 new CAIs in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.<sup>37</sup>
- **South Dakota Network, LLC (SDN)** is owned by seventeen independent telecommunications companies, and provides centralized equal access and wholesale long distance services for its Members, state and local government entities, schools, financial institutions, and healthcare providers. SDN received \$20,572,242 from NTIA and proposed \$5,100,000 in matching funds to implement Project Connect South Dakota. The project proposed to add to its existing fiber-optic network to serve CAIs in rural and underserved areas of the state.<sup>38</sup>
- The **University of Arkansas System (UAS)** has more than 66,000 students and 17,000 employees distributed across 6 main campuses, a medical school, 2 law schools, and several community colleges. UAS received \$102,131,393 and proposed \$26,450,427 in matching funds to implement the Arkansas Healthcare, Higher Education, Public Safety, and Research Integrated Broadband Initiative, later renamed the Arkansas e-Link project. The project proposed to improve telemedicine opportunities, extend fiber connections to higher education institutions, and upgrade existing higher education connections.<sup>39</sup>
- **Zayo Bandwidth, LLC (Zayo)** is a division of the Zayo Group, LLC that provides bandwidth infrastructure services, including dark fiber, Internet Protocol (IP) transport, and carrier-neutral colocation. Zayo received \$25,140,315 from NTIA and proposed \$10,700,000 in matching funds to implement the Indiana Middle Mile Fiber for Schools, Communities, and Anchor Institutions project. The project proposed to deploy a 626-mile fiber-optic network to provide up to 10 Gbps connections to 21 Ivy Tech campuses.<sup>40</sup>

## 1.3 Data

The evaluation study team used computer-assisted qualitative data analysis software to identify common features in cases and to prepare data for analysis. Data were categorized by focus area, as described below, and activities, outcomes, and impacts were identified, compared, and contrasted across projects to develop an understanding of common features, as well as features that were unique to particular cases. This report uses the following definitions:

- **Activity:** Actions performed or products created that reach targeted participants or populations. Activities lead to outcomes. Examples include workshops, meetings, development of products, training, counseling, assessments, and media outreach.<sup>41</sup> While some CCI grantees performed

some of these activities, examples of CCI-specific activities include the upgrade and construction off fiber and microwave networks.

- **Outcome:** Changes or benefits for individuals, families, groups, businesses, organizations, and communities. Outcomes include short-term results, defined as changes in awareness, knowledge, attitudes, skills, opinions, aspirations, or motivations, and medium-term results, defined as changes in behavior, practice, decision-making, policies, or social action.<sup>42</sup>
- **Impact:** Long-term changes in a condition, including social, economic, civic, or environmental.<sup>43</sup>
- **Broadband:** High-speed wireline or fixed wireless Internet service that has two-way data transmission with advertised speeds of at least 768 kbps upstream (upload) and at least 3 Mbps downstream (download).<sup>44</sup>
- **Vulnerable Population:** groups that have historically lower rates of broadband adoption, including low-income individuals, the unemployed, seniors, children, minorities, and people with disabilities.<sup>45</sup>

The evaluation study team analyzed data from multiple sources, including interview transcripts, background reports, and grantee-provided data, to produce the individual case studies summarized in this report.<sup>46</sup> As shown in Table 1, the evaluation study team performed a total of 413 site visit interviews between July 2011 and November 2013. The forty-two case study reports ASR delivered to NTIA referenced data from 872 files. Some documents may be referenced in both Round 1 and Round 2 PCC and SBA case study reports.

**Table 1. Site Visit Summary Statistics**

Project Type	Site Visit Dates	Total Number of Interviews and Focus Groups*	Total Number of Files Referenced†
PCC and SBA: Round 1	July – December 2011	118	239
PCC and SBA: Round 2	January – June 2013	131	223
CCI	June – November 2013	164	410
Total		413	872
* Excludes follow-up conversations			
† Excludes interview transcripts, site visit notes, and e-mails			

The evaluation study team also analyzed quantitative data on each of the selected grants, where possible. BTOP grantees are required to report their project progress to NTIA through the submission of five Performance Progress Reports (PPR) each year: one per calendar quarter plus one annual report (APR). ASR received the PPRs and APRs from NTIA each quarter between December 2010 and December 2013. As of December 2013, ASR had obtained 13 quarterly backups and analyzed data from 2,555 PPRs and 760 APRs. This analysis excludes seven public safety grants, which NTIA asked ASR to exclude from the analysis of social and economic impacts. ASR will request the most recently approved PPRs and APRs from NTIA in April 2014 (see Section 10.12.3 for more information). If these data are available, ASR will provide a final quantitative summary of grantee activities in the *Final Report*.

## 1.4 Focus Areas

This report describes the social and economic benefits of BTOP projects the evaluation study team visited in terms of six focus area categories:

- **Workforce and Economic Development:** This focus area includes activities intended to increase overall employment of the target population, or to assist employed members of that population in finding jobs that offer increased salaries, better benefits, or a more attractive career path, including self-employment.
- **Education and Training:** This focus area includes activities that lead to a certificate or diploma that would typically be awarded by an educational institution, or that indicates the recipient has received training that is recognized as valuable for career advancement.
- **Healthcare:** This focus area includes broadband-enabled activities that improve the health of program participants or that of someone else. Activities performed by healthcare institutions as a result of BTOP grants, such as improvements in the provision and administration of healthcare services, are also included in this category.
- **Government Services:** This focus area identifies how broadband improves services provided by government organizations to the public and includes both the provision and administration of public safety activities.
- **Quality of Life/Civic Engagement:** This focus area includes activities that create stronger and more integrated communities and those that promote interaction between citizens and their governments.
- **Digital Literacy:** This focus area is fundamental to all the others. Digital literacy defines a set of skills and abilities that enable an individual to interact with the digital aspects of culture and to maintain a digital identity.

A summary of the most frequently occurring project activities and the prominent impacts described by grantees in the evaluation study sample are provided below, organized by these focus area.

#### 1.4.1 Workforce and Economic Development

- **PCC and SBA:** The most prevalent impacts reported by grantees include unemployed patrons obtaining employment, underemployed patrons obtaining a higher-paying position, and patrons earning promotions. BTOP grants enabled individuals to realize these benefits by offering training and workshops, by providing access to computers with broadband, and by providing one-on-one assistance to enable users to effectively search and apply for jobs online. Grant-funded training programs often resulted in participants developing or refining their digital literacy and job readiness skills, both of which improved their ability to obtain employment. Grantees also reported that training programs and workshops enabled businesses and entrepreneurs to use digital tools and establish or enhance a web presence.
- **CCI:** Observations reported by interviewees indicated that CCI grants most commonly resulted in businesses and organizations realizing improved productivity, although grantees were not required to track and report these benefits. CCI grant-funded fiber networks enabled businesses and CAIs to operate bandwidth-intensive tools and systems with improved functionality and to implement new internal tools or applications to support operations. Although grant-funded fiber networks had only recently been completed, some interviewees reported instances of companies expanding operations, and in doing so spurring job growth in target communities. CCI project outputs helped businesses more readily access the resources necessary to conduct operations, which allowed them to expand operations, to improve the quality or range of services, and to lower consumer prices.

#### 1.4.2 Education and Training

- **PCC and SBA:** Education and Training impacts most often cited by interviewees included students enrolling in a degree program and students obtaining a Certificate of High School Equivalency or another certificate. Students obtained a Certificate of High School Equivalency most often by gaining skills or knowledge that complements classroom instruction, a result of the computer and broadband access available at PCCs, and by participating in grant-sponsored educational training programs. Students often used the PCCs to complete coursework. Gaining

digital literacy skills through one or more grant-funded services was often the catalyst for students to enroll in a degree-conferring program.

- **CCI:** Observations reported by interviewees indicated that educational institutions, including K-12 schools, school districts, and institutions of higher learning, realized the most benefits in this focus area. The impact cited across the largest number of CCI grants was the expansion of course or program offerings, which allowed CAIs to offer more online courses to their students. CAIs also reported productivity and efficiency increases, and improved academic performance, although grantees were not track and report to quantify these benefits. These impacts resulted from three activities: adopting new broadband-intensive tools, improving the functionality of existing tools, and accessing resources through broadband, such as cloud services.

### 1.4.3 Healthcare

- **PCC and SBA:** Although some PCC and SBA grantees offered activities and resources related to healthcare, grantees had limited data related to observed improvements in patients' health. Access to computers with broadband, training, and guidance enabled participants to obtain health-related information and to manage their own health, or the health of family and friends. However, few projects included in the evaluation study sample reported instances of participants improving their health as a result of these endeavors during the observation period. Grantees were not required to track and report these impacts.
- **CCI:** Observations reported by interviewees indicated that healthcare providers realized the majority of benefits in this focus area. Improved provider efficiency was the most frequently observed impact among the projects included in the evaluation study sample. Interviewees also reported patients benefiting from improved care. These impacts were most often a result of improvements to provider services and, in some cases, providers offering a new type of service to patients, or expanding existing services to a new geographic area. Connecting to grant-funded networks enabled providers to improve services and to expand operations by adopting new bandwidth-intensive applications and improving existing broadband-dependent tools and systems.

### 1.4.4 Government Services

- **PCC and SBA:** This focus area is not included in the analysis of PCC and SBA impacts.
- **CCI:** CAIs most commonly reported that obtaining a faster and more reliable connection increased web-based information sharing, improved communication, enhanced system security, and saved financial and personnel resources. The most commonly reported impact among interviewees was the proliferation of online government services and content resulting from web-based information sharing within and among organizations. Some interviewees reported efficiency gains. Enhancing the reliability of communication systems also helped to ensure the continuity of government and public safety services in emergencies.

### 1.4.5 Quality of Life/Civic Engagement

- **PCC and SBA:** Grant activities, such as digital literacy training and the provision of computers with broadband access at PCCs, helped individuals to access government content online, create digital media content, and communicate with family, friends, and neighbors. Some grantees reported that this resulted in increased political and civic participation, improved social connections, volunteerism, and the ability to obtain legal rights and privileges, including citizenship.
- **CCI:** Many of the CAIs interviewed by the evaluation study team had recently obtained connectivity to CCI fiber networks, and thus had collected limited data related to Quality of Life/Civic Engagement impacts. However, interviewees did report outcomes likely to lead to impacts in the near future. Enhanced connectivity improved the functionality of existing systems, enabling CAIs to help patrons more effectively access online government resources and to

strengthen social connections. Most interviewees reported using the increased bandwidth to improve the quality of existing services or expand the range of programs and resources available to patrons. For example, libraries reported increasing e-book circulation after obtaining improved connectivity through CCI grants.

#### **1.4.6 Digital Literacy**

- **PCC and SBA:** Digital literacy is fundamental to achieving benefits in all other focus areas. All of the PCC and SBA grants included in the evaluation study sample offered digital literacy training and access to grant-funded computers with broadband connectivity, resulting in a group of individuals with a new or improved digital skillset. Digital literacy impacts overlap with those described within other focus areas, such as obtaining employment or improving academic performance.
- **CCI:** Digital literacy was a less common focus among CCI interviewees. Some CAIs delivered digital literacy training programs, including instructor-led courses and self-paced individual learning activities. Other CAIs provided individuals with access to broadband connections over grant-funded fiber networks. Through these services, CAI patrons gained or improved digital literacy skills. Digital literacy skills improved patrons' ability to engage in economic, social, and community life, and access entertainment online. In most instances, although digital literacy training was available and delivered to individuals, it was not possible for grantees to measure or observe outcomes.

## Section 2. Workforce and Economic Development Impacts

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This section describes the Workforce and Economic Development impacts of the BTOP projects in the evaluation study sample. This focus area includes activities intended to increase overall employment of the target population, or to assist employed members of that population in finding jobs that offer increased salaries, better benefits, or a more attractive career path, including self-employment. Workforce and Economic Development activities can be performed for one's own benefit, or they may be done on behalf of another person to assist with their employment situation. In order for project activities to be included in the Workforce and Economic Development focus area, it must be the intention of the grantee to assist members of the workforce in improving their employment outcomes, and project resources must be devoted to this purpose.

The evaluation study team gathered data related to focus area impacts from evaluation study participants during site visits. The following subsections present a summary of the economic and social benefits described in case study reports.

### 2.1 Workforce and Economic Development Potential Benefits

Table 2 presents potential social and economic impacts related to Workforce and Economic Development defined in *Interim Report 1*, organized as benefits to job seekers, rural areas, and businesses.

**Table 2. Workforce and Economic Development: Potential Social and Economic Benefits**

<p><b>Benefits to Job Seekers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduced unemployment<sup>47</sup></li><li>• Improved job matches, resulting in increased productivity<sup>48</sup></li><li>• Fewer geographic boundaries on job search<sup>49</sup></li><li>• Independent contracting feasible as a career alternative in remote locations<sup>50</sup></li></ul> <p><b>Benefits to Rural Areas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Broadband allows rural areas to compete for low- and high-end service jobs, the area of highest economic growth<sup>51</sup></li><li>• Improved access to inputs and markets, especially in rural areas<sup>52</sup></li><li>• Increased telework opportunities, especially for rural areas<sup>53</sup></li><li>• Increased job and population growth<sup>54</sup></li></ul> <p><b>Benefits to Businesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improved recognition of local business through websites and social networking<sup>55</sup></li><li>• Increased productivity of commercial subscribers<sup>56</sup></li></ul>
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## **2.2 PCC and SBA Workforce and Economic Development Impacts**

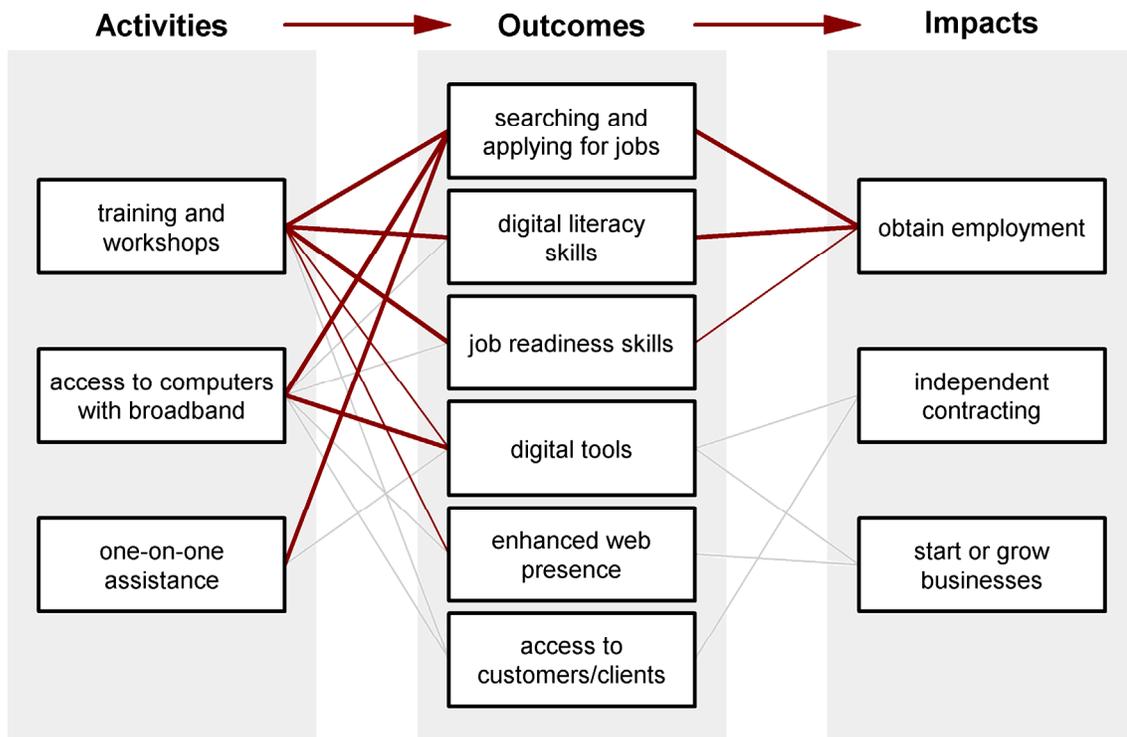
### **2.2.1 PCC and SBA Workforce and Economic Development Overview**

The evaluation study team analyzed Round 2 case study reports with computer-assisted qualitative data analysis software to identify the associations between activities, outcomes, and impacts as reported by grantees. ASR employed benefits identified in literature to classify impacts, and in some cases outcomes. ASR aggregated similar results to find examples that may be representative of the benefits realized by BTOP grants outside of the evaluation study sample.

Figure 2 below shows the relationships among activities, outcomes, and impacts of the selected case study grants. Individual activities, outcomes, and impacts observed by the evaluation study team are included as boxes in the figure. Lines between boxes represent the different relationships identified by the evaluation study team. The figure only includes relationships observed in two or more grants. The lines also vary in color and thickness based on the number of grants exemplifying the relationship: relationships identified in two or three grants are identified by thin gray lines; relationships identified in four or five grants are identified by thin, red lines; and relationships identified in six or more grants are represented by thick red lines. Impacts stemmed from a variety of activities and outcomes.

Interviewees reported that job seekers realized the majority of Workforce and Economic Development benefits. Of the benefits highlighted in the table above, reduced unemployment was the most frequently observed impact among the PCC and SBA grants included in the evaluation study sample.

**Figure 2. PCC and SBA Workforce and Economic Development Impacts**



The subsections below define the activities, outcomes, and impacts presented in the figure above. Select PCC and SBA case study grants provide examples to illustrate impacts.

## 2.2.2 PCC and SBA Workforce and Economic Development

### Activities

Activities include services or products implemented by grantees that reached targeted participants or populations. The primary activities that led to impacts were training and workshops, providing access to computers with broadband, and one-on-one assistance.

- **Training and workshops**

- **Job seekers:** These training programs and workshops focused on the development of job readiness skills and employer- or industry-specific knowledge. Workforce-specific training programs assisted participants in résumé creation, interview preparation, and effective job searching.<sup>57</sup> Most projects offered training in computer and Internet basics, which helped to prepare new computer users to participate in workforce-specific training programs.<sup>58</sup> Grant-funded workshops also included special events to improve employment outcomes, such as a recruiting session with a local employer or a job fair.<sup>59</sup>
- **Businesses and entrepreneurs:** Some grantees offered training programs and workshops specifically targeting small businesses. These programs often focused on teaching participants about the benefits of broadband for businesses, the use of digital tools, and building a web presence.<sup>60</sup>

- **Access to computers with broadband**

- **Job seekers:** Broadband and computer access facilitates patrons' ability to apply for jobs in the modern job market. Because many employers require the submission of online applications, access to computers and the Internet is necessary to apply for and obtain

employment.<sup>61</sup> In addition to broadband connectivity, grant-funded computers may be equipped with software or applications specifically designed to aid job seekers, such as a résumé-building program.<sup>62</sup>

- **Businesses and entrepreneurs:** Grantees provided resources necessary to launch or grow a business. Computers with broadband connectivity enable business owners and entrepreneurs to access free or low-cost digital resources such as crowdfunding websites, social media and other marketing channels, and small business development assistance.<sup>63</sup>
- **One-on-one assistance:** Staff members supporting grant activities assisted patrons in PCCs or other facilities hosting grant-funded activities. Staff members provided personalized guidance and instruction, enabling participants with varying levels of computer literacy to complete tasks and achieve objectives. This activity was particularly important for patrons with limited computer skills who needed to submit a job application for a position that did not require computer skills.<sup>64</sup> Staff members also helped business owners and entrepreneurs use digital tools to improve business operations.<sup>65</sup>

### 2.2.3 PCC and SBA Workforce and Economic Development Outcomes

The activities described above lead to the following outcomes, among others: the acquisition of digital literacy skills, the ability to successfully search and apply for jobs online, and in some cases, the development of job readiness skills. Often a combination of these activities and outcomes enhanced users' ability to obtain employment.

- **Searching and applying for jobs:** Access to computers with broadband, one-on-one guidance, and participation in training programs enabled patrons to effectively search and apply for jobs online. Patrons used online job boards, company websites, and employment search engines to identify relevant open positions. Patrons could apply for open positions by completing online applications, creating résumés, and communicating electronically with potential employers. Many grant-funded workstations are available without time restrictions, allowing patrons to submit applications that took more time online to complete than the time allotted on other publicly available computers.<sup>66</sup>
- **Digital literacy skills:** Acquiring digital literacy skills enables an individual to interact with the digital aspects of culture and to maintain a digital identity. Job seekers gained digital literacy skills by participating in training programs or dedicating time and effort in an open lab setting, which included self-paced learning activities and receiving one-on-one assistance.<sup>67</sup>
- **Job readiness skills:** Grantees provided training, workshops, resources, and personalized assistance to strengthen participants' job readiness skills. Acquiring job readiness skills helps job seekers improve their interviewing ability, learn how to dress professionally, network, and communicate with potential clients, employers, and colleagues, or, in the case of entrepreneurs, communicate with contractors, investors, and partners. These skills may prepare participants for specific positions or industries, or improve their ability to acclimate to and succeed in a professional setting.<sup>68</sup>
- **Digital tools:** Through project activities including training and workshops, one-on-one assistance, and access to computers with broadband, businesses learned to implement efficiency-enhancing tools, including Microsoft Office, QuickBooks, and Square.<sup>69</sup>
- **Enhanced web presence:** Businesses participated in training programs and workshops, or received individualized assistance. Participants learned how to use social media tools to reach customers, how to develop and operate an effective website, and how to communicate with customers by e-mail or on business review sites, such as Yelp.<sup>70</sup>
- **Access to customers/clients:** Grant-funded resources and services enabled independent business owners and entrepreneurs to use broadband to interact with clients. Contractors used web-based communications tools to send quotes, proposals, and product information to current and potential customers.<sup>71</sup>

## 2.2.4 PCC and SBA Workforce and Economic Development Impacts

The most prevalent impacts in this focus area include employment, independent contracting or entrepreneurial endeavors, and benefits to businesses. The following list provides illustrative examples drawn from case study reports.

- **Obtain employment:** The acquisition of digital literacy skills, development of job readiness skills, the ability to search and apply for jobs online, or a combination of these outcomes resulted in participants obtaining a job or promotion.<sup>72</sup> While several projects included in the evaluation study sample reported instances of job seekers obtaining employment, grantees were not required to report this information and the majority of the projects did not have a mechanism in place to track the number of jobs obtained. Projects that did report the number of jobs obtained relied on patrons to self-report their employment. Reported impacts will, therefore, likely understate the total number of jobs obtained, as some newly employed patrons may not return to grant-funded sites to report their employment.
  - **Delaware Division of Libraries (DDL):** DDL Job Centers reported that patrons obtained 420 job offers between July 2011 and March 31, 2013 due to grant-funded resources and services. Patrons' acquisition of employment was a result of access to computers and broadband to facilitate job searching, independent learning, and, in some cases, digital literacy skills.<sup>73</sup>
  - **Technology for All (TFA):** The project assisted job seekers in obtaining employment by providing access to computers and Internet-based resources and by offering guidance in searching and applying for jobs. TFA supplemented the provision of these resources by offering workforce and digital literacy training programs. As of April 25, 2013, TFA staff reported that 802 patrons of Haven for Hope, which offers resources for the homeless, had obtained employment. TFA partners estimated that 25 to 30 percent of job seekers using PCCs obtained at least short-term employment.<sup>74</sup>
  - **California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF):** The Canal Alliance, a partner of the CETF subrecipient Latino Community Foundation, incorporated training on job search techniques, basic résumé construction, and cover letter writing into its digital literacy classes. It has found that current job market conditions make the use of e-mail, Craigslist, and online job applications key aspects of a more successful job search. Broadband users often found jobs after the Canal Alliance's training and many did not return for additional employment assistance.<sup>75</sup>
- **Independent contracting or entrepreneurial endeavors:** Participants successfully started or improved entrepreneurial endeavors using grant-funded resources. Users learned to implement web-based tools to launch an idea or to improve and grow their independent business.<sup>76</sup> Participants increased their client base by developing or enhancing their web presence and using electronic communication tools to interact with current and potential clients.<sup>77</sup>
  - **Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU):** Entrepreneurs used the grant-funded workspace and technology resources for operating their small, private businesses to sustain or increase their income. Staff assisted small business owners in developing skills to enhance their businesses and increase profits. Impacts realized by small businesses and entrepreneurs include securing contracts, increasing client bases, and developing skills to improve operational efficiency and increase profits.<sup>78</sup>
- **Start or grow businesses:** Training programs for businesses promoted the usefulness of Internet-based technologies to improve operational efficiency and grow customer bases. Entrepreneurs and small business owners benefited from gaining the knowledge necessary to leverage Internet-based resources, such as websites and social media networks, to enhance their marketing platforms.<sup>79</sup> Representative examples of PCC and SBA grants that benefited businesses include:
  - **C.K. Blandin Foundation (C.K. Blandin):** C.K. Blandin's project partner University of Minnesota Extension (UME) offered training to entrepreneurs and small businesses, providing 306 workshops to 2,082 unique businesses and 4,206 attendees, as of

December 2012. Staff members reported that the training increased the percentage of businesses that had a digital presence, and that participating businesses increased their digital presence at a greater rate than those that did not participate. In addition, Minnesota Renewable Energy Marketplace (MNREM), a project partner, provided training and assistance to small businesses, primarily in the renewable energy sector, on the use of Internet-based technologies. MNREM reported that business owners were able to develop the skills to improve their business operations, and some small business owners found part-time contracting work.<sup>80</sup>

- **City of Chicago:** The City of Chicago's Smart Communities program created the Business Resource Network (BRN), an initiative designed to help local businesses become sustainable, profitable entities by providing them with free access to broadband, business software, and technology workshops. BRNs offered technology consulting services to support small and medium-size businesses in the Smart Communities. As of December 2012, BRN consultants provided technology assessments for 461 community businesses in the service area, resulting in 335 technology action plans focused on adopting digital technologies and implementing online marketing strategies. BRNs distributed 100 desktop computers to business owners who completed BRN training. Some entrepreneurs established their businesses by leveraging the support of BRNs and other grant-funded services.<sup>81</sup>
- **Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU):** The grantee provided small and minority businesses with workforce training focused on industry certifications and virtual learning. FAMU also delivered a Construction Management Development Program to small and disadvantaged businesses. Upon completion, participants earned a certification of proficiency, enabling businesses to participate in the Florida Department of Transportation Bond Guarantee Program.<sup>82</sup> As of June 2013, ten business owners in three Florida counties had completed the training. One participant reported obtaining a contract with the state upon receiving a small business designation due to grant-funded activities.<sup>83</sup>

## 2.2.5 PCC and SBA Workforce and Economic Development Longitudinal Analysis

The purpose of the longitudinal analysis is to compare observations from Round 1 with observations from Round 2 to identify changes over time. The evaluation study team will use these data in the *Final Report* to assess the impact of BTOP. In *Interim Report 1*, the evaluation study team presented a selection of baseline activities and outcomes observed during site visits conducted between July and December 2011 for each of the five focus areas presented in *Interim Report 1*. The evaluation study team identified data elements to measure potential benefits, based on the data grantees reported collecting or intended to collect.

During Round 2 site visits, performed between January and June 2013, the evaluation study team obtained the data related to the potential benefits defined in *Interim Report 1* from case study participants, when such information was available. Data collected during Round 2 site visits indicate that grant-provided programs and resources successfully supported job seekers' ability to improve employment outcomes and aided entrepreneurs in starting and growing businesses.

- Taking training to improve employment outcomes
  - **Delaware Division of Libraries (DDL):** DDL provided employment-related training, including résumé writing, Microsoft Word, interview workshops, and career acceleration workshops. DDL provided 6,614 hours of Workforce Development training to 3,966 patrons as of March 31, 2013. Job Center patrons received more than 420 job offers between July 2011 and March 31, 2013.<sup>84</sup>
  - **Technology for All (TFA):** TFA provided access to training focused on basic computer skills and workforce readiness. Through the end of 2012, TFA delivered more than 290,000 hours of Workforce and Economic Development training to more than 17,000

participants.<sup>85</sup> These statistics did not include Certificate of High School Equivalency training or certified training programs, which were reported in the Education and Training focus area.

- Performing work for pay or as part of career development
  - **Michigan State University (MSU):** MSU provided internship programs for MSU students and students of community college partners. Students learn to configure, troubleshoot, and install computers in PCCs and train PCC attendants to use the computers. As of December 2012, the grantee trained 673 MSU and community college student interns to help with the configuration, delivery, and installation of new equipment. At the time of the site visit, the internship program had ended. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) restrictions prohibited contacting the students for success stories. However, research conducted by the National Association of Colleges and Employers indicates that an internship significantly increases the likelihood of receiving a full-time job offer.<sup>86</sup> Interns received IT training and hands-on practice as they worked alongside coordinators to install BTOP workstations and other equipment.<sup>87</sup>
  - **City of Chicago:** The City of Chicago provided students with a paid technology internship at a business, government agency, or nonprofit organization. The Digital Youth Summer Jobs (DYSJ) program matched sixty teens to technology-focused summer internships in the summers of 2010 and 2011. Participants with perfect attendance earned a MacBook computer paid for by the grant and broadband connectivity through an AirCard donated by Sprint. In total, the program distributed 118 MacBooks and AirCards.<sup>88</sup> Sprint donated AirCards with six months of service to the first graduates of the DYSJ program donated additional AirCards to Smart Communities netbook recipients. The grantee provided the results of the study *Digital Excellence in Chicago*, but this study did not point to outcomes or impacts of the DYSJ program.
- Entrepreneurial activities
  - **DDL:** DDL conducted entrepreneurship workshops in partnership with the Delaware Economic Development Office (DEDO). DDL continued its relationship with DEDO and the Grassroots Plus program for part of the grant period. However, DDL and DEDO discontinued this partnership. As a result, there is limited information on the impact of the entrepreneurship workshops.<sup>89</sup>
  - **Connect Arkansas:** Connect Arkansas provided entrepreneurship training, including the development, establishment, and operation of online businesses. As of March 31, 2013, Connect Arkansas provided entrepreneurship education to 144 high school classes throughout Arkansas. Through the Entrepreneurship Curriculum, 2,108 students learned to use the Internet to engage in entrepreneurial endeavors.<sup>90</sup> As of April 2013, no students had taken advantage of the free three-year hosting opportunity that was available. Connect Arkansas believes that students were not interested in the hosting service because they viewed the campus edition's subdomain as an obstacle. Connect Arkansas is unable to monitor traffic for the student-created websites.<sup>91</sup>
- Operating one's business online
  - **C.K. Blandin Foundation (C.K. Blandin):** C.K. Blandin provided training and assistance to small businesses in the renewable energy sector with the use of broadband-based technologies, including topics such as getting found on the web, using social media, broadband for businesses, using Quick Response (QR) codes and smart grids, and how to hire a web developer. Through the end of 2012, a state partner provided 1,687 hours of training to small businesses in the renewable energy sector. A survey of businesses found that, although businesses perceived broadband as very important, fewer than 50 percent of the respondents used it before the training. One Demonstration Community reported that many business owners were able to develop the skills to improve their business operations, and some small business owners were able to find part-time contracting work helping other small businesses adopt broadband-based technologies.<sup>92</sup>

- **Connect Arkansas:** Connect Arkansas created a web-based community referral network known as SourceLink to promote entrepreneurial growth by linking small and start-up business owners with federal, state, and local resources. Connect Arkansas provides complete access to the website free of charge to support as many businesses and new ventures as possible. Between February 1 and April 3, 2013, 6,275 unique users visited Arkansas SourceLink. The BizTracker system was the only system in place at the time of the site visit to determine whether entrepreneurs obtained the resources needed. However, BizTracker is used only if users are having trouble finding the appropriate resources. There is no way of tracking the experience of users who do not intentionally seek assistance using BizTracker. Relatively few users have contacted Arkansas SourceLink for assistance. There were five entries in the BizTracker system as of April 2013.<sup>93</sup>
- **City of Chicago<sup>94</sup>:** The City of Chicago established community networks that connect firms with the right broadband services and applications, software, hardware, databases, and other computer resources, workshops, and training opportunities for their needs. As of December 2012, Business Resource Network (BRN) consultants provided technology assessments for 461 community businesses in the service area, resulting in 335 technology action plans that encouraged business owners to streamline operations. In addition, 100 business owners received desktop computers for participation in BRN training. Participants improved existing businesses by implementing social media marketing, mobile point-of-sale systems, and other tools identified in BRN technology action plans.<sup>95</sup>

## 2.2.6 Potential Future PCC and SBA Workforce and Economic Development Impacts

Other benefits within Workforce and Economic development, such as obtaining a position considered to be a better match for the job seeker, are more difficult to measure quantitatively. Certain activities can improve the likelihood that a user is able to achieve such a benefit.<sup>96</sup> While grantees often assisted patrons in using resources and tools that would yield a better job match, they did not measure the extent to which this benefit occurred.

Several grantees provided resources and services supporting job seekers or small businesses, although grantees had limited data related to observed impacts.<sup>97</sup> Projects that achieved similar outcomes, but did not collect quantitative or qualitative data related to impacts, include those described below. These potential impacts are not included in the analysis above and they may or may not occur.

- **South Carolina Technical College System (SCTCS):** Local business owners used PCCs to perform activities to improve operations and grow their enterprises. The PCCs' resources enabled business owners to draft contracts and submit bids for work, participate in training to gain proficiency in Microsoft Excel, and create marketing plans and material.<sup>98</sup> These outcomes could result in improved results for business participants.<sup>99</sup>
- **Connect Arkansas:** Websites enabled small business participants to establish or enhance their online presence and strengthen their marketing strategies, to increase their customer base, and to increase revenue. As of March 28, 2013, seventy small business participants had created a fully functional website or made substantial progress toward completing one through the Website in a Day class.<sup>100</sup> Small business participants establishing a web presence could lead to improved recognition among current and potential customers.<sup>101</sup>
- **WorkForce West Virginia (WFWV):** Job seekers developed digital literacy skills during the training sessions provided at the computer centers specifically aimed at using online tools and resources to search for jobs, to prepare and submit applications, and to network with employers. Job applicants also list their digital literacy skills on their résumés.<sup>102</sup> Job seekers who participated in training, and thereby enhanced their digital skillset, improved their ability to search and apply for jobs, and increased their chance of obtaining employment.<sup>103</sup>

## 2.3 CCI Workforce and Economic Development Impacts

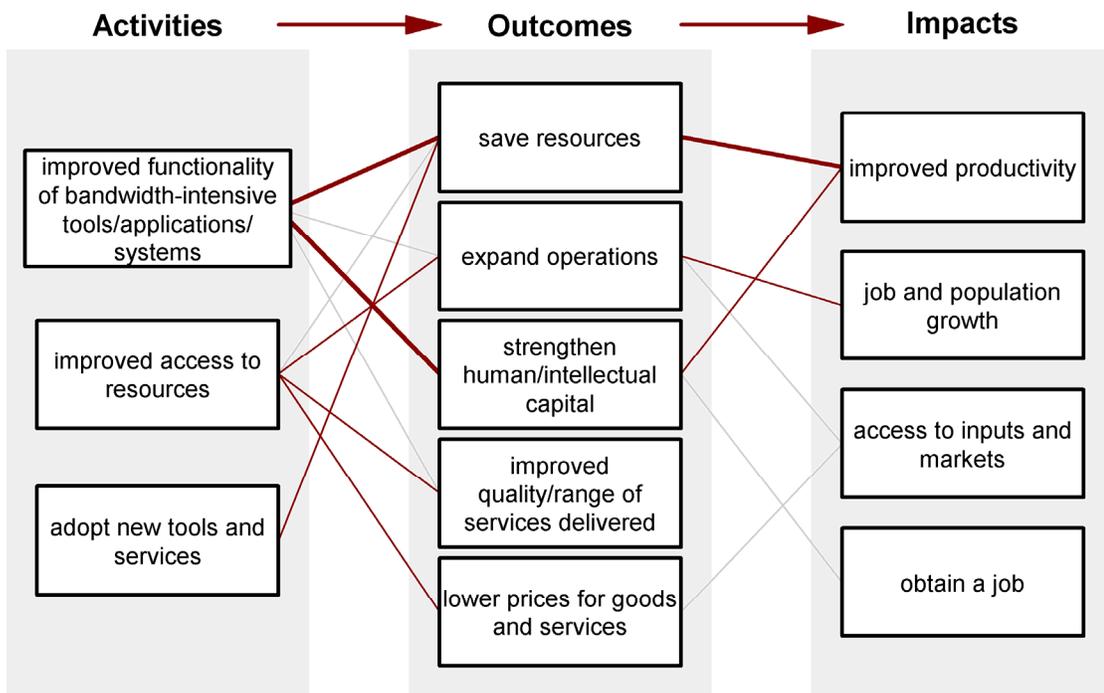
### 2.3.1 CCI Workforce and Economic Development Overview

The evaluation study team analyzed CCI case study reports with computer-assisted qualitative data analysis software to identify the associations between activities, outcomes, and impacts as reported by grantees. ASR employed benefits identified in literature to classify impacts, and in some cases outcomes. ASR aggregated similar results to find examples that may be representative of the benefits realized by BTOP grants outside of the evaluation study sample.

Figure 3 below shows the relationships among activities, outcomes, and impacts of the selected case study grants. Individual activities, outcomes, and impacts observed by the evaluation study team are included as boxes in the figure. Lines between boxes represent the different relationships identified by the evaluation study team. The figure only includes relationships observed in two or more grants. The lines also vary in color and thickness based on the number of grants exemplifying the relationship: relationships identified in two or three grants are identified by thin gray lines; relationships identified in four or five grants are identified by thin, red lines; and relationships identified in six or more grants are represented by thick red lines. Impacts stemmed from a variety of activities and outcomes.

CCI projects support Workforce and Economic Development activities by providing infrastructure to support the growth of new and existing businesses. Observations reported by interviewees indicated improved productivity was the most frequently observed impact among the projects included in the evaluation study sample. Several interviewees also reported benefiting from improved access to inputs and markets. Although a short time had elapsed since the construction of the grant-funded fiber networks, some interviewees reported instances of communities benefiting from job growth.

**Figure 3. CCI Workforce and Economic Development Impacts**



The subsections below define the activities, outcomes, and impacts presented in the figure. Select CCI case study grants provide examples to illustrate impacts.

### 2.3.2 CCI Workforce and Economic Development Activities

Activities include services or products implemented by CAIs and partners that reached targeted participants or populations. The primary activities that led to impacts were providing improved access to resources, adopting new internal tools or services, and making improvements in the functionality of bandwidth-intensive applications.

- **Improved functionality of bandwidth-intensive tools, applications, or systems:** The bandwidth provided through the grant-funded fiber connections enables CAIs and project beneficiaries to use applications and systems previously hindered by bandwidth limitations.<sup>104</sup>
- **Improved access to resources:** New and improved fiber networks enabled CAIs and partners to obtain the broadband-intensive resources necessary to conduct operations more efficiently, including obtaining resources at a lower per unit cost or obtaining the resource from nearby suppliers.<sup>105</sup>
- **Adopt new tools and services:** Increased bandwidth and improved network reliability obtained by connecting to grant-funded fiber enabled CAIs, partners, and project beneficiaries to implement new tools and applications to support organizational operations.<sup>106</sup>

### 2.3.3 CCI Workforce and Economic Development Outcomes

The activities described above lead to the following outcomes: resource savings, improved quality/range of service delivered to customers, expansion of operations, enhanced human or intellectual capital, and in some cases lower consumer prices.

- **Save resources:** Several businesses and CAIs interviewed obtained bandwidth at a lower price or implemented bandwidth-intensive systems to reduce the financial, time, or personnel resources required to complete tasks or objectives.<sup>107</sup> Saving resources also includes enhancements to the security of systems that reduce disruptions to operations.<sup>108</sup> Individuals may also realize resource saving outcomes such as dedicating less time or money to complete a task.<sup>109</sup>
- **Expand operations:** Businesses use the improved access to resources, improved functionality of existing systems, and new applications to increase the amount of output generated. This includes increasing production within current facilities, establishing additional facilities for operations, and increasing the frequency or quantity of service delivery.<sup>110</sup>
- **Strengthen human/intellectual capital:** Business and CAIs use the improved functionality of existing applications or implement new tools to strengthen the skills or knowledge of employees or staff members.<sup>111</sup> Individuals using tools and applications are able to complete training or instructional activities.<sup>112</sup>
- **Improved quality/range of service delivered to customers:** Improved access to resources and the improved functionality of existing systems enable businesses and CAIs to improve the quality or increase the variety of services delivered to customers.<sup>113</sup> For example, access to reliable connectivity improves an organization's ability to deliver services to customers.<sup>114</sup>
- **Lower prices for goods and services:** Improved access to resources enables companies to reduce prices, passing savings on to customers.<sup>115</sup>

### 2.3.4 CCI Workforce and Economic Development Impacts

The most prevalent impacts in this focus area include improving productivity, access to inputs and markets, and job and population growth. The following list provides illustrative examples drawn from case study reports.

- **Improved productivity:** Saving resources enables organizations to devote those resources to more productive channels.<sup>116</sup> Strengthening the intellectual capital within an organization improves productivity by enabling employees to accomplish more challenging tasks or accomplish similar tasks with fewer resources.<sup>117</sup> Improved productivity also includes enabling employees to telecommute in the event of severe weather or other instances that would prevent onsite attendance.<sup>118</sup>
  - **Zayo Bandwidth, LLC (Zayo):** Improved network connectivity enables the Utilities District of Western Indiana (UDWI), a customer of Zayo, to realize a substantial improvement in the capabilities of its meter-reading system. Before connecting to fiber, employees required thirty seconds to read an individual meter and twelve hours to complete a full meter data collection. It now takes less than two seconds to read an individual meter and four hours to complete a full meter data collection.<sup>119</sup>
  - **Merit Network, Inc. (Merit):** South Central Michigan Works! (SCMW) promotes employment by helping job seekers find jobs and by working with businesses to ensure an adequately skilled workforce. It is one of twenty-five regional Michigan Works agencies and the only one to receive service through Merit's project. SCMW serves over 800 employers comprising two-thirds of the employers in Lenawee, Hillsdale, and Jackson Counties. Employers encourage employees to take SCMW's free computer classes to acquire digital skills, thereby increasing workplace productivity. The improved connectivity allows SCMW to offer these classes more efficiently to more students.<sup>120</sup>
- **Job and population growth:** Businesses that expand operations into new geographic territories, businesses that increase production, and businesses that improve service delivery create and improve employment opportunities within communities.<sup>121</sup> Businesses that improve the range of services offered may hire additional employees to support new company divisions.<sup>122</sup> Job growth may be realized within specific industry sectors, such as a community realizing an increase in the number of service jobs.<sup>123</sup>
  - **Mid-Atlantic Broadband Cooperative (MBC):** ICF International (ICF), a government and private sector consulting firm, recently opened a new facility in Martinsville, VA, largely due to MBC's fiber network, which offers a high degree of reliability. Broadband connectivity is crucial for ICF, whose business needs include high-quality, high-capacity bandwidth and near 100 percent network reliability.<sup>124</sup> ICF commenced a major telephony upgrade involving the construction of a new call center for managing market research. ICF customer service operations created 539 permanent jobs.<sup>125</sup>
  - **Merit Network, Inc. (Merit):** MiSpot is an ISP that provides fixed wireless services to several areas in the northern half of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan. The increased access to middle mile fiber in its service area has allowed MiSpot to expand its business, and it has grown from four to eighteen employees. MiSpot's parent company has also added several employees to provide technical support for MiSpot's networking equipment.<sup>126</sup>
- **Access to inputs and markets:** Businesses are able to increase their customer base by expanding operations, offering new products or services, selling at a new price point, or improving the quality of goods and services.<sup>127</sup>
  - **MBC:** The high degree of reliability offered by MBC has enabled ICF to shift to 24/7 operations, resulting in the acquisition of new business contracts. ICF interviewees stated that they could not have acquired these contracts before transitioning to twenty-four-hour operations. This represents an expansion into new markets for ICF, which typically manages federal government contracts.<sup>128</sup>
  - **MBC:** Shentel uses the MBC network to provide last mile broadband service in rural markets where it did not previously have a presence. A representative of Shentel remarked that MBC's network reliability and wholesale pricing are significantly better than those of incumbent middle mile carriers. The lower prices MBC offered to Shentel result in lower retail prices for its customers, making Internet access available and affordable in rural markets.<sup>129</sup>

- **Obtain a job:** Individuals who gained knowledge and skills improved their employability or performance in current engagements.<sup>130</sup>
  - **SDN:** The BTOP grant provided funding to update the equipment in Mitchell Technical Institute's (MTI) telecommunications lab. This new equipment provides students with modern training for technical jobs. MTI also uses the equipment to provide continuing education and training for existing SDN staff members. The up-to-date training that the students at MTI are receiving due to the new equipment has resulted in a 20 percent wage increase for graduates.<sup>131</sup>
  - **Clearwave Communications (Clearwave):** John A. Logan College, a Clearwave customer, in partnership with Southern Illinois Healthcare (SIH), a private sector healthcare provider, established a nursing simulation and learning lab. The center offers local programs for nurses who require training for professional development, and will likely offer training for emergency medical service (EMS) technicians in the future. The establishment of the simulation and learning lab created five jobs immediately. The center uses broadband connectivity to deliver training in nursing and healthcare jobs to program participants.<sup>132</sup>

### 2.3.5 Potential Future CCI Workforce and Economic Development Impacts

Several projects provided resources and services targeting business and job growth, although grantees had limited data related to observed impacts.<sup>133</sup> Projects that achieved similar outcomes, but did not collect quantitative or qualitative data related to impacts, include those described below. These potential impacts are not included in the analysis above and they may or may not occur.

- **Executive Office of the State of West Virginia (West Virginia):** Connecting to the state's education network provides teachers with opportunities to engage in online professional development activities during the day. The West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) provides online professional development courses. Teachers are allotted time during the school day to complete training. Before the grant, limited bandwidth restricted teachers' ability to complete online courses while instructional activities were taking place.<sup>134</sup> Completing professional development programs is likely to improve teacher productivity and increase earning potential and career opportunities for participating teachers.<sup>135</sup>
- **OSHEAN:** With the increased bandwidth for customers on the Beacon 2.0 network, the Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant (TMLP) is implementing demand-based services that enable more efficient energy delivery to customers. Communicating with customers via smart meters allows TMLP to idle large-scale energy-consuming equipment when it is not needed. TMLP estimated this could save customers about 20 to 30 percent on their energy bills. TMLP currently provides this service to a small number of large commercial customers. TMLP intends to expand the service to all customers, which would reduce energy consumption and utility bills.<sup>136</sup> These bandwidth-intensive smart technologies are likely to improve TMLP's operational productivity by reducing the amount of manual resources required to monitor and control energy use and delivery.<sup>137</sup>
- **Zayo:** Sitco, a wireless Internet Service Provider (ISP), intends to improve wireless Internet service to current customers by increasing the speed and quality of service. Sitco reported that Zayo's presence lowered the price of transport services. Connecting to Zayo's fiber will allow Sitco to improve the speed tiers available to consumers without increasing prices. Sitco customers can purchase four different service packages, ranging in price from \$39 to \$69 per month, with each speed tier costing an additional \$10 per month. Sitco will triple the speeds of the three lowest tier packages and double the speed of the fastest package without raising prices.<sup>138</sup> Offering faster speeds without raising prices could help Sitco attract or retain customers.<sup>139</sup>

## Section 3. Education and Training Impacts

This section describes the Education and Training impacts of the BTOP projects in the evaluation study sample. This focus area includes activities that lead to a certificate or diploma that would typically be awarded by an educational institution, or that indicates the recipient has received training that is recognized as valuable for career advancement. Examples of certificates or diplomas include: community college degrees, four-year college degrees, advanced degrees, general equivalency degrees, certifications in advanced software technologies such as network engineering, and other licenses or certifications that reflect knowledge of a particular subject at a level that would typically be taught at an educational institution.

The evaluation study team gathered data related to focus area impacts from evaluation study participants during site visits. The following subsections present a summary of the economic and social benefits described in case study reports.

### 3.1 Education and Training Potential Benefits

Table 3 presents the potential social and economic benefits related to Education and Training identified in literature and defined in *Interim Report 1*.

**Table 3. Education and Training: Potential Social and Economic Benefits**

<p><b>Benefits to Students</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improved student performance<sup>140</sup></li><li>• Improved educational resources for nontraditional or disabled students and students in geographically remote areas or poor districts<sup>141</sup></li><li>• Increased levels of education<sup>142</sup></li><li>• More personalized educational activities<sup>143</sup></li><li>• Increased student-teacher engagement through social networking<sup>144</sup></li></ul> <p><b>Benefits to Teachers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased teacher productivity<sup>145</sup></li></ul> <p><b>Benefits to School Districts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased school enrollment rates<sup>146</sup></li><li>• Improved interaction among students, parents, teachers, and school administrators<sup>147</sup></li><li>• Lower-cost, more effective training of workers<sup>148</sup></li></ul>
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### 3.2 PCC and SBA Education and Training Impacts

#### 3.2.1 PCC and SBA Education and Training Overview

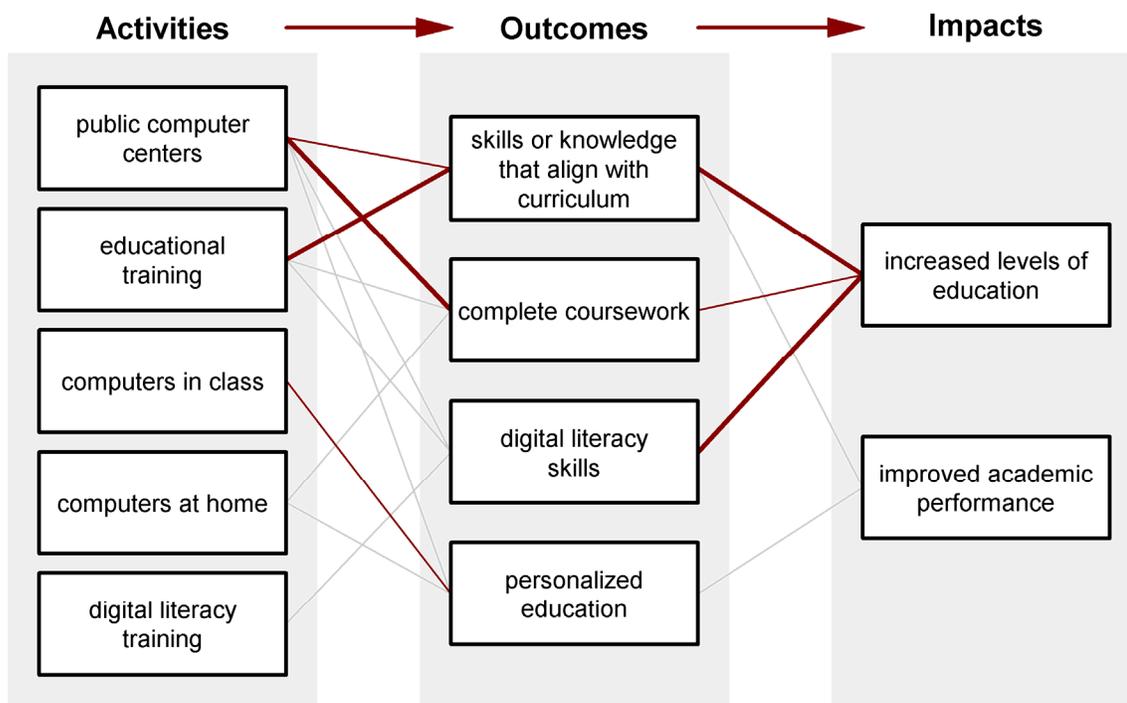
The evaluation study team analyzed Round 2 case study reports with computer-assisted qualitative data analysis software to identify the associations between activities, outcomes, and impacts as reported by grantees. ASR employed benefits identified in literature to classify impacts, and in

some cases outcomes. ASR aggregated similar results to find examples that may be representative of the benefits realized by BTOP grants outside of the evaluation study sample.

Figure 4 below shows the relationships among activities, outcomes, and impacts of the selected case study grants. Individual activities, outcomes, and impacts observed by the evaluation study team are included as boxes in the figure. Lines between boxes represent the different relationships identified by the evaluation study team. The figure only includes relationships observed in two or more grants. The lines also vary in color and thickness based on the number of grants exemplifying the relationship: relationships identified in two or three grants are identified by thin gray lines; relationships identified in four or five grants are identified by thin, red lines; and relationships identified in six or more grants are represented by thick red lines. Impacts stemmed from a variety of activities and outcomes.

Of the potential benefits listed in Table 3, the impacts most often cited by interviewees on site visits included students increasing their level of education, which includes enrolling in a degree program, obtaining a Certificate of High School Equivalency, or earning another certification.

**Figure 4. PCC and SBA Education and Training Outcomes and Impacts**



The subsections below define the activities, outcomes, and impacts presented in the figure above. Select PCC and SBA case study grants provide examples to illustrate impacts.

### 3.2.2 PCC and SBA Education and Training Activities

Activities include services or products implemented by grantees that reached targeted participants or populations. The primary activities that led to impacts were the provision of public computer centers, training programs, and computer workstations.

- **Public computer centers:** The grantee or other participating organizations make a lab equipped with computers and broadband available to the public or a particular population, for example, parents of students.<sup>149</sup> Some computer centers provided special software or adaptive

equipment that helped individuals achieve educational outcomes.<sup>150</sup> This activity also includes informal help from computer center staff.<sup>151</sup>

- **Educational training:** Grantees provided training programs using grant funds in schools or with educational outcomes in mind. These activities included task-specific workshops and training programs such as Microsoft Office Certification training or Certificate of High School Equivalency preparation courses.<sup>152</sup>
- **Computers in class:** The grantee or other participating organizations use grant funds to purchase desktops, laptops, tablets, and broadband connections for use in a classroom at K-12 or higher education institutions.<sup>153</sup>
- **Computers at home:** The grantees used grant funds to distribute desktop computers, laptops, tablets, and subsidies for home broadband to individuals. These individuals included members of vulnerable populations, or participants of other grantee activities.<sup>154</sup>
- **Digital literacy training:** Grantees provided training in basic computer and Internet skills.<sup>155</sup>

### 3.2.3 PCC and SBA Education and Training Outcomes

The activities described above lead to the following outcomes: new skills or knowledge, acquisition of digital literacy skills, and support with coursework.

- **Skills or knowledge that align with curriculum:** Individuals gained skills or knowledge that complemented classroom instruction. Skills that helped students get accepted to a degree program or obtain a scholarship are also included in this category. This outcome was most often the result of education and training activities, including training on applications that helped students excel in school, get into college, or pass a certification exam.<sup>156</sup> It was also the result of students using computers to play educational games or access other online tools, such as tutorials.<sup>157</sup>
- **Complete coursework:** Students completed homework, studied for and took tests, and accessed online classroom management systems. This also includes taking a class entirely online. Individuals primarily achieved this outcome after gaining access to computers through open labs or subsidized home computers.<sup>158</sup> Some students also used classroom computers.<sup>159</sup>
- **Digital literacy skills:** Individuals became more proficient with computers, Internet resources, and technology in general. These digital literacy skills led to impacts through training programs and open lab access.<sup>160</sup>
- **Personalized education:** Students, teachers, and parents used computers and broadband to create interactive and personalized educational experiences.<sup>161</sup> For example, students could engage directly with an interactive website designed to recognize and accommodate individual needs, instead of following along as a teacher interacts on behalf of an entire class.<sup>162</sup> This outcome also includes student-teacher networking through online discussion boards outside of class, and parent engagement that helps provide students with personalized guidance.<sup>163</sup>

### 3.2.4 PCC and SBA Education and Training Impacts

The Education and Training impact that occurred most frequently students obtaining increased levels of education. Eleven of the PCC and SBA grants included in the evaluation study sample reported observing this impact. Some grantees also reported students improving academic performance. The following list provides illustrative examples drawn from case study reports.

- **Increased levels of education:** Students obtained a Certificate of High School Equivalency or another certificate, enrolled in higher education, or graduated from degree-conferring programs. Individuals who received a Certificate of High School Equivalency or another certification most often participated in activities that helped them develop skills and knowledge that aligned with the certification exam.<sup>164</sup> Obtaining digital literacy skills through grantee-provided training and open lab access aided individuals in leveraging online and computer-based resources to

prepare for examinations, to search and apply for school admission, to apply for scholarships and financial aid, and to use the Internet to enroll in classes.<sup>165</sup> Those who graduated from a degree program used computer centers or grant-funded computers to complete school assignments and access distance learning activities that helped them graduate.<sup>166</sup> Others leveraged training to develop the skills necessary to complete coursework necessary to graduate.<sup>167</sup>

- **Foundation for California Community Colleges (FCCC):** Community college students participated in grant-funded education training on Microsoft software. After gaining skills in software applications including Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, and Access, students passed 1,119 Microsoft certification exams as of March 31, 2013.<sup>168</sup>
- **Delaware Division of Libraries (DDL):** The grantee collaborated with other organizations to provide education training to those seeking a high school diploma. DDL staff members estimated that, by September 2013, as many as fifty users obtained a high school diploma after gaining the necessary skills in the training.<sup>169</sup>
- **Urban Affairs Coalition (UAC):** Public housing residents who completed eight hours of digital literacy training were eligible to receive a free netbook. The training and free netbook program helped residents gain digital literacy skills that enabled them to enroll at a local community college. By the end of June 2013, 150 graduates of the program registered for credit classes at Community College of Philadelphia (CCP).<sup>170</sup>
- **Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU):** The grantee provided opportunities for students to receive technology training through volunteer and internship programs. Several students completed an internship program and gained technology skills that helped them get accepted to college with a major in audio and video engineering.<sup>171</sup>
- **Improved academic performance:** Students enrolled in K-12 schools improved their grades and performance in school.<sup>172</sup> These impacts were observed in conjunction with grantees providing computers to schools or individuals, and conducting educational training. Access to computers helped teachers create more personalized educational environments in schools and helped students develop curriculum-specific skills by playing educational games online.<sup>173</sup> Educational and digital literacy training helped students develop skills and knowledge aligned with school curriculum, and helped parents become more engaged in their children's education.<sup>174</sup>
  - **C.K. Blandin Foundation (C.K. Blandin):** A parent who received a home computer reported that her son has improved his grades because of the educational games available. In another location, a school district was able to purchase forty iPads for teacher and student use in K-12 classrooms. Teachers reported that students were more engaged and that performance increased significantly when students received access to the iPads.<sup>175</sup>
  - **Technology for All (TFA):** During an eight-week course, Austin Free-Net (AFN) conducted training in six Austin Independent School District (AISD) schools, serving more than eighty parents who, through an eight-week course, gained the computer skills necessary to improve educational achievement for their children.<sup>176</sup>

### 3.2.5 PCC and SBA Education and Training Longitudinal Analysis

The purpose of the longitudinal analysis is to compare observations from Round 1 with observations from Round 2 to identify changes over time. The evaluation study team will use these data in the *Final Report* to assess the impact of BTOP. In *Interim Report 1*, the evaluation study team presented a selection of baseline activities and outcomes observed during site visits conducted between July and December 2011 for each of the five focus areas presented in *Interim Report 1*. The evaluation study team identified data elements to measure potential benefits, based on the data grantees reported collecting or intended to collect.

During Round 2 site visits, performed between January and June 2013, the evaluation study team obtained the data related to the potential benefits defined in *Interim Report 1* from case study

participants, when such information was available. The data show that grant-provided programs and resources successfully supported outcomes and impacts, including obtaining diplomas, Certificates of High School Equivalency, and other certifications; using computers to complete coursework and apply to educational programs; increasing parental involvement in children's education; improving preparation for the job market; and increasing English language skills to further education and careers.

- Researching a degree or certificate program
  - **South Carolina Technical College System (SCTCS):** SCTCS provided one-on-one assistance at campus libraries and Academic Success Centers (ASC) to qualified individuals looking to begin or continue a college education. Lab moderators were stationed in each of the PCCs to provide one-on-one assistance to students. The site visit team observed the moderators providing this assistance to students at Trident Community College, but interviewees did not track outcomes from this activity.<sup>177</sup>
- Taking a class or online training that leads to a professional certification, degree, or Certificate of High School Equivalency
  - **Delaware Division of Libraries (DDL):** DDL provided access to online courses through LearningExpress. DDL patrons engaged in 5,575 LearningExpress sessions from May 2011 to April 2013. The case study report presents the monthly data.<sup>178</sup>
  - **DDL:** DDL provided adult education courses for students to earn Certificates of High School Equivalency and high school diplomas. Over the course of the award period, DDL delivered 6,740 hours of education training to 2,642 patrons. 1,660 hours of this training were targeted at adult Certificate of High School Equivalency education, and 1,435 patrons attended these Certificate of High School Equivalency sessions. DDL staff members estimate that twenty Job Center patrons obtained a Certificate of High School Equivalency and forty to fifty obtained a high school diploma by September 2013.<sup>179</sup>
  - **Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA):** CHA provided middle and high school students access to computers and training geared toward improving skills for successful performance in college and assistance in using the computers to research and apply to colleges online. Each PCC serves roughly 45 Work Force students, ranging in age from 13 to 18, totaling 130 to 135 students annually (52 percent female and 48 percent male).<sup>180</sup> The grantee reported that the BTOP-funded computer labs have strengthened the program and student outcomes. Students are able to access homework and supplementary materials to increase academic success. They are also able to use online resources to search for and apply to college and scholarships. In addition, the program offers internships for students. Eighty percent of the students placed in the Work Force program's exploratory jobs receive "competent" or "advanced" evaluation ratings from employers. The evaluation study team observed a ninth grade Work Force class where students were preparing for an informational visit to Draper Laboratories, a nonprofit research and development organization. Students used the PCCs to research positions at the firm and draft questions for employees. This research assignment helped students to maximize their learning experience at the facility and to converse with employees.<sup>181</sup>
- Administrative activities associated with course instruction
  - **SCTCS:** SCTCS provided training in student financial aid. The grantee provided training in how to apply for financial aid to 264 individuals by the end of 2013.<sup>182</sup>
- Activities complementing classroom instruction
  - **Foundation for California Community Colleges (FCCC):** FCCC provided web-based Microsoft Office training through the Microsoft IT Academy. As of March 31, 2013, MESA students had passed 1,119 Microsoft certification exams. MESA staff provided ASR with data that strongly suggested that study materials provided through California Connects increase students' likelihood of passing certification exams. Students' average passing rate was more than eight times greater when a Microsoft-certified specialist introduced test

takers to the Microsoft IT Academy and GMetrix, a software program that generated practice tests structured to mimic Microsoft certification tests.<sup>183</sup>

- **FCCC:** FCCC provided basic digital literacy, Internet basics, and broadband service selection training through the Great Valley Center (GVC). As of March 31, 2013, 3,301 individuals had graduated from the GVC training program.<sup>184</sup> Many GVC trainees were parents who can now use e-mail and learning management systems to maintain connections with teachers and school administration. The evaluation study team also heard examples of parents using online learning resources, search engines, and Google Translate to support their children's educational needs.<sup>185</sup>
- **FCCC:** FCCC provided free laptops to community college students and required the students to provide computer training on topics of importance to their community. Training topics included basic computer use, e-mail, Skype, online banking, and Microsoft Excel. As of June 2013, California Connects distributed 5,799 laptops with up to 6 months of free broadband service to MESA programs at partner community colleges.<sup>186</sup> MESA students had trained 10,871 individuals as of March 31, 2013.<sup>187</sup> Students reported that they were able to devote more time to schoolwork because the laptops provided convenient, mobile access to broadband and Microsoft Office software.<sup>188</sup> MESA directors reported instances of students using their laptops to create application materials to acquire scholarships, internships, and jobs.<sup>189</sup>
- **SCTCS:** SCTCS provided students with notebooks and iPod Touch rentals. Across the college system, more than 300 mobile devices such as laptops, tablets, and iPads were available for user checkout and use on or off campus for up to one week, making it more convenient for students to study and complete coursework for a variety of courses as part of their college curriculum.<sup>190</sup>
- Learning English or another language using online tools
  - **Technology for All (TFA):** TFA provided access to language-based training, such as English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), literacy improvement programs, and IBM's Reading Companion. Across the TFA project, staff delivered nearly 130,000 hours of ESOL training. Incorporating computers into ESOL training resulted in patrons improving both English-language skills and digital literacy skills.<sup>191</sup>
  - **CHA:** CHA provided ESOL training for working-age, low-income adult residents of public housing through the Gateways program. Through the end of 2012, 692 students had participated in 35,066 hours of Gateways training. The grant-funded computers and the digital literacy skills gained through the Gateways program improved participants' ability to interact with their children's schooling and monitor academic progress. The acquisition of digital literacy and English skills improved users' ability to pursue career objectives and participate in community activities.<sup>192</sup>

### 3.2.6 Potential Future PCC and SBA Education and Training Impacts

Several grantees provided resources and services with educational objectives, although grantees had limited data related to observed impacts.<sup>193</sup> Projects that achieved similar outcomes, but did not collect quantitative or qualitative data related to impacts, include those described below. These potential impacts are not included in the analysis above and they may or may not occur.

- **Las Vegas-Clark County Urban League (LVUL):** College and university students used the computer lab to take web-based and continuing education courses. Staff helped students navigate through websites to access their courses online and to use the computers more effectively.<sup>194</sup> When these outcomes occurred in other projects, impacts included improved academic performance and students graduating from their degree programs.<sup>195</sup>
- **California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF):** The Chicana/Latina Foundation, a project subrecipient, developed a train-the-trainer program that was successful in training parents to access information on students' progress toward academic goals, including class schedules, reports from teachers, and grades. The grantee reported that parents who received training are

more comfortable participating in their children's education, including being more likely to visit the school and ask questions, and more aware of the activities of the local educational system. Parents were also able to use e-mail to communicate with teachers and administrators.<sup>196</sup>

In addition to the benefits to students described above, some benefits to schools could happen in the future, including improving student retention. For example:

- **SCTCS:** The grantee anticipated improved retention and increased enrollment in the South Carolina Technical College System due to the grant-funded upgrades. Computer center staff reported that grant-funded basic computer training helped students who struggled with computer skills to pass a required introductory computer course. Improved bandwidth also allowed the colleges to provide online video tutorials, which helped students learn to navigate online curriculum components.<sup>197</sup>

## 3.3 CCI Education and Training Impacts

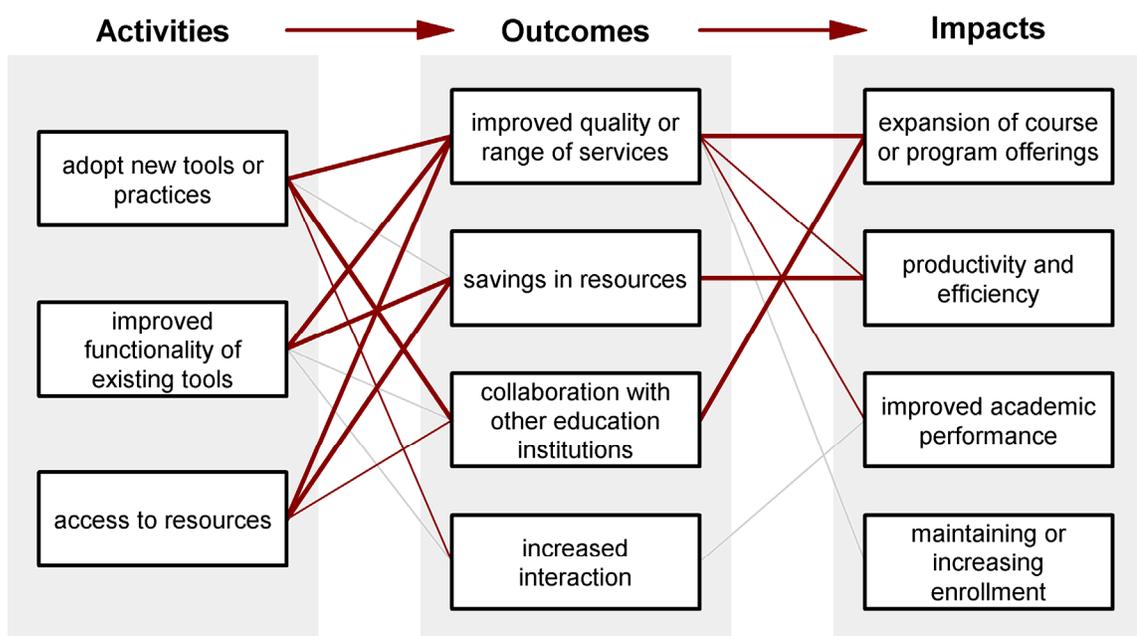
### 3.3.1 CCI Education and Training Overview

The evaluation study team analyzed CCI case study reports with computer-assisted qualitative data analysis software to identify the associations between activities, outcomes, and impacts as reported by grantees. ASR employed benefits identified in literature to classify impacts, and in some cases outcomes. ASR aggregated similar results to find examples that may be representative of the benefits realized by BTOP grants outside of the evaluation study sample.

Figure 5 below shows the relationships among activities, outcomes, and impacts of the selected case study grants. Individual activities, outcomes, and impacts observed by the evaluation study team are included as boxes in the figure. Lines between boxes represent the different relationships identified by the evaluation study team. The figure only includes relationships observed in two or more grants. The lines also vary in color and thickness based on the number of grants exemplifying the relationship: relationships identified in two or three grants are identified by thin gray lines; relationships identified in four or five grants are identified by thin, red lines; and relationships identified in six or more grants are represented by thick red lines.

CAIs that received grant-funded connections realized impacts primarily at the organizational level, although interviewees also reported some individual impacts to students and teachers. The improved connectivity enabled CAIs to adopt new broadband-based tools, to improve the functionality of existing tools, and to access remote resources. These activities helped CAIs improve services, save resources, and collaborate with other organizations. They also helped improve student-teacher and parent-school interactions. The impacts cited by the largest number of CCI projects were expanded course offerings, increased productivity, and improved student academic performance. Some projects also helped to maintain or increase enrollment at educational institutions.

**Figure 5. CCI Education and Training Impacts**



The subsections below define the activities, outcomes, and impacts presented in the figure above. Select CCI case study grants provide examples to illustrate impacts.

### 3.3.2 CCI Education and Training Activities

The activities described below lead to outcomes and impacts in the Education and Training focus area.

- **Adopt new tools or practices:** After receiving more bandwidth, reduced prices for bandwidth, or improved network reliability, CAIs were able to adopt tools or practices that they had not used before the grant, including videoconferencing, distance learning, and instructional software in classrooms.<sup>198</sup>
- **Improved functionality of existing tools:** As a result of grant activities, CAIs experienced an improvement in how their existing tools and systems functioned on a daily basis. These tools included Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) telephones, information management and student information systems, wireless access points, and any other broadband-based tool used on campus.<sup>199</sup>
- **Access to resources:** CAIs used increased speeds and reliability to connect to remote services. This included transitioning from onsite hosting to cloud applications and remote backups. It also included the ability for students, teachers, parents, and administrators to access systems and applications remotely.<sup>200</sup>

### 3.3.3 CCI Education and Training Outcomes

The activities described above lead to the following outcomes: improved quality or range of services provided by CAIs, resource savings, increased collaboration with other education institutions, and increased interaction.

- **Improved quality or range of services:** Educational institutions were able to use Internet-enabled technologies to improve the quality of services they provide to students. For example,

CAIs were able to improve the process of standardized testing, provide technology in the classroom to enhance student engagement, and to increase access to Wi-Fi in student housing.<sup>201</sup>

- **Savings in resources:** CAIs saved money or spent less staff time on tasks that were made more efficient through Internet-based technologies. While some CAIs saw savings after adopting new tools, this outcome was most often a result of improved functionality of existing tools and improved access to online resources.<sup>202</sup>
- **Collaboration with other education institutions:** This outcome was a focus for many CCI projects. CAIs were able to collaborate better with other educational institutions, whether for research purposes, to improve course offerings, or to share other resources.<sup>203</sup> This outcome was most often the result of adopting new tools or practices.<sup>204</sup>
- **Increased interaction:** CAIs engage in activities that increased the quantity or quality of interactions between parents and schools, or between students and teachers.<sup>205</sup> Individuals experienced this outcome most often after CAIs adopted new tools, including information systems that allowed parents and students to access them remotely, or classroom management applications that helped students interact with teachers outside of school.<sup>206</sup>

### 3.3.4 CCI Education and Training Impacts

The Education and Training impacts that occurred across the largest number of CCI projects were the expansion of course or program offerings and increased productivity. Each of these impacts occurred in at least nine different projects. CAIs reported improved academic performance in seven projects, and maintained or increased enrollment in three. The following list provides illustrative examples drawn from case study reports.

- **Expansion of course or program offerings:** Grantees reported expanding course and program offerings as a result of improving services and collaborating with other education institutions.<sup>207</sup> Most additional offerings were online classes, although some CAIs also offered new on-campus courses as a result of grant activities. CAIs were able to increase online course offerings because faster upload speeds allowed them to host classes on servers.<sup>208</sup> Increased download speeds helped schools provide access to online classes for students while in classrooms.<sup>209</sup>
  - **OSHEAN:** Increased capacity and access to affordable bandwidth through the new Beacon 2.0 network has facilitated the growth of the Community College of Rhode Island's (CCRI) distance education program. CCRI reported that enrollment in the program increased by 112 percent between the fall 2012 and fall 2013 semesters. Without the improved broadband capacity, CCRI would not have been able to support the increase in students participating in distance education. As of September 2013, CCRI did not offer full degree programs via distance education, although many degree programs offered hybrid instruction options. CCRI is working toward developing the distance education program to offer Associate's degree programs remotely.<sup>210</sup>
  - **MCNC:** University of North Carolina at Pembroke (UNCP) is the third largest provider of online education in the University of North Carolina system in terms of the number of courses offered. UNCP offers a business entrepreneurship degree taught entirely online. Some on-site classes engage in interactive video communication with Richmond Community College and other community colleges for collaborative distance learning activities. While UNCP had capacity that was adequate to support online instruction, grant-funded connections to the North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) made partnerships with community colleges possible.<sup>211</sup>
- **Productivity and efficiency:** Saving resources enabled organizations to devote those resources to more productive uses. This impact was most often a result of improved access to cloud-based solutions that helped reduce staff time spent on maintenance and improved data transfer over a broadband connection.<sup>212</sup>

- **Executive Office of the State of West Virginia (West Virginia):** The fiber connection between the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) and West Virginia University (WVU) provided by the grant has improved NRAO's data-sharing capabilities and reduced research costs. Before the grant, the broadband connection serving NRAO was so limited that it could not support the transmission of datasets between NRAO telescopes and WVU. Datasets had to be saved on physical storage devices and driven from Green Bank to the university in Morgantown. This resulted in data collection delays of a week or more and required weekly travel of nearly 250 miles round trip. NRAO's new fiber connection allows for the digital transmission of datasets, saving an estimated \$250,000 per year in travel and data storage costs.<sup>213</sup>
- **MCNC:** Lee County Schools' (LCS) connection to the NCREN has resulted in time savings for both technical and instructional staff. Increased bandwidth has facilitated the use of cloud-based applications, which eliminates the need for installation of software on students' devices. As a result, technical staff are free to support instructional activities. A representative of LCS also expressed that the reliability of the new connection eliminates the need for teachers to spend extra time writing backup lesson plans in case their Internet-dependent plans cannot be used due to broadband service interruptions.<sup>214</sup>
- **Improved academic performance:** Students in K-12 schools and institutions of higher learning were able to improve grades, pass tests, and increase standardized testing scores.<sup>215</sup>
  - **MCNC:** Mooresville Graded School District (MGSD) administration believes its one-to-one computing initiative, supported by grant-funded connections to NCREN, has had significant impacts on student retention and performance. The graduation rate in MGSD has increased from 80 percent in 2008 to 93 percent in 2013, the second-highest district graduation rate in the state. In addition, attendance rates have risen, standardized test scores have improved in every subject, and teachers reported that students are more engaged.<sup>216</sup>
  - **Lane Council of Governments (LCOG):** Since connecting to the new fiber network funded by the BTOP grant, Days Creek has been able to offer additional support for struggling middle school students. They have a four-day school week, but students who need extra help with schoolwork attend school on Fridays. This supplemental program is largely dependent on web content, including Achieve 3,000, which provides individualized instruction online for struggling students. The high school uses Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces (ALEKS), a math tool that helps students track progress and assessment. Days Creek staff members reported that test scores have greatly improved because of this expanded educational opportunity.<sup>217</sup>
- **Maintaining or increasing enrollment:** Some CAIs were able to improve student enrollment after adopting new tools or improving the functionality of existing tools, which enabled them to provide better services to students.<sup>218</sup>
  - **Clearwave:** Southern Illinois University, a Clearwave customer, was not able to offer online programs to the extent that it wanted because of bandwidth constraints. The Clearwave connection has alleviated these constraints and allows Southern Illinois University to maintain enrollment without having to bring students to one campus.<sup>219</sup>

### 3.3.5 Potential Future CCI Education and Training Impacts

Although nearing completion at the time of the site visit, many of the CCI grants were still under construction. As a result, many CAIs had not yet been connected or had just received a connection. In these situations, interviewees discussed future potential impacts.<sup>220</sup> Examples include those described below. These potential impacts are not included in the analysis above and they may or may not occur.

- **Massachusetts Technology Park (MassTech):** The Southwick-Tolland-Granville Regional School District expects that the improved network connectivity will allow it to implement online standardized testing more reliably, with fewer interruptions in service. The connection is also

expected to allow the school to upload exams faster and to receive results more quickly. The superintendent reported that having results by the end of the school year, rather than the beginning of the following school year, would give teachers adequate time to adapt their curriculum to the results.<sup>221</sup>

- **Merit Network, Inc. (Merit):** Lake Michigan College (LMC) IT staff members presented a model for shared services to their board. These could include consulting, managed hosting, and co-hosting services. For example, the college is interested in pursuing a partnership with another college to share data centers. This could allow LMC to receive better service for the same price. These potential partnerships are possible because of the 1 Gbps statewide network connecting institutions of higher learning.<sup>222</sup>
- **Clearwave Communications (Clearwave):** Illinois Eastern Community Colleges (IECC) moved to a cloud-based solution for online education. IECC completed the shift from Angel, which IECC maintained in house, to Desire2Learn, a cloud-based solution. IECC is also exploring how to move its e-mail systems to the cloud. Moving to Microsoft Office 365, a web-based platform, will provide the benefits of cloud-based software, with the additional benefit that students would have access to Microsoft Office without requiring them to purchase it. This would save the students \$70 to \$100 each.<sup>223</sup>

## Section 4. Healthcare Impacts

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This section describes the Healthcare impacts of the BTOP projects in the evaluation study sample. This focus area includes broadband-enabled activities undertaken by PCC and SBA projects to improve their own health or that of someone else. This definition includes not only sophisticated tasks such as viewing one's medical records online, but also more common activities that might not involve a medical provider at all. In order for a program activity to be considered a Healthcare component of the project, it must be the grantee's intention that the activity result in improved participation in self-care or care of others. Activities performed by healthcare institutions are intended to increase elements of the provision and administration of healthcare services.

The evaluation study team gathered data related to focus area impacts from evaluation study participants during site visits. The following subsections present a summary of the economic and social benefits described in case study reports.

### 4.1 Healthcare Potential Benefits

Table 4 presents the potential social and economic benefits related to Healthcare identified in literature and defined in *Interim Report 1*.

**Table 4. Healthcare: Potential Social and Economic Benefits**

**Benefits to Patients**

- Improved patient information resulting from ease of accessibility, interactive features, and anonymity<sup>224</sup>
- Improved patient choice of provider and treatment options<sup>225</sup>
- Improved treatment outcomes for physical and mental illness<sup>226</sup>
- Lower patient cost in time and transportation vs. telephone calls or face-to-face visits<sup>227</sup>
- Improved patient care seeking<sup>228</sup>
- More effective health promotion and disease prevention programs<sup>229</sup>
- Faster, more accurate prescriptions<sup>230</sup>
- Improved patient access to healthcare records and test results<sup>231</sup>
- Reduction in duplicative paperwork and tests<sup>232</sup>
- Improved ongoing care<sup>233</sup>
- Improved patient outcomes by providing daily monitoring<sup>234</sup>
- Reduced home care costs by reducing the number of unnecessary in-home visits<sup>235</sup>
- Reduced hospital length of stay (LOS)<sup>236</sup>
- Improved privacy and convenience in obtaining prescription medication or ordering medications<sup>237</sup>
- Greater availability of drugs for shut-in people, those who live far from a pharmacy, or those in rural areas with limited pharmacy options<sup>238</sup>
- Improved access to written product information<sup>239</sup>
- Reduced cost of online prescription drugs<sup>240</sup>
- Reduced drug interactions resulting from multiple prescriptions from different providers<sup>241</sup>
- Improved patient-to-patient networking and support<sup>242</sup>

**Benefits to Healthcare Providers**

- Cost savings from reduced unnecessary face-to-face time between health professionals and the “worried well”<sup>243</sup>
- More convenient access to medical care because of asynchronous communications<sup>244</sup>
- More complete medical records at lower cost<sup>245</sup>
- Improved patient-provider relationship building<sup>246</sup>
- Rapid information sharing among all healthcare providers for the same patient<sup>247</sup>
- Improved appointment and treatment scheduling<sup>248</sup>
- Improved range of health services<sup>249</sup>

**4.2 PCC and SBA Healthcare Impacts**

**4.2.1 PCC and SBA Healthcare Overview**

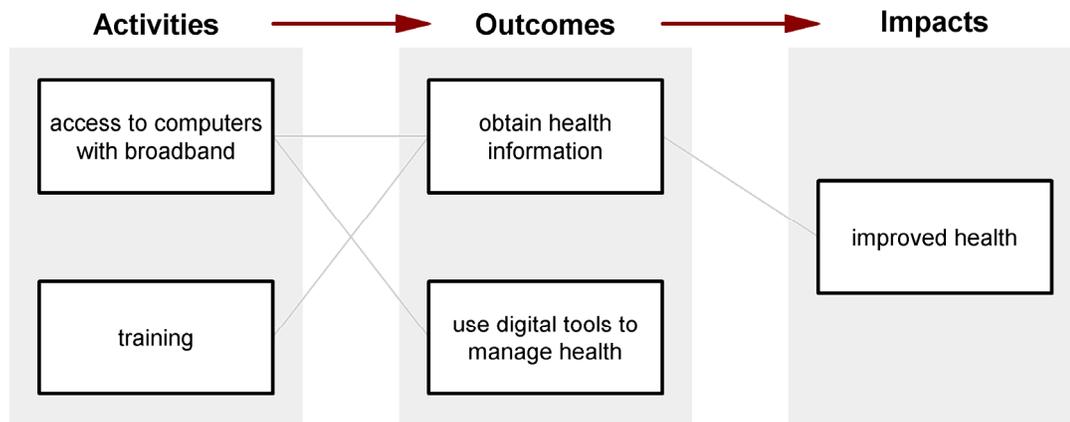
The evaluation study team analyzed Round 2 case study reports with computer-assisted qualitative data analysis software to identify the associations between activities, outcomes, and impacts as reported by grantees. ASR employed benefits identified in literature to classify impacts, and in some cases outcomes. ASR aggregated similar results to find examples that may be representative of the benefits realized by BTOP grants outside of the evaluation study sample.

Figure 6 below shows the relationships among activities, outcomes, and impacts of the selected case study grants. Individual activities, outcomes, and impacts observed by the evaluation study team are included as boxes in the figure. Lines between boxes represent the different relationships identified by the evaluation study team. The figure only includes relationships observed in two or

more grants. The lines also vary in color and thickness based on the number of grants exemplifying the relationship: relationships identified in two or three grants are identified by thin gray lines; relationships identified in four or five grants are identified by thin, red lines; and relationships identified in six or more grants are represented by thick red lines.

Healthcare was not the primary focus of any of the PCC and SBA grants included in the evaluation study sample. Of the benefits highlighted in the table above, few grantees reported impacts or collected data related to patient health and well-being. The few observed impacts stemmed from a small range of activities and outcomes.

**Figure 6. PCC and SBA Healthcare Impacts**



The subsections below define the activities, outcomes, and impacts presented in the figure above. Select PCC and SBA case study grants provide examples to illustrate impacts.

#### 4.2.2 PCC and SBA Healthcare Activities

The primary activities that led to Healthcare impacts were providing access to computers or devices with broadband connectivity and offering training in the use of digital tools.

- **Access to computers with broadband:** Grantees provided participants with access to computer labs with broadband connections.<sup>250</sup> In some cases, grantees distributed a limited number of personal devices for home use.<sup>251</sup>
- **Training:** Grantees offered training to teach participants how to use health-focused digital tools and locate reliable health-related information and resources online.<sup>252</sup>

#### 4.2.3 PCC and SBA Healthcare Outcomes

The activities described above lead to the acquisition of health-related information and the ability to use digital tools in managing health. The outcomes defined below include those that the site visit team observed leading to Healthcare impacts during site visits.

- **Obtain health information:** Patrons used broadband to access health-related information online.<sup>253</sup> In some cases, projects provided training to aid users in locating reliable health-related information on the Internet.<sup>254</sup>
- **Use digital tools to manage health:** Patients used grant-funded resources to access digital tools to manage their own health or the health of a family member or friend.<sup>255</sup> Some grants provided users with training to use digital tools that aid in managing health outcomes.<sup>256</sup> Providers learned to use telehealth tools and resources.<sup>257</sup>

#### 4.2.4 PCC and SBA Healthcare Impacts

Due to data limitations, grantees had limited evidence to demonstrate improvements in patients' health. The following list provides illustrative examples drawn from case study reports.

- **Improved health:** Using computers with broadband access to obtain health-related information and digital tools to manage health enabled some participants to improve their health conditions.<sup>258</sup>
  - **Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU):** The Bond Community Health Center's Men's Health Program used the Center for Public Computing and Workforce Development (CPCWD) to access the My Fitness Pal website and mobile application to promote healthier, more active lifestyles among uninsured or underinsured men. Participants used the CPCWD computers to access online resources and received training to use the technology to track caloric intake and exercise. The men learned healthier eating habits and developed exercise routines. The program manager reported that some participants lost weight and improved their health through the program.<sup>259</sup>
  - **Urban Affairs Coalition (UAC):** Patrons improved their ability to care for themselves or family members suffering from a health-related issue. Social service organizations participating as project partners offered patrons access to health information online. Trainers assisted computer center patrons in locating reliable healthcare information online and suggested additional health and social services available through partner organizations.<sup>260</sup>

#### 4.2.5 PCC and SBA Healthcare Longitudinal Analysis

The purpose of the longitudinal analysis is to compare observations from Round 1 with observations from Round 2 to identify changes over time. The evaluation study team will use these data in the *Final Report* to assess the impact of BTOP. In *Interim Report 1*, the evaluation study team presented a selection of baseline activities and outcomes observed during site visits conducted between July and December 2011 for each of the five focus areas presented in *Interim Report 1*. The evaluation study team identified data elements to measure potential benefits, based on the data grantees reported collecting or intended to collect.

During Round 2 site visits, performed between January and June 2013, the evaluation study team obtained the data related to the potential benefits defined in *Interim Report 1* from case study participants, when such information was available. The data show that grant-provided programs and resources successfully supported patients accessing reliable health information online, and providers using more telehealth applications.

- Developing awareness of health resources made available by broadband Internet, including websites, videos, support groups, and connections to medical providers
  - **California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF):** CETF subrecipient Center for Accessible Technology (CforAT) created, delivered, and archived webinars via a fully accessible virtual classroom on accessibility-related topics and accessing healthcare information online. As of June 11, 2013, there have been 29,435 unique visitors to the website, well above CforAT's goal of 5,000. As of January 2013, CforAT had provided 39 webinars to 1,100 participants.<sup>261</sup> The webinars remain accessible through the website. CforAT noted that individuals who had begun to experience debilitating conditions that could affect their future work prospects attended some of its webinars focusing on adaptive technologies for the disabled. Especially common were repetitive strain injuries (RSI) due to workplace conditions.<sup>262</sup>
  - **Connect Arkansas:** Connect Arkansas broadcasted a video developed by the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) ("Jennifer's Story") to explain telehealth to viewers. The American Telemedicine Association (ATA) featured "Jennifer's Story" on its

homepage. The video received 14,365 views between July 12, 2011, and April 28, 2013. Connect Arkansas created thirty-two videos over the course of the project. UAMS recorded a total of 17,998 views across all videos as of April 28, 2013.

- **Connect Arkansas:** Connect Arkansas provided users access to Quarterly Thought Symposium webinars on telehealth topics. Live quarterly webinars featured programs such as “Breakdown,” which discussed in-depth current topics in telehealth, and “30 Seconds with a Telehealth Expert,” which featured expert advice for establishing a telehealth network. As of February 28, 2013, a total of 483 participants attended these webinars.<sup>263</sup>
- **Connect Arkansas:** UAMS developed Learntelehealth.org to provide users online access to telehealth information, resources, and training modules. As of February 28, 2013, nearly 5,000 unique users had visited Learntelehealth.org, generating 8,292 total site visits. Nearly 1,200 users registered as members on the site.<sup>264</sup>
- Using broadband to obtain health information
  - **Connect Arkansas:** UAMS offered online training on the following topics: Overview of Telehealth, Telehealth Equipment, TelePresenting Best Practices, Building Your Telehealth Team, Creating Your Telehealth Project Plan, and Telemedicine Credentialing and Privileging. Since implementing the training modules in March 2011, users participated in 1,197 sessions. Users were able to complete tests and assessments to verify their knowledge. Of the 1,197 sessions, 31 percent of the users completed sessions. Of those completing a session, 98 percent achieved a passing grade.<sup>265</sup>
  - **Future Generations Graduate School (Future Generations):** The web-based course “Living a Life with Chronic Conditions” provides content on chronic disease and a self-health management course. Thirty lab mentors who completed the course became aware of online healthcare resources and learned techniques to aid in caring for family members suffering from a chronic disease. Mentors supported PCC patrons seeking healthcare information online and suggested caregiving techniques for patrons to use.<sup>266</sup>
  - **Urban Affairs Coalition (UAC):** UAC provided training in using the Internet to access reliable HIV/AIDS information, including understanding the importance of authority and currency with HIV/AIDS information. Philadelphia FIGHT, a project partner, reported training and participant data for other types of training, but no data were provided for HIV/AIDS information training. Philadelphia FIGHT provided patrons with assistance and instruction in locating health-related information on the Internet, including health problems that affect the progression of HIV/AIDS such as diabetes, heart disease, and hypertension. In addition, clients had access to the AIDS Library, where they could take courses and ask the staff about specific health questions. FIGHT also offered assistance on how to use newly developed smartphone applications to access reliable health information. Patrons used the information found online and in the AIDS Library to manage their health.<sup>267</sup>
- Communicating with a healthcare provider online
  - **CETF:** CETF provided “ask the expert” opinions where experts in the field answer user questions regarding a particular disability. As of January 2013, CforAT staff members responded to more than seventy “ask the expert” questions submitted over the web.<sup>268</sup> Interviewees reported that the program engaged editors from around the country as experts on accessible technology.<sup>269</sup> Answers to success stories helped individuals to find information on accessible technologies that was not otherwise available from online sources.
- Providing self-care or care for another based on information obtained from the Internet
  - **C.K. Blandin Foundation (C.K. Blandin):** C.K. Blandin provided touchscreen computers to ten seniors and laptops to their relatives (fifteen total) loaded with HomeStream software so seniors can engage in telemedicine and telehealth activities with support from their families. The Demonstration Community partners reported that ten seniors were eager to participate and are still using the computers in their homes. Instead of using the HomeStream software, seniors began using more general teleconference software to communicate with their families and communities about healthcare and other topics.

According to the project partner, the seniors are more engaged in the community. During the award period, all ten seniors who participated in the pilot were able to continue living in their homes.<sup>270</sup>

- Teaching healthcare providers about broadband-enabled technologies and practices that can be used by their patients
  - **Connect Arkansas:** Staff members visit individual healthcare facilities to teach staff how to use the Internet for distance health learning. Training options include “Telehealth 101” and hands-on workshops for a wide range of equipment. As of March 31 2013, UAMS had delivered 790 onsite training sessions.<sup>271</sup> UAMS estimated it had visited nearly 80 percent of the facilities that received equipment through the UAMS CCI project.<sup>272</sup>
  - **Connect Arkansas:** “Telehealth 101” provides an overview of telehealth, relevant technologies, strategy development, and sustainability. It is available as a live webinar and onsite training. As of March 31, 2013, 919 users had completed the Telehealth 101 training program, acquiring a fundamental understanding of the online technology. Approximately 80 percent of Telehealth 101 participants indicated that they were new to the topic of telehealth. UAMS reported that the training provided information on telehealth technologies and mitigated anxiety about using these technologies for the first time.<sup>273</sup>

#### 4.2.6 Potential Future PCC and SBA Healthcare Impacts

In addition to the impacts described above, the evaluation study team observed outcomes that were not directly linked to observed impacts but that may lead to impacts in the future. These outcomes included individuals learning to find information related to specific conditions online, completing training to care for chronic conditions, learning techniques for implementing telehealth programs, communicating with healthcare providers electronically, and monitoring the condition of friends and family.<sup>274</sup> Projects that achieved similar outcomes, but did not collect quantitative or qualitative data related to impacts, include those described below. These potential impacts are not included in the analysis above and they may or may not occur.

- **Connect Arkansas:** Telehealth services saved practitioners and patients time and money in transportation, and offered patients facilitated access to improved treatment options. UAMS provided training and resources for healthcare providers to support the implementation of telehealth services. UAMS also implemented an outreach campaign to promote the benefits of telehealth for both patients and providers. The campaign included a program website featuring informational resources, educational videos, training modules, and games focused on telehealth. Through a combination of onsite training, online training, webinars, and seminars, UAMS delivered 4,122 hours of telehealth training to 1,512 people during the award period. More than 900 users completed the Telehealth 101 training program, acquiring a fundamental understanding of the online technology.<sup>275</sup> The provision of this training is likely to result in practitioners increasing the range of healthcare services available through the adoption of telehealth.<sup>276</sup>
- **Urban Affairs Coalition (UAC):** Philadelphia FIGHT provided patrons with assistance and instruction in locating health-related information on the Internet, including health problems that affect the progression of HIV/AIDS such as diabetes, heart disease, and hypertension. Clients had access to the AIDS Library, where they could take courses and ask the staff health questions. Patrons used the information found online and in the AIDS Library to manage their health.<sup>277</sup> Obtaining access to information related to an existing condition is likely to improve participants’ ability to seek care.<sup>278</sup>
- **Future Generations Graduate School (Future Generations):** As of February 2013, thirty lab mentors completed the Chronic Disease Self-Management training course, improving awareness of online resources and techniques to aid in caring for family members suffering from a chronic disease. Lab mentors provided guidance to computer center patrons seeking healthcare information online and suggested techniques to use as caregivers.<sup>279</sup> Transferring

this knowledge is likely to result in improved ongoing care for those suffering from chronic conditions.<sup>280</sup>

## 4.3 CCI Healthcare Impacts

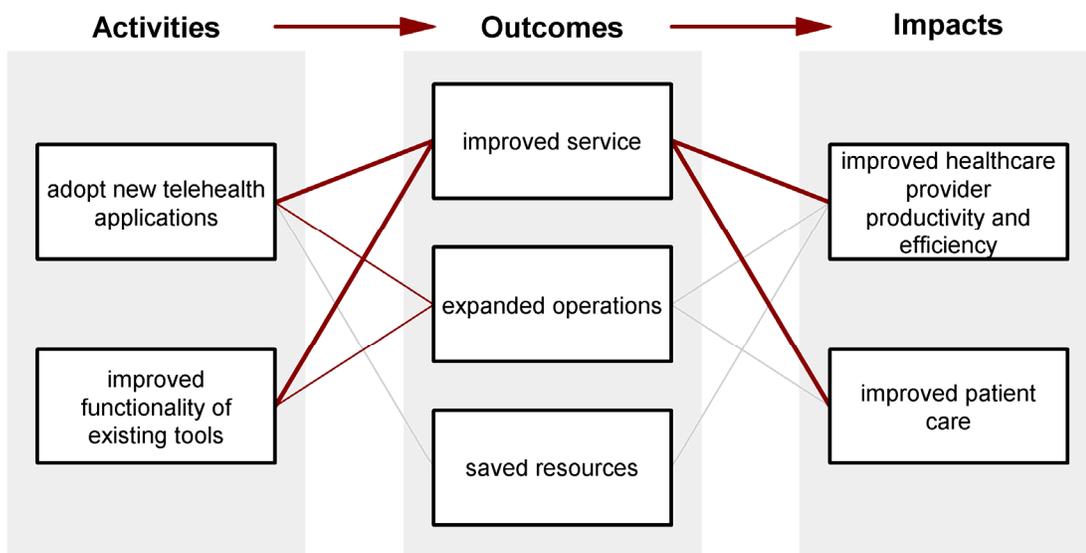
### 4.3.1 CCI Healthcare Overview

The evaluation study team analyzed CCI case study reports with computer-assisted qualitative data analysis software to identify the associations between activities, outcomes, and impacts as reported by grantees. ASR employed benefits identified in literature to classify impacts, and in some cases outcomes. ASR aggregated similar results to find examples that may be representative of the benefits realized by BTOP grants outside of the evaluation study sample.

Figure 7 below shows the relationships among activities, outcomes, and impacts of the selected case study grants. Individual activities, outcomes, and impacts observed by the evaluation study team are included as boxes in the figure. Lines between boxes represent the different relationships identified by the evaluation study team. The figure only includes relationships observed in two or more grants. The lines also vary in color and thickness based on the number of grants exemplifying the relationship: relationships identified in two or three grants are identified by thin gray lines; relationships identified in four or five grants are identified by thin, red lines; and relationships identified in six or more grants are represented by thick red lines. Impacts stemmed from a variety of activities and outcomes.

Observations reported by interviewees indicated that healthcare providers realized the majority of benefits in the Healthcare focus area for CCI projects. Improved provider productivity and efficiency was the most frequently observed impact among the grants included in the evaluation study sample, although interviewees also reported patients obtaining improved care. These categories are not mutually exclusive. Many healthcare activities will result in multiple types of impacts. For example, video consults between staff members in rural clinics and specialists in larger hospitals can increase provider efficiency and improve patient care.

**Figure 7. CCI Healthcare Impacts**



The subsections below define the activities, outcomes, and impacts presented in the figure above. Select CCI case study grants provide examples to illustrate impacts.

### 4.3.2 CCI Healthcare Activities

Activities include services or products implemented by CAIs and partners that reached targeted participants or populations. The primary activities that led to impacts were adopting new telehealth applications and improving the functionality of existing tools.

- **Adopt new telehealth applications:** Increased bandwidth and improved network reliability obtained by connecting to CCI grant-funded fiber enabled CAIs to implement new telehealth applications to support organizational operations and services provided to patients.<sup>281</sup>
- **Improve functionality of existing tools:** The bandwidth provided through the CCI grant-funded fiber connections enable healthcare providers to use tools, applications, and systems previously hindered by bandwidth limitations.<sup>282</sup>

### 4.3.3 CCI Healthcare Outcomes

The activities described above lead to the following outcomes:

- **Improved service:** Increased capacity to use broadband-dependent tools and applications enable healthcare providers to improve services. Patients benefited from these services before the grant, but grant-funded activities allowed providers to serve patients faster or more reliably. CAIs realized improvements in service after improving tools they were already using, and adopting new ones.<sup>283</sup> New services included the ability to track vital health statistics during in-home visits and the increased use of telemedicine.
- **Expanded operations:** Healthcare providers use broadband networks to offer new types of service to patients, or expand existing services to a new geographic area, including interactive video consultations with health and mental health specialists. This outcome was most frequently the result of the adoption of new telehealth applications.<sup>284</sup>
- **Saved resources:** Healthcare providers saved time and money. This outcome was primarily the result of adopting applications that allowed for the improved transmission of information, typically with video communications, between facilities.<sup>285</sup>

### 4.3.4 CCI Healthcare Impacts

The most prevalent impacts in this focus area include improved healthcare provider productivity and efficiency, improved patient care, and increased convenience for patients. The following list provides illustrative examples drawn from case study reports.

- **Improved healthcare provider productivity and efficiency:** Healthcare providers use broadband-enabled technologies to increase the efficiency of internal operations.<sup>286</sup> These operations primarily include transferring patient data between facilities, including medical records and radiological images.<sup>287</sup> Efficiencies also result from the use of video conferencing between facilities.<sup>288</sup> Some healthcare facilities were able to provide the same services with fewer employees or in a shorter period time.<sup>289</sup>
  - **Executive Office of the State of West Virginia (West Virginia):** The West Virginia state trauma network includes five medical command centers. When a trauma incident occurs, paramedics relay patient information to a doctor at the medical command center. The doctor gives the paramedic directions for stabilizing the patient, including any drugs to administer. The command center also relies on feedback from paramedics to determine where to transport the patient. Before BTOP, these communications traveled on a microwave system. The new network, which is a dual microwave and fiber system, can accommodate more data, which has resulted in faster, clearer communications between command centers and those in the field.<sup>290</sup>

- **OSHEAN:** Connection to the network enables the CharterCARE health system to implement new applications, such as teleconferencing, telemedicine, and, in the future, virtual intensive care unit (ICU) services. CharterCARE explained that inpatient volumes are declining, and sharing staff across facilities is a cost-effective response to reduced resource needs. The ability to share pertinent data, such as records and radiology results, among locations facilitates the sharing of staff.<sup>291</sup>
- **OneCommunity:** The increased bandwidth provided by OneCommunity supports Magruder Hospital's electronic medical record (EMR) system. The EMR system helps Magruder Hospital to improve patient safety and timeliness of treatment. The EMR system has improved the functionality of Magruder's prescription system by reducing the time between the issuing of a prescription and the dispensing of medication from two-and-a-half hours to five minutes. The EMR system includes automated dispensing cabinets that increase the accuracy of prescriptions.<sup>292</sup>
- **Improved patient care:** Healthcare providers use broadband-enabled technologies to improve the health of those they serve.<sup>293</sup> Across CCI projects, this impact was most often observed after CAI activities allowed healthcare providers to improve existing services.<sup>294</sup> The adoption of broadband-enabled technologies also facilitates faster and more convenient access to healthcare. For example, patients are able to obtain healthcare services closer to home.<sup>295</sup>
  - **University of Arkansas System (UAS):** The Arkansas Stroke Assistance through Virtual Emergency Support (AR SAVES) program provides remote consultations for emergency room (ER) patients exhibiting stroke symptoms. AR SAVES links forty hospitals to neurologists at UAMS and at St. Edward Mercy Medical Center in Fort Smith, twenty-four hours a day. The neurologist can evaluate the patient and determine whether it is safe to administer tPA, a blood clot-busting drug. Administering the drug as soon as possible minimizes the side effects of stroke. The window of time for administering the drug is often missed when patients at a rural hospital must be transported to a larger facility that is equipped to evaluate stroke victims. AR SAVES reduces the need for transfers and allows patients to receive tPA in a shorter time. As a result, the chances of recovery are significantly improved, as is quality of life post-stroke. While the AR SAVES program operated before the Arkansas e-Link initiative, enhancements to the network and the distribution of teleconference-enabling units among hospitals enabled the AR SAVES program to grow. In the 2013 fiscal year alone, 594 patients were seen through AR SAVES and 151 doses of tPA were administered. This accounts for more than a third of all AR SAVES consults and more than 62 percent of tPA doses administered since the program's inception in 2008.<sup>296</sup>
  - **Lane Council of Governments (LCOG):** Some PeaceHealth clinics that have connected through the grant-funded fiber use the increased connection to support telehealth initiatives using mobile video conferencing carts at remote locations. These include interpretive services for non-English speakers and people with disabilities, and tele-stroke applications. For example, the PeaceHealth medical center in Florence, Oregon is piloting a tele-stroke program to provide on-call support and e-consults between doctors at the clinic and neurology specialists. These consultations can decrease the diagnosis time and provide faster access to treatment, which can save lives.<sup>297</sup> **UAS:** The project has allowed a healthcare provider to implement telemedicine practices at twelve of its sixteen sites. Telemedicine activities have significantly increased access to mental and behavioral healthcare for the rural, impoverished region that has had difficulty attracting doctors. Using telemedicine equipment to conduct patient sessions gives doctors more time to see patients, as they do not have to travel. Eliminating the need for patient travel minimizes the number of missed appointments and instances of discontinued care.<sup>298</sup>

#### 4.3.5 Potential Future CCI Healthcare Impacts

Some projects provided resources and services targeting healthcare providers and patients, although they had limited data related to observed impacts.<sup>299</sup> Projects that achieved similar

outcomes, but did not collect quantitative or qualitative data related to impacts, include those described below. These potential impacts are not included in the analysis above and they may or may not occur.

- **Massachusetts Technology Park (MassTech):** The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) expects that, due to the new fiber connections in western Massachusetts, it will be able to provide inmate telemedicine in correctional facilities. This could save money and time, and improve inmate healthcare.<sup>300</sup>
- **Merit Network, Inc. (Merit):** North Country Community Mental Health is piloting the use of tele-psychiatry to communicate with other doctors' offices rather than clients' homes. The agency is participating in a University of Michigan program called Michigan Child Collaborative Care (MC3) to provide consulting psychiatry service to primary healthcare providers that are managing pediatric patients with behavioral health problems. The MC3 program would allow psychiatrists to consult with primary care physicians and their patients so that they can better manage behavioral health issues.<sup>301</sup>

## Section 5. Government Services Impacts

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This section describes the Government Services impacts of the BTOP projects in the evaluation study sample. This focus area identifies how broadband improves services provided by government organizations to the public and includes both the provision and administration of public safety activities. Some government service impacts include enhanced government efficiency, improved continuity of services after disasters, and improved information sharing between citizens and government entities.

The evaluation study team gathered data related to focus area impacts from evaluation study participants during CCI site visits. The following subsections present an introduction to the Government Services focus area and a summary of the economic and social benefits described in the CCI case study reports.

### 5.1 Government Service Potential Benefits

The Government Services focus area was included in CCI case study reports to analyze benefits to CAIs, including government and public safety agencies such as law enforcement agencies, fire departments, and EMS. This section situates these benefits in the literature on how broadband affects public safety and other government institutions.

#### 5.1.1 Broadband and Government

Local, state, and federal government agencies are implementing new practices that make use of broadband technologies to increase internal efficiency and improve communication with citizens.<sup>302</sup> In 2009, 87 percent of adults agreed that it was important for governments to provide information to the public on government websites, and 46 percent of Internet users used the web to look up services provided by public agencies.<sup>303</sup>

The benefit discussed most often in the literature on government use of broadband is an improvement in operational efficiencies. For example, a 2008 study in the United Kingdom found that the cost of issuing vehicle excise licenses was cut by 45 percent after the process was moved online, saving the government about £8 million per year. Eighteen million people used the new system in 2008.<sup>304</sup> In the United States, the federal Office of Management and Budget reported to Congress that certain federal e-government initiatives resulted in efficiencies totaling \$508 million in fiscal year 2008. The United Nations estimated that e-government initiatives could result in cost savings between 10 and 50 percent.<sup>305</sup>

Broadband networks can also increase citizen access to government services and information, saving them time and improving government-citizen interaction. Van der Wee et al. (2012) found that the largest quantifiable benefit of transitioning from DSL to fiber broadband was a cost savings for citizens who would not have to travel to access government services.<sup>306</sup> In Austria, an e-government registry automatically shares birth and marriage certificates between agencies without requiring individuals to request and transport the documents.<sup>307</sup> In Virginia, residents can check wait times for services from the Department of Motor Vehicles.<sup>308</sup> Government agencies at all levels have published an increasing amount of government information online, including meeting minutes, policy proposals, reports, and information on where to find services. Some agencies have also established online forums and blogs to foster policy discussions with citizens.<sup>309</sup>

## 5.1.2 Broadband and Public Safety

One of the five core purposes established by the Recovery Act for BTOP was to “improve access to, and use of, broadband service by public safety agencies.” In 2007, the Benton Foundation concluded that public safety communication networks were too outdated to respond adequately to emergencies, disasters, and systemic failures.<sup>310</sup> In the last several years, government programs have supported public safety agencies’ adoption of broadband-based technologies to improve communications and services.<sup>311</sup>

One important benefit of broadband networks is an improved ability for government agencies to respond to incidents and emergencies. Police officers can use wireless networks to access the FBI’s National Crime Information Center in the field to quickly access fingerprint records, mug shots, and criminal histories. Firefighters can check traffic patterns and use electronic building plans to reduce response time.<sup>312</sup> In Minneapolis, a public Wi-Fi network helped the city respond successfully to a major bridge collapse. Within twelve hours, emergency workers had audio and visual access to the entire bridge collapse area. The network connected government officials, emergency workers, families of victims, and ordinary citizens.<sup>313</sup>

Public safety agencies can also use broadband networks to transmit large amounts of video in real-time, which can increase their ability to monitor high-crime areas and public safety facilities, including jails and prisons. Remote monitoring can help law enforcement officials both to prevent and to respond better to incidents. This deters potential offenders, and helps police investigate crimes and identify suspects with more accuracy.<sup>314</sup>

Table 5 presents the potential social and economic benefits related to Government Services identified in literature. These benefits accrue as a result of streamlined intranet systems, broadband-based software applications, reliable data backups, reduced travel, and the easy dissemination of information using the Internet.

**Table 5. Government Services: Potential Social and Economic Benefits**

**Benefits to Government Agencies**

- The use of broadband at all levels of government allows government entities to deliver services more efficiently. Intranet systems enable the secure and rapid exchange of information among government agencies. Governments are also able to store and safeguard massive quantities of data. By streamlining in-house operations with the use of broadband-supported tools, governments realize greater internal efficiency and productivity.<sup>315</sup>
- Public safety entities, including police, fire, and emergency medical personnel, can reduce response times and improve the quality of services they provide with the use of broadband-supported applications and equipment.<sup>316</sup>
- Law enforcement, investigative, and intelligence agencies may use broadband for incident prevention. Security and surveillance activities enabled by broadband, such as those that use global positioning system (GPS) technologies, reduce costs, counteract crime and acts of terror, save lives, and avoid injuries.<sup>317</sup>
- Broadband connectivity helps to preserve continuity of government operations in the wake of disasters or epidemics.<sup>318</sup>
- Broadband capabilities reduce the need to travel, through telework opportunities or online services.<sup>319</sup>

**Benefits to the Public**

- Broadband improves the relationship between governments and their constituents. Diffusion of online information engages citizens and enhances transparency of government agencies.<sup>320</sup>
- Online tools allow government entities to offer better customer service and support.<sup>321</sup>
- The availability of online government or social services increases accessibility for disabled citizens.<sup>322</sup>
- Communication supported by broadband allows for greater information sharing between public safety entities and citizens.<sup>323</sup>

**5.2 CCI Government Services Impacts**

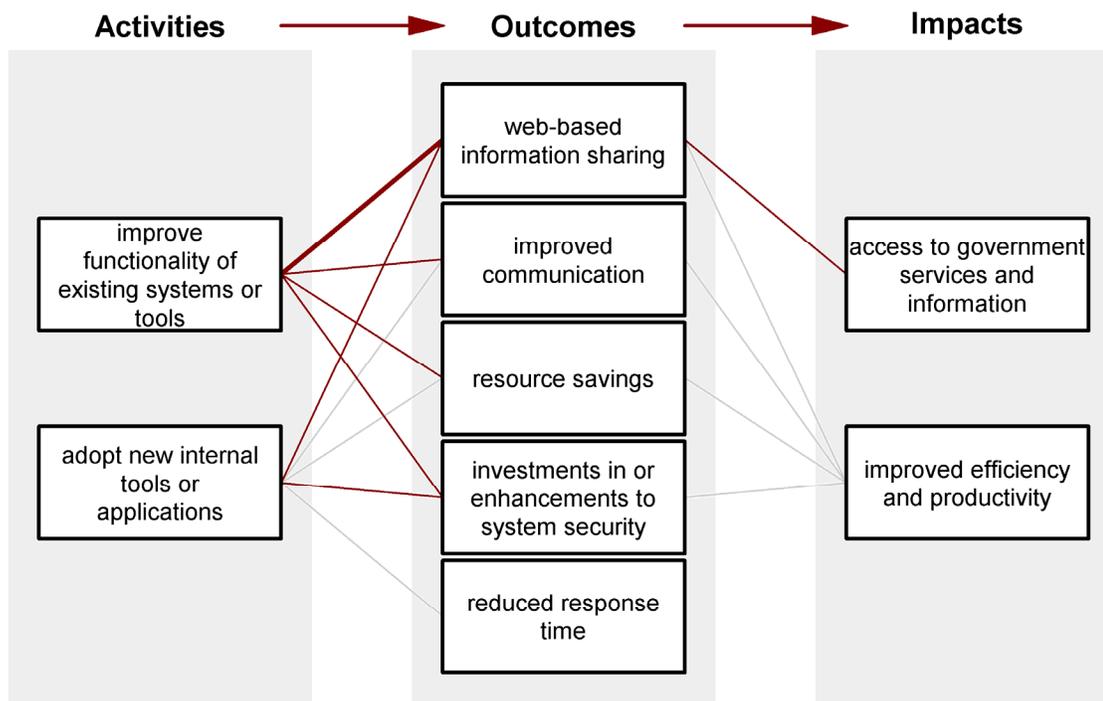
**5.2.1 CCI Government Services Overview**

The evaluation study team analyzed CCI case study reports with computer-assisted qualitative data analysis software to identify the associations between activities, outcomes, and impacts as reported by grantees. ASR employed benefits identified in literature to classify impacts, and in some cases outcomes. ASR aggregated similar results to find examples that may be representative of the benefits realized by BTOP grants outside of the evaluation study sample.

Figure 8 below shows the relationships among activities, outcomes, and impacts of the selected case study grants. Individual activities, outcomes, and impacts observed by the evaluation study team are included as boxes in the figure. Lines between boxes represent the different relationships identified by the evaluation study team. The figure only includes relationships observed in two or more grants. The lines also vary in color and thickness based on the number of grants exemplifying the relationship: relationships identified in two or three grants are identified by thin gray lines; relationships identified in four or five grants are identified by thin, red lines; and relationships identified in six or more grants are represented by thick red lines.

State and local government agencies received improved connectivity as a result of the CCI projects. The increased bandwidth supported operations and service delivery activities of government administrative offices, courthouses, jails, and public safety agencies. Of the potential benefits listed in Table 5, the impacts most often cited by interviewees on site visits were improved operational efficiency and enhanced access to government services and information.

**Figure 8. CCI Government Services Impacts**



The subsections below define the activities, outcomes, and impacts presented in the figure. Select CCI case study grants provide examples to illustrate impacts.

### 5.2.2 CCI Government Services Activities

Activities include services or products implemented by CAIs and partners that reached targeted participants or populations. The primary activities that led to impacts included realizing improvements in the functionality of existing tools and systems, and adopting new internal tools or services.

- **Improve functionality of existing systems or tools:** The bandwidth provided through the grant-funded fiber connections enable CAIs and project beneficiaries to use tools, applications, and systems previously hindered by bandwidth limitations to support organizational operations.<sup>324</sup>
- **Adopt new internal tools or applications:** Increased bandwidth and improved network reliability obtained by connecting to grant-funded fiber allowed government organizations and other CAIs to invest in equipment, applications, or upgrades that bandwidth limitations previously prohibited.<sup>325</sup>

### 5.2.3 CCI Government Services Outcomes

The activities described above increased web-based information sharing, improved communication, saved resources, enhanced system security, and reduced the amount of time required to respond to service disruptions. The outcomes defined below are not a complete list of outcomes from grantee activities, but rather those that the evaluation study team observed leading to Government Services impacts.

- **Web-based information sharing:** Adopting new or realizing improvements in the functionality of existing systems enabled CAIs to access and share resources digitally, including large datasets and video content. Some CAIs use new wide area network (WAN) connectivity to collaborate in real-time with partner organizations or remotely located staff.<sup>326</sup> Enhanced connectivity allows government agencies to move from paper-based to paperless information platforms.<sup>327</sup> Web-based information sharing may also include CAIs leveraging increased bandwidth to access interactive training programs or digital media.<sup>328</sup>
- **Improved communication:** The effective delivery of government and public safety services often requires the coordinated efforts of several departments, agencies, or systems, and is dependent upon reliable communication. Improved broadband connectivity provided by grant-funded fiber networks enabled CAIs to realize improvements to existing or implement new communication mechanisms, improving the speed and accuracy of information shared with colleagues, citizens, and other organizations.<sup>329</sup>
- **Resource savings:** CAIs saved both personnel hours and money by using the increased bandwidth to operate resource-saving tools or applications.<sup>330</sup>
- **Investments in or enhancements to system security:** Interviewees reported that the improved functionality of existing systems enabled them to implement or invest in the development of security mechanisms including disaster recovery, remote backups, and video surveillance.<sup>331</sup>
- **Reduced response time:** Using connectivity to new fiber networks enabled CAIs to adopt bandwidth-intensive applications, which helped to reduce the amount of time required to respond to and resolve service outages.<sup>332</sup>

### 5.2.4 CCI Government Services Impacts

The most prevalent Government Services impacts reported by interviewees include organizational efficiency gains and improved access to government services and information. The enhanced connectivity provided by the grants also allowed government agencies to realize improved internal efficiencies.<sup>333</sup> The following list provides illustrative examples drawn from case study reports.

- **Access to government services and information:** Web-based information sharing facilitates the increase of online government services and content. By adopting digital information platforms, government organizations enhance the feasibility of submitting forms and applications, and communicating with agencies, officials, or representatives. Citizens can also use online applications to fill out forms or communicate with public safety agencies.<sup>334</sup>
  - **South Dakota Network, LLC (SDN):** The increased network capacity and direct access at many government facilities has enabled more efficient government services, including Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). It allows the government to offer services consistently across the state, whether residents live in urban or rural areas.<sup>335</sup>
  - **OSHEAN:** The Emergency Operations Center in Providence, Rhode Island is connected to BTOP-funded fiber and houses a studio to conduct press conferences with television and radio news channels, helping to ensure that accurate information is released to the public. Media representatives are able to remain within this facility during emergencies to ensure that information is immediately disseminated to the public as it is released.<sup>336</sup>

- **Improved efficiency and productivity:** Organizations most commonly realized improvements to organizational efficiency as a result of improved communication, web-based information sharing, and resource savings. CCI projects increased bandwidth and network redundancy, allowing for the deployment of bandwidth-intensive devices, systems, and applications that streamline daily operations, improving the ability to achieve agency goals or provide services in support of organizational missions. Increased bandwidth also supports the efficient transfer of information and the use of equipment and applications that provide situational awareness critical to ensuring the continuity of services during emergencies.<sup>337</sup>
  - **OneCommunity:** Cuyahoga County uses its fiber network and the affordability of service through OneCommunity to provide connectivity to support emergency services, including police headquarters, dispatchers, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, and police vehicles. The Cuyahoga Regional Information Services emergency system equips public safety vehicles with computers and license plate scanners, enabling law enforcement officers to access criminal records while on patrol.<sup>338</sup>
  - **OSHEAN:** The Providence Department of Public Safety's Emergency Operations Center uses the Beacon 2.0 network to communicate with the Providence Department of Public Works (DPW), which was connected to fiber through the project. Connecting to fiber improved the DPW's ability to deploy resources. The DPW central office is able to communicate with trucks and vendors in the field in real-time, improving awareness of blockages and resources in the field. For example, an internal map analyzes GPS data from trucks and reports the time elapsed since a plow last cleared a particular street. Emergency and rescue services use this information to devise response strategies, such as determining the route a fire truck should take. Real-time data sharing was not possible before obtaining the fiber connection.<sup>339</sup>
  - **Executive Office of the State of West Virginia (West Virginia):** The project expanded the state's radio network by adding twelve new towers and funding upgrades to the existing tower sites. These additions and upgrades enabled the deployment of a new type of technology for radio communications that is more reliable and easier to manage remotely. Before the grant, if microwave communications were severed, public safety microwave tower sites remained out of service until a tower crew made repairs, taking up to eighteen hours in severe cases. The new, grant-funded IP-based system reroutes traffic during outages eliminating downtime during repairs. The State Interoperable Radio Network (SIRN) connections enabled more robust, reliable communication during storms. Additionally, each tower site has two dishes for redundancy in case one falls out of alignment. SIRN was relied upon for response efforts following a severe land storm in July 2012 and the after-effects of Hurricane Sandy in October 2012. SIRN representatives reported that the network functioned smoothly through both storms and no tower outages occurred.<sup>340</sup>

## 5.2.5 Potential Future CCI Government Services Benefits

In addition to the impacts described above, the evaluation study team observed Government Services outcomes that did not directly result in impacts. The potential benefits identified in the interviews focused on service continuity, access to online government services, emergency response, and operational efficiency.<sup>341</sup> These potential impacts are not included in the analysis above and they may or may not occur.

- **Zayo Bandwidth, LLC (Zayo):** The Utilities District of Western Indiana (UDWI) provides service to fire stations, volunteer fire departments, a regional airport in Bloomington, several schools, and government contractors through the Crane Naval Base. During severe storms, fire departments and schools serve as emergency shelters. UDWI's emergency response plan makes a priority of providing shelter locations with electrical power in the event of an outage. An automated switching scheme, enabled by improved connectivity, will help to provide service to shelters during weather or other emergency related outages.<sup>342</sup> This service will likely help preserve continuity of local government operations in the wake of weather emergencies.<sup>343</sup>

- **OneCommunity:** The OneCommunity network enables the sharing of public safety services across communities. For example, Mansfield, Ohio implemented a next generation 9-1-1 system that receives phone calls, e-mails, and text messages. The county can host this service for other communities on the OneCommunity network, offering a shared service model to assist other communities in acquiring the next generation 9-1-1 service at a lower cost. There are several cities already on the network, and OneCommunity can build to other locations on or near the network, enabling participation in the shared service.<sup>344</sup> The provision of this service will likely improve the response times and quality of services provided by participating public safety entities.<sup>345</sup>
- **LCOG:** The City of Florence is upgrading its accounting software to take advantage of the increased connectivity it received from the LCOG project. The upgrade includes installing a server at City Hall to host its accounting database. Before BTOP, the city would not have been able to make this change due to limited connectivity between City Hall and other city offices. The upgrade will allow each department to see real-time budget data. The upgrade will also allow the city to transition to an online bill payment system to increase accounting efficiencies, to increase transparency, and to help prevent fraud and embezzlement.<sup>346</sup>
- **Massachusetts Technology Park (MassTech):** The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) reported that before BTOP, agencies in western Massachusetts connected to the state's criminal justice information system via a 56 kbps frame relay network operating over T1 lines. Some agencies did not have direct access to the system, and instead connected with limited capabilities via the Internet. Agencies will now connect with a minimum symmetrical bandwidth of 50 Mbps. EOPSS expects that the network will greatly improve communication efficiencies between public safety agencies in western Massachusetts, and will facilitate the transition to next generation 9-1-1, next generation identification, and remote monitoring of jails and large public events.<sup>347</sup>
- **Clearwave Communications (Clearwave):** The project provided a core network infrastructure, making it possible for the regional Next Generation 9-1-1 Consortium to develop and implement an emergency services IP network, databases, and data management software for improved emergency response services among fifteen counties in southern Illinois. The increased connectivity will enable greater coordination between 9-1-1 offices, increased redundancy to reduce service outages, new capabilities for rerouting emergency calls, GPS integration, mapping, texting, and streaming video.<sup>348</sup>

# Section 6. Quality of Life/Civic Engagement Impacts

This section describes the Quality of Life/Civic Engagement impacts of the BTOP projects in the evaluation study sample. This focus area includes those activities that create stronger and more integrated communities and those that promote interaction between citizens and their governments. Measuring the impact of broadband on quality of life has been difficult to achieve in some cases. The Pew Internet and American Life Project and the Monitor Institute noted that several of the indicators for measuring citizens' sense of how their community information system is performing and their overall satisfaction with their community are difficult to measure and assess independently without complicated and expensive methodologies.<sup>349</sup> Specific areas noted as difficult to measure, among others, are the availability of "quality of life" information from community organizations, and "effective opportunities" for citizens to have their voices heard.<sup>350</sup>

The evaluation study team gathered data related to focus area impacts from grantees in the evaluation study sample during site visits. The following subsections present a summary of the economic and social benefits described in case study reports.

## 6.1 Quality of Life/Civic Engagement Potential Benefits

Table 6 presents the potential social and economic benefits related to Quality of Life/Civic Engagement identified in literature and defined in *Interim Report 1*.

**Table 6. Quality of Life/Civic Engagement: Potential Social and Economic Benefits**

- Improved communication between citizens and government entities<sup>351</sup>
- Lowering the effective cost of civic engagement and community participation<sup>352</sup>
- Increased political engagement and civic participation<sup>353</sup>
- Increased volunteerism<sup>354</sup>
- Improved social connections, especially in rural communities<sup>355</sup>

## 6.2 PCC and SBA Quality of Life/Civic Engagement Impacts

### 6.2.1 PCC and SBA Quality of Life/Civic Engagement Overview

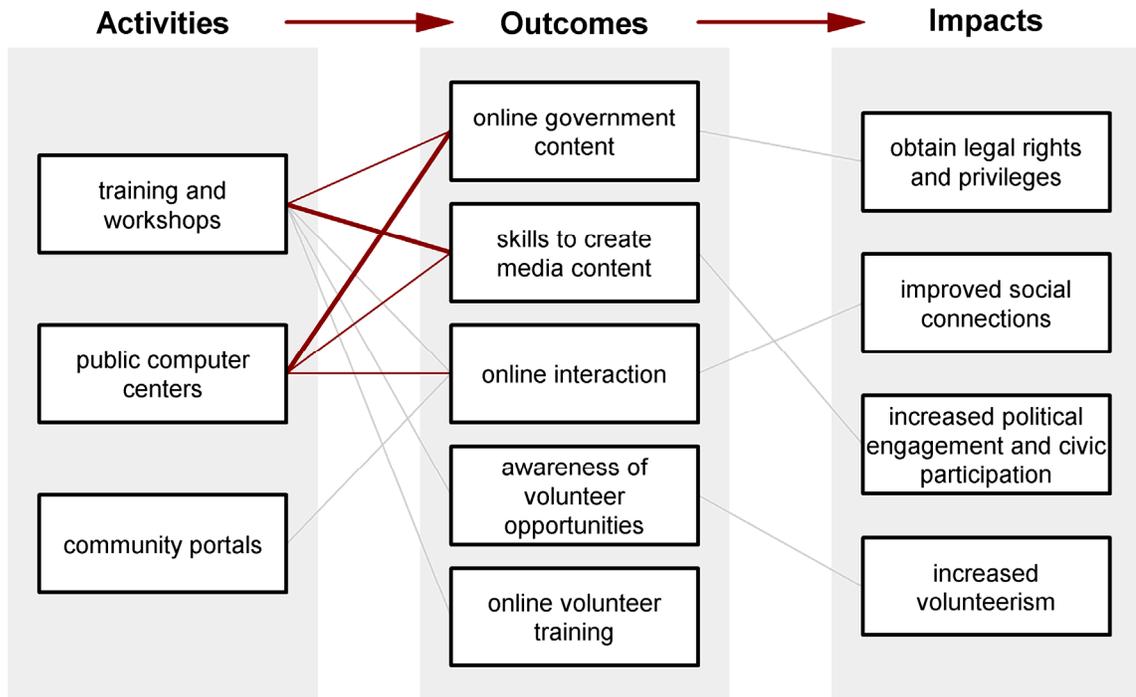
The evaluation study team analyzed Round 2 case study reports with computer-assisted qualitative data analysis software to identify the associations between activities, outcomes, and impacts as reported by grantees. ASR employed benefits identified in literature to classify impacts, and in some cases outcomes. ASR aggregated similar results to find examples that may be representative of the benefits realized by BTOP grants outside of the evaluation study sample.

Figure 9 below shows the relationships among activities, outcomes, and impacts of the selected case study grants. Individual activities, outcomes, and impacts observed by the evaluation study team are included as boxes in the figure. Lines between boxes represent the different relationships identified by the evaluation study team. The figure only includes relationships observed in two or more grants. The lines also vary in color and thickness based on the number of grants exemplifying

the relationship: relationships identified in two or three grants are identified by thin gray lines; relationships identified in four or five grants are identified by thin, red lines; and relationships identified in six or more grants are represented by thick red lines.

Of the potential benefits defined above, the impacts most often cited by interviewees on site visits were increased political engagement, civic participation, and volunteerism. Other impacts included improved social connections and obtaining legal rights and privileges, including citizenship.

**Figure 9. PCC and SBA Quality of Life/Civic Engagement Impacts**



The subsections below define the activities, outcomes, and impacts presented in the figure above. Select PCC and SBA case study grants provide examples to illustrate impacts.

### 6.2.2 PCC and SBA Quality of Life/Civic Engagement Activities

Activities include services or products implemented by grantees that reached targeted participants or populations. The primary activities that led to impacts were training programs, public computer centers, and community portals.

- **Training and workshops:** Grantees and project partners offered classes or workshops using grant funds. The training sessions and workshops offered that led to Quality of Life/Civic Engagement impacts ranged from digital literacy training to workshops specifically designed to promote civic engagement or political participation.<sup>356</sup>
- **Public computer centers:** Grantees and project partners made computers and broadband available to the public or a particular population, including parents of students. This activity can also include informal and occasional help from computer center staff. Some labs provided special adaptive equipment that helped individuals achieve outcomes in the centers.<sup>357</sup>
- **Community portals:** Grantees and partners created a public website for a community or town that shares local information and provides opportunities for residents to engage with other community members.<sup>358</sup>

### 6.2.3 PCC and SBA Quality of Life/Civic Engagement Outcomes

The activities described above lead to the following outcomes:

- **Online government content:** Residents are able to access government information and content online, reducing the barrier to submitting forms and communicating with government agencies. Individuals were better able to access government content online using public computer centers and after training that introduced residents to government websites.<sup>359</sup>
- **Skills to create media content:** Individuals developed skills to create digital media content, including e-newsletters, radio broadcasts, online community forums, television shows and commercials, Facebook groups, and blogs. Participants developed these skills after participating in grant-funded training sessions and workshops and using open labs.<sup>360</sup>
- **Online interaction:** Individuals use the Internet to communicate with family, friends, and neighbors. This outcome was most often the result of computer centers that provided computers and Internet access. Community portals also helped increase online interaction in geographic communities.<sup>361</sup>
- **Awareness of volunteer opportunities:** Individuals use resources on the Internet to learn about local volunteer opportunities. Patrons used computer centers to find these resources, or became more aware of volunteer opportunities after training sessions or workshops.<sup>362</sup>
- **Online volunteer training:** Individuals used computer center resources, including grant-provided computers and broadband access, to participate in required online volunteer training.<sup>363</sup> A survey conducted by Future Generations Graduate School in April 2012 found that 69 percent of fire departments with PCCs used the facility to complete required training programs.<sup>364</sup>

### 6.2.4 PCC and SBA Quality of Life/Civic Engagement Impacts

The most prevalent Quality of Life/Civic Engagement impacts were increased political engagement and civic participation, social interaction, obtaining legal rights and privileges, and volunteering. The following list provides illustrative examples drawn from case study reports.

- **Obtain legal rights and privileges:** This included individuals acquiring citizenship, driver's licenses, or obtaining pardons after gaining the digital literacy skills to access government information online.<sup>365</sup>
  - **Foundation for California Community Colleges (FCCC):** Some students who participated in digital literacy training went on to acquire United States citizenship after applying and studying online.<sup>366</sup>
  - **Delaware Division of Libraries (DDL):** The Advancement through Pardons and Expungement (APEX) program used Job Centers to help patrons complete the pardon and expungement process. As of May 15, 2013, eighteen clients obtained pardons after receiving help. Obtaining a pardon restores a client's civil rights, including the right to vote and hold public office.<sup>367</sup>
- **Improved social connections:** Individuals and communities were able to improve social connections by interacting online, often in a way that was not possible without broadband. This impact was the result of access to computers through computer centers and new online spaces, including community portals.<sup>368</sup>
  - **C.K. Blandin Foundation (C.K. Blandin):** Projects facilitated development of a computer center that makes computers accessible to people with disabilities. According to a staff member, the adaptive equipment, for example virtual keyboards at the computer center, allows users with disabilities to integrate more fully into the general community using online resources.<sup>369</sup>
  - **Future Generations Graduate School (Future Generations):** A young boy used a computer center to communicate with his brother receiving cancer treatment in a different

city. The boy receiving treatment was able to stay in contact with his mother and brother when he was unable to see them for extended periods.<sup>370</sup>

- **Increased political engagement and civic participation:** Individuals who experienced this impact most often participated in grant-funded training sessions and workshops that taught them how to create media content to raise awareness or engage in a political or civic issue.<sup>371</sup>
  - **Urban Affairs Coalition (UAC):** Through structured training courses, participants learned to create community forums, radio broadcasts, commercials, television shows, and blogs that raise awareness of issues relevant to minorities, immigrants, youth, and the working poor. One group of participants organized the “Fight for Driver’s Licenses” project to address a 2010 amendment to Pennsylvania state law prohibiting individuals from obtaining a driver’s license using a tax identification number. Members of a radio program helped document and collect thousands of testimonials about how this issue affected Pennsylvania residents.<sup>372</sup>
  - **City of Chicago:** Individuals who participated in civic engagement training lobbied the Illinois General Assembly using digital tools. Participants engaged legislators by contacting them via online faxing, e-mail, Facebook, and Twitter.<sup>373</sup>
- **Increased volunteerism:** Individuals who started to volunteer or spent more time volunteering were primarily able to do so after completing required training online. Others became more aware of volunteer opportunities in their communities through the Internet.<sup>374</sup>
  - **Future Generations:** Computer centers facilitated access to required firefighter training courses, reducing the time and effort necessary to participate as a volunteer. Volunteer firefighters stated that access to online training in the computer centers helped to recruit additional volunteers.<sup>375</sup>
  - **Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA):** Parents who participated in educational training became more engaged in reading with their children and assisting with homework. According to interviewees, parents are actively volunteering in their children’s classrooms and in other community events.<sup>376</sup>

## 6.2.5 PCC and SBA Quality of Life/Civic Engagement Longitudinal Analysis

The purpose of the longitudinal analysis is to compare observations from Round 1 with observations from Round 2 to identify changes over time. The evaluation study team will use these data in the *Final Report* to assess the impact of BTOP. In *Interim Report 1*, the evaluation study team presented a selection of baseline activities and outcomes observed during site visits conducted between July and December 2011 for each of the five focus areas presented in *Interim Report 1*. The evaluation study team identified data elements to measure potential benefits, based on the data grantees reported collecting or intended to collect.

During Round 2 site visits, performed between January and June 2013, the evaluation study team obtained the data related to the potential benefits defined in *Interim Report 1* from case study participants, when such information was available. The data show that grant-provided programs and resources successfully supported outcomes and impacts, including more efficient local government operations; increased ability for citizens to access government and community information online; improved ability to communicate with friends, families, and community members; and the removal of barriers to engaging in the democratic process.

- Visiting a federal, state, or local government or community website
  - **C.K. Blandin Foundation (C.K. Blandin):** The Stevens County/City of Morris Demonstration Community website listed community information related to employment, housing, healthcare, education, business, and recreation and links to local government sites, but the number of people served was not available. A project leader reported that the Stevens Forward website was no longer functional, but that aspects of the website were

being reused in a community portal, which would serve as a front page to direct traffic to the Stevens County website.<sup>377</sup> According to the Community's final report, another similar community portal "has increased the individual community members' sense of belonging to a 'village'."<sup>378</sup>

- **C.K. Blandin:** The Big Stone County Public Internet Government Access Project provided public access to government information including Geographic Information Systems (GIS), highway project information, and county government forms. The Demonstration Community reported in its final narrative report that the website has made county government operations more efficient. Between May 2011 and February 2013, the website and GIS portal had experienced 128,600 visits. According to the Demonstration Community, the website is saving time in the courthouse for employees, helping to connect residents to businesses, and making community information more accessible.<sup>379</sup>
- **C.K. Blandin:** C.K. Blandin provided assistance to two rural cities, Bellingham and Echo, to create their own city websites. In its final narrative report, the Demonstration Community reported that this project provides a good model of how to create websites for small communities, but the number of people served was not available. Bellingham developed a WordPress site and Facebook page, which served mainly to disseminate information about its recent 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Echo developed a website with forty-two distinct pages, including information about local businesses and ordinances. A Demonstration Community project leader reported that the websites helped increase access to government information.<sup>380</sup>
- Researching or applying for government benefits online
  - **Las Vegas-Clark County Urban League (LVUL):** The Department of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation trained computer center staff to teach patrons how to sign up for unemployment benefits online using the department's new online process. Patrons used the PCCs to locate and apply for social services online, such as Medicaid and Medicare.<sup>381</sup> Instructors enrolled new users in the Computer Basics course, where they received step-by-step instructions on how to use a computer, and one-on-one assistance to look up social services. LVUL provided monthly login totals from July 2010 through December 2012, where there were 568,966 logins across all PCCs. Logins do not represent a unique count of users and may include multiple logins by a single user in a single day.<sup>382</sup> LVUL provided aggregate training data in its APRs, but these data did not indicate the hours devoted to specific training courses.
- Obtaining government forms online
  - **C.K. Blandin:** C.K. Blandin developed an interactive website for the City of Morris's Rental Housing Licensing Program to provide inspection results, guidance, and educational information to past, current, and prospective tenants, landlords, and other interested parties. According to a project staff member, the City of Morris's Rental Housing Licensing Program's website blog receives between 119 and 728 hits per month. Residents can more easily find quality housing, and landlords have expressed appreciation for being able to advertise rentals through the site.<sup>383</sup>
  - **City of Chicago:** The City of Chicago provided training on how to access and research government websites and other vital information online. ASR's tabulation of the grantee's 2012 APR indicates that the grantee provided 36,326 hours of digital literacy training and 518 hours of Quality of Life/Civic Engagement training.<sup>384</sup> Everyday Digital trainers teach participants how to access city, state, and federal government information online. For example, one FamilyNet Center hosts sessions with families to research their tax bills and assessments online, identify any missing exemptions, and explain how to appeal an assessment.<sup>385</sup> Trainers at the Chicago Lawn FamilyNet Center held group sessions to explain how to submit an online application to a temporary mortgage assistance program.<sup>386</sup>
- Using e-mail, social networking, or blogs to discuss issues of interest with one's fellow community members

- **City of Chicago:** The City of Chicago provided digital leadership training on how to use technology to enhance civic engagement and community organizing activities, including accessing government websites, using online resources for vital information, using social media for community organizing, advocating for the community, and performing outreach. ASR's tabulation of the grantee's 2012 APR indicates the grantee provided 518 hours of Quality of Life/Civic Engagement training.<sup>387</sup> In Auburn Gresham, Civic 2.0 participants collaborated with the Neighborhood Recovery Initiative to lobby the Illinois General Assembly using digital tools. Participants engaged legislators by contacting them via online faxing, e-mail, Facebook, and Twitter.<sup>388</sup> The Block Club Federation of Greater Englewood learned to use Gmail and other Google applications, such as Drive and Calendars, to share and organize information. Some block club presidents use Google tools to share meeting minutes, literature, and event dates with members.<sup>389</sup>

## 6.2.6 Potential Future PCC and SBA Quality of Life/Civic Engagement Impacts

In addition to the impacts described above, the evaluation study team observed outcomes that were not directly linked to observed impacts but that may lead to future impacts. These outcomes reflected a similar distribution to the outcomes that led to impacts as described above, and included accessing online government content; interacting with family, friends, and communities online; obtaining skills in creating digital media; and accessing online volunteer training.<sup>390</sup> Projects that achieved similar outcomes, but did not collect quantitative or qualitative data related to impacts, include those described below. These potential impacts are not included in the analysis above and they may or may not occur.

- **Future Generations:** A computer center mentor who was also the town mayor worked with the City Council to establish an online presence to post meeting minutes and other community information.<sup>391</sup> Access to online government information may lead to increased political participation.<sup>392</sup>
- **C.K. Blandin:** One grant-funded project created a website to post community videos. As of February 2013, the project had created and archived eighty-nine community videos, including high school football games and government and community meetings. They had more than 2,000 viewers for their archived content and another 2,200 unique views during live streaming events.<sup>393</sup> In another grant-funded project, a similar community-oriented website led to increased social connections.<sup>394</sup>

## 6.3 CCI Quality of Life/Civic Engagement Impacts

### 6.3.1 CCI Quality of Life/Civic Engagement Overview

Many of the CAIs interviewed by the evaluation study team had recently obtained connectivity to new fiber networks, and thus had collected limited data related to Quality of Life/Civic Engagement impacts. However, interviewees did report outcomes likely to lead to impacts in the near future. Of these potential benefits, those most often cited by interviewees include increased citizen and government communication, increased political engagement, increased civic participation, and improved social connections. The evaluation study team analyzed CCI case study reports to determine the activities and outcomes that are most likely to generate impacts.

The subsections below define the observed activities and outcomes. Select CCI projects provide examples to illustrate potential impacts.

### 6.3.2 CCI Quality of Life/Civic Engagement Activities

Interviewees most commonly cited the following activities as those likely to generate future benefits in the Quality of Life/Civic Engagement focus area:

- **Improved functionality of existing tools and systems:** Interviewees most commonly reported realizing improved functionality of existing systems upon obtaining increased bandwidth through CCI projects. Before BTOP, the use of these systems and applications was often limited or disrupted due to capacity constraints.<sup>395</sup>
- **Implement new systems or applications:** Improved network capacity enabled CAIs to invest in new bandwidth-intensive applications, tools, and equipment to support operations.<sup>396</sup>

### 6.3.3 CCI Quality of Life/Civic Engagement Outcomes

The activities described above lead to improved participation in civic and community activities. The outcomes defined below are not a complete list of outcomes from grantee activities, but rather those that the site visit team observed leading to Quality of Life/Civic Engagement impacts among the CCI projects.

- **Improved quality or range of services:** The improved functionality of existing systems enabled CAIs to allocate resources to improving the delivery of services, rather than address service interruptions or limited activity due to bandwidth constraints.<sup>397</sup> For example, some libraries reported that increased bandwidth enables the increase of e-book circulation and the provision of digital media resources. CAIs also used new applications to share services with remote facilities or partner organizations, improving the range of available services.<sup>398</sup>
- **Access social or community platforms:** Interviewees reported that patrons have historically used library and CAI Internet connections to access social media and networking applications. Increased capacity provided by CCI projects improves the speed and reliability with which patrons are able to engage in social networking.<sup>399</sup>
- **Access government information:** Several of the libraries visited by the evaluation study team operate publicly accessible computer labs and provide technical assistance and services that facilitate online access to government agencies and public benefits. Connecting to grant-funded fiber networks increased speed and reliability, improving patrons' ability to access government resources online.<sup>400</sup>

### 6.3.4 Potential Future CCI Quality of Life/Civic Engagement Impacts

Because many CAIs had just recently obtained improved connectivity through CCI projects at the time of the site visits, interviewees reported limited data related to impacts. Observed Quality of Life/Civic Engagement outcomes, however, suggest the potential future realization of additional benefits. Future impacts center on increased citizen and government communication, building social connections, and increased civic participation and volunteerism.<sup>401</sup> Projects that achieved similar outcomes, but did not collect quantitative or qualitative data related to impacts, include those described below. These potential impacts are not included in the analysis above and they may or may not occur.

- **South Dakota Network, LLC (SDN):** Madison Public Library staff members are preparing to help patrons understand and sign up for healthcare under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). They also used the connection to obtain training and access webinars on how the ACA will affect libraries and their patrons.<sup>402</sup> Library staff members who completed the training program will likely help patrons apply for healthcare through the ACA. Guidance provided by trained staff members is also likely to improve the effectiveness of patrons' online communication with government entities.<sup>403</sup>

- **Merit Network, Inc. (Merit):** Increased bandwidth allows the Houghton Lake Public Library to enhance the programs and services it offers to patrons. For example, it plans to offer another For Kids By Kids project, incorporating videos of students talking about their favorite aspect of the Houghton Lake community. The provision of this service is likely to improve social connections among participants.<sup>404</sup>
- **Massachusetts Technology Park (MassTech):** DSCI, the service provider for Massachusetts's voter registration system, plans to use the grant-funded network to provide connectivity to sites in western Massachusetts. The network is expected to help DSCI deliver voter registration services more efficiently.<sup>405</sup> Improving voter registration services could help increase political engagement and civic participation in the affected communities.<sup>406</sup>

## Section 7. Digital Literacy Impacts

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This section describes the Digital Literacy focus area impacts of the BTOP projects in the evaluation study sample. This focus area is fundamental to all the others. Digital literacy defines a set of skills and abilities that enable an individual to interact with the digital aspects of culture, and to maintain a digital identity. In the National Broadband Plan, the FCC defines digital literacy as “the skills needed to use information and communications technology to find, evaluate, create, and communicate information.”<sup>407</sup> Digital literacy has become increasingly important in obtaining an education, searching for employment, learning job-related skills, accessing government information, and other social and economic activities.<sup>408</sup>

The evaluation study team gathered data related to focus area impacts from evaluation study participants during site visits. The following subsections present a summary of the economic and social benefits described in case study reports.

### 7.1 Digital Literacy Potential Benefits

Access to broadband enables users to engage in a wide range of digital literacy activities, generating benefits to individuals, businesses, and communities. Digital Literacy is fundamental to all other focus areas, and includes skills and abilities that enable an individual to interact with the digital aspects of culture, and to maintain a digital identity. Possessing the skills necessary to complete basic digital functions, such as using a computer with a modern operating system, using e-mail, and obtaining information using Internet search tools, enhance an individual’s ability to realize the benefits of broadband connectivity.

Table 7 presents the potential social and economic benefits related to Digital Literacy identified in literature and defined in *Interim Report 1*.

**Table 7. Digital Literacy: Potential Social and Economic Benefits**

<p><b>Benefits to Individuals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased job opportunities<sup>409</sup></li><li>• Increased employment opportunities due to telework<sup>410</sup></li><li>• Higher pay<sup>411</sup></li><li>• Increased economic security<sup>412</sup></li><li>• Recruitment of job seekers, especially in rural areas<sup>413</sup></li><li>• Increased access to and quality of healthcare<sup>414</sup></li><li>• Availability of a wide variety of entertainment<sup>415</sup></li><li>• Increased participation in everyday economic, social, and community life<sup>416</sup></li><li>• Improved social connections to existing friends and acquaintances and creation of new relationships based on common interests<sup>417</sup></li><li>• Improved social integration of minority populations<sup>418</sup></li><li>• More positive attitudes toward aging, and higher levels of perceived social support and connectivity among seniors<sup>419</sup></li><li>• Lower prices for online purchases<sup>420</sup></li><li>• Improved variety of items available for purchase<sup>421</sup></li><li>• Better purchasing decisions based on online information<sup>422</sup></li><li>• Savings in time and money for online vs. paper-based activities<sup>423</sup></li><li>• Improved connectivity for social or political action<sup>424</sup></li><li>• Increased transparency of public agencies<sup>425</sup></li><li>• Access to improved government services<sup>426</sup></li><li>• Lifelong learning opportunities<sup>427</sup></li><li>• Improved family connections<sup>428</sup></li></ul> <p><b>Benefits to Communities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Attracts business to a community<sup>429</sup></li><li>• Attracts tourists to an area and increases length of stay<sup>430</sup></li></ul> <p><b>Benefits to Businesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Offers businesses an advertising and awareness platform<sup>431</sup></li><li>• Businesses have access to world markets<sup>432</sup></li></ul>
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The subsections below define activities, outcomes, and impacts related to Digital Literacy. Select projects provide examples to illustrate impacts.

## **7.2 PCC and SBA Digital Literacy Impacts**

### **7.2.1 PCC and SBA Digital Literacy Activities**

Digital Literacy is fundamental to achieving benefits in all other focus areas. The majority of PCC and SBA grant activities fall within Digital Literacy. Digital Literacy activities resulted in impacts overlapping with those described within other focus areas, such as obtaining employment or improving academic performance. In many instances, although training was delivered to many individuals, it was not possible for grantees to measure or observe specific outcomes due to the manner in which training was provided, or legal or practical limitations on data gathering from participants.

- **Training:** Digital literacy training includes instructor-led courses and self-paced, individual learning activities. Training topics range from basic computer operations to more advanced digital tools and techniques.<sup>433</sup>
- **Access to computers with broadband:** Grant-funded workstations and Internet connections provided access to individuals without home connections due to financial or geographic limitations.<sup>434</sup>
- **Outreach:** Outreach campaigns focused on promoting the benefits and capabilities of broadband.<sup>435</sup>

## 7.2.2 PCC and SBA Digital Literacy Outcomes

The most prominent outcome of grant-funded training and equipment was the acquisition of digital literacy skills. All PCC and SBA projects in the evaluation study sample reported instances of new users acquiring skills or existing users improving their digital literacy skillset.<sup>436</sup> While all projects in the evaluation study sample offered programs to aid users in developing basic computer skills, some projects offered training and resources to help patrons build proficiency in more advanced digital applications.

## 7.2.3 PCC and SBA Digital Literacy Impacts

Potential social and economic benefits of improved digital literacy accrue across all of the focus areas, as digital literacy is foundational to the use of broadband. The most commonly observed impacts resulting from the acquisition of digital literacy skills include participants obtaining a job or a promotion. Grantees also reported instances of digital literacy skills improving social connections among trainees. The following list provides illustrative examples drawn from case study reports.

- **Obtain a job:** As described in Section 2, the acquisition of basic digital literacy skills can improve participants' ability to obtain employment by improving their professional skillset.<sup>437</sup>
  - **City of Chicago:** Grant-funded programs offer digital literacy training and one-on-one employment and financial counseling programs. Program staff estimated that enrollees who completed digital literacy courses exhibited a job placement rate 13 percentage points higher than attendees who did not participate in the training. In 2011 and 2012, grant programs placed 1,118 employment-counseling enrollees in jobs.<sup>438</sup>
  - **City of Chicago:** Some Everyday Digital graduates who were not enrolled in employment-specific training were able to translate their general digital literacy skills into Workforce and Economic Development outcomes. Examples include pay raises or promotions with their current employer because of their increased technical skills and enrollment in Certificate of High School Equivalency and associate degree programs at area community colleges.<sup>439</sup>
  - **C.K. Blandin Foundation (C.K. Blandin):** The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) developed digital literacy training curriculum and made it available to all Demonstration Communities, as well as to other organizations in rural Minnesota. The grantee reported that many users retained jobs, were promoted, or were placed in new jobs due to the training.<sup>440</sup>
- **Improved Social Connections:** Digital literacy skills enabled users to realize improved social connections. These connections include relationships with family and friends, and senior social participation. Learning to use a computer and broadband enabled participants to communicate with friends and family via e-mail and social media sites.<sup>441</sup>
  - **Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA):** Participants learned to use the Internet to connect to their families, to their community, to their native countries, and to information about their interests and goals, including reading online news or job searching. Students learned to use the Internet to save money communicating with relatives, which is of particular importance to students, as many are speaking with those in their native countries via telephone.<sup>442</sup>

- **Foundation for California Community Colleges (FCCC):** After completing digital literacy training, many trainees turned to web-based tools as their primary means of maintaining social connections. According to student trainers, most of the trainees continued to use their Skype or social media accounts after training. Trainers also reported similar impacts regarding Gmail accounts, which trainees established during training.<sup>443</sup>
- **Benefits to individuals:** While all PCC and SBA projects in the evaluation study sample offered some form of digital literacy training, few had mechanisms in place to measure the benefits realized by participants.<sup>444</sup> As outlined in Table 7, literature has shown that the acquiring digital literacy skills can lead to a wide variety of social and economic impacts for individuals.
  - **Technology for All (TFA):** Computer centers helped individuals transition to more permanent housing. Staff used the grant-funded computers to train patrons in personal financial management skills and to search for housing. TFA staff reported that, since 2010, more than 1,000 people had found permanent housing using grant-funded equipment and services.<sup>445</sup>
  - **C.K. Blandin:** Project partners reported that students in the digital literacy training sessions were able to continue their education successfully after completing the class. For example, two students who were struggling in community college attended a digital literacy class, and were then able to go back to school and complete their classes at the community college. These students graduated in spring 2013 with associate degrees.<sup>446</sup>

## 7.2.4 PCC and SBA Digital Literacy Longitudinal Analysis

The purpose of the longitudinal analysis is to compare observations from Round 1 with observations from Round 2 to identify changes over time. The evaluation study team will use these data in the *Final Report* to assess the impact of BTOP. In *Interim Report 1*, the evaluation study team presented a selection of baseline activities and outcomes observed during site visits conducted between July and December 2011 for each of the five focus areas presented in *Interim Report 1*. The evaluation study team identified data elements to measure potential benefits, based on the data grantees reported collecting or intended to collect.

During Round 2 site visits, performed between January and June 2013, the evaluation study team obtained the data related to the potential benefits defined in *Interim Report 1* from case study participants, when such information was available. Data collected during Round 2 site visits indicate that grantees continued to provide services and resources to support the development of individuals' digital skillset, enabling the realization of a wide range of benefits attributable to their ability to interact with digital aspects of culture.

- Be aware of the benefits of broadband technology
  - **C.K. Blandin Foundation (C.K. Blandin):** Regional Development Commissions (RDC) provide outreach and coordinate and promote statewide partner resources. By the end of the award period, project partners had reached 256,018 individuals through media awareness campaigns and by convening events carried out by RDCs.<sup>447</sup> Through the end of 2013, the grant delivered 18,022 hours of digital literacy training.<sup>448</sup> The project generated a total of 56,663 new subscribers.<sup>449</sup>
  - **California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF):** CETF expanded twenty-seven 2-1-1 telephone line centers and databases in California to include broadband services in the 2-1-1 umbrella of resources. As of June 11, 2013, 2-1-1 screened more than 250,000 callers. Based on an assessment of skill level and technology ownership, they referred more than 45,000 callers to resources for obtaining a computer or digital literacy skills. Of these, 2-1-1 estimates that 7,478 households subscribed to broadband due to the information presented during screening calls.<sup>450</sup>

- Be able to use a computer with a modern operating system, including understanding how to use a keyboard, a mouse, and a visual interface incorporating icons and folders and a web browser, such as Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, or Firefox
  - **Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA):** CHA provided access to computers with broadband in or near public housing complexes and provided training in basic computing and Internet skills. CHA discontinued the collection of data for monthly tenant services reports.<sup>451</sup> By the end of 2012, 692 students had participated in 35,066 hours of Gateways training.<sup>452</sup> CHA delivered 19,541 hours of Strictly Computers training to 585 participants. Throughout the award period, 362 participants completed 8,871 hours of Parents ROCK training.<sup>453</sup> According to interviewees, the primary impacts to users include the acquisition of digital literacy skills, improved social connections, and an enhanced awareness of the Internet's capabilities. Digital literacy skills improved foreign-born residents' ability to access the most effective English language-learning resources, to connect with the local community, and to communicate with relatives in their native countries.<sup>454</sup>
  - **Foundation for California Community Colleges (FCCC):** FCCC provided training in basic digital literacy. After training, many participants adopted web-based tools as a primary means of maintaining social connections. Trainers reported that most of the trainees continued to use Skype, social media, and Gmail accounts after training.<sup>455</sup> Evaluator and site visit data were not provided.
- Shop for and obtain an affordable computer with adequate capabilities, including locating organizations/services that distribute free or low-cost computers
  - **Connect Arkansas:** Connect Arkansas offered a series of technology workshops to develop basic digital literacy and Internet skills targeting low-income K-12 students who qualify for free or reduced cost lunch and do not have a computer at home. A parent or family member is required to attend the class with each student. Students who complete the three-day training program receive a free computer. Connect Arkansas distributed 1,174 free, refurbished computers to qualifying families trained through its Computers 4 Kids program through March 31, 2013. Sixty-two percent of program participants subscribed to broadband upon completion of the course, suggesting that one of the barriers to adoption was the cost of a computer. Survey data indicated that participants gained an improved set of digital literacy skills and a greater understanding of computers and the Internet. Parents learned about computer security and navigating the Internet. Students learned to assemble computers through a hands-on exercise and received an overview of basic Microsoft Office programs and the Internet.<sup>456</sup>
  - **Urban Affairs Coalition (UAC):** UAC distributed 5,000 laptops to public housing residents participating in an eight-hour computer and Internet basics course. By the end of June 2013, 5,048 Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) residents completed the training course and earned a free netbook. Users gained skills to engage in a variety of activities, including basic computer operations, using e-mail and social media, online job searching, accessing government services, and managing personal finances. PHA residents reported using their netbooks and skills gained through training to apply for jobs, complete community college course assignments, and use online banking services.<sup>457</sup>
  - **UAC:** UAC offered low-cost broadband subscriptions to program participants. UAC encourages home broadband adoption by promoting two low-cost Internet access options, Comcast Internet Essentials and Wilco/Mobile Citizen's Internet. UAC reported that by the end of June 2013, more than 1,900 households and 50 businesses or CAIs subscribed to broadband through these programs. The grantee reported that for some users, the reduced cost of access eliminated a major barrier to home subscription.<sup>458</sup>
  - **FCCC:** FCCC provided training to create informed broadband consumers. According to FCCC's reports, by March 31, 2013, at least 9,151 individuals had subscribed to broadband as a direct result of California Connects activities. This value reflects MESA program participants and survey respondents who indicated that they subscribed to broadband during the grant period. This estimate likely under represents the extent to which broadband subscriptions had grown, as trainees may share information and skills

with family and friends.<sup>459</sup> Training and outreach methods generated new broadband subscriptions as those reached by grant programming learned the value of broadband. Trainers stated that trainees frequently purchased personal computers after completing training.<sup>460</sup>

- Understand how to perform basic online activities
  - **City of Chicago:** The City of Chicago provided training in basic computer skills, e-mail, locating information on the Internet, using spreadsheets, taking classes online, downloading forms, uploading photographs, creating a website, social networking sites, and downloading music. The grantee reported in its 2012 APR that it provided 36,326 hours of digital literacy training.<sup>461</sup> FamilyNet Center managers reported that students adopted e-mail, Skype, and social media to maintain more frequent contact with relatives and friends abroad. They also observed parents become more involved in their children's lives through a greater understanding of social media sites and the use of PowerSchool, an online application used by Chicago Public Schools (CPS) to track students' attendance and progress.<sup>462</sup> Some Everyday Digital graduates who were not enrolled in employment-specific training were able to translate their general digital literacy skills into outcomes, including pay raises or promotions, due to their increased technical skills or enrollment in Certificate of High School Equivalency and associate degree programs at area community colleges.<sup>463</sup>
  - **FCCC:** FCCC provided training in e-mail and Internet safety. As of March 31, 2013, 3,301 individuals had graduated from the GVC training program.<sup>464</sup> Parents who participated in GVC training learned to use e-mail and learning management systems to maintain connections with teachers and school administrators. GVC trainers provided examples of parent participants who gained the skills necessary to use online learning resources, search engines, and Google Translate to support their children's educational needs.<sup>465</sup>
- Be able to use software and applications to present and manipulate documents and data, including word processing, creating spreadsheets, creating presentations, and creating or manipulating simple databases
  - **Las Vegas-Clark County Urban League (LVUL):** LVUL provided training in Microsoft Office applications and other basic computing. In its 2012 APR, LVUL reported delivering 47,877 hours of digital literacy training.<sup>466</sup> During the site visit, instructors indicated that, by taking basic computer and Internet courses, patrons learned to use social media to communicate with family who live in different cities or states, or in a foreign country. Course participants also used their newly acquired skills to check e-mail, create documents using Microsoft Word, purchase items online, and perform online banking.<sup>467</sup>
  - **Technology for All (TFA):** TFA provided advanced training in Microsoft Office applications. The project devoted more than 800,000 training hours to Basic Internet and Computer Use training, which represented the most popular training class of the project. TFA trainers observed progress in digital literacy skills of users. Many PCC users stated that they struggled with basic computer skills, such as using the keyboard, copying and pasting, and finding information online. Likewise, these users lacked skills and experience in more advanced activities such as Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, and digital communication. For example, a semester-long class began with basic training and concluded with Microsoft Office Suite training. At the end of the class, participants who started with little to no computer experience were able to create their own graduation announcements using Microsoft Publisher.<sup>468</sup>

## 7.3 CCI Digital Literacy Impacts

### 7.3.1 CCI Digital Literacy Activities

Digital literacy is fundamental to achieving benefits in all other focus areas. As a result, Digital Literacy activities result in impacts that overlap with those described within other focus areas. In

many instances, although digital literacy training was available and delivered to individuals, it was not possible for grantees to measure outcomes or impacts.

- **Training:** Some CAIs delivered digital literacy training programs, including instructor-led courses and self-paced, individual learning activities. Training topics may include basic computer operations through more advanced digital tools and techniques.<sup>469</sup>
- **Access to broadband:** CAIs obtained broadband connections through grant-funded fiber networks, providing access to individuals without home connections because of financial or geographic limitations.<sup>470</sup>

### 7.3.2 CCI Digital Literacy Outcomes

The most prominent outcome of CAIs delivering training and providing clients with reliable broadband access was the acquisition of digital literacy skills. Some CAIs offered programs to aid users in developing basic computer skills, while others offered training and resources to help patrons build proficiency in more mission-specific applications.<sup>471</sup> For example, some libraries provide training to teach patrons how to use a tablet for e-reading. This outcome may also include practicing an existing or new digital skillset to engage with digital aspects of culture.

### 7.3.3 CCI Digital Literacy Impacts

Potential social and economic benefits of improved digital literacy accrue across all of the focus areas, as digital literacy is foundational to the use of broadband. The most commonly observed impacts resulting from the acquisition of digital literacy skills and broadband access include participants engaging in economic, social, and community life, and accessing a variety of entertainment. Although broadband access and digital literacy skills allow for the realization of numerous benefits, interviewees had limited data related to digital literacy impacts. The following list provides illustrative examples drawn from case study reports.

- **Increased participation in everyday economic, social, and community life:** Training participants use digital literacy skills and broadband access to interact with peers, family members, and their communities via e-mail, social media, and other interactive platforms.
  - **MCNC:** Digital literacy initiatives in higher education focus on providing access rather than training. This is largely accomplished by the provision of public computer labs and wireless networks. College representatives remarked that a great deal of traffic on these networks is related to personal use, including social media, e-mail, and entertainment. Nearly all reported an upward trend in wireless network utilization, which they attributed to the increasing popularity of mobile devices. Connecting to the North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) has allowed these institutions to obtain greater bandwidth to accommodate increased levels of traffic that they may not have been able to afford otherwise. This is particularly true for colleges in rural areas where Internet providers are sparse.<sup>472</sup>
- **Access to entertainment:** Digital literacy skills and a reliable broadband connection enable users to access a wide variety of entertainment.<sup>473</sup>
  - **Executive Office of the State of West Virginia (West Virginia):** Improved library connections have led to an expansion of services. Both libraries the evaluation study team visited are members of the West Virginia Digital Entertainment Library Initiative (WVDELI), a consortium of ten libraries that share digital materials for circulation. Each library invested \$10,000 worth of content, totaling 35,000 items available for checkout. Bridgeport Public Library (BPL) has doubled the number of online research databases and added Zinio, an online magazine subscription service, and Freegal, a free music download service. Kanawha County Public Library (KCPL) also purchased a license for Freegal that was implemented in October 2013. Bandwidth constraints existing before the grant-funded upgrade would have limited the use of these services.<sup>474</sup>

- **General benefits to individuals:** Although some of the CAIs interviewed offered digital literacy training or resources, few had mechanisms in place to measure the benefits realized by participants. In addition to the impacts described above, interviewees reported outcomes that had not yet directly resulted in impacts, but likely will lead to impacts in the near future.<sup>475</sup> Literature has shown that the acquisition of digital literacy skills can lead to a range of social and economic impacts for individuals.
  - **MCNC:** Lee County Schools (LCS) has emphasized digital literacy development among instructional staff since the deployment of its one-to-one laptop program. Teachers completed fourteen hours of staff training. They are also required to participate in monthly technology training.<sup>476</sup>
  - **West Virginia:** BPL and the KCPL offer one-on-one training ranging from device usage, including iPad, Kindle, and Nook, to software usage, such as Microsoft Word, Excel, and Publisher. BPL stated that its wireless network has improved significantly because of the grant and it is considering purchasing laptops to hold group training sessions.<sup>477</sup>

## Section 8. Best Practices

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Each of the forty-two case study reports the evaluation study team developed included a section describing the grantee's successful tools, techniques, and strategies. In total, the evaluation study team described more than 400 of these items. The evaluation study team analyzed and synthesized these topics to describe the best practices included in this section.

### 8.1 PCC and SBA

- **Tailoring course material:** PCC and SBA grantees found that patrons receiving training, especially training in digital literacy, responded best to tailored courses that addressed specific tasks and goals, rather than more general curricula about broadband technology. Teaching students how to do specific things, such as signing up for a broadband connection or searching for a job online, resulted in greater student motivation and achievement.<sup>478</sup> Curriculum should be tailored, as needed, to meet the expectations of the community it serves.<sup>479</sup> Teachers should also ideally possess some familiarity with the background of the target population for the program.<sup>480</sup>
- **Understanding specific needs:** Several grantees reported using entry interviews or surveys to gather information about what a new broadband user's specific interests were, in order to direct them to appropriate courses or to tailor course content to their needs.<sup>481</sup> PCC and SBA grantees also reported that modification of course content based on student progress and that feedback helped to increase or retain student interest.<sup>482</sup> Some PCC and SBA grantees did not initially expect the low levels of adoption readiness presented by some patrons, especially among speakers of a language other than English, and those with low levels of literacy. A modified curriculum or instructional approach was often used to address these issues.<sup>483</sup>
- **Offering support and encouragement:** PCC and SBA programs commonly mentioned activities intended to support and encourage students. Personal interactions with instructors, including reminders to students of upcoming classes, follow-up communications with students who miss a class, and quarterly correspondence with students to track progress, were all cited as activities that improve class attendance and student retention.<sup>484</sup> Some grantees employed tangible rewards to increase student participation and retention. Examples of this included earned netbooks or computers and graduation ceremonies or certificates for passing curriculum components.<sup>485</sup>
- **Connecting to brick-and-mortar locations:** Grantees reported that broadband training complements other services, such as job training and social service assistance, which might be offered in the same location as the computer lab. Colocation with other services that offer referrals and tie-ins to the activities of the organization hosting the computer center were used to increase the relevance of the broadband training offered.<sup>486</sup>
- **Paying attention to privacy, security, and data storage:** Grantees reported that students were concerned about losing their data or passwords, as is the case with many computer users. Computer centers took steps to address these concerns in order to increase the level of confidence students would have in using the computer center. Specific activities included establishing a centralized e-mail account for online password resets, providing secure storage of usernames and passwords in written form, centralized password management for all centers in the grantee's network, the use of server backups to preserve student's work, and attention to computer security settings to protect personal information.<sup>487</sup>
- **Leveraging, improving, and sustaining partnerships:** Many PCC and SBA grantees described partners as essential to the success of their projects. Partners helped grantees to take on projects that were larger in scope and complexity.<sup>488</sup> Grantees found that established

partners, especially those with whom they had pre-existing relationships, were the most valuable additions to the project team.<sup>489</sup> SBA and PCC grantees found that relationships with partners provided not only resources and capabilities for the project, but also resulted in referrals for students to other partner activities.<sup>490</sup> PCC and SBA grantees often stated that managing and improving partner relationships took significant effort, and that it was especially important to maintain strong lines of communication.<sup>491</sup>

- **Engaging the community:** PCC and SBA grantees described how community engagement improves project outcomes.<sup>492</sup> Each community has different needs, and devolving administration to the community level helps to improve interest in the program and increases successful outcomes.<sup>493</sup> At the same time, community partners should be chosen carefully to align interests with the program.<sup>494</sup>
- **Using traditional means of communication for outreach, instead of a website or e-mail:** Postal mail, telephone calls, 1-800 numbers, door-to-door outreach, and radio broadcasts were all reported as methods that resulted in successful engagement with prospective students, as many did not have Internet access at home.<sup>495</sup> Word-of-mouth and the use of community members to promote awareness is an important aspect of communication.<sup>496</sup> Outreach events held at familiar brick-and-mortar locations provide a place for social connection.<sup>497</sup> Outreach events may also be held at PCCs, especially to increase awareness.<sup>498</sup>
- **Standardizing hardware purchases and planning for flexible use:** Standardization of equipment facilitates a consistent user experience, improves outcomes, facilitates maintenance, and reduces costs.<sup>499</sup> Using laptops or all-in-one workstations increases program flexibility and allows for relocation of computers.<sup>500</sup> Grantees also reported that mobile labs can help to reach community members, and that hardware other than computer workstations, such as teleconferencing equipment, is also helpful to achieve program goals.<sup>501</sup>

### 8.1.1 Challenges

- **Broadband availability affects project success:** Broadband connectivity was not always available at host sites. This made instruction more difficult.<sup>502</sup> Wireless hotspots were used to support projects in areas with no broadband service.<sup>503</sup> The cost of broadband made a home connection unaffordable for some, especially those affected by the economic downturn.<sup>504</sup> Local ISPs were seen as potentially helpful partners, although success in cooperating to achieve program goals was mixed.<sup>505</sup>
- **Reporting project results requires extensive data management:** Grantees reported that accurately capturing information about the impacts of their activities was an ongoing challenge. Challenges in this area resulted in a quantitative view of the impacts of the program limited largely to information captured in PPRs and other reports to NTIA. Four aspects of data gathering and management were especially problematic:
  - The definition of program goals and activities defined by grantees at times did not align with terms used by NTIA. For example, one grantee developed goals using different definitions for average users per week, number of users trained, and training hours. This resulted in training targets that were over- or understated versus the capabilities developed by the grantees.<sup>506</sup>
  - An estimate of broadband subscriptions as a result of project activities was especially difficult to obtain.<sup>507</sup>
  - Data gathering methodologies were difficult to implement and maintain throughout the life of the project. PCC and SBA grantees reported using off-the-shelf tools like ServicePoint, Excel templates, online database tools, and paper reports to capture data. While most grantees eventually settled on a reporting methodology, what worked for one grantee was unhelpful to another.<sup>508</sup>
  - The gathering of data on the population served was problematic. Members of the vulnerable populations targeted by grants were unlikely to complete mandatory surveys, limiting the comprehensiveness of data obtained using these methods.<sup>509</sup>

- Some grantees reported that they were not able to collect detailed outcome data due to human subject research restrictions that prevented gathering longitudinal data on individuals or surveying minors.<sup>510</sup>

## 8.2 CCI

CCI projects offered relatively fewer examples of best practices than PCC and SBA projects, and these best practices were widely shared across grantees. All grantees in the sample had some experience in the telecommunications space. Many of the factors that contributed to project success were continuations of proven business models as applied to the construction of infrastructure, and are not included here. The two best practices below summarize how these grantees rapidly built the BTOP-funded network in a compressed timeframe. Challenges with Environmental Assessments were the major hurdle to overcome in meeting this schedule, as described by several grantees.

- **Explaining the benefits of broadband:** Grantees leveraged existing relationships with potential CAIs, elected officials, and community leaders to identify potential CAIs and to promote the benefits of the BTOP-funded projects.<sup>511</sup> Some grantees developed estimates of the benefits of broadband use, potential cost savings, and return on investment to better inform potential CAIs of the benefits of the project.<sup>512</sup> Grantees reported that public events and educational meetings were useful in educating potential users on the benefits of broadband.<sup>513</sup>
- **Flexible and dynamic bandwidth allocation:** Some grantees allowed CAIs to better understand their broadband needs and to increase their level of service as their needs grow.<sup>514</sup> These grantees connected CAIs using technologies that allow for instantaneous bandwidth increases for specific events or when needs increase.<sup>515</sup> One grantee gave existing customers access to 1 Gbps for a trial period in order to help customers determine bandwidth need.<sup>516</sup>
- **Collaborative planning with partners and subscribers:** Grantees planned network infrastructure to take into account the location of CAIs and businesses that could potentially use it.<sup>517</sup> This meant including ISPs in the planning and development of the network.<sup>518</sup> Grantees also facilitated matching between ISPs and CAIs, which provided CAIs with more information regarding broadband subscribership choices.<sup>519</sup> Several grantees used interconnection and fiber swap agreements to increase the scope and utility of the BTOP infrastructure.<sup>520</sup>

### 8.2.1 Challenges

- **Environmental Assessments:** At least half of the grantees in the evaluation study sample did not clearly understand or plan for the required Environmental Assessment. This resulted in unexpected costs and project delays of up to one year, as well as unexpected costs for work effort.<sup>521</sup>

## Section 9. Conclusions

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The Recovery Act instructed NTIA to implement BTOP to promote five core purposes:<sup>522</sup>

1. Provide access to broadband service to consumers residing in unserved areas of the country.
2. Provide improved access to broadband service to consumers residing in underserved areas of the country.
3. Provide broadband education, awareness, training, access, equipment, and support to:
  - a. Schools, libraries, medical and healthcare providers, community colleges and other institutions of higher learning, and other community support organizations.
  - b. Organizations and agencies that provide outreach, access, equipment, and support services to facilitate greater use of broadband services by vulnerable populations (e.g., low-income, unemployed, seniors).
  - c. Job-creating strategic facilities located in state- or federally designated economic development zones.
4. Improve access to, and use of, broadband service by public safety agencies.
5. Stimulate the demand for broadband, economic growth, and job creation.

This section summarizes findings from the evaluation study team's forty-two site visits and grantee-reported data describing how BTOP grantees encouraged the fulfillment of these Recovery Act goals. The evaluation study team found evidence that BTOP supported each of these goals, although not all grantees intended to support each goal.

### 9.1 Improve Access to Unserved and Underserved Areas of the Country

The first two goals of the Recovery Act encourage improved access for unserved and underserved areas:

- Provide access to broadband service to consumers residing in unserved areas of the country.
- Provide improved access to broadband service to consumers residing in underserved areas of the country.

#### 9.1.1 Improved Access to Unserved and Underserved Areas through PCC and SBA Grants

The PCC and SBA grants provided computer and broadband resources, such as hardware, software, training, and support, to vulnerable populations. PCC grants provided access to equipment and broadband primarily through public computer centers and limited distribution of computers to individuals. SBA grants provided affordable computer and broadband access by distributing personal devices, such as laptops, and providing access to affordable broadband subscriptions to eligible individuals. The objective of these activities was to maximize broadband access and adoption. Access and adoption are expected to induce positive social and economic outcomes among vulnerable populations, including low-income individuals, the unemployed, seniors, children, minorities, and people with disabilities.<sup>523</sup> The following are examples of PCC and SBA projects that engaged in activities aimed at achieving these goals.

- **Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA):** CHA's Community Computer Centers program provided funding to reopen and establish public computer centers and provided the members of

vulnerable populations with digital literacy, software, and job training.<sup>524</sup> CHA reopened and expanded three public computer centers that serve approximately 10,000 public housing residents, including low-income households, immigrants, seniors, and minorities.<sup>525</sup>

- **The City of Chicago:** This project funded the Smart Communities program to promote broadband access and adoption among low-income, minority, English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), senior, and youth populations in Chicago's Auburn Gresham, Chicago Lawn, Englewood, Humboldt Park, and Pilsen neighborhoods.<sup>526</sup> The project also established the Civic 2.0 program, which connects community leaders to digital resources. The project's Business Resource Networks (BRN) worked with small and medium-sized business owners to help integrate the use of technology, broadband in particular, into their day-to-day operations. As of December 2012, BRN consultants provided technology assessments for 461 community businesses in the service area, resulting in 335 technology action plans. During the grant period, BRN coordinators distributed desktop computers to 100 local business owners.<sup>527</sup>

### **9.1.2 Improved Access to Unserved and Underserved Areas through CCI Grants**

CCI projects funded by BTOP are predominantly middle mile projects, although a small number of last mile projects were awarded. CCI grants are intended to improve available broadband capabilities for CAIs, to facilitate the development of last mile services in unserved and underserved areas, and to promote economic growth. This investment through the BTOP grant is intended to "lay the foundation for the ultimate provision of reasonably priced end-user broadband services" through open and nondiscriminatory interconnection strategies to enable last mile providers to have open access to the network.<sup>528</sup>

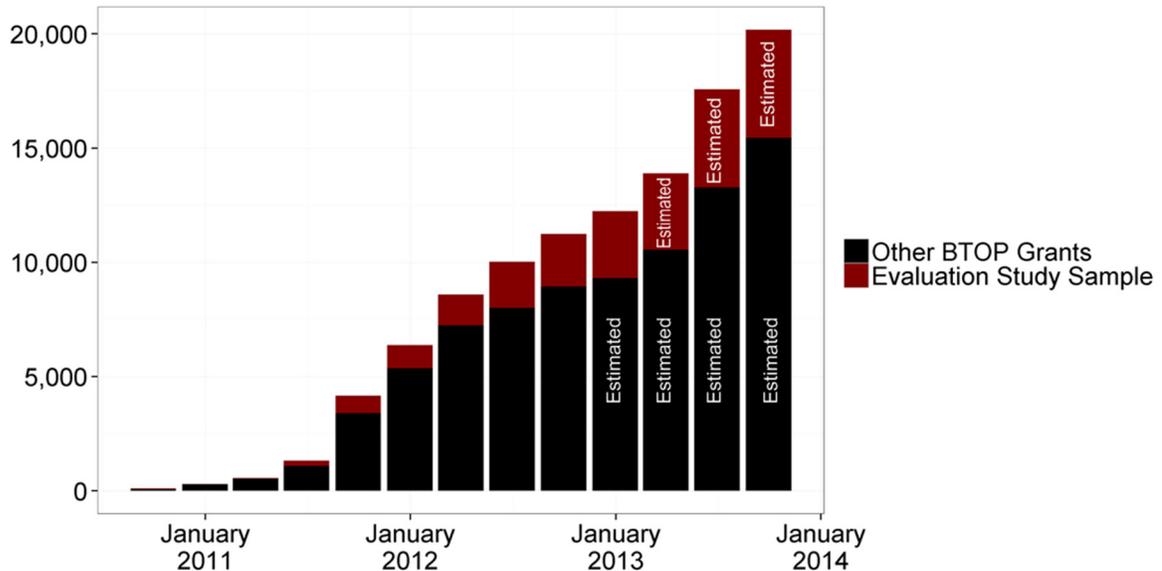
There is considerable debate on the impact of open access policies on the competitiveness of the broadband market.<sup>529</sup> Open access is implemented through a wide variety of strategies. "These can range from commercial or voluntary arrangements, between communication operators and third-parties, to regulatory intervention aimed at promoting certain policy objectives, such as expanding broadband availability, increasing competition, or promoting investment that may otherwise not be economic, such as in the case of enabling the establishment and treatment of shared facilities."<sup>530</sup> The impact of open access will be dependent upon how well the practices and policies help to reduce the time, cost, and difficulty for last mile providers to interconnect to the network.<sup>531</sup> The impact also depends on how well the policy mechanisms ensure competitive pricing for wholesale services in the event of the presence of a middle mile provider that may also be a last mile provider.<sup>532</sup>

CCI projects provided high-speed broadband services over fiber-based open access networks to unserved and underserved areas of the country. This improved infrastructure facilitated direct, grant-funded connections to CAIs in these unserved and underserved areas. It also provides an incentive for third-party service providers to connect to the network to offer competitively priced, enhanced service offerings to CAIs, households, and businesses. The grantees interviewed by the evaluation study team were able to leverage resources such as existing relationships with CAIs, state and local governments, and economic development organizations to demonstrate demand for enhanced connectivity and services that the grants could provide.<sup>533</sup>

Grantees also were able to leverage their own organizational resources and strategic purchasing policies to negotiate favorable terms on interconnection agreements to regional data centers and major Internet exchange points. These resources allowed the grantees to obtain access and services at reduced costs and to develop pricing models that allow CAIs and third-party service providers to obtain affordable network connectivity at speeds that were not possible before BTOP.<sup>534</sup> Effective working relationships with network operators and service providers allowed grantees to facilitate agreements with third-party providers that provided network design, operations, or maintenance services. These activities helped to maximize the versatility of the grant-funded network.<sup>535</sup>

Figure 10 displays the number of CAIs connected by CCI grantees, starting in the third quarter of 2010 through the third quarter of 2013.<sup>536</sup> CCI grantees were successful in connecting almost 20,000 CAIs during this time. As grantee award periods started to end in the last quarter of 2012, these grantees no longer submitted quarterly reports. In these cases, the total number of connected CAIs reported in the grant’s last PPR was included in subsequent quarters. Connected CAIs were assumed to continue their connection in future reporting periods based on the most recently available PPR. These instances are noted with “Estimated” in the figure below. As of June 30, 2013, sixty-one projects had completed their project activities.<sup>537</sup>

**Figure 10. Cumulative CCI Community Anchor Institution Connections**



In addition to CAI connections, the number of interconnection points built into the networks and the existence of signed service agreements between the grantee and third-party service providers, are useful short-term indicators of the efficacy of open access policies. These components help lay the foundation upon which providers can use the open network infrastructure to access affordable connectivity to provide competitive broadband services. As of September 30, 2013, CCI grants had constructed nearly 7,000 points of interconnection to encourage third-party service providers to use the network. In addition to interconnection points, grantees established agreements with third-party service providers and broadband wholesalers to operate on their networks. Figure 11, below, displays the number of signed agreements by quarter during the grant award period.<sup>538</sup> As of September 30, 2013, CCI grantees had nearly 800 signed agreements with third-party service providers and broadband wholesalers. As grantee award periods started to end in the last quarter of 2012, these grantees no longer submitted quarterly reports. In these cases, the total number of signed agreements reported in the grant’s last PPR was included in subsequent quarters. Signed agreements were assumed to continue their agreement in future reporting periods based on the most recently available PPR. These instances are noted with “estimated” in the figure below. Although the figures reported below are cumulative, some grantees made modifications to the previously reported number of agreements in subsequent quarters. These modifications may result in a reduction in the count of signed agreements from one period to the next. No adjustments were made to previous reporting periods to account for changes made in future reporting periods.

**Figure 11. Cumulative Signed Third-Party Service Provider and Broadband Wholesaler Agreements**

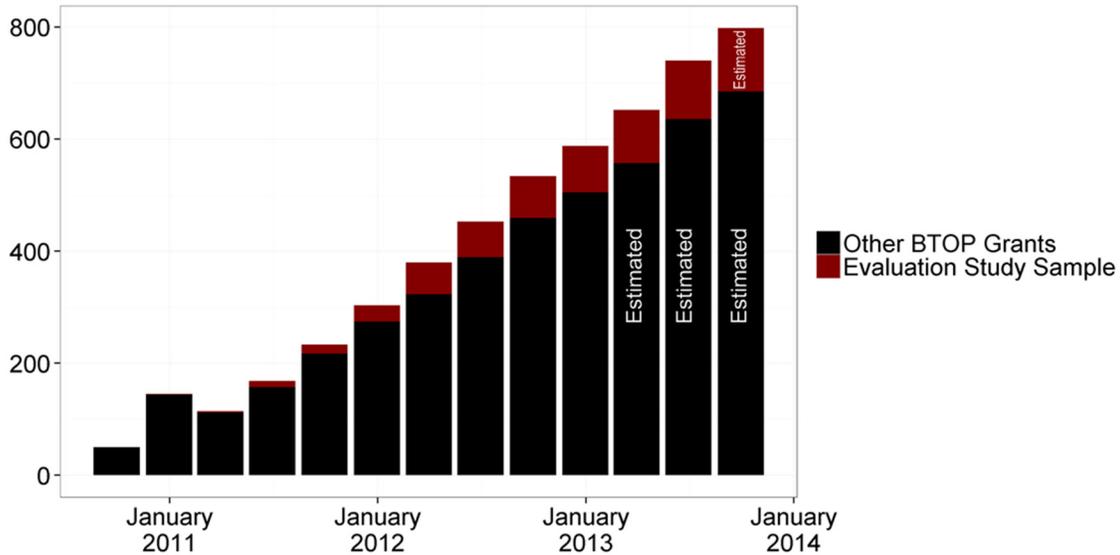


Table 8 includes price and subscription speed data for eighty-two CAIs connected by projects in the evaluation study sample that were able to provide this information to the evaluation study team during interviews. Before BTOP, the median price CAIs paid per Mbps of download speed was \$111 per month. After BTOP, the median price per month per Mbps was \$1.50, a 99 percent decrease. Before BTOP, the median CAI subscription speed was 30 Mbps. After BTOP, the median subscription speed was 750 Mbps. The amount spent on broadband connectivity remained fairly constant, with median total monthly cost remaining steady at \$1,500 per month.

**Table 8. CCI CAI Pricing and Speed Changes**

Internet Subscription Price and Speed	Before BTOP	After BTOP	Change
Median Price per Mbps per Month	\$111	\$1.50	-99%
Median Speed (download, Mbps)	30	750	2,400%
Median Total Monthly Cost	\$1,500	\$1,500	0%

## 9.2 Broadband Education, Awareness, Training, Access, Equipment, and Support

Most closely aligned with PCC and SBA grants, the next Recovery Act goal is for grantees to provide broadband education, awareness, training, access, equipment, and support to:

1. Schools, libraries, medical and healthcare providers, community colleges and other institutions of higher learning, and other community support organizations.
2. Organizations and agencies that provide outreach, access, equipment, and support services to facilitate greater use of broadband services by vulnerable populations (e.g., low-income, unemployed, seniors).
3. Job-creating strategic facilities located in state- or federally designated economic development zones.

All projects in the evaluation study sample implemented strategies surrounding broadband education, awareness, training, access, equipment, and support to implement the grants. PCC projects established public computer centers to drive computer and broadband access and adoption. The following three figures summarize the results of the efforts made by PCC grantees to promote computer and broadband access and adoption.

Figure 12 displays the cumulative number of established and upgraded PCCs.<sup>539</sup> By September 30, 2013, PCC grantees had upgraded and established more than 2,000 PCCs. As grantee award periods started to end in the last quarter of 2012, these grantees no longer submitted quarterly reports. In these cases, the total number of PCCs reported in the grant’s last PPR was included in subsequent quarters. PCCs were assumed to continue operating in future reporting periods based on the most recently available PPR. These instances are noted with “estimated” in the figure below. Although the figures reported below are cumulative, some grantees made modifications to previously reported PCCs in subsequent quarters. These modifications may result in a reduction in the count of reported public computer centers from one period to the next. No adjustments were made to previous reporting periods to account for changes made in future reporting periods.

**Figure 12. Cumulative Public Computer Centers Established and Upgraded**

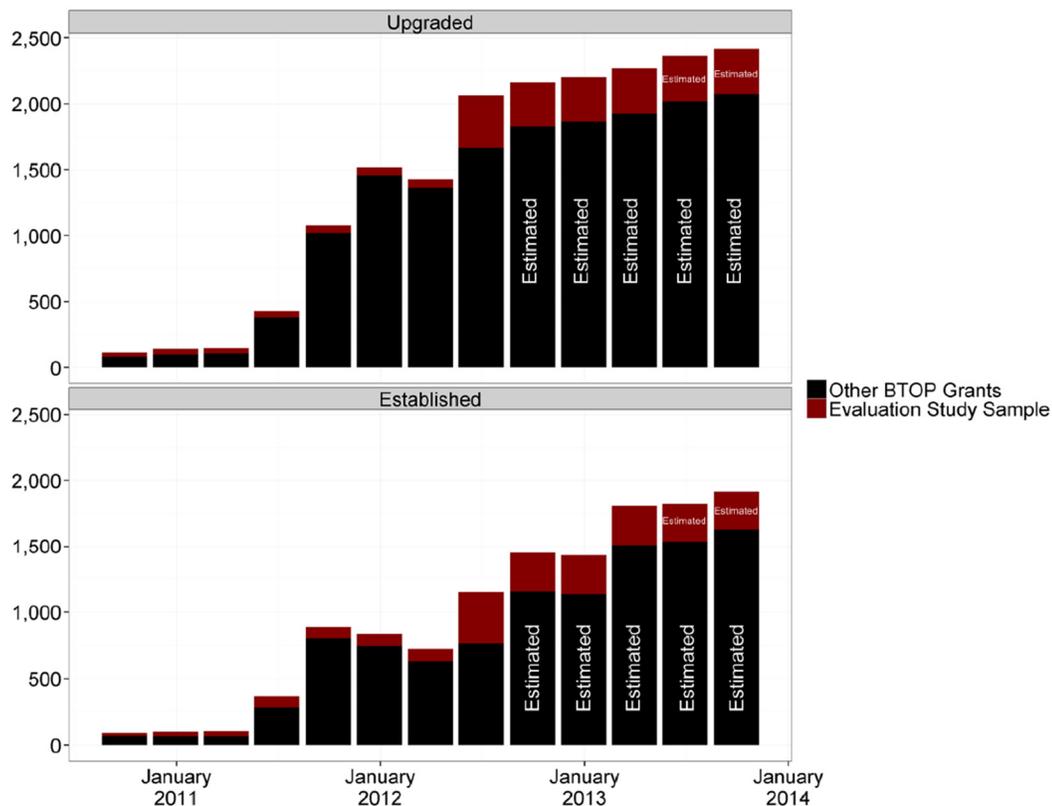


Figure 13 displays the hardware installations and upgrades completed by PCC grantees.<sup>540</sup> As of September 30, 2013, PCC grantees had installed nearly 50,000 workstations. Grantees also upgraded more than 2,000 broadband connections and installed 2,000 wireless broadband connections. As grantee award periods started to end in the last quarter of 2012, these grantees no longer submitted quarterly reports. In these cases, the total number of installations and upgrades reported in the grant’s last PPR was included in subsequent quarters. Installations and upgrades were added to future reporting periods based on the most recently available PPR. These instances are noted with “estimated” in the figure below. Although the figures reported below are cumulative, some grantees made modifications to previously reported installations and upgrades in subsequent

quarters. These modifications may result in the downward trends seen below. No adjustments were made to previous reporting periods to account for changes made in future reporting periods.

**Figure 13. Cumulative PCC Hardware Installations and Upgrades**

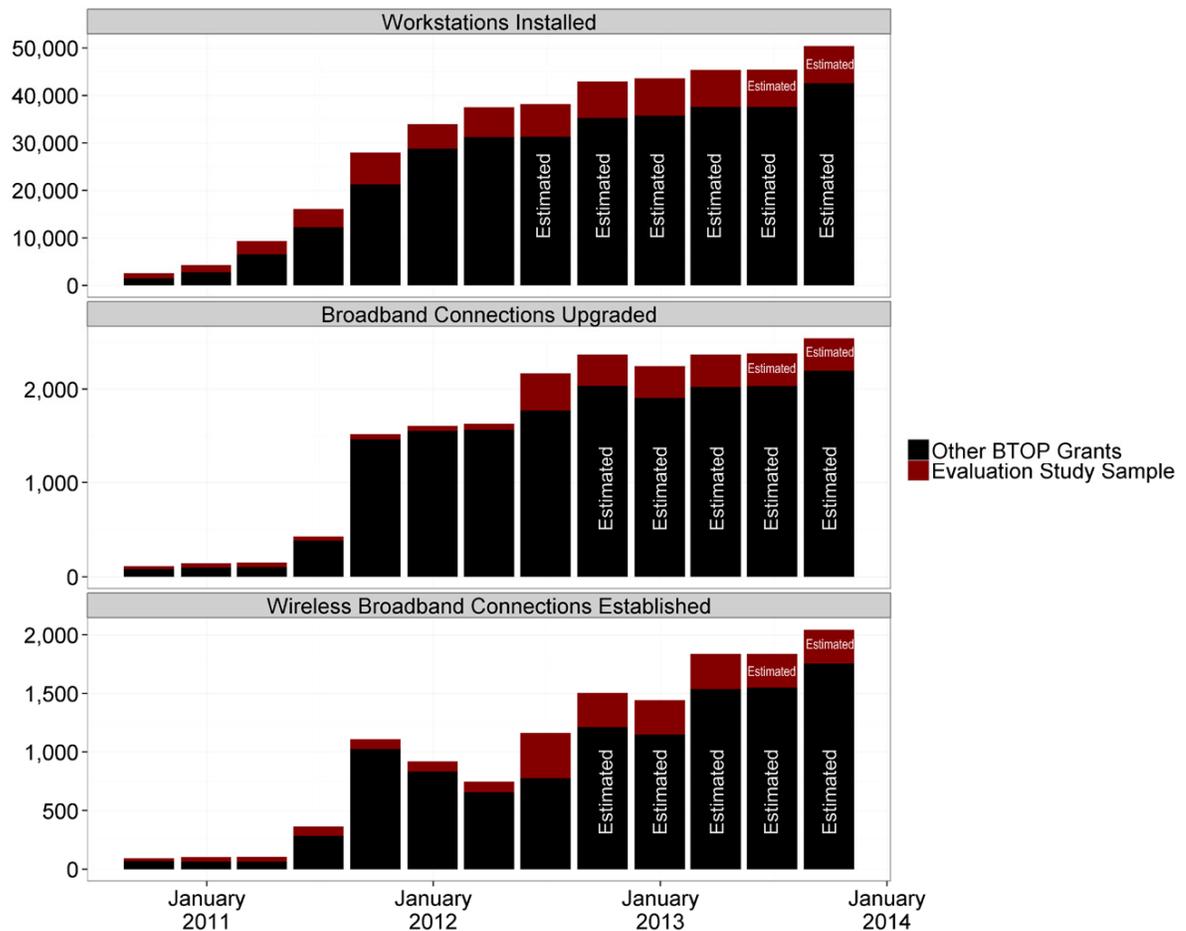
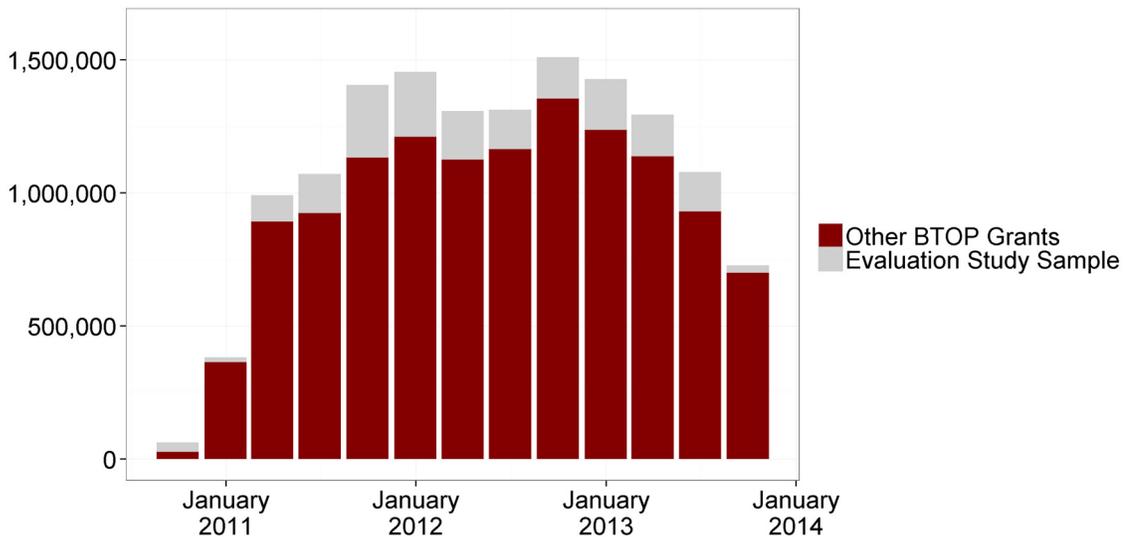


Figure 14 includes the average number of weekly PCC users by quarter.<sup>541</sup> In ten of the thirteen quarters, PCC grantees had a combined average of at least 1 million weekly users. Individual users may be counted more than once. PCC grantees served the largest number of weekly users in the third quarter of 2012.

**Figure 14. Average Weekly PCC Users**



### 9.3 Public Safety Agencies

The fourth goal of the Recovery Act is to improve access to, and use of, broadband service by public safety agencies. With the exception of the Future Generations SBA grant, the SBA and PCC grants in the evaluation study sample did not implement programs or engage in activities in support of public safety initiatives. Conversely, each of the CCI grants enabled public safety activities, with the exception of Zayo Bandwidth’s Indiana Middle Mile Fiber for Schools, Communities, and Anchor Institutions project. APR data show that through the end of 2012, CCI grantees connected 3,036 Public Safety entities out of a total of 23,128 connected entities (13 percent).<sup>542</sup> Section 5 above describes the impacts observed at the public safety institutions the evaluation study team interviewed during site visits.

### 9.4 Demand for Broadband, Economic Growth, and Job Creation

The final Recovery Act goal is to stimulate the demand for broadband, economic growth, and job creation. The central activities of PCC and SBA grants are intended to spur economic development and job creation by providing computer and broadband-based technology training and support at the individual level. Implementation of each project results in job creation to the extent that staff members are required to operate facilities and carry out grant activities, such as equipment distribution, outreach and awareness campaigns, training, and support.

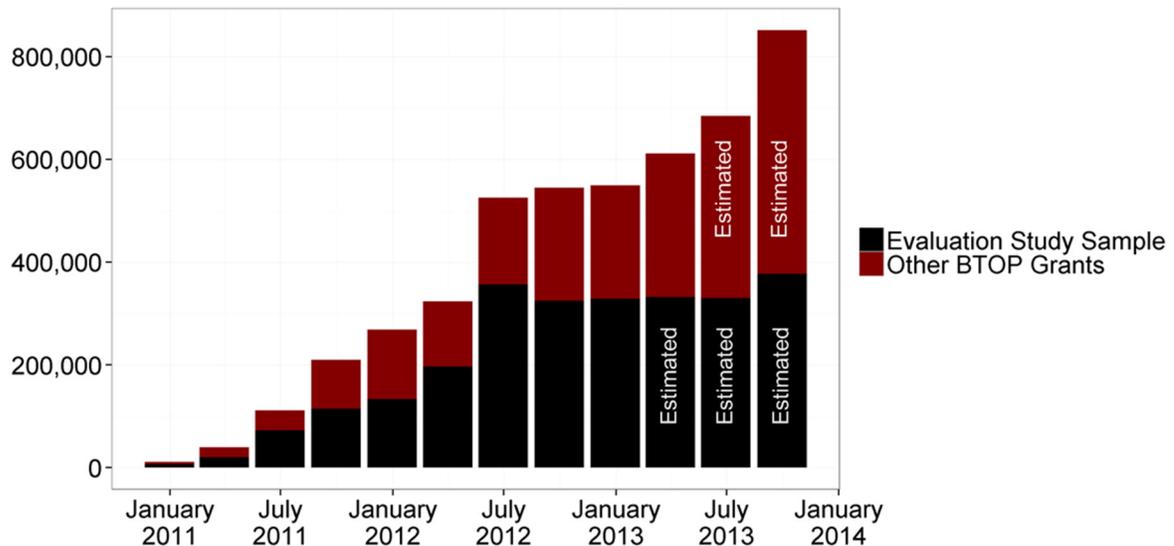
Over the short term, the CCI projects spur immediate demand for construction jobs and related employment to design and build the networks. Short-term economic impacts are described in the *Short-Term Economic Impacts Report*.<sup>543</sup>

#### 9.4.1 Demand for Broadband

The following figure illustrates the positive impact of BTOP projects on the demand for broadband among businesses and households. Figure 15 shows the cumulative number of household subscribers as a result of SBA projects.<sup>544</sup> As of September 30, 2013, SBA projects were successful in getting more than 800,000 households to subscribe to broadband. As grantee award periods started to end in the last quarter of 2012, these grantees no longer submitted quarterly

reports. In these cases, the total number of subscribers reported in the grant's last PPR was included in subsequent quarters. Subscribers were assumed to continue with their subscriptions in future reporting periods based on the most recently available PPR. These instances are noted with "estimated" in the figure below.

**Figure 15. Cumulative SBA New Household Subscribers**



In addition to the household subscriptions described above, more than 7,000 businesses had subscribed to broadband as of September 30, 2013.

## 9.4.2 Economic Growth

All three BTOP project types spur economic growth. The PCC and SBA grants foster this growth by promoting broadband adoption, which results in impacts at the individual level, such as increasing broadband education and awareness in schools and training a skilled workforce. CCI projects spur economic growth by promoting broadband availability through the provision of broadband infrastructure. This approach allows communities to attract and retain businesses and supports online entrepreneurship and growth of existing small businesses. An example for each project type is included below.

- Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU):** FAMU's PCC grant created a new computer center and provided workforce training focused on industry certifications, education, and virtual learning services for student and nonstudent populations.<sup>545</sup> The project funded access to training programs and industry certifications for small and disadvantaged businesses and employment training for individuals. The center also hosted interns through Professional Opportunities Program for Students, Inc., which emphasized the personal and professional development of high school students. Patrons use the computer center to complete coursework and finish their college degrees.<sup>546</sup>
- Connect Arkansas:** This SBA project focused on teaching the basics of digital literacy, online entrepreneurship, and access to telehealth services.<sup>547</sup> Connect Arkansas' Workforce and Economic Development programs targeted students, entrepreneurs, and existing small businesses. The student component emphasized the integration of entrepreneurship into the state's high school curriculum. The other major component focused on online entrepreneurship and using broadband to help existing businesses build an online presence. The overarching goal of the project was to foster sustainable economic development and to help Arkansas succeed in an economy increasingly reliant on Internet-based technology.<sup>548</sup>

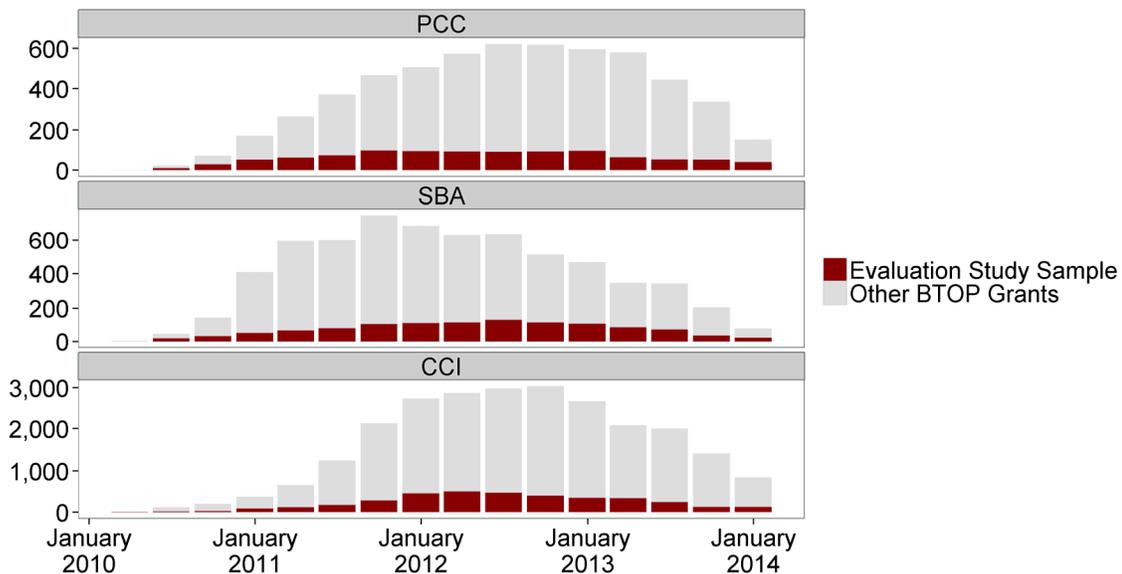
- Mid-Atlantic Broadband Cooperative (MBC):** MBC expanded its existing fiber network to industrial parks and rural areas in sixteen counties in southern Virginia. MBC and its partners recognized the competitive advantage of broadband connectivity for economic development. MBC worked with local and regional economic developers to identify industrial and technology campuses to connect through its GigaPark initiative. As of August 2013, MBC fiber reaches sixty-five GigaParks in southern Virginia, thirty-eight (58 percent) of which are in the project's service area. The service area has experienced the relocation and expansion of several firms, resulting in job opportunities for local and regional workforces.<sup>549</sup>

### 9.4.3 Job Creation

As required by the Recovery Act, grantees reported the number of jobs created quarterly as a direct result of their projects. Additionally, during site visits, the evaluation study team gathered anecdotal evidence describing the types of jobs that were funded as a direct result of the grant. In general, PCC and SBA hired staff to coordinate activities at computer centers and to provide technical support and training to patrons. Both PCC and SBA projects hired staff or partnered with organizations for equipment maintenance and training, and to develop awareness and educational materials for outreach or advertising campaigns. Job creation from CCI projects came primarily from consultants and contractors hired to design, build, operate, and maintain the network infrastructure.

Figure 16 displays the number of jobs created each quarter by project type.<sup>550</sup> CCI grantees created the most jobs, generating more than 3,000 in the third quarter of 2012 alone. In seven of the sixteen quarters included below, CCI grants created more than 2,000 jobs. PCC and SBA grants created at least 600 jobs in three and six of the sixteen quarters, respectively. It is important to note that the job totals included in the figure below only represent direct jobs created, and does not include indirect or induced job creation.<sup>551</sup>

**Figure 16. Quarterly Jobs Created by Project Type**



Examples of jobs created by BTOP projects appear below.

- Technology for All (TFA):** TFA created and sustained as many as forty-seven full-time equivalent (FTE) positions by the end of 2012. These progressive increases correspond with the acquisition of computer center and administrative staff. These staff members maintained the

PCC facilities, computers, and software. Staff members also regularly traveled between sites to teach classes. Austin Free-Net, a project partner, employed 17.5 FTE employees to support the project efforts, including hiring 13 previously unemployed individuals.<sup>552</sup>

- **Urban Affairs Coalition (UAC):** The project funded as many as fifty-three FTE positions by the end of June 2012. As of December 2012, the project had sustained more than forty-five FTE positions. The project experienced an increase of nearly twenty FTE positions during the third quarter of 2011, corresponding with the opening of thirteen new training sites and expanded training options across partner organizations.<sup>553</sup>
- **Clearwave Communications (Clearwave):** The project directly funded more than eighteen FTE positions during four consecutive quarters beginning quarter four of 2011. Clearwave did not report any direct jobs with BTOP funding following the third quarter of 2012. Job creation as a result of the grant appears to have occurred mostly within Clearwave itself, where employment expanded from thirty-two to seventy.<sup>554</sup>

## Section 10. Next Steps for the Evaluation Study

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This section provides a roadmap for the duration of the study and additional information about the matched pairs analysis that ASR will use in the *Final Report* to assess the economic and social impacts of CCI projects. The goal of this section is to outline the remaining steps to be taken in this analysis, and to present refinements to the methodology presented in the *Study Design* based on the results of the CCI Case Studies.

### 10.1 Roadmap for the Remainder of the Study

In June 2014, ASR will deliver a draft *Final Report* that quantitatively and qualitatively assesses the economic and social impact of BTOP grants (including CCI, PCC, and SBA projects). The centerpiece of the *Final Report* will be an assessment of how and to what extent BTOP grant awards have achieved economic and social benefits in areas served by the grantees in the sample, and an extrapolation of these benefits to the BTOP program as a whole.

NTIA will have the opportunity to review the draft *Final Report* and engage peer reviewers, as well as government personnel, to provide constructive critiques of the draft intended to improve the quality of the *Final Report*.<sup>555</sup> ASR will submit a revised *Final Report* to NTIA in September 2014, along with all raw data that created a foundation for the analysis and conclusions. The data will be delivered in a format that will allow future researchers to utilize them.<sup>556</sup> These data will also include the underlying data used to create the *Short-Term Economic Impacts Report* ASR submitted to NTIA in 2013. This raw data delivery will not include the data used to create the individual case study reports. These data were provided to NTIA in September 2013 for PCC and SBA grants and March 2014 for CCI grants.

As discussed in Section 1.2, ASR performed site visits with twenty-seven BTOP grantees. ASR will contact each grantee during the second quarter of 2014 to understand the extent to which programs initially funded by BTOP are able to continue operating without BTOP funds. ASR will use the results from these follow-up calls to round out the conclusions presented in the *Final Report*, to the extent possible.

ASR will also request the most recently approved PPRs and APRs from NTIA in April 2014 (see Section 10.12.3 for more information). If these data are available, ASR will provide a final summary of grantee activities in the *Final Report*.

### 10.2 Modifications to the Statistical Methodology

Section 5 of the *Study Design* describes the statistical estimation methodology suggested at the beginning of the project for estimating short-, intermediate-, and long-term impacts of BTOP grants. This analysis was intended to produce material to be incorporated into the *Final Report*. The statistical estimation methodology was primarily designed to characterize the economic impacts of BTOP CCI grants, although some of the social impacts would also be considered.

Based on information gathered during site visits, the results of the research the evaluation study team has undertaken to date, and contract modifications that have occurred since the statistical estimation methodology was designed, ASR believes that refinements and changes to the methodology are required before the creation of the *Final Report*. The following subsections describe the statistical methodology the evaluation study team will use in the *Final Report*, replacing Section 5 of the *Study Design*.

### 10.3 Purpose of the Statistical Estimation Methodology

The statistical estimation methodology described in the following subsections is intended to quantitatively estimate the economic and social impacts of BTOP CCI grants. During site visits, the evaluation study team obtained little quantitative information on the social and economic impacts of PCC and SBA projects. As noted in the *Study Design*, it was likely that the qualitative methodology employed would provide a substantial portion of the basis for the analysis provided in the case study reports, and in the “Impact” sections above. Quantitative measures were not consistently gathered by PCC and SBA grantees, as shown by the completed longitudinal analysis sections, also included in the “Impact” sections above. This report includes quantitative data available to the evaluation study team, but quantitative data that may be used consistently for PCC and SBA cases are limited to APR and PPR data. The evaluation study team intends to provide an analysis of data from APRs in the *Final Report*, if these data are available as of April 11, 2014. This topic is discussed further at the end of this section.

The impacts of CCI grants are more amenable to quantitative analysis, and the information below describes the methodology for extrapolating the social and economic benefits of BTOP CCI grants based on changes in broadband availability that may be attributed to BTOP CCI programs.

### 10.4 Estimating Short-Term Economic Impacts

ASR has already completed the analysis of BTOP’s short-term economic impacts. Instead of delivering these results with the *Final Report*, ASR agreed to a contract modification with the government to provide this portion of the *Final Report* on September 30, 2013. The *Final Report* will include a summary of the findings presented in the *Short-Term Economic Impacts Report*.

### 10.5 Estimating Intermediate-Term and Long-Term Impacts

During the site visits, CCI grant recipients provided the evaluation study team with information on the construction and capacity of the infrastructure they built. A matched pair analysis of treatment and control counties is appropriate given the data provided during interviews and focus groups. The following subsections provide additional information about the matched pairs analysis that ASR will use in the *Final Report* to provide information about the potential economic and social impacts of CCI projects. The goal of this section is to outline the remaining steps to be taken in this analysis. It replaces the methodology presented in Section 5 of the *Study Design* in its entirety.

### 10.6 Matched Pairs Selection

As described in the *Study Design*, an effective and well-established way to develop estimates of the effects of programs such as BTOP is the use of matched pairs analysis. ASR has developed a matched pairs analysis framework that compares changes in the availability of broadband at the county-level between counties that are served by a selected BTOP CCI grant (treatment counties) and similar counties (control counties). By examining the differences in availability across a large number of treatment-control pairs, it is possible to develop an estimate of the increase in broadband availability, if any, in treatment counties that can be ascribed to BTOP. In other words, the matched pairs analysis provides a means to examine what might have occurred “but for” the BTOP program. To the extent that BTOP CCI counties experience faster growth in broadband availability than similar counties that did not receive a BTOP CCI grant, one can conclude that BTOP may have had an impact on the availability of broadband.

## 10.6.1 Treatment Counties

The treatment counties selected for the matched pairs analysis are drawn from the evaluation study sample of twelve case studies selected by NTIA at the beginning of the project. As part of the case study methodology, ASR examined redacted grant applications, APRs, PPRs, grant fact sheets, and grantee-specific materials to develop a preliminary service area description for each of the twelve projects in the evaluation study sample. Each service area description was provided as a list of served counties to grantees, who made changes and additions to the list based on the actual results of the project. The confirmed list of counties is included in each of the twelve CCI case study reports. The following table lists the counties included in the service area, counties added due to the presence of CAIs, and the total number of counties included in the treatment area for each grant and for the sample as a whole.

**Table 9. Selected BTOP CCI Grant Service Area Counties**

Grant (State)	Counties	Number of Counties
Clearwave Communications (Illinois)	Alexander, Clay, Clinton, Edwards, Franklin, Hamilton, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Marion, Massac, Perry, Pulaski, Randolph, Richland, Saint Clair, Saline, Union, Wabash, Washington, Wayne, White, Williamson	23
Executive Office of the State of West Virginia (West Virginia)	Barbour, Berkeley, Boone, Braxton, Brooke, Cabell, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Grant, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Hancock, Hardy, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Kanawha, Lewis, Lincoln, Logan, Marion, Marshall, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mineral, Mingo, Monongalia, Monroe, Morgan, Nicholas, Ohio, Pendleton, Pleasants, Pocahontas, Preston, Putnam, Raleigh, Randolph, Ritchie, Roane, Summers, Taylor, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, Wayne, Webster, Wetzel, Wirt, Wood, Wyoming	55
Lane Council of Governments (Oregon)	Douglas, Klamath, Lane	3
Massachusetts Technology Park (Massachusetts) 557	Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Middlesex, Worcester	6
MCNC (North Carolina)	Alleghany, Anson, Ashe, Avery, Beaufort, Bertie, Brunswick, Buncombe, Cabarrus, Caldwell, Camden, Carteret, Caswell, Chatham, Chowan, Cleveland, Columbus, Craven, Cumberland, Currituck, Dare, Edgecombe, Franklin, Gaston, Gates, Graham, Granville, Halifax, Harnett, Haywood, Henderson, Hertford, Hyde, Jackson, Lee, Lincoln, Madison, Martin, McDowell, Mecklenburg, Mitchell, Moore, Nash, New Hanover, Northampton, Onslow, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Person, Pitt, Polk, Richmond, Robeson, Rockingham, Rutherford, Scotland, Stokes, Surry, Swain, Transylvania, Tyrrell, Union, Vance, Wake, Warren, Washington, Watauga, Wilson, Yancey	69

Grant (State)	Counties	Number of Counties
Merit Network, Inc. (Michigan)	Allegan, Antrim, Arenac, Bay, Benzie, Berrien, Branch, Cass, Charlevoix, Clare, Crawford, Emmet, Gladwin, Grand Traverse, Hillsdale, Iosco, Isabella, Kalkaska, Lake, Lenawee, Manistee, Mason, Midland, Monroe, Montmorency, Muskegon, Oceana, Otsego, Ottawa, Roscommon, St. Joseph, Van Buren  <i>Added due to connected CAI: Cheboygan</i>	33
Mid-Atlantic Broadband Cooperative (Virginia)	Amelia, Bedford, Bedford city, Buckingham, Campbell, Charlotte, Chesterfield, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Emporia city, Franklin, Greensville, Halifax, Henry, Lunenburg, Lynchburg city, Martinsville city, Petersburg city, Pittsylvania, Powhatan, Prince George, Sussex	22
OneCommunity <sup>558</sup> (Ohio)	Ashland, Ashtabula, Champaign, Clermont, Columbiana, Coshocton, Crawford, Cuyahoga, Erie, Franklin, Geauga, Holmes, Huron, Lake, Lorain, Lucas, Mahoning, Marion, Medina, Montgomery, Morrow, Ottawa, Portage, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Washington, Wayne, Wood	33
OSHEAN (Rhode Island)	Bristol, Kent, Newport, Providence, Washington and Bristol, MA	6
South Dakota Network (South Dakota)	Beadle, Brookings, Brown, Butte, Clark, Codington, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Hand, Hughes, Hyde, Kingsbury, Lake, Lawrence, Lincoln, McCook, Marshall, Meade, Minnehaha, Pennington, Spink, Walworth  <i>Added due to connected CAI: Aurora, Bennett, Bon Homme, Brule, Campbell, Charles Mix, Clay, Custer, Davison, Day, Dewey, Douglas, Edmunds, Fall River, Faulk, Gregory, Haakon, Harding, Hutchinson, Jackson, Jerauld, Jones, Lyman, McPherson, Mellette, Miner, Moody, Perkins, Potter, Roberts, Shannon, Stanley, Sully, Tripp, Turner, Union, and Yankton</i>	60
University of Arkansas System (Arkansas)	Arkansas, Ashley, Baxter, Benton, Boone, Bradley, Calhoun, Carroll, Chicot, Clark, Clay, Cleburne, Cleveland, Columbia, Conway, Craighead, Crawford, Crittenden, Cross, Dallas, Desha, Drew, Faulkner, Franklin, Fulton, Garland, Grant, Greene, Hempstead, Hot Spring, Howard, Independence, Izard, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Lafayette, Lawrence, Lee, Lincoln, Little River, Logan, Lonoke, Madison, Marion, Miller, Mississippi, Monroe, Montgomery, Nevada, Newton, Ouachita, Perry, Phillips, Pike, Poinsett, Polk, Pope, Prairie, Pulaski, Randolph, Saline, Scott, Searcy, Sebastian, Sevier, Sharp, St. Francis, Stone, Union, Van Buren, Washington, White, Woodruff, Yell	75
Zayo Bandwidth (Indiana)	Allen, Bartholomew, Dearborn, Delaware, Elkhart, Fayette, Grant, Howard, Jefferson, Kosciusko, Lake, LaPorte, Madison, Monroe, Porter, Sullivan, Vanderburgh, White  <i>Added due to connected CAI: Gibson, Johnson, Marion, Tippecanoe, Wabash</i>	23
<b>Total</b>		<b>408</b>

## 10.6.2 Potential Control Counties

Each county in the treatment group shown above requires a control county for comparison. These control counties should be similar in relevant aspects to the treatment counties in order to provide a baseline against which to judge the impact on availability of the BTOP projects. Table 10 shows the steps taken to arrive at the population of potential control counties. Each step is also described below.

The list of prospective counties began with a complete list of counties and county equivalents in the United States, excluding Alaska and Hawaii. ASR then researched the proposed service area counties of every submitted application for BTOP CCI grants using the Broadband Application Database, excluding applications that proposed to cover exclusively Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, or other Island Areas of the United States, applications based on satellite broadband service, and public safety network applications.<sup>559</sup> The team primarily drew from the Executive Summaries and Public Notice Responses components of the database. In any case where the service area was unclear, the team searched for other sources of publicly available data. The result was a list of 503 counties that had not been included in a BTOP application. In order to account for potential differences between applicants and non-applicants, counties that had not been mentioned in an application were removed from the population of potential control counties, leaving 2,640 counties.

The second step in the control county selection process was to remove those counties that had applied for and received a BTOP or Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP) grant. These counties would not be suitable controls because of federally sponsored activity that would be expected to take place. As shown in Table 10, 1,744 counties were rejected for this reason. Counties were identified as having benefited from a BTOP or BIP grant if they were mentioned in an application that received an award, or if a CAI or point of presence (POP) in the Connecting America's Communities map was located within their borders.<sup>560</sup> The result of applying this filter was the identification of 896 counties that could be considered potential control counties.

**Table 10. Potential Control Counties in the United States**

All Counties in the United States	3,143
Less counties in Alaska and Hawaii	3,109
Less counties not in proposed BTOP service area	2,640
Less counties in awarded BTOP or BIP grant service area <sup>561</sup>	<b>896 Potential Controls</b>

Table 11 summarizes the data presented in Table 9 and Table 10 above. Out of the 3,143 counties in the United States, the evaluation study team removed 1,839 counties from this analysis, leaving 408 treatment counties and 896 potential control counties.

**Table 11. Number of Counties in Treatment, Control, and Discarded Groups**

Group	Frequency
Treatment counties	408
Potential control counties	896
Removed from analysis	1,839
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,143</b>

## 10.7 Selecting Matching Counties

Each county in the treatment group must be matched to a control county that is similar in its broadband-relevant characteristics. Following Gillett et al., the evaluation study team used nearest-neighbor matching to develop the control group for the matched pairs samples of counties.<sup>562</sup> This function finds a control area for each geographic area receiving BTOP funding. ASR performed this match using data obtained from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The FCC provided these data at the request of NTIA. The data allowed ASR to develop county-level estimates of the following broadband-relevant county attributes:

- **Broadband availability:** For the purposes of this analysis, NTIA requested the evaluation study team define broadband as high-speed wireline or fixed wireless service that has two-way data transmission with advertised speeds of at least 768 kbps upstream (upload) and at least 3 Mbps downstream (download). At NTIA's request, the National Broadband Map (NBM) team provided the evaluation study team with census block-level broadband coverage for the June 30, 2011 NBM release.<sup>563</sup> The evaluation study team aggregated the broadband coverage by calculating the county-level broadband availability rate, the total population with broadband availability divided by the sum of block total populations.
- **Population:** The data provided by the NBM team includes census block populations.<sup>564</sup> The evaluation study team aggregated these data by calculating the total county population, the sum of block total populations.
- **Rurality:** The data provided by the NBM team includes a block-level urban/rural block flag.<sup>565</sup> The evaluation study team calculated the county-level rural population percentage as the sum of the populations of rural blocks in a county divided by the sum of the populations of all blocks in the county.

These will be the primary characteristics on which the treatment to control county matches are performed. Table 12 below presents descriptive statistics of the data identified above for the treatment and potential control counties.<sup>566</sup>

**Table 12. Descriptive Statistics of Matching Variables**

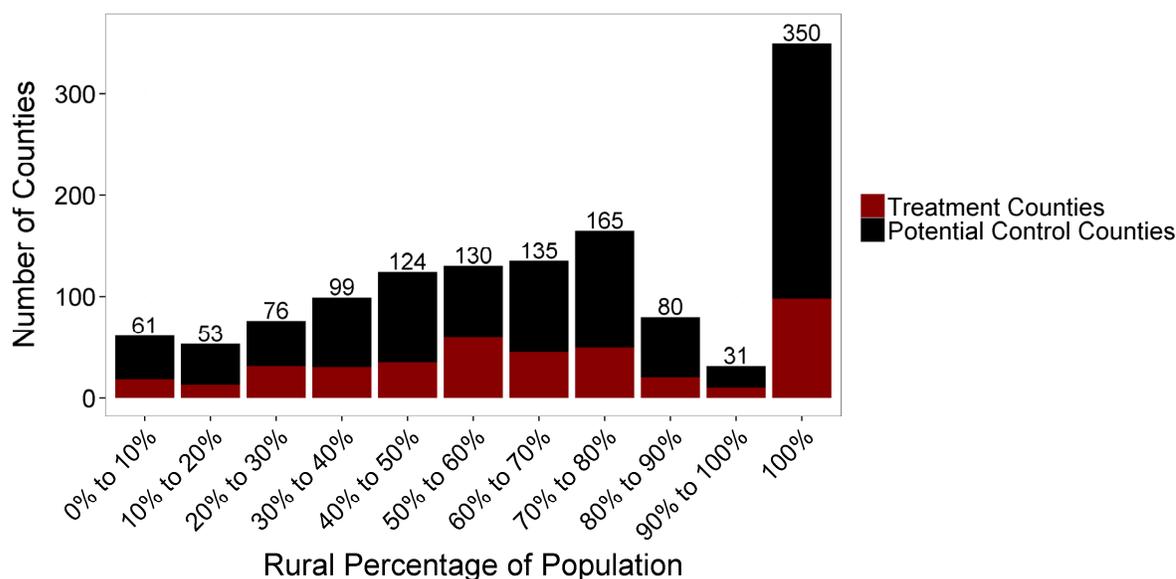
Variable	Statistic	Treatment Counties	Potential Control Counties
Population (June 30, 2011)	Mean	78,336.84	83,212.59
	Median	27,283.50	21,940.50
Availability (June 30, 2011)	Mean	73.17%	78.93%
	Median	82.85%	85.87%
Rurality (June 30, 2011)	Mean	63.66%	65.81%
	Median	64.26%	70.15%

According to the Economics and Statistics Administration (ESA) and NTIA, certain vulnerable populations are less likely to have adopted broadband, or are more likely to benefit from it.<sup>567</sup> Based on the Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) and an extensive literature review, the evaluation study team identified and discussed four vulnerable populations in *Interim Report 1*: those in poverty, individuals sixty-five years of age or older, minorities, and those who speak languages other than English in the home.<sup>568</sup>

## 10.8 Rurality

Rural areas are more likely to have lower levels of broadband availability, all other things being equal.<sup>569</sup> The data provided to ASR by the NBM team includes measure of rurality at the census block-level. Figure 17 below illustrates the distribution of the percentage of population in a county living in a rural area, computed as the population-weighted average of census block-level rurality statistics.

**Figure 17. Distribution of Rural Percentage of Population in Treatment and Potential Control Counties**



As shown in Figure 17, a substantial number of counties are completely rural, with other counties exhibiting a distribution of rurality values centered around 50 to 60 percent. Treatment counties that are 100 percent rural will be matched, described below, to control counties that are also 100 percent rural. Treatment counties that are not completely rural are matched to controls that are close to the same level of rurality on a percentage basis.

## 10.9 Matching

The evaluation study team will match treatment counties to control counties using restricted nearest neighbor matching.<sup>570</sup> Nearest neighbor matching selects the most similar control county for each treatment county independently of any other matches.<sup>571</sup> Restricted matching eliminates possible control counties where the values of matching variables are too dissimilar to the treatment county's values.

The evaluation study team first matched treatment counties to controls on the values of broadband availability as of June 30, 2011, natural logarithm of population, rural percentage of population, and a rural county binary variable.<sup>572</sup> The evaluation study team imposed several restrictions on possible matches, as described below.

1. Completely rural counties may only match to completely rural counties, and counties with a rural population less than 100 percent may only match to counties with a rural population less than 100 percent.

2. Broadband availability in the selected control county must be within 1 percentage point of broadband availability in the treatment county. If no matches are possible, this restriction loosens by a factor of 1.1 (e.g., 1 percentage point, 1.1 percentage points, 1.21 percentage points, and so on) until a match is found.
3. The value of the log of population of the treatment county must be within one-half of a standard deviation of the log of population of the value of the treatment county.<sup>573</sup>

The evaluation study team used the Mahalanobis distance metric to determine the similarity between treatment and control counties.<sup>574</sup> The evaluation study team then used the nearest neighbor algorithm to select the control county most similar to each treatment county based on the restrictions listed above.<sup>575</sup> This methodology and the restrictions described above help ensure that individual county matches and the resulting treatment and control groups were similar in the level of broadband availability before the effects of BTOP, and that the basic character of the counties is similar. Table 13 below presents summary statistics of the three variables used in the matching process. Appendix A lists the individual county matches and variable values.

**Table 13. Descriptive Statistics of Matching Variables for Matched Pairs**

Variable	Statistic	Treatment Counties	Control Counties
Population (June 30, 2011)	Mean	78,336.84	79,025.05
	Median	27,283.50	26,996.50
Availability (June 30, 2011)	Mean	73.17%	73.15%
	Median	82.85%	82.86%
Rurality (June 30, 2011)	Mean	63.66%	64.96%
	Median	64.26%	68.13%

## 10.10 Sensitivity Testing

In order to examine the sensitivity of the effect of BTOP to the matching methodology, the evaluation study team performed a second round of matching. The evaluation study team identified demographic information about vulnerable populations as an additional factor that could be used to match counties. The evaluation study team used the following county-level measurements of these vulnerable populations: percentage of the population in poverty, percentage of population sixty-five years of age and older, percentage minority, and percentage that speak languages other than English in the home.<sup>576</sup> The team used Census 2010 estimates of county-level population percentages of individuals sixty-five and older and minorities and American Community Survey 2006-2010 estimates of county poverty rates and the percentage of population speaking a language other than English in the home.<sup>577</sup>

Table 14 presents descriptive statistics of vulnerable populations for the treatment counties and control counties, as well as for all counties in the United States less Alaska and Hawaii.<sup>578</sup>

**Table 14. Descriptive Statistics of Vulnerable Populations**

Variable	Statistic	Treatment Counties	Potential Control Counties
65+ years (June 30, 2011)	Mean	16.55%	15.97%
	Median	16.26%	15.40%
Minority (June 30, 2011)	Mean	18.05%	22.79%
	Median	11.36%	15.54%
Poverty (June 30, 2011)	Mean	16.56%	16.34%
	Median	16.34%	15.34%
Non-English speaking (June 30, 2011)	Mean	1.95%	3.12%
	Median	1.22%	1.51%

The process for identifying these matches was identical to that described above, except that the vulnerable population variables included in Table 15 were included. In this round of matching, the distances between counties were calculated with the variables percentage of population 65-years-old or older, minority percentage of population, poverty rate, and non-English speaking percentage of population in addition to the rural population percentage, the log of population, and the level of broadband availability. Table 15, below, characterizes the treatment and selected control counties for the sensitivity testing sample. Appendix A lists the individual county matches and variable values. Using the additional variables, ASR found a matched control county different from the base match for 254 of the 408 treatment counties.

**Table 15. Descriptive Statistics of Matching Variables for Matched Pairs, Sensitivity Group**

Variable	Statistic	Treatment Counties	Control Counties
Population (June 30, 2011)	Mean	78,336.84	69,840.40
	Median	27,283.50	26,575.50
Availability (June 30, 2011)	Mean	73.17%	73.17%
	Median	82.85%	82.79%
Rurality (June 30, 2011)	Mean	63.66%	65.87%
	Median	64.26%	69.77%
65+ years (June 30, 2011)	Mean	16.55%	16.07%
	Median	16.26%	15.63%
Minority (June 30, 2011)	Mean	18.05%	17.78%
	Median	11.36%	12.73%
Poverty (June 30, 2011)	Mean	16.56%	15.62%
	Median	16.34%	15.07%
Non-English speaking (June 30, 2011)	Mean	1.95%	2.10%
	Median	1.22%	1.46%

Based on the BTOP-to-control matches described in this section and listed in Table 13 and Table 15, ASR will compare broadband availability rates in selected CCI case study counties and matched non-BTOP counties for the June 30, 2011 through June 30, 2013 NBM releases. This comparison will estimate the effect of the selected CCI grants on broadband availability. ASR will use the estimated effect on broadband availability to calculate the economic benefits of the selected CCI case study grants according to quantifiable benefits found in the existing body of literature.

## 10.11 Extrapolating to Long-Term Broadband Impacts

The matched pairs methodology described above draws on the methodology presented in ASR's *Study Design* prepared in 2011.<sup>579</sup> As part of the study design, ASR conducted a review of the current literature surrounding the economic and social impacts of broadband technologies. ASR reviewed more than 500 articles in academic literature, technical publications, and other sources. Two years have passed since the conclusion of those efforts, and additional research continues to be published. In order to maintain an up-to-date source of literature, ASR conducted a review of new literature. The review focused on comparing the current methodologies in measuring the longitudinal impacts of broadband technologies with those used in leading research. As a result of this review, sources have been added to support broadband benefits found in the first review. Quantifiable measures surrounding the impact of broadband have been reviewed and added to the longitudinal analysis to be presented in the *Final Report*.

The *Final Report* will extrapolate from the increases in broadband availability due to BTOP as estimated by the matched pairs methodology described above to variables that summarize the economic and social impact of BTOP. From the literature reviews surrounding the five focus areas defined in *Interim Report 1* with the addition of the Government Services focus area, ASR has determined a list of benefits that can be quantified.

Table 16 includes the list of benefits that ASR has found possible to quantify and will potentially make up the benefits estimations of the longitudinal analysis. A full list of all potential benefits will be included in the *Final Report*.

**Table 16. Broadband Benefits**

Literature	Quantification
<b>Workforce and Economic Development</b>	
Crandall, Lehr, and Litan: <i>The Effects of Broadband Deployment on Output and Employment: A Cross-sectional Analysis of U.S. Data. (2007)</i> <sup>580</sup>	A 1 percentage point increase in broadband availability in a state will increase employment by 0.2 to 0.3 percent per year.
Jed Kolko: <i>Broadband and Local Growth. (2010)</i> <sup>581</sup>	A one-standard-deviation change in broadband availability corresponds to a 0.085 standard deviation change in employment.
Czernich et al.: <i>Broadband Infrastructure and Economic Growth. (2011)</i> <sup>582</sup>	A 10 percentage point increase in broadband availability raises annual per capita GDP growth by 0.92.
A.T. Kearney: <i>Assessing the Economic Benefits of Digital Inclusion. (2011)</i> <sup>583</sup>	An estimated increase in wages of \$111 per month exists for workers who upgrade ICT skills.
Kuhn and Mansour: <i>Is Internet Job Search Still Ineffective? (2013)</i> <sup>584</sup>	Internet searchers' unemployment durations are about 25 percent shorter than comparable workers who search offline only.

Literature	Quantification
<i>Gillett, Lehr, Osorio, and Sirbu: Measuring the Economic Impact of Broadband Deployment. (2006)</i> <sup>585</sup>	The introduction of any broadband to a ZIP Code (from no broadband to at least 1 broadband line) increases the employment growth rate by 1.4 percent.
<i>Grimes: The Need for Speed: Impacts of Internet Connectivity on Firm Production. (2009)</i> <sup>586</sup>	Broadband adoption by a firm boosts firm productivity by 7 to 10 percent.
<i>LECG Ltd: Economic Impact of Broadband: An Empirical Study. (2009)</i> <sup>587</sup>	An increase of 1 broadband line per 100 individuals will increase productivity by 0.1 percent.
<i>Dolton and Pelkonen. The Impact of Computer Use, Computer Skills and Computer Use Intensity: Evidence from WERS 2004. (2007)</i> <sup>588</sup>	Workers with ICT skills have an estimated wage premium of 3 to 10 percent.
<i>Matthews and Williams: Telework Adoption and Energy Use in Building and Transport Sectors in the United States and Japan. (2005)</i> <sup>589</sup>	The ability to telecommute saves an average of one hour of commute time per employee.
<i>van Deursen: Internet skills: vital assets in an information society. (2010)</i> <sup>590</sup>	Internet users were paid approximately 14 percent more than nonusers in 2001.
<i>DiMaggio and Bonikowski: Make Money Surfing the Web? The Impact of Internet Use on the Earnings of U.S. Workers. (2010)</i> <sup>591</sup>	Individuals who use the Internet at home and work make \$1.40 more per hour than non-users. Individuals who use the Internet at work but not at home make \$0.88 more than non-users. Finally, individuals who use the Internet at home but not at work make \$0.52 more than non-users.
<b>Healthcare</b>	
<i>Connected Nation: The Economic Impact of Stimulating Broadband Nationally. (2008)</i> <sup>592</sup>	By accessing health information online, 35 percent of new broadband users save an estimated \$217 per year on healthcare expenditures.
<i>Digital Impact Group and Econsult Corporation: The Economic Impact of Digital Exclusion. (2010)</i> <sup>593</sup>	Increased Internet use by obese persons to obtain health information results in 61 percent of them changing lifestyle habits that save \$1,500 per person in healthcare services.
<i>Baker, Rideout, Gertler, and Raube: Effect of an Internet-Based System for Doctor-Patient Communication on Health Care Spending. (2005)</i> <sup>594</sup>	Doctors who see patients online rather than in the office can save an average of \$1.71 per patient per month.
<i>Klery et al.: Economic Impact of Remote Patient Monitoring: An Integrated Economic Model Derived from a Meta-Analysis of Randomized Controlled Trials in Heart Failure. (2011)</i> <sup>595</sup>	Remote monitoring programs reduce the incidence rate for all hospitalizations of heart disease patients from 1.051 per patient per year to 0.894.

Literature	Quantification
Ford and Ford: <i>Internet Use and Depression Among the Elderly. (2009)</i> <sup>596</sup>	Spending time online can reduce depression by 20 percent for senior citizens.
Young et al.: <i>Impact of Telemedicine Intensive Care Unit Coverage on Patient Outcomes: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. (2011)</i> <sup>597</sup>	Tele-ICU coverage was associated with a reduction in ICU length of stay of 1.26 days.
Digital Literacy	
PriceWaterhouseCoopers: <i>Champion for Digital Inclusion: The Economic Case for Digital Inclusion. (2009)</i> <sup>598</sup>	Online shopping has the potential to offer an estimated savings of 557 UK pounds per year with respect to time, travel, and other costs, when compared to traditional shopping.
A.T. Kearney: <i>Assessing the Economic Benefits of Digital Inclusion. (2011)</i> <sup>599</sup>	E-mail, instant messaging, and other Internet connectivity tools allowed for an average monthly saving of 57 Australian dollars (corresponds to \$59 US) per household on local and international calls.
SQW Consulting: <i>Broadband in the Home: An Analysis of the Financial Costs and Benefits. (2008)</i> <sup>600</sup>	Broadband enables users to search and compare products online, which could result in a weekly saving of £14.60 (\$23.23) per household.
The Allen Consulting Group: <i>Quantifying the Possible Economic Gains of Getting More Australian Households Online. (2010)</i> <sup>601</sup>	Households with an Internet connection benefit approximately \$150 (Australian) per week by saving time through remote work/education, information resources, and online shopping.

## 10.12 Challenges and Methodological Adjustments

### 10.12.1 Analysis of Network Capacity and Saturation

During the case study site visits, CCI grantees provided the evaluation study team with information on the construction and capacity of the infrastructure they built. Based on information provided during interviews and focus groups, it appears unlikely that saturation of recently installed fiber is likely in the near future. There have been advances in fiber-optic multiplexing technology since the inception of the BTOP program that have the potential to deliver at least a tenfold increase in capacity, with future improvements on the horizon.<sup>602</sup> As a result, the capacity of the BTOP-funded infrastructure is likely to be limited by the transmission equipment used by grantees and third parties, not by the new network itself. ASR will therefore extrapolate the social and economic impacts of BTOP-funded infrastructure based on the number of served institutions and other factors, not including saturation.

### 10.12.2 CAIs in the National Broadband Map

In addition to data on broadband availability at the census block level, the National Broadband Map includes information on broadband subscription at the CAI level. These data include information on the presence or absence of a broadband subscription at CAIs and the upload and download speeds associated with that subscription. Based on a review of the completeness of this data, it is not possible, however, to use it within the framework of this project, largely due to the amount of missing data for key outcome variables.

Table 17 presents a tabulation of the data completeness in two matched waves of the NBM, one from June 2011 and a second from June 2013. The figures presented include CAIs from the treatment and control counties for the base matched pairs case described above. Tabulations for the sensitivity analysis case produce similar overall results. As shown in the table, there are a substantial number of CAIs reporting data in both the treatment and control counties. However, relatively few of these are reporting broadband subscription information, and fewer still are reporting download speeds. In addition, matching CAIs between waves is not possible in many cases. This is due in part to the absence of a unique identifier for CAIs in the NBM data, the creation of which is beyond the scope of the NBM project. A second cause is the apparent addition of CAIs to later waves, indicating the potential for missing data in the first wave.

Overall, approximately 14 percent ( $10,301/76,121=0.14$ ) of the CAIs in the treatment and control counties have download speed data available in both waves. Approximately 18 percent of the CAIs in treatment and control counties have subscription information for both waves ( $13,786/76,121=0.18$ ). These levels of data completeness do not support the use of NBM CAI data to analyze the effects of BTOP on CAIs in the treatment and control counties. Data completeness might be improved somewhat with improved matching of CAIs between waves, but not enough to overcome the fundamental lack of data for most of the CAIs in the data set. As a result, ASR will not include NBM CAI data in the *Final Report*.

**Table 17. Community Anchor Institutions in Treatment Counties and Base-Case Selected Control Counties**

County Type	NBM Release	CAIs	Data Availability					
			Broadband Subscriber			Download Speed		
			2011-06	2013-06	2011-06 & 2013-06	2011-06	2013-06	2011-06 & 2013-06
Treatment	2011-06 only	7,682	4,028			1,098		
	2013-06 only	12,949		8,114		7,431		
	2011-06 & 2013-06	25,998	9,214	12,185	9,103	7,595	9,697	6,767
	<b>Total</b>	<b>46,629</b>	<b>13,242</b>	<b>20,299</b>	<b>9,103</b>	<b>8,693</b>	<b>17,128</b>	<b>6,767</b>
Control	2011-06 only	6,500	2,174			1,603		
	2013-06 only	10,912		3,368		3,256		
	2011-06 & 2013-06	12,080	4,787	7,001	4,683	3,601	6,317	3,534
	<b>Total</b>	<b>29,492</b>	<b>6,961</b>	<b>10,369</b>	<b>4,683</b>	<b>5,204</b>	<b>9,573</b>	<b>3,534</b>
Total	2011-06 only	14,182	6,202			2,701		
	2013-06 only	23,861		11,482		10,687		
	2011-06 & 2013-06	38,078	14,001	19,186	13,786	11,196	16,014	10,301
	<b>Total</b>	<b>76,121</b>	<b>20,203</b>	<b>30,668</b>	<b>13,786</b>	<b>13,897</b>	<b>26,701</b>	<b>10,301</b>

### 10.12.3 Availability of Grantee-Reported Data

ASR plans to include summary statistics and analysis derived from data reported by grantees to NTIA in the *Final Report*. Based on a review of APR and PPR data available as of March 2014, ASR will review the possibility of presenting data related to training hours, new household and

business subscriptions, and available lab hours. As described in Section 1, ASR receives these data from NTIA. The evaluation study team must receive new APR and PPR data no later than April 11, 2014 to allow enough time to review and analyze the data for inclusion in the *Final Report*. If the evaluation study team does not have new grantee-reported data by this time, the *Final Report* will include observations based on the previous data request from December 2013. The 2012 APR is the most recently available APR in the current data provided by NTIA.

## Appendix A. Matched Counties

The table below lists the 408 counties that make up the service areas of the CCI grants in the evaluation study sample. Service area counties are listed at the top of each row with county names aligned flush to the left border of the county column.

As described in Section 10, the evaluation study team matched service area counties to counties covered by rejected BTOP grants and not covered by awarded BTOP and BIP grants. The first matches are listed immediately below the service area counties in each row. The values of the matching variables availability, population, and rural population percentage are included for service area counties and their respective matches.

The second matches are listed below the first matches, at the bottom of each row. The variables percent of population 65 years or older, minority population percentage, non-English speaking population percentage, and poverty rate were used for to identify the second matches, so values of those variables are included for service area counties and second matches. All values are from the June 30, 2011 release of the NBM.

County	Availability	Population	Rural	65+	Minority	Non-English	Poverty
<b>The Arkansas Healthcare, Higher Education, Public Safety, &amp; Research Integrated Broadband Initiative (75 counties)</b>							
1	Arkansas, AR	94.31%	18,899	36.36%	16.38%	28.96%	18.94%
	Ware, GA	93.88%	36,772	31.49%			
	Ware, GA	93.88%	36,772	31.49%	15.23%	35.05%	20.49%
2	Ashley, AR	78.15%	21,661	51.68%	16.22%	31.81%	18.46%
	Franklin, KS	78.65%	26,055	54.15%			
	Seneca, NY	78.51%	34,878	60.67%	15.52%	9.23%	13.86%
3	Baxter, AR	94.74%	42,192	69.41%	28.09%	4.04%	15.52%
	Atascosa, TX	93.90%	45,331	67.38%			
	Tillamook, OR	94.07%	25,251	75.51%	20.88%	13.26%	16.90%
4	Benton, AR	96.82%	229,769	50.75%	12.19%	23.37%	11.73%
	Lake, FL	96.20%	306,105	44.58%			
	Montgomery, TX	96.47%	474,292	49.98%	10.40%	28.77%	10.85%
5	Boone, AR	72.00%	37,425	63.37%	18.08%	4.78%	15.98%
	Dillon, SC	71.16%	31,920	67.89%			
	Avoyelles, LA	71.98%	42,306	66.35%	14.44%	33.74%	23.22%
6	Bradley, AR	59.75%	11,475	53.50%	17.74%	41.99%	30.44%
	Fergus, MT	59.03%	11,677	49.37%			
	Fergus, MT	59.03%	11,677	49.37%	21.49%	4.32%	14.70%
7	Calhoun, AR	7.86%	5,343	100.00%	17.19%	26.62%	11.94%
	Mahnomen, MN	8.77%	5,451	100.00%			
	Chouteau, MT	7.90%	5,832	100.00%	17.34%	24.53%	21.00%
8	Carroll, AR	75.98%	27,753	74.17%	18.69%	15.97%	17.24%
	Tate, MS	75.67%	29,185	73.10%			
	Cedar, MO	75.42%	13,837	74.94%	22.36%	3.93%	17.87%
9	Chicot, AR	75.53%	11,583	41.42%	18.21%	59.65%	34.14%
	Pemiscot, MO	74.56%	18,072	35.43%			
	Pemiscot, MO	74.56%	18,072	35.43%	14.72%	30.36%	31.77%
10	Clark, AR	73.18%	23,141	58.05%	14.83%	29.65%	23.77%
	Harlan, KY	72.60%	29,313	58.37%			

	County	Availability	Population	Rural	65+	Minority	Non-English	Poverty
	Neosho, KS	73.34%	16,512	48.45%	17.36%	8.33%	0.86%	16.95%
11	Clay, AR	92.79%	15,884	60.34%	20.02%	3.15%	0.40%	18.72%
	Dunklin, MO	91.80%	31,813	50.97%				
	Dunklin, MO	91.80%	31,813	50.97%	16.49%	17.07%	2.11%	23.62%
12	Cleburne, AR	82.77%	26,079	76.74%	23.56%	4.14%	0.89%	17.43%
	Union, MS	83.52%	27,294	78.17%				
	Johnson, TN	82.90%	18,248	85.57%	17.69%	4.77%	0.67%	23.75%
13	Cleveland, AR	70.75%	8,620	100.00%	16.30%	14.90%	0.10%	15.11%
	Gallatin, KY	70.27%	8,594	100.00%				
	Putnam, IL	71.30%	6,020	100.00%	17.80%	5.86%	0.69%	10.86%
14	Columbia, AR	73.63%	24,314	58.18%	16.00%	40.76%	0.94%	22.87%
	Marengo, AL	72.81%	20,861	70.61%				
	Washington, GA	73.91%	21,304	71.21%	13.60%	55.92%	0.84%	27.64%
15	Conway, AR	64.30%	21,394	74.80%	16.89%	17.58%	1.90%	16.98%
	Wayne, MS	65.14%	20,616	79.78%				
	Humphreys, TN	64.34%	18,547	81.32%	17.29%	5.61%	0.77%	12.91%
16	Craighead, AR	97.44%	98,303	37.33%	12.17%	20.41%	2.25%	19.40%
	Madison, TN	97.54%	98,457	33.83%				
	Pickens, SC	98.26%	120,303	43.76%	13.41%	12.80%	2.28%	16.59%
17	Crawford, AR	91.70%	62,827	57.13%	13.29%	13.20%	3.44%	18.28%
	Lee, MS	90.97%	83,536	52.45%				
	Hopkins, KY	91.12%	46,938	50.33%	15.44%	10.61%	1.68%	18.19%
18	Crittenden, AR	88.17%	51,154	26.50%	10.76%	54.76%	0.96%	27.37%
	Boyle, KY	88.87%	28,694	40.86%				
	Lafayette, MS	87.68%	48,082	57.02%	10.47%	29.17%	1.45%	24.08%
19	Cross, AR	72.88%	17,781	59.70%	15.44%	25.33%	0.40%	16.71%
	Clay, MS	72.13%	20,481	58.10%				
	Neosho, KS	73.34%	16,512	48.45%	17.36%	8.33%	0.86%	16.95%
20	Dallas, AR	80.98%	8,006	55.36%	18.16%	45.87%	0.87%	17.72%
	Randolph, GA	80.42%	7,630	52.14%				
	Randolph, GA	80.42%	7,630	52.14%	17.83%	63.97%	0.92%	28.05%
21	Desha, AR	90.13%	12,808	32.35%	15.14%	53.24%	2.09%	27.57%
	York, NE	89.34%	13,681	47.68%				
	Emanuel, GA	90.67%	22,875	69.44%	13.99%	39.23%	3.03%	24.20%
22	Drew, AR	58.02%	18,480	52.46%	14.78%	32.00%	1.51%	23.65%
	Richland, WI	58.86%	17,989	72.21%				
	Richland, WI	58.86%	17,989	72.21%	18.01%	3.92%	1.13%	11.50%
23	Faulkner, AR	96.62%	115,958	55.00%	9.99%	17.58%	2.36%	15.30%
	Livingston, LA	97.47%	132,001	60.87%				
	Livingston, LA	97.47%	132,001	60.87%	9.90%	9.89%	1.09%	11.36%
24	Franklin, AR	85.69%	18,182	84.88%	16.59%	6.22%	1.38%	17.79%
	Rockcastle, KY	86.10%	17,266	87.13%				
	Webster, KY	85.21%	13,517	82.86%	15.12%	10.19%	1.13%	15.98%
25	Fulton, AR	88.83%	12,233	92.77%	22.39%	3.59%	0.37%	20.28%
	Montgomery, GA	87.86%	9,144	99.31%				
	Elbert, GA	89.74%	20,062	72.69%	16.81%	35.75%	1.98%	22.99%
26	Garland, AR	94.49%	97,233	39.41%	20.93%	16.04%	2.78%	17.75%
	Spotsylvania, VA	94.14%	122,743	36.95%				
	Etowah, AL	95.28%	104,667	43.57%	15.81%	20.72%	1.69%	16.85%
27	Grant, AR	79.89%	17,978	75.62%	14.51%	5.89%	0.74%	8.84%
	Westmoreland, VA	79.96%	17,714	72.61%				
	Pierce, GA	79.97%	19,269	79.93%	14.03%	15.45%	1.83%	15.44%
	Greene, AR	72.71%	42,585	49.02%	14.34%	4.57%	1.10%	16.41%

	County	Availability	Population	Rural	65+	Minority	Non-English	Poverty
28	Vernon, LA	73.44%	50,545	52.70%				
	Vernon, LA	73.44%	50,545	52.70%	9.42%	27.78%	2.17%	14.98%
29	Hempstead, AR	78.11%	22,626	55.42%	15.02%	43.52%	5.92%	23.24%
	Franklin, KS	78.65%	26,055	54.15%				
	Matagorda, TX	78.63%	36,902	36.43%	14.30%	52.59%	10.00%	21.55%
30	Hot Spring, AR	41.98%	33,260	72.08%	15.69%	15.86%	0.61%	12.31%
	Colleton, SC	41.63%	38,853	75.74%				
	Colleton, SC	41.63%	38,853	75.74%	15.63%	44.11%	1.92%	21.35%
31	Howard, AR	59.99%	13,747	68.09%	15.26%	32.61%	5.62%	22.00%
	Clarke, VA	59.62%	14,146	78.10%				
	Park, MT	59.54%	15,810	50.43%	16.56%	4.75%	1.27%	13.58%
32	Independence, AR	45.94%	36,812	69.50%	15.64%	10.19%	2.77%	19.27%
	Hampton, SC	46.08%	21,118	73.90%				
	Ravalli, MT	46.50%	40,489	85.32%	19.22%	6.09%	0.79%	14.95%
33	Izard, AR	87.86%	13,624	100.00%	23.58%	5.04%	0.63%	18.70%
	Lancaster, VA	87.38%	11,352	100.00%				
	Lancaster, VA	87.38%	11,352	100.00%	31.20%	30.43%	0.62%	10.07%
34	Jackson, AR	62.63%	17,899	64.23%	15.87%	21.21%	0.67%	25.87%
	Harrison, KY	62.91%	18,987	68.13%				
	Harrison, KY	62.91%	18,987	68.13%	14.92%	5.31%	1.10%	20.43%
35	Jefferson, AR	72.12%	76,505	31.99%	13.24%	58.61%	0.95%	22.59%
	Avoyelles, LA	71.98%	42,306	66.35%				
	Avoyelles, LA	71.98%	42,306	66.35%	14.44%	33.74%	2.09%	23.22%
36	Johnson, AR	80.45%	25,884	77.07%	14.68%	16.49%	5.87%	19.37%
	Johnson, KY	80.93%	23,415	77.26%				
	Pierce, GA	79.97%	19,269	79.93%	14.03%	15.45%	1.83%	15.44%
37	Lafayette, AR	33.32%	7,580	100.00%	19.40%	40.05%	0.51%	19.88%
	St. Clair, MO	32.24%	9,708	100.00%				
	St. Clair, MO	32.24%	9,708	100.00%	23.41%	4.48%	0.32%	16.62%
38	Lawrence, AR	65.06%	17,293	65.17%	18.15%	3.26%	0.14%	24.47%
	Madison, TX	64.54%	13,764	69.51%				
	Dent, MO	65.19%	15,708	70.19%	19.01%	4.06%	0.55%	18.20%
39	Lee, AR	51.24%	10,286	61.35%	15.42%	58.56%	0.81%	28.79%
	Vernon, MO	50.60%	21,098	61.48%				
	Hale, AL	50.69%	15,613	85.31%	15.04%	60.58%	0.43%	24.64%
40	Lincoln, AR	60.93%	14,013	100.00%	12.44%	34.23%	1.12%	25.81%
	Knott, KY	60.63%	16,317	100.00%				
	Knott, KY	60.63%	16,317	100.00%	13.35%	2.02%	0.66%	24.10%
41	Little River, AR	41.70%	13,105	73.30%	17.11%	25.36%	0.03%	18.54%
	Cuming, NE	41.82%	9,063	67.33%				
	Screven, GA	41.03%	14,705	83.30%	14.90%	45.88%	0.52%	20.40%
42	Logan, AR	86.39%	22,272	72.63%	17.19%	7.81%	0.93%	14.31%
	Meeker, MN	85.87%	23,293	72.01%				
	Meeker, MN	85.87%	23,293	72.01%	16.46%	4.58%	0.82%	8.65%
43	Lonoke, AR	97.60%	70,387	59.20%	11.15%	12.07%	0.88%	12.60%
	Pulaski, KY	97.46%	63,764	60.85%				
	Livingston, LA	97.47%	132,001	60.87%	9.90%	9.89%	1.09%	11.36%
44	Madison, AR	67.93%	16,072	100.00%	15.60%	8.05%	1.88%	18.76%
	Stewart, TN	67.77%	13,414	100.00%				
	Stewart, TN	67.77%	13,414	100.00%	16.68%	6.42%	0.87%	17.09%
45	Marion, AR	33.62%	16,838	100.00%	23.80%	4.14%	0.12%	15.48%
	St. Clair, MO	32.24%	9,708	100.00%				
	St. Clair, MO	32.24%	9,708	100.00%	23.41%	4.48%	0.32%	16.62%

	County	Availability	Population	Rural	65+	Minority	Non-English	Poverty
46	Miller, AR	95.83%	43,693	45.38%	13.76%	29.38%	1.13%	18.05%
	Dyer, TN	95.25%	38,409	45.52%				
	Troup, GA	96.18%	67,901	49.05%	12.38%	39.73%	2.23%	19.84%
47	Mississippi, AR	90.46%	46,508	36.76%	12.23%	39.53%	1.90%	25.49%
	Russell, AL	91.14%	53,503	36.93%				
	Russell, AL	91.14%	53,503	36.93%	12.69%	47.89%	0.64%	23.29%
48	Monroe, AR	81.34%	7,962	63.46%	18.91%	44.18%	1.25%	22.45%
	Brown, KS	81.66%	9,955	69.80%				
	Randolph, GA	80.42%	7,630	52.14%	17.83%	63.97%	0.92%	28.05%
49	Montgomery, AR	74.42%	9,547	100.00%	22.41%	7.18%	0.33%	19.77%
	McLean, KY	74.33%	9,512	100.00%				
	Polk, TN	74.21%	16,744	100.00%	17.07%	3.35%	0.48%	18.44%
50	Nevada, AR	75.39%	8,878	70.82%	17.65%	34.86%	0.20%	20.00%
	Jasper, IL	75.97%	9,629	69.97%				
	Barton, MO	75.21%	12,182	65.92%	17.19%	5.63%	0.92%	15.69%
51	Newton, AR	4.60%	8,291	100.00%	20.42%	5.23%	0.43%	22.48%
	Reynolds, MO	6.43%	6,683	100.00%				
	Reynolds, MO	6.43%	6,683	100.00%	20.06%	3.93%	0.24%	21.25%
52	Ouachita, AR	72.83%	25,865	57.76%	17.04%	43.70%	0.47%	19.92%
	Harlan, KY	72.60%	29,313	58.37%				
	Marengo, AL	72.81%	20,861	70.61%	16.28%	54.31%	0.34%	22.66%
53	Perry, AR	70.08%	10,508	100.00%	16.73%	6.38%	0.07%	15.10%
	Gallatin, KY	70.27%	8,594	100.00%				
	Daviess, MO	71.06%	8,351	100.00%	17.09%	2.63%	2.85%	13.79%
54	Phillips, AR	36.69%	21,310	47.77%	14.96%	65.37%	0.54%	32.43%
	Upshur, TX	35.28%	39,522	82.77%				
	Upshur, TX	35.28%	39,522	82.77%	15.75%	17.94%	2.07%	13.09%
55	Pike, AR	87.55%	11,203	100.00%	17.38%	11.76%	1.72%	20.66%
	Lancaster, VA	87.38%	11,352	100.00%				
	Atchison, MO	88.10%	5,593	100.00%	21.58%	2.27%	0.62%	13.12%
56	Poinsett, AR	85.91%	24,521	62.91%	15.86%	10.99%	0.62%	25.83%
	New Madrid, MO	85.65%	18,677	64.68%				
	Campbell, TN	86.03%	40,836	59.40%	17.22%	2.96%	0.60%	23.16%
57	Polk, AR	78.42%	20,701	74.58%	19.48%	10.23%	2.85%	20.41%
	Clay, KY	77.90%	21,913	80.05%				
	Alcorn, MS	79.28%	37,219	69.82%	15.89%	15.50%	1.27%	19.14%
58	Pope, AR	95.88%	62,812	57.74%	13.14%	13.10%	2.93%	18.17%
	Laurens, GA	95.59%	48,769	61.45%				
	Madison, KY	96.71%	83,828	48.56%	11.23%	9.59%	1.55%	18.86%
59	Prairie, AR	91.88%	8,565	100.00%	19.70%	14.29%	0.42%	15.24%
	Crosby, TX	90.99%	6,006	100.00%				
	Crockett, TN	91.79%	14,605	100.00%	16.42%	22.85%	3.00%	18.73%
60	Pulaski, AR	98.87%	384,787	17.12%	11.99%	44.69%	3.63%	16.38%
	Prince William, VA	99.35%	407,391	19.37%				
	Jefferson, AL	98.73%	657,964	16.11%	13.13%	48.33%	2.76%	15.47%
61	Randolph, AR	83.51%	17,974	68.62%	18.70%	4.13%	0.70%	19.66%
	Lee, TX	83.85%	16,668	73.21%				
	Adair, KY	82.72%	18,589	74.66%	15.32%	5.89%	0.91%	21.33%
62	St. Francis, AR	55.42%	27,754	50.90%	12.20%	57.63%	1.89%	29.62%
	Lampasas, TX	54.66%	20,055	66.89%				
	Clarke, AL	55.16%	25,662	75.61%	16.16%	46.03%	0.09%	29.19%
63	Saline, AR	93.14%	109,720	56.46%	14.82%	11.03%	1.20%	9.93%
	Hunterdon, NJ	94.04%	127,754	56.91%				

	County	Availability	Population	Rural	65+	Minority	Non-English	Poverty
	Nassau, FL	92.89%	74,979	59.52%	16.24%	12.15%	0.70%	9.29%
64	Scott, AR	68.60%	11,403	73.85%	17.05%	14.65%	2.23%	23.91%
	Lewis, TN	69.16%	12,174	72.50%				
	Iron, MO	68.65%	10,523	78.16%	17.86%	4.40%	0.12%	21.58%
	Searcy, AR	64.31%	8,303	100.00%	21.29%	4.82%	0.27%	22.74%
65	Trousdale, TN	64.01%	8,019	100.00%				
	Wayne, MO	64.21%	13,421	100.00%	21.41%	3.46%	0.22%	19.80%
	Sebastian, AR	98.62%	127,130	25.00%	13.14%	27.17%	7.22%	18.04%
66	Houston, GA	99.61%	142,265	23.96%				
	Butte, CA	99.61%	221,156	19.98%	15.37%	24.81%	6.11%	18.40%
	Sevier, AR	88.37%	17,462	61.72%	12.59%	38.94%	17.34%	22.86%
67	Crisp, GA	88.51%	23,524	47.65%				
	Irwin, GA	88.23%	9,573	75.24%	15.57%	29.56%	3.63%	25.38%
	Sharp, AR	82.92%	17,291	82.53%	23.95%	5.01%	0.64%	21.54%
68	Johnson, TN	82.90%	18,248	85.57%				
	Johnson, TN	82.90%	18,248	85.57%	17.69%	4.77%	0.67%	23.75%
	Stone, AR	81.98%	12,508	100.00%	22.80%	3.89%	0.15%	23.38%
69	Lewis, KY	82.36%	13,907	100.00%				
	Lewis, KY	82.36%	13,907	100.00%	14.73%	1.59%	0.30%	27.54%
	Union, AR	86.32%	41,489	51.12%	15.56%	38.23%	1.62%	21.38%
70	Campbell, TN	86.03%	40,836	59.40%				
	Scotts Bluff, NE	86.72%	37,273	32.37%	16.81%	24.45%	3.32%	15.05%
	Van Buren, AR	69.08%	17,430	100.00%	22.68%	5.86%	0.48%	22.55%
71	Pickens, AL	68.28%	19,548	100.00%				
	Pickens, AL	68.28%	19,548	100.00%	16.89%	44.16%	0.91%	26.89%
	Washington, AR	96.32%	207,427	32.96%	9.67%	25.86%	9.05%	17.88%
72	Alachua, FL	96.49%	249,578	29.09%				
	Warren, KY	95.85%	116,228	38.58%	10.93%	18.44%	5.17%	18.52%
	White, AR	92.49%	78,320	56.68%	14.07%	10.44%	1.56%	15.71%
73	Nassau, FL	92.89%	74,979	59.52%				
	Sevier, TN	92.28%	91,637	68.52%	15.48%	8.36%	2.50%	13.48%
	Woodruff, AR	89.23%	7,068	100.00%	17.81%	30.56%	0.01%	22.89%
74	Emery, UT	89.86%	11,144	100.00%				
	Emery, UT	89.86%	11,144	100.00%	12.46%	7.91%	1.45%	10.02%
	Yell, AR	54.61%	22,549	82.21%	15.40%	23.28%	9.24%	17.67%
75	Hubbard, MN	55.54%	20,488	83.12%				
	Lampasas, TX	54.66%	20,055	66.89%	15.76%	24.60%	4.80%	14.58%
	<b>BEACON 2.0 (6 counties)</b>							
1	Bristol, MA	99.69%	546,670	11.85%	14.20%	14.40%	8.31%	11.32%
	New Castle, DE	99.69%	541,539	9.56%				
	Greenville, SC	99.53%	462,075	21.88%	12.76%	29.70%	5.59%	14.12%
2	Bristol, RI	100.00%	49,394	0.37%	16.73%	5.66%	4.65%	6.51%
	Manassas city, VA	100.00%	37,427	0.00%				
	Floyd, IN	99.95%	75,236	26.18%	12.95%	10.82%	1.08%	10.82%
3	Kent, RI	99.84%	164,554	7.64%	15.69%	8.44%	2.47%	7.91%
	Schenectady, NY	99.57%	155,858	8.47%				
	Schenectady, NY	99.57%	155,858	8.47%	14.92%	22.83%	3.35%	11.13%
4	Newport, RI	99.82%	81,874	12.18%	16.97%	12.13%	2.20%	7.26%
	Schenectady, NY	99.57%	155,858	8.47%				
	Schenectady, NY	99.57%	155,858	8.47%	14.92%	22.83%	3.35%	11.13%
5	Providence, RI	99.88%	623,823	6.34%	13.47%	33.88%	13.08%	15.42%
	Monmouth, NJ	99.54%	628,061	7.87%				
	Rockland, NY	99.99%	313,524	1.32%	13.42%	34.66%	15.49%	11.26%

	County	Availability	Population	Rural	65+	Minority	Non-English	Poverty
6	Washington, RI	99.06%	125,845	32.64%	14.98%	7.60%	1.94%	7.44%
	Stafford, VA	98.50%	129,118	32.76%				
	Saratoga, NY	99.55%	220,062	35.59%	13.66%	7.27%	1.51%	6.36%
<b>Illinois Broadband Opportunities Partnership – Southern (23 counties)</b>								
1	Alexander, IL	13.92%	8,038	62.64%	16.96%	39.51%	0.80%	20.10%
	Blaine, OK	8.60%	12,068	57.86%				
	Blaine, OK	8.60%	12,068	57.86%	14.44%	37.10%	10.08%	14.79%
2	Clay, IL	77.92%	13,768	64.84%	17.86%	2.79%	0.72%	16.26%
	Marshall, KS	78.29%	10,142	71.41%				
	Henry, MO	77.14%	22,089	50.38%	19.51%	4.68%	1.37%	16.39%
3	Clinton, IL	99.03%	37,956	46.36%	14.45%	7.93%	0.86%	7.83%
	DeKalb, IN	99.94%	42,345	44.18%				
	DeKalb, IN	99.94%	42,345	44.18%	13.12%	4.30%	1.35%	9.03%
4	Edwards, IL	54.26%	6,665	100.00%	17.72%	2.47%	0.25%	12.20%
	Caldwell, MO	53.17%	9,419	100.00%				
	Caldwell, MO	53.17%	9,419	100.00%	16.72%	4.13%	0.39%	15.92%
5	Franklin, IL	77.27%	39,593	50.69%	18.40%	3.05%	0.36%	19.80%
	Sumter, GA	77.09%	32,657	47.59%				
	Henry, MO	77.14%	22,089	50.38%	19.51%	4.68%	1.37%	16.39%
6	Hamilton, IL	37.94%	8,484	68.52%	19.76%	2.64%	0.40%	14.48%
	Screven, GA	41.03%	14,705	83.30%				
	Screven, GA	41.03%	14,705	83.30%	14.90%	45.88%	0.52%	20.40%
7	Jackson, IL	88.88%	59,893	42.17%	11.63%	24.03%	1.90%	28.46%
	Leavenworth, KS	88.23%	76,769	40.16%				
	Crawford, KS	89.86%	39,171	36.60%	13.96%	10.97%	2.33%	17.72%
8	Jefferson, IL	58.74%	38,804	58.22%	16.19%	12.64%	0.86%	17.08%
	Winston, AL	58.89%	24,370	84.72%				
	Winston, AL	58.89%	24,370	84.72%	17.70%	5.09%	0.97%	20.61%
9	Johnson, IL	28.38%	12,615	87.61%	17.22%	12.13%	0.74%	13.56%
	Goochland, VA	32.08%	22,377	94.55%				
	Goochland, VA	32.08%	22,377	94.55%	14.91%	23.64%	1.97%	7.08%
10	Marion, IL	78.04%	39,317	44.71%	17.55%	7.56%	0.67%	16.51%
	Sumter, GA	77.09%	32,657	47.59%				
	Henry, MO	77.14%	22,089	50.38%	19.51%	4.68%	1.37%	16.39%
11	Massac, IL	59.27%	15,340	52.72%	18.39%	10.17%	0.26%	13.73%
	Park, MT	59.54%	15,810	50.43%				
	Park, MT	59.54%	15,810	50.43%	16.56%	4.75%	1.27%	13.58%
12	Perry, IL	77.38%	22,246	56.62%	15.73%	12.92%	1.25%	14.03%
	Bamberg, SC	76.89%	15,948	57.27%				
	Park, WY	76.55%	28,734	46.30%	17.52%	7.50%	1.06%	8.97%
13	Pulaski, IL	36.47%	6,010	100.00%	18.24%	36.10%	2.27%	22.69%
	Lincoln, ID	36.66%	5,290	100.00%				
	Stillwater, MT	36.55%	9,220	100.00%	16.40%	4.71%	0.57%	9.49%
14	Randolph, IL	88.26%	33,292	57.09%	15.95%	13.57%	0.98%	10.42%
	Lafayette, MS	87.68%	48,082	57.02%				
	Roane, TN	87.90%	54,339	52.44%	18.56%	6.33%	0.54%	13.37%
15	Richland, IL	86.92%	16,074	43.48%	19.16%	3.45%	1.15%	13.78%
	Humphreys, MS	86.29%	9,354	48.13%				
	Pratt, KS	86.37%	9,642	36.98%	18.87%	8.74%	1.59%	9.97%
16	St. Clair, IL	99.86%	270,689	16.99%	12.52%	37.10%	1.36%	15.50%
	Butte, CA	99.61%	221,156	19.98%				
	Harrison, MS	99.36%	183,513	28.96%	11.73%	32.80%	3.44%	15.25%
	Saline, IL	76.33%	24,869	38.63%	18.40%	7.63%	0.69%	18.36%

	County	Availability	Population	Rural	65+	Minority	Non-English	Poverty
17	Scurry, TX	77.20%	17,165	35.09%				
	Henry, MO	77.14%	22,089	50.38%	19.51%	4.68%	1.37%	16.39%
18	Union, IL	46.75%	17,835	65.93%	18.17%	7.60%	1.90%	21.10%
	Hampton, SC	46.08%	21,118	73.90%				
	Boundary, ID	46.23%	11,314	77.64%	16.70%	7.86%	0.49%	18.84%
19	Wabash, IL	49.16%	11,836	41.35%	17.85%	3.76%	0.49%	13.00%
	La Salle, LA	49.29%	15,028	74.03%				
	La Salle, LA	49.29%	15,028	74.03%	14.80%	15.92%	0.79%	12.99%
20	Washington, IL	84.67%	14,616	77.93%	17.01%	3.10%	1.17%	9.13%
	Union, KY	85.39%	14,811	73.88%				
	Webster, KY	85.21%	13,517	82.86%	15.12%	10.19%	1.13%	15.98%
21	Wayne, IL	47.57%	16,669	72.04%	19.45%	2.51%	0.48%	14.26%
	Fayette, AL	48.06%	17,168	79.95%				
	Fayette, AL	48.06%	17,168	79.95%	17.89%	13.97%	0.22%	17.93%
22	White, IL	63.33%	14,569	62.74%	20.96%	2.43%	0.28%	14.77%
	Harrison, KY	62.91%	18,987	68.13%				
	Lincoln, WI	63.53%	28,559	57.83%	18.33%	3.41%	0.60%	10.01%
23	Williamson, IL	83.59%	66,654	40.86%	16.33%	8.50%	0.81%	16.65%
	Autauga, AL	84.42%	55,360	52.88%				
	Campbell, KY	82.72%	90,134	23.03%	12.79%	6.56%	0.60%	11.26%
<b>Indiana Middle Mile Fiber for Schools, Communities, and Anchor Institutions (23 counties)</b>								
1	Allen, IN	99.06%	357,497	18.12%	11.86%	23.51%	4.10%	12.32%
	Prince William, VA	99.35%	407,391	19.37%				
	Greenville, SC	99.53%	462,075	21.88%	12.76%	29.70%	5.59%	14.12%
2	Bartholomew, IN	96.13%	77,732	33.08%	13.97%	12.99%	4.03%	10.42%
	James City, VA	96.34%	68,760	33.38%				
	Santa Rosa, FL	96.30%	153,280	30.38%	12.86%	14.96%	2.34%	11.35%
3	Dearborn, IN	92.05%	50,373	65.87%	13.12%	3.12%	0.53%	7.20%
	Logan, OK	92.50%	42,830	73.22%				
	Wyoming, NY	91.33%	41,981	60.96%	13.58%	9.76%	1.67%	10.88%
4	Delaware, IN	98.81%	116,214	24.70%	14.68%	11.86%	1.09%	20.19%
	Terrebonne, LA	98.82%	112,482	27.28%				
	Linn, OR	99.78%	119,205	36.63%	15.42%	12.94%	2.66%	15.62%
5	Elkhart, IN	99.31%	199,811	26.71%	12.13%	22.78%	8.28%	13.75%
	Niagara, NY	98.80%	215,910	26.41%				
	Yamhill, OR	98.52%	101,629	35.77%	13.37%	20.91%	6.75%	12.71%
6	Fayette, IN	32.35%	24,159	38.15%	16.66%	3.65%	0.77%	19.41%
	Goochland, VA	32.08%	22,377	94.55%				
	Goochland, VA	32.08%	22,377	94.55%	14.91%	23.64%	1.97%	7.08%
7	Gibson, IN	76.64%	33,328	56.03%	15.29%	5.23%	0.80%	12.17%
	Warren, VA	77.47%	38,124	62.82%				
	Park, WY	76.55%	28,734	46.30%	17.52%	7.50%	1.06%	8.97%
8	Grant, IN	100.00%	69,409	31.28%	16.23%	13.46%	1.22%	16.95%
	Floyd, IN	99.95%	75,236	26.18%				
	Linn, OR	99.78%	119,205	36.63%	15.42%	12.94%	2.66%	15.62%
9	Howard, IN	100.00%	82,359	22.49%	16.24%	12.88%	1.14%	16.40%
	Floyd, IN	99.95%	75,236	26.18%				
	Linn, OR	99.78%	119,205	36.63%	15.42%	12.94%	2.66%	15.62%
10	Jefferson, IN	92.49%	32,552	51.05%	14.62%	6.06%	1.18%	15.08%
	Dunklin, MO	91.80%	31,813	50.97%				
	Hancock, MS	93.45%	42,522	43.15%	15.22%	13.69%	1.54%	14.72%
11	Johnson, IN	99.67%	142,205	25.99%	12.30%	7.70%	1.33%	8.08%
	Houston, GA	99.61%	142,265	23.96%				

	County	Availability	Population	Rural	65+	Minority	Non-English	Poverty
	Outagamie, WI	99.15%	177,805	32.56%	11.79%	10.37%	2.89%	8.52%
12	Kosciusko, IN	92.92%	77,590	53.80%	13.54%	10.12%	3.58%	10.00%
	Nassau, FL	92.89%	74,979	59.52%				
	Tioga, NY	93.89%	50,908	65.83%	15.71%	3.95%	0.69%	9.63%
	Lake, IN	99.27%	499,485	8.46%	13.28%	44.73%	5.05%	16.08%
13	Brevard, FL	99.87%	545,206	8.47%				
	Jefferson, LA	99.58%	430,477	1.17%	13.64%	43.99%	7.28%	14.23%
	LaPorte, IN	89.90%	112,258	41.37%	14.23%	18.64%	2.23%	13.76%
14	Florence, SC	90.55%	137,717	43.53%				
	Taylor, TX	90.70%	132,211	19.26%	13.20%	32.99%	3.88%	16.48%
	Madison, IN	99.79%	131,698	27.16%	15.37%	13.72%	1.04%	14.73%
15	Terrebonne, LA	98.82%	112,482	27.28%				
	Niagara, NY	98.80%	215,910	26.41%	15.89%	12.73%	1.46%	12.76%
	Marion, IN	99.94%	907,727	4.24%	10.64%	40.46%	5.88%	17.32%
16	Westchester, NY	100.00%	951,909	3.78%				
	Greenville, SC	99.53%	462,075	21.88%	12.76%	29.70%	5.59%	14.12%
	Monroe, IN	100.00%	139,205	23.54%	10.18%	13.87%	3.12%	25.53%
17	Houston, GA	99.61%	142,265	23.96%				
	Linn, OR	99.78%	119,205	36.63%	15.42%	12.94%	2.66%	15.62%
	Porter, IN	99.09%	166,243	25.41%	12.39%	14.06%	2.05%	9.45%
18	Hernando, FL	98.94%	177,919	26.49%				
	Clark, IN	100.00%	112,109	29.96%	12.75%	14.83%	2.26%	11.82%
	Sullivan, IN	53.91%	21,359	76.31%	14.84%	7.19%	0.67%	11.86%
19	Fairfield, SC	53.01%	23,726	77.32%				
	Mercer, IL	54.11%	16,365	79.32%	18.26%	3.18%	0.54%	9.33%
	Tippecanoe, IN	98.02%	175,482	19.55%	9.48%	19.63%	5.15%	19.98%
20	Shawnee, KS	98.10%	179,127	19.22%				
	Douglas, KS	97.52%	111,521	22.56%	8.90%	18.31%	3.37%	19.12%
	Vanderburgh, IN	100.00%	179,709	13.39%	14.41%	14.82%	1.69%	15.56%
21	Indian River, FL	99.90%	139,878	16.57%				
	Schenectady, NY	99.57%	155,858	8.47%	14.92%	22.83%	3.35%	11.13%
	Wabash, IN	69.85%	32,591	49.14%	18.10%	4.62%	0.63%	11.59%
22	Llano, TX	69.44%	19,323	54.41%				
	Giles, TN	69.56%	29,476	75.66%	16.65%	14.46%	0.69%	17.13%
	White, IN	84.98%	24,522	68.14%	17.17%	8.82%	3.21%	9.52%
23	Wayne, KY	85.26%	20,900	69.99%				
	Meeker, MN	85.87%	23,293	72.01%	16.46%	4.58%	0.82%	8.65%
	<b>The Massachusetts Broadband Institute: MassBroadband 123 (6 counties)</b>							
1	Berkshire, MA	94.56%	130,446	31.94%	18.58%	9.37%	2.30%	11.57%
	Spotsylvania, VA	94.14%	122,743	36.95%				
	Etowah, AL	95.28%	104,667	43.57%	15.81%	20.72%	1.69%	16.85%
2	Franklin, MA	86.26%	71,191	56.13%	15.24%	7.56%	2.00%	11.28%
	Campbell, TN	86.03%	40,836	59.40%				
	Newton, MO	87.04%	58,523	66.71%	15.24%	12.30%	2.60%	16.29%
3	Hampden, MA	99.49%	464,871	10.27%	14.18%	32.29%	9.94%	17.20%
	New Castle, DE	99.69%	541,539	9.56%				
	Richmond, NY	100.00%	471,738	0.00%	12.66%	35.96%	11.44%	10.34%
4	Hampshire, MA	97.99%	158,172	29.29%	12.67%	13.81%	3.44%	11.73%
	Hernando, FL	98.94%	177,919	26.49%				
	Rensselaer, NY	97.59%	159,760	32.35%	13.55%	14.35%	2.55%	11.72%
5	Middlesex, MA	99.85%	1,508,165	3.97%	13.11%	23.47%	8.89%	7.61%
	Suffolk, NY	99.92%	1,491,785	3.13%				
	Suffolk, NY	99.92%	1,491,785	3.13%	13.51%	28.43%	8.94%	5.75%

	County	Availability	Population	Rural	65+	Minority	Non-English	Poverty
6	Worcester, MA	99.02%	798,364	21.68%	12.78%	19.32%	7.66%	9.55%
	Travis, TX	99.86%	1,058,556	16.31%				
	Greenville, SC	99.53%	462,075	21.88%	12.76%	29.70%	5.59%	14.12%
<b>Middle Mile Expansion for Southern Virginia (22 counties)</b>								
1	Amelia, VA	17.63%	12,949	100.00%	15.75%	27.24%	2.85%	10.03%
	Madison, VA	15.50%	13,372	100.00%				
	Madison, VA	15.50%	13,372	100.00%	17.51%	14.38%	0.99%	12.61%
2	Bedford, VA	75.61%	69,636	86.31%	16.23%	9.67%	1.25%	8.75%
	Delaware, OK	74.93%	41,734	82.94%				
	Rockingham, VA	75.27%	77,414	65.64%	15.68%	8.75%	3.10%	10.15%
3	Buckingham, VA	33.78%	17,189	100.00%	14.30%	38.80%	0.22%	19.02%
	St. Clair, MO	32.24%	9,708	100.00%				
	St. Clair, MO	32.24%	9,708	100.00%	23.41%	4.48%	0.32%	16.62%
4	Campbell, VA	79.39%	55,308	62.39%	15.84%	18.68%	0.93%	12.25%
	Marinette, WI	78.87%	41,478	62.39%				
	Seneca, NY	78.51%	34,878	60.67%	15.52%	9.23%	1.59%	13.86%
5	Charlotte, VA	37.13%	12,565	100.00%	18.68%	33.39%	0.26%	15.83%
	Stillwater, MT	36.55%	9,220	100.00%				
	Madison, MT	38.06%	7,941	100.00%	20.96%	4.63%	0.91%	11.59%
6	Chesterfield, VA	96.94%	322,104	16.41%	10.40%	34.61%	4.50%	5.89%
	Atlantic, NJ	97.00%	275,778	17.97%				
	Chesapeake city, VA	97.50%	223,150	11.62%	10.42%	39.58%	2.17%	6.82%
7	Cumberland, VA	38.90%	10,195	95.98%	16.09%	36.80%	0.00%	16.08%
	Jones, TX	40.77%	20,285	85.39%				
	Jones, TX	40.77%	20,285	85.39%	13.68%	37.88%	7.96%	12.33%
8	Dinwiddie, VA	62.44%	28,421	76.22%	13.66%	37.08%	1.35%	11.83%
	Harrison, KY	62.91%	18,987	68.13%				
	Marion, SC	63.37%	32,781	60.15%	14.68%	59.98%	1.37%	25.09%
9	Franklin, VA	71.69%	56,738	91.71%	17.59%	12.62%	1.95%	13.20%
	Lawrence, AL	71.65%	34,261	92.24%				
	Augusta, VA	71.15%	74,506	79.86%	16.05%	7.78%	0.88%	9.07%
10	Greensville, VA	32.82%	12,337	89.37%	12.55%	62.20%	1.58%	16.77%
	Goochland, VA	32.08%	22,377	94.55%				
	Goochland, VA	32.08%	22,377	94.55%	14.91%	23.64%	1.97%	7.08%
11	Halifax, VA	42.08%	36,199	76.47%	19.37%	39.84%	0.90%	20.03%
	Colleton, SC	41.63%	38,853	75.74%				
	Colleton, SC	41.63%	38,853	75.74%	15.63%	44.11%	1.92%	21.35%
12	Henry, VA	70.24%	53,898	68.03%	19.68%	28.46%	2.61%	16.82%
	Armstrong, PA	70.84%	68,486	64.82%				
	Giles, TN	69.56%	29,476	75.66%	16.65%	14.46%	0.69%	17.13%
13	Lunenburg, VA	36.52%	12,910	100.00%	17.20%	40.14%	2.33%	16.28%
	Stillwater, MT	36.55%	9,220	100.00%				
	Stillwater, MT	36.55%	9,220	100.00%	16.40%	4.71%	0.57%	9.49%
14	Pittsylvania, VA	46.42%	63,521	89.58%	17.19%	25.60%	1.69%	15.14%
	Ravalli, MT	46.50%	40,489	85.32%				
	Ravalli, MT	46.50%	40,489	85.32%	19.22%	6.09%	0.79%	14.95%
15	Powhatan, VA	84.72%	28,509	97.38%	12.15%	17.17%	1.43%	4.74%
	Barnwell, SC	84.59%	22,553	85.75%				
	Gloucester, VA	84.58%	37,274	74.54%	14.68%	14.31%	0.93%	9.33%
16	Prince George, VA	93.50%	35,338	59.23%	10.39%	41.72%	1.97%	6.75%
	Clinton, OH	93.81%	42,317	59.37%				
	Saunders, NE	93.73%	20,724	82.75%	15.50%	3.79%	1.27%	7.15%
	Sussex, VA	45.11%	12,191	100.00%	14.49%	61.42%	1.64%	19.60%

	County	Availability	Population	Rural	65+	Minority	Non-English	Poverty
17	Caldwell, LA	45.81%	10,119	100.00%				
	Caldwell, LA	45.81%	10,119	100.00%	14.84%	20.60%	0.64%	21.91%
18	Bedford city, VA	99.76%	6,200	0.00%	21.49%	24.93%	0.36%	16.46%
	Poquoson city, VA	99.31%	12,154	4.45%				
	Poquoson city, VA	99.31%	12,154	4.45%	15.56%	6.19%	2.17%	4.91%
19	Emporia city, VA	98.95%	5,927	7.54%	16.91%	68.82%	1.59%	25.96%
	Poquoson city, VA	99.31%	12,154	4.45%				
	Poquoson city, VA	99.31%	12,154	4.45%	15.56%	6.19%	2.17%	4.91%
20	Lynchburg city, VA	95.59%	77,503	4.68%	13.97%	37.04%	2.49%	22.67%
	Monroe, FL	95.60%	71,605	7.61%				
	Dyer, TN	95.25%	38,409	45.52%	14.39%	19.02%	0.48%	20.25%
21	Martinsville city, VA	84.66%	13,722	0.00%	19.17%	51.47%	3.06%	23.51%
	Thomas, KS	84.13%	7,773	33.38%				
	Nolan, TX	85.01%	15,401	30.30%	16.55%	39.60%	8.26%	19.38%
22	Petersburg city, VA	100.00%	32,485	4.52%	14.97%	84.88%	0.95%	20.18%
	Manassas city, VA	100.00%	37,427	0.00%				
	Bee, TX	99.87%	32,104	39.32%	10.78%	65.58%	8.92%	19.01%
<b>North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative (69 counties)</b>								
1	Alleghany, NC	20.36%	11,220	100.00%	20.65%	11.59%	9.08%	26.19%
	Boone, NE	20.96%	5,486	100.00%				
	Boone, NE	20.96%	5,486	100.00%	21.14%	2.22%	0.15%	6.63%
2	Anson, NC	79.19%	26,833	75.05%	14.35%	54.19%	1.11%	20.47%
	Alcorn, MS	79.28%	37,219	69.82%				
	Meriwether, GA	78.85%	21,968	83.96%	15.76%	42.68%	0.45%	16.83%
3	Ashe, NC	72.91%	27,289	100.00%	20.16%	6.82%	3.20%	17.84%
	Breckinridge, KY	72.81%	20,205	100.00%				
	Breckinridge, KY	72.81%	20,205	100.00%	15.61%	4.61%	1.16%	19.18%
4	Avery, NC	95.44%	17,665	100.00%	17.40%	9.93%	2.97%	18.07%
	Fulton, PA	94.59%	14,958	100.00%				
	Green, KY	95.82%	11,272	100.00%	17.29%	5.04%	1.12%	18.02%
5	Beaufort, NC	54.67%	48,149	70.30%	18.39%	33.61%	3.66%	17.19%
	Clarke, AL	55.16%	25,662	75.61%				
	Clarke, AL	55.16%	25,662	75.61%	16.16%	46.03%	0.09%	29.19%
6	Bertie, NC	71.22%	21,407	100.00%	17.18%	65.26%	0.34%	23.25%
	Coosa, AL	72.33%	11,602	100.00%				
	Coosa, AL	72.33%	11,602	100.00%	17.07%	34.10%	0.38%	15.99%
7	Brunswick, NC	96.06%	113,212	74.65%	21.43%	19.19%	2.66%	13.54%
	Bastrop, TX	95.17%	75,431	74.23%				
	Sullivan, NY	95.37%	77,828	73.00%	14.77%	25.49%	4.48%	16.61%
8	Buncombe, NC	99.70%	241,819	34.16%	15.99%	15.56%	4.06%	14.69%
	Saratoga, NY	99.55%	220,062	35.59%				
	Linn, OR	99.78%	119,205	36.63%	15.42%	12.94%	2.66%	15.62%
9	Cabarrus, NC	99.91%	184,621	36.85%	11.28%	28.36%	5.50%	11.26%
	Saratoga, NY	99.55%	220,062	35.59%				
	Dutchess, NY	99.65%	296,928	29.50%	13.55%	25.44%	4.75%	8.40%
10	Caldwell, NC	98.02%	83,287	41.98%	15.44%	11.40%	1.99%	16.16%
	Lawrence, PA	98.56%	90,347	42.86%				
	Pickens, SC	98.26%	120,303	43.76%	13.41%	12.80%	2.28%	16.59%
11	Camden, NC	90.49%	10,308	100.00%	12.86%	18.81%	1.83%	9.31%
	Emery, UT	89.86%	11,144	100.00%				
	Emery, UT	89.86%	11,144	100.00%	12.46%	7.91%	1.45%	10.02%
12	Carteret, NC	99.90%	66,625	44.10%	19.04%	12.59%	1.93%	12.23%
	Hancock, IN	99.80%	71,589	44.89%				

	County	Availability	Population	Rural	65+	Minority	Non-English	Poverty
	Henry, IN	99.88%	49,384	49.82%	16.18%	5.11%	0.67%	13.70%
13	Caswell, NC	63.97%	23,609	100.00%	15.83%	38.81%	1.60%	21.67%
	Pendleton, KY	63.92%	14,825	100.00%				
	Wayne, MO	64.21%	13,421	100.00%	21.41%	3.46%	0.22%	19.80%
	Chatham, NC	85.06%	64,883	84.86%	18.32%	28.85%	6.74%	12.22%
14	Barry, MI	85.98%	58,960	80.79%				
	St. Clair, AL	85.69%	86,680	88.00%	13.05%	12.74%	1.11%	10.63%
	Chowan, NC	85.57%	14,908	67.08%	19.66%	38.89%	2.58%	17.37%
15	New Madrid, MO	85.65%	18,677	64.68%				
	Milam, TX	84.82%	24,760	56.24%	17.39%	34.50%	5.96%	17.61%
	Cleveland, NC	96.14%	98,275	58.35%	14.96%	25.78%	1.68%	19.37%
16	Genesee, NY	97.12%	59,748	61.37%				
	Etowah, AL	95.28%	104,667	43.57%	15.81%	20.72%	1.69%	16.85%
	Columbus, NC	82.33%	58,265	89.23%	15.20%	39.64%	2.45%	21.36%
17	Walker, AL	82.86%	66,914	76.84%				
	Walker, AL	82.86%	66,914	76.84%	16.25%	9.60%	0.73%	18.59%
	Craven, NC	82.65%	103,842	42.93%	15.27%	32.93%	2.69%	16.01%
18	Campbell, KY	82.72%	90,134	23.03%				
	Dickson, TN	82.57%	50,248	70.81%	13.26%	9.64%	1.30%	13.96%
	Cumberland, NC	99.33%	320,965	14.66%	9.45%	52.81%	3.19%	16.60%
19	Gloucester, NJ	98.75%	291,283	16.60%				
	Bibb, GA	99.79%	155,657	19.93%	12.66%	57.89%	2.11%	22.39%
	Currituck, NC	91.43%	23,992	100.00%	12.91%	11.34%	1.39%	8.47%
20	King George, VA	90.96%	24,642	100.00%				
	Pike, GA	91.17%	18,421	100.00%	12.29%	13.22%	0.24%	10.49%
	Dare, NC	99.38%	33,674	29.55%	15.23%	11.38%	3.59%	10.52%
21	Geary, KS	98.70%	35,428	30.82%				
	Woodford, KY	99.04%	25,168	39.50%	13.00%	13.57%	4.53%	11.29%
	Edgecombe, NC	63.64%	56,234	50.31%	14.33%	62.23%	1.78%	22.26%
22	Washington, TX	63.15%	34,013	57.21%				
	Marion, SC	63.37%	32,781	60.15%	14.68%	59.98%	1.37%	25.09%
	Franklin, NC	85.04%	62,081	93.76%	12.67%	36.52%	3.93%	15.03%
23	St. Clair, AL	85.69%	86,680	88.00%				
	St. Clair, AL	85.69%	86,680	88.00%	13.05%	12.74%	1.11%	10.63%
	Gaston, NC	99.65%	210,385	24.61%	13.24%	24.15%	2.99%	16.65%
24	Niagara, NY	98.80%	215,910	26.41%				
	Harrison, MS	99.36%	183,513	28.96%	11.73%	32.80%	3.44%	15.25%
	Gates, NC	50.86%	12,463	100.00%	15.01%	37.00%	0.41%	20.46%
25	Washington, KY	50.07%	11,812	100.00%				
	Johnson, GA	50.05%	10,123	100.00%	13.92%	37.69%	0.48%	27.68%
	Graham, NC	67.55%	8,814	100.00%	19.66%	10.37%	1.90%	19.52%
26	Stewart, TN	67.77%	13,414	100.00%				
	Stewart, TN	67.77%	13,414	100.00%	16.68%	6.42%	0.87%	17.09%
	Granville, NC	87.45%	60,998	72.34%	12.42%	42.34%	3.86%	11.91%
27	Jefferson, TN	87.54%	52,288	78.84%				
	Shelby, KY	88.00%	43,178	64.62%	12.03%	19.00%	4.74%	11.41%
	Halifax, NC	83.13%	54,600	57.61%	16.16%	60.56%	1.39%	23.85%
28	Dickson, TN	82.57%	50,248	70.81%				
	Union, MS	83.52%	27,294	78.17%	14.46%	20.21%	2.62%	19.83%
	Harnett, NC	98.04%	117,966	73.20%	10.42%	35.73%	5.32%	16.47%
29	Oswego, NY	97.68%	121,640	63.35%				
	Hays, TX	97.23%	164,415	59.86%	8.46%	41.40%	6.32%	16.40%
	Haywood, NC	97.57%	59,173	50.64%	21.03%	6.21%	1.35%	12.26%

	County	Availability	Population	Rural	65+	Minority	Non-English	Poverty
30	Madison, KY	96.71%	83,828	48.56%				
	Lawrence, PA	98.56%	90,347	42.86%	18.80%	6.84%	1.55%	12.68%
31	Henderson, NC	97.77%	108,906	50.99%	22.36%	15.58%	5.99%	12.74%
	Citrus, FL	97.97%	143,753	47.35%				
	Beaufort, SC	98.24%	166,280	40.78%	20.36%	33.87%	6.14%	10.52%
32	Hertford, NC	83.74%	24,397	68.74%	15.80%	65.63%	2.82%	24.08%
	Lee, TX	83.85%	16,668	73.21%				
	Barnwell, SC	84.59%	22,553	85.75%	14.03%	48.21%	2.15%	25.42%
33	Hyde, NC	42.30%	5,739	100.00%	15.06%	40.86%	1.48%	20.41%
	Union, IN	42.70%	7,504	100.00%				
	Union, IN	42.70%	7,504	100.00%	14.46%	3.14%	0.77%	11.93%
34	Jackson, NC	82.68%	40,584	76.36%	15.11%	18.56%	2.63%	20.44%
	Dickson, TN	82.57%	50,248	70.81%				
	Union, MS	83.52%	27,294	78.17%	14.46%	20.21%	2.62%	19.83%
35	Lee, NC	98.98%	59,087	52.31%	13.72%	40.69%	10.13%	14.97%
	Lake, CA	99.73%	64,671	47.98%				
	Yamhill, OR	98.52%	101,629	35.77%	13.37%	20.91%	6.75%	12.71%
36	Lincoln, NC	99.85%	80,326	68.35%	13.24%	14.22%	4.01%	13.80%
	Grady, OK	99.90%	53,164	70.76%				
	Marshall, IN	99.52%	47,163	63.80%	14.67%	10.53%	4.89%	12.19%
37	McDowell, NC	93.73%	45,248	77.40%	16.39%	11.14%	1.72%	17.87%
	Chesterfield, SC	93.21%	46,652	75.02%				
	Greene, TN	94.13%	69,306	71.24%	17.44%	6.09%	1.86%	19.66%
38	Madison, NC	86.81%	20,899	100.00%	17.66%	4.96%	1.05%	16.89%
	McDonald, MO	86.05%	23,257	100.00%				
	McDonald, MO	86.05%	23,257	100.00%	12.51%	18.99%	5.08%	15.35%
39	Martin, NC	68.24%	24,251	79.42%	17.54%	47.81%	2.00%	23.43%
	De Soto, LA	68.04%	26,797	78.36%				
	Attala, MS	68.41%	19,618	65.87%	17.22%	44.46%	0.65%	24.89%
40	Mecklenburg, NC	100.00%	951,920	11.09%	8.82%	49.40%	8.47%	12.49%
	Gwinnett, GA	99.98%	829,761	10.57%				
	Orange, FL	99.99%	1,159,135	12.47%	9.68%	54.03%	12.80%	13.42%
41	Mitchell, NC	95.82%	15,521	100.00%	20.93%	5.92%	0.82%	16.79%
	Big Horn, WY	95.97%	11,800	100.00%				
	Green, KY	95.82%	11,272	100.00%	17.29%	5.04%	1.12%	18.02%
42	Moore, NC	83.90%	89,668	60.37%	22.65%	22.39%	3.36%	12.95%
	Autauga, AL	84.42%	55,360	52.88%				
	Autauga, AL	84.42%	55,360	52.88%	12.00%	22.75%	0.94%	10.59%
43	Nash, NC	76.91%	96,974	53.73%	13.97%	45.98%	4.14%	14.08%
	McMinn, TN	77.91%	52,638	62.30%				
	McMinn, TN	77.91%	52,638	62.30%	16.86%	9.55%	1.52%	17.29%
44	New Hanover, NC	100.00%	206,455	5.03%	13.86%	23.21%	3.16%	15.40%
	Richmond, GA	99.76%	201,285	8.69%				
	Schenectady, NY	99.57%	155,858	8.47%	14.92%	22.83%	3.35%	11.13%
45	Northampton, NC	78.59%	21,864	90.88%	19.62%	61.10%	0.41%	21.71%
	Meriwether, GA	78.85%	21,968	83.96%				
	Meriwether, GA	78.85%	21,968	83.96%	15.76%	42.68%	0.45%	16.83%
46	Onslow, NC	98.48%	180,274	37.90%	7.46%	31.06%	2.66%	13.79%
	Beaufort, SC	98.24%	166,280	40.78%				
	Montgomery, TN	98.02%	176,290	34.94%	8.00%	32.95%	2.66%	14.58%
47	Pasquotank, NC	94.20%	41,796	52.30%	13.56%	44.99%	2.15%	18.07%
	Gibson, TN	94.69%	50,213	56.11%				
	Laurens, SC	93.96%	66,479	66.71%	15.01%	31.02%	2.29%	19.23%

	County	Availability	Population	Rural	65+	Minority	Non-English	Poverty
48	Perquimans, NC	77.44%	13,879	100.00%	21.46%	28.58%	0.32%	18.00%
	Jasper, GA	77.27%	14,113	100.00%				
	Trinity, TX	77.83%	14,683	100.00%	22.43%	18.96%	4.18%	16.65%
49	Person, NC	93.00%	39,575	77.05%	15.19%	33.22%	2.11%	16.03%
	Tallapoosa, AL	93.43%	41,738	75.41%				
	Tallapoosa, AL	93.43%	41,738	75.41%	17.28%	30.70%	1.54%	17.53%
50	Pitt, NC	79.03%	172,313	40.18%	9.88%	42.88%	2.78%	23.87%
	Campbell, KY	82.72%	90,134	23.03%				
	Campbell, KY	82.72%	90,134	23.03%	12.79%	6.56%	0.60%	11.26%
51	Polk, NC	87.55%	20,572	92.27%	24.34%	11.62%	2.34%	12.94%
	Lincoln, TN	88.28%	33,760	81.00%				
	Lavaca, TX	86.81%	19,258	80.78%	21.23%	23.82%	3.44%	10.52%
52	Richmond, NC	97.99%	46,618	48.37%	14.35%	41.32%	3.04%	25.21%
	Baldwin, GA	97.67%	46,040	45.89%				
	Thomas, GA	98.57%	45,374	52.86%	15.07%	41.68%	1.63%	22.76%
53	Robeson, NC	90.08%	135,534	67.40%	11.24%	73.05%	4.80%	30.23%
	Elmore, AL	90.17%	80,744	68.62%				
	Florence, SC	90.55%	137,717	43.53%	13.16%	45.86%	1.34%	17.99%
54	Rockingham, NC	70.36%	93,605	60.65%	16.20%	26.59%	3.01%	15.63%
	Armstrong, PA	70.84%	68,486	64.82%				
	Armstrong, PA	70.84%	68,486	64.82%	18.40%	2.34%	0.49%	11.67%
55	Rutherford, NC	89.09%	67,941	65.83%	17.29%	15.86%	1.79%	20.69%
	Robertson, TN	89.50%	67,871	64.64%				
	Greene, PA	89.34%	38,556	71.32%	15.33%	5.89%	0.61%	16.74%
56	Scotland, NC	91.93%	36,199	54.79%	13.59%	54.08%	1.02%	29.51%
	Butler, MO	92.05%	42,871	54.91%				
	Russell, AL	91.14%	53,503	36.93%	12.69%	47.89%	0.64%	23.29%
57	Stokes, NC	64.10%	47,627	79.14%	15.98%	8.34%	1.29%	12.23%
	McNairy, TN	64.70%	26,341	85.13%				
	McNairy, TN	64.70%	26,341	85.13%	17.28%	9.05%	1.19%	21.14%
58	Surry, NC	45.15%	73,938	73.52%	16.63%	15.01%	5.01%	16.85%
	Ravalli, MT	46.50%	40,489	85.32%				
	Ravalli, MT	46.50%	40,489	85.32%	19.22%	6.09%	0.79%	14.95%
59	Swain, NC	83.25%	14,096	100.00%	16.60%	34.43%	1.67%	22.36%
	Lewis, KY	82.36%	13,907	100.00%				
	Franklin, MS	83.85%	8,233	100.00%	16.20%	35.58%	0.09%	23.21%
60	Transylvania, NC	91.09%	33,588	65.40%	25.81%	9.19%	2.56%	14.01%
	Whitley, KY	91.68%	35,886	63.82%				
	Shawano, WI	90.56%	41,876	77.91%	18.31%	11.91%	1.42%	11.90%
61	Tyrrell, NC	72.39%	4,423	100.00%	16.84%	46.68%	3.30%	21.91%
	Valley, NE	73.05%	4,188	100.00%				
	Goliad, TX	72.45%	7,256	100.00%	19.03%	39.85%	5.05%	11.85%
62	Union, NC	99.00%	213,002	57.43%	9.67%	25.43%	5.29%	8.55%
	Ellis, TX	99.54%	155,096	50.24%				
	Ellis, TX	99.54%	155,096	50.24%	9.99%	34.51%	7.43%	11.34%
63	Vance, NC	93.95%	45,230	56.27%	14.14%	57.95%	2.51%	27.55%
	Gibson, TN	94.69%	50,213	56.11%				
	Chesterfield, SC	93.21%	46,652	75.02%	13.55%	38.40%	2.35%	22.67%
64	Wake, NC	99.77%	939,410	24.82%	8.50%	37.79%	6.63%	9.74%
	Travis, TX	99.86%	1,058,556	16.31%				
	Greenville, SC	99.53%	462,075	21.88%	12.76%	29.70%	5.59%	14.12%
65	Warren, NC	72.02%	20,853	100.00%	18.89%	61.99%	1.62%	26.96%
	Breckinridge, KY	72.81%	20,205	100.00%				

	County	Availability	Population	Rural	65+	Minority	Non-English	Poverty
	Coosa, AL	72.33%	11,602	100.00%	17.07%	34.10%	0.38%	15.99%
66	Washington, NC	86.19%	13,211	68.98%	18.25%	54.66%	0.86%	24.81%
	New Madrid, MO	85.65%	18,677	64.68%				
	New Madrid, MO	85.65%	18,677	64.68%	16.06%	18.86%	0.78%	21.08%
	Watauga, NC	96.25%	51,560	61.55%	12.39%	7.46%	1.32%	24.76%
67	Laurens, GA	95.59%	48,769	61.45%				
	Madison, KY	96.71%	83,828	48.56%	11.23%	9.59%	1.55%	18.86%
	Wilson, NC	98.21%	82,190	46.62%	14.18%	50.57%	4.92%	20.98%
68	Lawrence, PA	98.56%	90,347	42.86%				
	Thomas, GA	98.57%	45,374	52.86%	15.07%	41.68%	1.63%	22.76%
	Yancey, NC	88.21%	18,113	100.00%	20.61%	6.54%	3.05%	18.13%
69	Lancaster, VA	87.38%	11,352	100.00%				
	Lancaster, VA	87.38%	11,352	100.00%				
	Lancaster, VA	87.38%	11,352	100.00%	31.20%	30.43%	0.62%	10.07%
<b>Oregon South Central Regional Fiber Consortium Lighting the Fiber Middle Mile Project (3 counties)</b>								
1	Douglas, OR	85.41%	108,125	45.35%	20.96%	10.52%	1.22%	15.61%
	Autauga, AL	84.42%	55,360	52.88%				
	Darlington, SC	84.93%	68,351	57.71%	14.26%	44.68%	1.56%	19.96%
2	Klamath, OR	84.65%	66,768	39.29%	17.10%	18.92%	3.20%	16.63%
	Autauga, AL	84.42%	55,360	52.88%				
	Barren, KY	85.35%	42,744	65.94%	15.41%	8.48%	1.54%	18.73%
3	Lane, OR	97.07%	355,070	20.34%	15.01%	15.33%	3.00%	16.70%
	Charleston, SC	96.21%	353,433	19.04%				
	Charleston, SC	96.21%	353,433	19.04%	12.77%	37.96%	3.30%	16.51%
<b>Project Connect South Dakota (60 counties)</b>								
1	Aurora, SD	81.26%	2,691	100.00%	19.89%	6.61%	6.09%	8.24%
	Niobrara, WY	81.28%	2,586	100.00%				
	Niobrara, WY	81.28%	2,586	100.00%	20.65%	4.95%	0.00%	11.53%
2	Beadle, SD	98.46%	17,483	27.76%	17.28%	14.16%	3.20%	13.07%
	Geary, KS	98.70%	35,428	30.82%				
	Woodford, KY	99.04%	25,168	39.50%	13.00%	13.57%	4.53%	11.29%
3	Bennett, SD	15.40%	3,392	100.00%	11.19%	66.74%	1.14%	32.06%
	Hitchcock, NE	12.41%	2,895	100.00%				
	Hitchcock, NE	12.41%	2,895	100.00%	22.87%	3.03%	0.07%	13.01%
4	Bon Homme, SD	34.68%	7,093	100.00%	19.05%	11.10%	2.80%	12.38%
	Stillwater, MT	36.55%	9,220	100.00%				
	Stillwater, MT	36.55%	9,220	100.00%	16.40%	4.71%	0.57%	9.49%
5	Brookings, SD	91.16%	32,320	34.54%	9.92%	7.67%	2.06%	19.14%
	Sheridan, WY	91.59%	29,644	40.07%				
	Scott, KY	91.18%	48,948	46.94%	9.26%	12.15%	1.23%	13.37%
6	Brown, SD	98.87%	36,626	32.71%	16.08%	7.41%	1.22%	10.19%
	Geary, KS	98.70%	35,428	30.82%				
	Catoosa, GA	98.26%	64,614	34.18%	13.54%	7.50%	0.98%	11.19%
7	Brule, SD	74.07%	5,276	100.00%	17.39%	12.18%	0.21%	9.12%
	Mineral, MT	74.45%	4,220	100.00%				
	Shackelford, TX	73.14%	3,318	100.00%	17.44%	12.34%	4.10%	13.20%
8	Butte, SD	87.48%	10,289	51.65%	15.74%	7.42%	0.63%	15.63%
	Johnson, WY	88.03%	8,851	52.66%				
	Bear Lake, ID	87.84%	5,915	60.08%	18.44%	5.26%	0.28%	13.93%
9	Campbell, SD	82.21%	1,413	100.00%	25.24%	2.46%	1.61%	10.71%
	Hettinger, ND	81.41%	2,509	100.00%				
	Hettinger, ND	81.41%	2,509	100.00%	25.76%	4.24%	0.33%	11.00%

	County	Availability	Population	Rural	65+	Minority	Non-English	Poverty
10	Charles Mix, SD	63.24%	9,102	100.00%	17.73%	35.38%	0.80%	24.05%
	Wilkinson, MS	62.88%	9,865	100.00%				
	Tensas, LA	63.80%	5,164	100.00%	17.29%	58.53%	1.21%	32.36%
11	Clark, SD	38.93%	3,640	100.00%	21.78%	2.57%	3.63%	13.06%
	Nance, NE	39.92%	3,717	100.00%				
	Nance, NE	39.92%	3,717	100.00%	19.06%	2.89%	0.11%	9.80%
12	Clay, SD	85.27%	13,976	25.97%	10.25%	9.95%	1.23%	23.96%
	Nolan, TX	85.01%	15,401	30.30%				
	Clinch, GA	85.85%	6,863	65.12%	12.77%	33.27%	0.64%	25.66%
13	Codington, SD	87.71%	27,290	27.26%	14.88%	5.38%	0.58%	12.67%
	Scotts Bluff, NE	86.72%	37,273	32.37%				
	Silver Bow, MT	87.58%	34,350	13.02%	16.42%	7.85%	1.06%	17.79%
14	Custer, SD	15.64%	8,199	100.00%	21.49%	7.21%	0.49%	9.66%
	Madison, VA	15.50%	13,372	100.00%				
	Madison, VA	15.50%	13,372	100.00%	17.51%	14.38%	0.99%	12.61%
15	Davison, SD	100.00%	19,418	25.82%	16.92%	6.19%	0.45%	13.78%
	Seward, KS	99.65%	23,366	14.35%				
	Clark, KY	99.78%	35,953	37.09%	14.17%	9.00%	1.64%	16.03%
16	Day, SD	68.75%	5,643	100.00%	22.92%	12.36%	0.58%	12.45%
	Stafford, KS	69.15%	4,360	100.00%				
	Stafford, KS	69.15%	4,360	100.00%	20.96%	14.24%	3.64%	14.01%
17	Deuel, SD	84.29%	4,396	100.00%	19.23%	3.30%	1.26%	6.10%
	Mason, TX	83.97%	4,072	100.00%				
	Stark, IL	84.20%	5,962	100.00%	19.92%	2.80%	0.12%	11.20%
18	Dewey, SD	10.85%	5,207	100.00%	9.72%	79.10%	0.98%	30.51%
	Hitchcock, NE	12.41%	2,895	100.00%				
	Hitchcock, NE	12.41%	2,895	100.00%	22.87%	3.03%	0.07%	13.01%
19	Douglas, SD	100.00%	2,914	100.00%	24.22%	3.70%	2.29%	9.75%
	Hamilton, KS	99.35%	2,703	100.00%				
	Mills, TX	99.39%	4,994	100.00%	23.46%	18.48%	7.15%	15.75%
20	Edmunds, SD	87.39%	4,098	100.00%	21.69%	3.00%	6.94%	11.64%
	Atchison, MO	88.10%	5,593	100.00%				
	Atchison, MO	88.10%	5,593	100.00%	21.58%	2.27%	0.62%	13.12%
21	Fall River, SD	15.21%	7,086	52.38%	23.09%	12.62%	0.38%	17.36%
	Blaine, OK	8.60%	12,068	57.86%				
	Blaine, OK	8.60%	12,068	57.86%	14.44%	37.10%	10.08%	14.79%
22	Faulk, SD	79.37%	2,339	100.00%	23.69%	1.73%	5.36%	17.93%
	Niobrara, WY	81.28%	2,586	100.00%				
	Throckmorton, TX	81.14%	1,654	100.00%	24.56%	11.46%	3.04%	13.25%
23	Grant, SD	70.84%	7,257	57.61%	18.53%	3.86%	3.83%	11.61%
	Anderson, KS	70.89%	8,082	59.58%				
	Anderson, KS	70.89%	8,082	59.58%	20.16%	4.05%	0.93%	12.35%
24	Gregory, SD	15.52%	4,285	100.00%	23.72%	10.61%	0.27%	16.05%
	Hitchcock, NE	12.41%	2,895	100.00%				
	Hitchcock, NE	12.41%	2,895	100.00%	22.87%	3.03%	0.07%	13.01%
25	Haakon, SD	39.62%	1,913	100.00%	21.73%	5.89%	0.45%	12.53%
	McCone, MT	39.01%	1,719	100.00%				
	McCone, MT	39.01%	1,719	100.00%	22.03%	2.60%	0.19%	8.58%
26	Hamlin, SD	24.39%	5,936	100.00%	17.28%	3.79%	1.60%	7.52%
	Marion, TX	23.35%	10,407	100.00%				
	Marion, TX	23.35%	10,407	100.00%	21.52%	28.28%	0.84%	23.18%
27	Hand, SD	68.60%	3,445	100.00%	25.27%	1.84%	0.00%	13.08%
	Lincoln, KS	69.29%	3,190	100.00%				

	County	Availability	Population	Rural	65+	Minority	Non-English	Poverty
	Stafford, KS	69.15%	4,360	100.00%	20.96%	14.24%	3.64%	14.01%
28	Harding, SD	96.03%	1,234	100.00%	14.50%	4.62%	1.50%	16.14%
	Piute, UT	96.38%	1,600	100.00%				
	Piute, UT	96.38%	1,600	100.00%	21.34%	8.80%	0.57%	13.21%
29	Hughes, SD	85.51%	16,994	34.94%	13.42%	14.99%	2.47%	9.34%
	Nolan, TX	85.01%	15,401	30.30%				
	Pratt, KS	86.37%	9,642	36.98%	18.87%	8.74%	1.59%	9.97%
30	Hutchinson, SD	60.33%	7,262	100.00%	25.03%	3.45%	3.21%	10.43%
	Dade, MO	59.56%	7,808	100.00%				
	Forest, WI	61.14%	9,299	100.00%	20.29%	17.82%	0.60%	18.90%
31	Hyde, SD	22.40%	1,364	100.00%	22.61%	11.06%	0.57%	11.21%
	Banner, NE	22.51%	721	100.00%				
	Banner, NE	22.51%	721	100.00%	19.71%	4.93%	1.50%	16.11%
32	Jackson, SD	14.13%	3,003	100.00%	13.43%	57.37%	0.62%	30.05%
	Hitchcock, NE	12.41%	2,895	100.00%				
	Hitchcock, NE	12.41%	2,895	100.00%	22.87%	3.03%	0.07%	13.01%
33	Jerauld, SD	41.02%	2,044	100.00%	25.06%	5.36%	0.52%	10.95%
	Carter, MT	41.78%	1,136	100.00%				
	Carter, MT	41.78%	1,136	100.00%	23.19%	2.41%	0.48%	14.03%
34	Jones, SD	24.70%	966	100.00%	20.58%	5.67%	0.10%	9.09%
	Banner, NE	22.51%	721	100.00%				
	Banner, NE	22.51%	721	100.00%	19.71%	4.93%	1.50%	16.11%
35	Kingsbury, SD	48.52%	5,173	100.00%	21.76%	3.13%	0.90%	9.17%
	Beaver, OK	47.84%	5,696	100.00%				
	Beaver, OK	47.84%	5,696	100.00%	15.47%	23.47%	6.89%	12.42%
36	Lake, SD	95.95%	11,468	50.94%	16.90%	4.39%	0.66%	12.07%
	Turner, GA	95.08%	8,783	49.05%				
	Moultrie, IL	96.86%	14,824	70.48%	17.63%	2.17%	2.01%	10.99%
37	Lawrence, SD	86.58%	24,438	40.94%	16.57%	7.25%	0.56%	15.34%
	Scotts Bluff, NE	86.72%	37,273	32.37%				
	Scotts Bluff, NE	86.72%	37,273	32.37%	16.81%	24.45%	3.32%	15.05%
38	Lincoln, SD	86.59%	46,946	73.28%	8.99%	4.75%	0.92%	4.25%
	Newton, MO	87.04%	58,523	66.71%				
	Barry, MI	85.98%	58,960	80.79%	14.55%	4.54%	0.66%	8.90%
39	Lyman, SD	35.30%	3,758	100.00%	14.59%	41.92%	0.32%	18.79%
	Buffalo, SD	35.72%	1,920	100.00%				
	Buffalo, SD	35.72%	1,920	100.00%	7.17%	85.20%	0.70%	49.27%
40	McCook, SD	48.41%	5,610	100.00%	18.97%	2.97%	1.52%	7.86%
	Beaver, OK	47.84%	5,696	100.00%				
	Beaver, OK	47.84%	5,696	100.00%	15.47%	23.47%	6.89%	12.42%
41	McPherson, SD	96.87%	2,434	100.00%	29.81%	2.20%	5.52%	16.51%
	Rush, KS	97.50%	3,277	100.00%				
	Nuckolls, NE	97.08%	4,431	100.00%	26.09%	3.71%	0.42%	18.00%
42	Marshall, SD	31.71%	4,700	100.00%	19.05%	15.42%	1.07%	17.12%
	St. Clair, MO	32.24%	9,708	100.00%				
	St. Clair, MO	32.24%	9,708	100.00%	23.41%	4.48%	0.32%	16.62%
43	Meade, SD	81.37%	25,161	56.80%	11.94%	9.76%	0.70%	10.12%
	Lauderdale, TN	80.62%	27,791	63.34%				
	Anderson, KY	80.55%	21,725	49.30%	12.04%	5.17%	1.59%	11.42%
44	Mellette, SD	1.14%	2,068	100.00%	13.53%	60.69%	1.04%	27.00%
	Liberty, MT	0.74%	2,285	100.00%				
	Liberty, MT	0.74%	2,285	100.00%	19.75%	1.97%	1.15%	19.46%
	Miner, SD	70.72%	2,363	100.00%	22.27%	2.89%	1.05%	8.80%

	County	Availability	Population	Rural	65+	Minority	Non-English	Poverty
45	Rawlins, KS	71.23%	2,473	100.00%				
	Webster, NE	70.35%	3,760	100.00%	23.66%	5.88%	0.88%	15.00%
46	Minnehaha, SD	94.16%	173,040	21.87%	11.12%	13.75%	4.01%	9.66%
	Okaloosa, FL	93.49%	178,700	18.26%				
	Kenton, KY	93.91%	160,926	10.29%	11.18%	10.20%	1.69%	11.35%
47	Moody, SD	56.65%	6,457	100.00%	15.16%	19.41%	1.74%	7.11%
	Washington, KS	56.49%	5,776	100.00%				
	Washington, KS	56.49%	5,776	100.00%	23.16%	4.16%	1.86%	10.58%
48	Pennington, SD	90.62%	102,466	32.47%	13.49%	18.34%	1.42%	14.02%
	Christian, KY	90.55%	73,743	34.49%				
	Eaton, MI	91.40%	107,221	40.23%	14.02%	15.05%	2.20%	9.09%
49	Perkins, SD	92.82%	2,970	100.00%	23.14%	3.32%	0.21%	18.70%
	Dickens, TX	93.30%	2,416	100.00%				
	Gosper, NE	93.69%	2,044	100.00%	21.09%	4.40%	0.41%	11.38%
50	Potter, SD	29.67%	2,261	100.00%	26.92%	2.96%	0.39%	9.98%
	Grant, OK	30.30%	4,489	100.00%				
	Grant, OK	30.30%	4,489	100.00%	21.25%	8.50%	0.46%	10.33%
51	Roberts, SD	27.25%	10,091	100.00%	17.32%	38.54%	0.96%	20.02%
	Lee, KY	28.01%	7,787	100.00%				
	Rappahannock, VA	26.71%	7,302	100.00%	19.10%	9.77%	0.54%	10.30%
52	Shannon, SD	22.40%	13,523	81.11%	5.88%	97.20%	0.72%	53.51%
	Allen, KY	19.45%	20,148	80.95%				
	Allen, KY	19.45%	20,148	80.95%	14.69%	3.77%	1.88%	20.29%
53	Spink, SD	98.12%	6,374	63.98%	20.12%	3.45%	2.30%	17.01%
	Terrell, GA	97.14%	9,191	54.09%				
	McCulloch, TX	97.88%	8,365	37.36%	19.86%	32.78%	6.03%	22.90%
54	Stanley, SD	80.32%	2,949	50.25%	15.81%	10.45%	0.85%	11.89%
	Kimball, NE	79.55%	3,674	37.15%				
	Kimball, NE	79.55%	3,674	37.15%	22.09%	9.42%	2.86%	10.45%
55	Sully, SD	2.61%	1,351	100.00%	19.16%	3.64%	0.00%	7.98%
	Ziebach, SD	3.84%	2,782	100.00%				
	Ziebach, SD	3.84%	2,782	100.00%	6.96%	78.33%	4.75%	45.95%
56	Tripp, SD	13.28%	5,501	52.48%	21.03%	17.15%	0.15%	16.45%
	Bacon, GA	1.62%	11,229	72.05%				
	Bacon, GA	1.62%	11,229	72.05%	13.34%	24.02%	0.82%	16.48%
57	Turner, SD	47.87%	8,325	100.00%	18.96%	3.22%	0.69%	7.66%
	Beaver, OK	47.84%	5,696	100.00%				
	Beaver, OK	47.84%	5,696	100.00%	15.47%	23.47%	6.89%	12.42%
58	Union, SD	71.97%	14,697	79.04%	14.04%	5.49%	0.91%	4.89%
	Powell, KY	71.74%	12,674	83.27%				
	Jeff Davis, GA	71.45%	15,303	70.16%	12.44%	26.63%	3.18%	24.02%
59	Walworth, SD	88.67%	5,371	37.80%	23.96%	17.76%	0.88%	14.46%
	Rice, KS	88.01%	9,989	48.15%				
	Rice, KS	88.01%	9,989	48.15%	17.86%	13.88%	2.06%	13.74%
60	Yankton, SD	86.49%	22,539	40.96%	16.33%	8.36%	2.38%	11.23%
	Scotts Bluff, NE	86.72%	37,273	32.37%				
	Scotts Bluff, NE	86.72%	37,273	32.37%	16.81%	24.45%	3.32%	15.05%
<b>REACH Michigan Middle Mile Collaborative (33 counties)</b>								
1	Allegan, MI	87.86%	111,559	72.07%	12.96%	10.29%	2.33%	11.87%
	Somerset, PA	88.60%	77,203	75.54%				
	Newton, MO	87.04%	58,523	66.71%	15.24%	12.30%	2.60%	16.29%
2	Antrim, MI	94.75%	23,406	100.00%	22.12%	4.39%	0.90%	15.49%
	Fulton, PA	94.59%	14,958	100.00%				

	County	Availability	Population	Rural	65+	Minority	Non-English	Poverty
	Fulton, PA	94.59%	14,958	100.00%	17.14%	3.09%	0.35%	13.32%
3	Arenac, MI	65.20%	15,619	100.00%	20.30%	4.20%	0.67%	16.50%
	Wayne, MO	64.21%	13,421	100.00%				
	Wayne, MO	64.21%	13,421	100.00%	21.41%	3.46%	0.22%	19.80%
	Bay, MI	96.44%	107,349	30.13%	16.24%	8.84%	0.94%	13.16%
4	Daviess, KY	96.76%	97,261	26.29%				
	Daviess, KY	96.76%	97,261	26.29%	14.61%	9.98%	1.14%	14.58%
	Benzie, MI	87.63%	17,369	100.00%	20.64%	4.95%	0.83%	11.05%
5	Lancaster, VA	87.38%	11,352	100.00%				
	Lancaster, VA	87.38%	11,352	100.00%	31.20%	30.43%	0.62%	10.07%
	Berrien, MI	95.34%	156,402	32.18%	16.29%	23.87%	2.74%	16.42%
6	Santa Rosa, FL	96.30%	153,280	30.38%				
	Etowah, AL	95.28%	104,667	43.57%	15.81%	20.72%	1.69%	16.85%
	Branch, MI	85.51%	44,715	70.30%	14.72%	9.13%	3.55%	16.94%
7	Gloucester, VA	84.58%	37,274	74.54%				
	Rhea, TN	85.87%	32,183	70.23%	15.71%	7.88%	1.99%	19.15%
	Cass, MI	81.76%	51,957	79.55%	15.98%	12.60%	1.36%	13.89%
8	Dickson, TN	82.57%	50,248	70.81%				
	Dickson, TN	82.57%	50,248	70.81%	13.26%	9.64%	1.30%	13.96%
	Charlevoix, MI	94.97%	25,736	72.21%	18.62%	5.19%	1.12%	11.25%
9	Tillamook, OR	94.07%	25,251	75.51%				
	Dickinson, KS	94.71%	20,009	66.73%	18.05%	7.30%	0.17%	11.06%
	Cheboygan, MI	70.46%	25,738	83.31%	21.49%	6.99%	0.31%	16.31%
10	Neshoba, MS	70.06%	29,958	78.24%				
	Giles, TN	69.56%	29,476	75.66%	16.65%	14.46%	0.69%	17.13%
	Clare, MI	67.80%	30,497	77.55%	19.94%	4.25%	1.04%	21.92%
11	De Soto, LA	68.04%	26,797	78.36%				
	Eastland, TX	67.49%	18,575	61.72%	19.85%	17.82%	3.81%	21.01%
	Crawford, MI	83.93%	13,895	73.73%	20.80%	3.47%	0.38%	17.98%
12	Lee, TX	83.85%	16,668	73.21%				
	Allen, KS	83.32%	13,232	58.03%	18.29%	8.12%	0.12%	12.65%
	Emmet, MI	78.45%	32,632	73.75%	16.63%	7.84%	1.10%	9.03%
13	Alcorn, MS	79.28%	37,219	69.82%				
	Warren, VA	77.47%	38,124	62.82%	12.72%	11.26%	2.38%	9.55%
	Gladwin, MI	52.93%	25,196	90.21%	22.78%	3.07%	0.72%	19.01%
14	Fairfield, SC	53.01%	23,726	77.32%				
	Fairfield, SC	53.01%	23,726	77.32%	14.88%	62.02%	0.61%	22.70%
	Grand Traverse, MI	98.09%	87,445	54.73%	14.98%	6.67%	0.70%	9.69%
15	Pulaski, KY	97.46%	63,764	60.85%				
	Genesee, NY	97.12%	59,748	61.37%	15.63%	8.47%	1.33%	11.73%
	Hillsdale, MI	74.35%	46,332	76.04%	15.73%	4.12%	0.74%	15.63%
16	Delaware, OK	74.93%	41,734	82.94%				
	Morrison, MN	74.23%	33,242	73.12%	16.04%	3.08%	1.17%	13.05%
	Iosco, MI	78.98%	25,639	58.39%	26.09%	4.55%	1.29%	16.22%
17	Marlboro, SC	78.84%	29,133	58.11%				
	Marinette, WI	78.87%	41,478	62.39%	19.77%	3.57%	1.03%	13.62%
	Isabella, MI	83.99%	70,266	55.17%	9.71%	12.51%	1.70%	29.71%
18	Darlington, SC	84.93%	68,351	57.71%				
	Darlington, SC	84.93%	68,351	57.71%	14.26%	44.68%	1.56%	19.96%
	Kalkaska, MI	83.50%	17,051	84.78%	16.54%	4.06%	0.45%	16.87%
19	Johnson, TN	82.90%	18,248	85.57%				
	Union, MS	83.52%	27,294	78.17%	14.46%	20.21%	2.62%	19.83%
	Lake, MI	36.64%	11,254	100.00%	23.71%	14.23%	0.58%	19.52%

	County	Availability	Population	Rural	65+	Minority	Non-English	Poverty
20	Stillwater, MT	36.55%	9,220	100.00%				
	Stillwater, MT	36.55%	9,220	100.00%	16.40%	4.71%	0.57%	9.49%
21	Lenawee, MI	95.45%	99,562	55.62%	14.60%	12.42%	1.98%	13.73%
	Comal, TX	94.86%	113,598	56.07%				
	Wayne, NY	95.12%	93,496	63.64%	14.25%	9.02%	2.09%	11.07%
22	Manistee, MI	90.10%	24,524	60.28%	20.65%	9.42%	0.78%	13.22%
	Toombs, GA	90.73%	27,555	55.42%				
	Franklin, TN	90.62%	41,064	71.68%	17.32%	10.26%	1.44%	13.20%
23	Mason, MI	70.14%	28,623	66.69%	19.19%	7.35%	0.67%	15.22%
	Barbour, AL	70.78%	27,339	71.90%				
	Giles, TN	69.56%	29,476	75.66%	16.65%	14.46%	0.69%	17.13%
24	Midland, MI	91.95%	83,110	47.18%	14.81%	6.92%	0.99%	10.97%
	Greenwood, SC	92.94%	69,845	44.81%				
	Eaton, MI	91.40%	107,221	40.23%	14.02%	15.05%	2.20%	9.09%
25	Monroe, MI	96.98%	151,757	40.59%	13.41%	7.51%	0.91%	8.97%
	Lee, AL	97.31%	143,145	37.62%				
	Santa Rosa, FL	96.30%	153,280	30.38%	12.86%	14.96%	2.34%	11.35%
26	Montmorency, MI	57.44%	9,706	100.00%	27.00%	3.07%	0.29%	17.63%
	Benton, MS	57.86%	8,901	100.00%				
	Washington, KS	56.49%	5,776	100.00%	23.16%	4.16%	1.86%	10.58%
27	Muskegon, MI	95.55%	171,986	28.40%	13.56%	22.68%	1.64%	17.96%
	Santa Rosa, FL	96.30%	153,280	30.38%				
	Etowah, AL	95.28%	104,667	43.57%	15.81%	20.72%	1.69%	16.85%
28	Oceana, MI	66.31%	26,460	100.00%	17.03%	16.35%	5.39%	19.23%
	Caroline, VA	65.23%	29,572	100.00%				
	Caroline, VA	65.23%	29,572	100.00%	13.12%	36.43%	1.43%	7.74%
29	Otsego, MI	84.66%	23,807	69.63%	17.03%	4.05%	0.46%	12.11%
	Wayne, KY	85.26%	20,900	69.99%				
	Webster, KY	85.21%	13,517	82.86%	15.12%	10.19%	1.13%	15.98%
30	Ottawa, MI	99.09%	265,210	26.14%	11.76%	14.27%	3.83%	8.69%
	Niagara, NY	98.80%	215,910	26.41%				
	Outagamie, WI	99.15%	177,805	32.56%	11.79%	10.37%	2.89%	8.52%
31	Roscommon, MI	95.27%	24,068	58.53%	28.01%	3.51%	0.50%	22.05%
	Taylor, KY	95.19%	24,656	53.21%				
	Barry, MO	95.86%	35,919	75.01%	17.62%	11.50%	4.05%	17.13%
32	St. Joseph, MI	82.72%	61,230	55.85%	14.85%	12.02%	3.22%	15.09%
	Dickson, TN	82.57%	50,248	70.81%				
	Dickson, TN	82.57%	50,248	70.81%	13.26%	9.64%	1.30%	13.96%
33	Van Buren, MI	82.41%	76,158	74.46%	13.80%	17.35%	3.34%	15.84%
	Walker, AL	82.86%	66,914	76.84%				
	Dickson, TN	82.57%	50,248	70.81%	13.26%	9.64%	1.30%	13.96%
<b>Transforming NE Ohio (33 counties)</b>								
1	Ashland, OH	96.76%	53,381	58.56%	15.84%	3.36%	2.82%	15.57%
	Genesee, NY	97.12%	59,748	61.37%				
	Pulaski, KY	97.46%	63,764	60.85%	16.24%	4.95%	0.87%	21.06%
2	Ashtabula, OH	77.06%	100,843	50.32%	15.64%	9.23%	1.98%	15.69%
	McMinn, TN	77.91%	52,638	62.30%				
	McMinn, TN	77.91%	52,638	62.30%	16.86%	9.55%	1.52%	17.29%
3	Champaign, OH	98.55%	40,183	70.58%	14.36%	5.87%	0.77%	12.89%
	Beltrami, MN	98.80%	44,648	71.12%				
	Starke, IN	99.05%	23,504	73.19%	15.30%	4.93%	1.36%	15.69%
4	Clermont, OH	99.69%	198,765	29.44%	11.78%	5.08%	1.10%	9.30%
	Harrison, MS	99.36%	183,513	28.96%				

	County	Availability	Population	Rural	65+	Minority	Non-English	Poverty
	Outagamie, WI	99.15%	177,805	32.56%	11.79%	10.37%	2.89%	8.52%
5	Columbiana, OH	86.30%	107,031	44.59%	16.50%	5.11%	0.75%	15.98%
	Newton, MO	87.04%	58,523	66.71%				
	Newton, MO	87.04%	58,523	66.71%	15.24%	12.30%	2.60%	16.29%
6	Coshocton, OH	72.04%	36,554	63.16%	16.24%	3.44%	1.34%	17.04%
	Bell, KY	71.41%	28,572	64.92%				
	Avoyelles, LA	71.98%	42,306	66.35%	14.44%	33.74%	2.09%	23.22%
7	Crawford, OH	97.62%	43,276	36.82%	17.81%	3.56%	0.55%	13.01%
	Jessamine, KY	98.35%	49,782	35.97%				
	McCracken, KY	96.89%	65,901	30.20%	16.78%	16.08%	0.92%	15.29%
8	Cuyahoga, OH	100.00%	1,265,168	1.52%	15.51%	38.60%	4.07%	16.39%
	Nassau, NY	100.00%	1,338,208	0.20%				
	Pinellas, FL	99.79%	908,900	0.49%	21.18%	23.10%	5.50%	12.08%
9	Erie, OH	99.43%	76,779	27.87%	17.26%	15.07%	1.15%	12.50%
	Floyd, IN	99.95%	75,236	26.18%				
	Schenectady, NY	99.57%	155,858	8.47%	14.92%	22.83%	3.35%	11.13%
10	Franklin, OH	99.99%	1,169,410	5.00%	9.95%	32.69%	4.82%	17.02%
	Suffolk, NY	99.92%	1,491,785	3.13%				
	Monmouth, NJ	99.54%	628,061	7.87%	13.75%	23.31%	7.10%	6.27%
11	Geauga, OH	97.77%	93,285	66.16%	15.50%	3.88%	3.42%	7.62%
	Adams, PA	97.94%	101,969	62.25%				
	Adams, PA	97.94%	101,969	62.25%	15.73%	9.44%	2.94%	7.58%
12	Holmes, OH	59.30%	42,261	93.91%	11.33%	1.79%	15.28%	13.29%
	Pontotoc, MS	58.84%	30,086	85.76%				
	Pontotoc, MS	58.84%	30,086	85.76%	12.79%	21.45%	3.97%	16.38%
13	Huron, OH	96.12%	59,544	48.80%	13.56%	8.35%	2.87%	14.53%
	Troup, GA	96.18%	67,901	49.05%				
	Henderson, KY	96.99%	46,285	44.94%	14.16%	11.84%	0.90%	14.39%
14	Lake, OH	99.90%	230,129	9.88%	16.07%	9.15%	2.71%	8.05%
	Richmond, GA	99.76%	201,285	8.69%				
	Schenectady, NY	99.57%	155,858	8.47%	14.92%	22.83%	3.35%	11.13%
15	Lorain, OH	98.82%	303,128	22.29%	14.31%	19.85%	2.37%	13.11%
	Prince William, VA	99.35%	407,391	19.37%				
	Niagara, NY	98.80%	215,910	26.41%	15.89%	12.73%	1.46%	12.76%
16	Lucas, OH	99.92%	438,808	7.69%	13.08%	29.02%	1.86%	18.01%
	Seminole, FL	100.00%	424,240	8.22%				
	Fayette, KY	99.36%	299,460	12.47%	10.53%	26.95%	5.20%	17.40%
17	Mahoning, OH	99.31%	236,125	16.71%	17.88%	22.44%	2.27%	16.59%
	Butte, CA	99.61%	221,156	19.98%				
	Sullivan, TN	99.53%	157,365	28.02%	18.63%	5.61%	0.76%	15.86%
18	Marion, OH	97.72%	66,445	32.51%	14.24%	10.18%	0.61%	17.35%
	Catoosa, GA	98.26%	64,614	34.18%				
	Daviess, KY	96.76%	97,261	26.29%	14.61%	9.98%	1.14%	14.58%
19	Medina, OH	99.49%	173,351	37.73%	13.11%	4.95%	1.49%	6.28%
	Hendricks, IN	99.26%	148,160	40.27%				
	Saratoga, NY	99.55%	220,062	35.59%	13.66%	7.27%	1.51%	6.36%
20	Montgomery, OH	99.96%	531,016	5.65%	15.14%	27.33%	1.78%	15.67%
	Ocean, NJ	99.58%	576,732	4.74%				
	Jefferson, LA	99.58%	430,477	1.17%	13.64%	43.99%	7.28%	14.23%
21	Morrow, OH	89.76%	34,749	89.65%	13.44%	3.03%	1.09%	10.81%
	Bedford, PA	88.87%	49,771	84.65%				
	Oconto, WI	89.89%	37,667	81.98%	15.99%	3.96%	0.92%	11.78%
	Ottawa, OH	97.79%	41,215	55.76%	18.99%	6.39%	0.97%	9.02%

	County	Availability	Population	Rural	65+	Minority	Non-English	Poverty
22	Thomas, GA	98.57%	45,374	52.86%				
	Martin, MN	98.28%	20,803	52.62%	20.71%	5.15%	1.31%	8.97%
23	Portage, OH	99.08%	161,414	42.81%	12.90%	8.61%	1.00%	13.47%
	Sussex, NJ	99.54%	149,452	44.00%				
	Pickens, SC	98.26%	120,303	43.76%	13.41%	12.80%	2.28%	16.59%
24	Richland, OH	94.33%	123,601	33.54%	16.28%	13.46%	1.16%	12.38%
	Spotsylvania, VA	94.14%	122,743	36.95%				
	Etowah, AL	95.28%	104,667	43.57%	15.81%	20.72%	1.69%	16.85%
25	Sandusky, OH	97.29%	60,686	43.89%	15.28%	13.81%	1.70%	10.87%
	Salem, NJ	96.99%	66,378	43.39%				
	Salem, NJ	96.99%	66,378	43.39%	15.01%	23.22%	2.76%	10.13%
26	Seneca, OH	97.44%	56,462	46.19%	14.85%	8.82%	0.95%	11.94%
	Salem, NJ	96.99%	66,378	43.39%				
	Henderson, KY	96.99%	46,285	44.94%	14.16%	11.84%	0.90%	14.39%
27	Stark, OH	99.59%	374,961	14.76%	16.24%	12.27%	1.21%	12.73%
	Gloucester, NJ	98.75%	291,283	16.60%				
	Niagara, NY	98.80%	215,910	26.41%	15.89%	12.73%	1.46%	12.76%
28	Summit, OH	99.98%	539,131	5.86%	14.58%	20.33%	1.93%	13.76%
	Ocean, NJ	99.58%	576,732	4.74%				
	Greenville, SC	99.53%	462,075	21.88%	12.76%	29.70%	5.59%	14.12%
29	Trumbull, OH	97.47%	207,961	28.45%	17.41%	11.85%	1.30%	15.35%
	Alachua, FL	96.49%	249,578	29.09%				
	Blount, TN	96.61%	124,928	39.91%	16.07%	7.94%	1.94%	11.75%
30	Tuscarawas, OH	87.91%	92,397	43.92%	16.39%	4.29%	2.01%	12.78%
	Hanover, VA	87.63%	100,251	43.31%				
	Roane, TN	87.90%	54,339	52.44%	18.56%	6.33%	0.54%	13.37%
31	Washington, OH	78.23%	61,562	65.86%	17.47%	4.04%	0.59%	15.18%
	McMinn, TN	77.91%	52,638	62.30%				
	McMinn, TN	77.91%	52,638	62.30%	16.86%	9.55%	1.52%	17.29%
32	Wayne, OH	90.60%	114,449	54.28%	14.57%	5.30%	4.45%	9.87%
	Lee, MS	90.97%	83,536	52.45%				
	Clinton, MI	90.81%	75,539	63.58%	12.87%	9.47%	1.68%	8.48%
33	Wood, OH	98.61%	125,737	36.02%	12.26%	9.93%	1.42%	12.16%
	Stafford, VA	98.50%	129,118	32.76%				
	Outagamie, WI	99.15%	177,805	32.56%	11.79%	10.37%	2.89%	8.52%
<b>West Virginia Statewide Broadband Infrastructure Project (55 counties)</b>								
1	Barbour, WV	48.29%	16,812	85.28%	16.64%	3.52%	0.27%	18.38%
	Fayette, AL	48.06%	17,168	79.95%				
	Fayette, AL	48.06%	17,168	79.95%	17.89%	13.97%	0.22%	17.93%
2	Berkeley, WV	91.47%	106,934	53.62%	11.38%	14.20%	1.57%	10.13%
	Lee, MS	90.97%	83,536	52.45%				
	Clinton, MI	90.81%	75,539	63.58%	12.87%	9.47%	1.68%	8.48%
3	Boone, WV	30.73%	24,620	87.65%	14.17%	1.66%	0.06%	19.27%
	Goochland, VA	32.08%	22,377	94.55%				
	Goochland, VA	32.08%	22,377	94.55%	14.91%	23.64%	1.97%	7.08%
4	Braxton, WV	64.82%	14,648	100.00%	17.53%	2.18%	0.43%	21.04%
	Pendleton, KY	63.92%	14,825	100.00%				
	Wayne, MO	64.21%	13,421	100.00%	21.41%	3.46%	0.22%	19.80%
5	Brooke, WV	68.07%	23,793	42.90%	19.12%	3.44%	0.53%	11.03%
	Bourbon, KS	68.67%	15,128	52.33%				
	Bourbon, KS	68.67%	15,128	52.33%	17.32%	8.04%	0.41%	15.51%
6	Cabell, WV	84.46%	96,241	25.11%	15.95%	9.14%	0.63%	20.62%
	Imperial, CA	84.08%	181,396	25.24%				

	County	Availability	Population	Rural	65+	Minority	Non-English	Poverty
	Darlington, SC	84.93%	68,351	57.71%	14.26%	44.68%	1.56%	19.96%
7	Calhoun, WV	8.19%	7,742	100.00%	18.16%	2.12%	0.21%	20.55%
	Chouteau, MT	7.90%	5,832	100.00%				
	Chouteau, MT	7.90%	5,832	100.00%	17.34%	24.53%	0.15%	21.00%
8	Clay, WV	9.48%	9,441	100.00%	15.68%	1.52%	0.00%	23.68%
	Mahnomen, MN	8.77%	5,451	100.00%				
	Mahnomen, MN	8.77%	5,451	100.00%	15.80%	50.16%	0.33%	23.60%
9	Doddridge, WV	46.73%	8,221	100.00%	16.20%	3.37%	0.00%	25.10%
	Ballard, KY	46.41%	8,284	100.00%				
	Caldwell, LA	45.81%	10,119	100.00%	14.84%	20.60%	0.64%	21.91%
10	Fayette, WV	30.78%	45,934	60.75%	16.95%	7.12%	0.43%	21.29%
	Goochland, VA	32.08%	22,377	94.55%				
	Goochland, VA	32.08%	22,377	94.55%	14.91%	23.64%	1.97%	7.08%
11	Gilmer, WV	57.41%	8,765	100.00%	13.72%	20.03%	3.25%	30.25%
	Benton, MS	57.86%	8,901	100.00%				
	Todd, KY	57.60%	12,547	100.00%	14.22%	13.35%	4.47%	21.40%
12	Grant, WV	39.70%	12,224	78.46%	18.34%	2.67%	0.24%	12.86%
	Jones, TX	40.77%	20,285	85.39%				
	Jones, TX	40.77%	20,285	85.39%	13.68%	37.88%	7.96%	12.33%
13	Greenbrier, WV	18.81%	35,526	71.26%	19.27%	6.06%	0.40%	19.35%
	Allen, KY	19.45%	20,148	80.95%				
	Allen, KY	19.45%	20,148	80.95%	14.69%	3.77%	1.88%	20.29%
14	Hampshire, WV	1.52%	24,451	100.00%	16.27%	3.41%	0.26%	16.38%
	Trinity, CA	0.52%	14,032	100.00%				
	Trinity, CA	0.52%	14,032	100.00%	20.09%	16.45%	1.47%	15.07%
15	Hancock, WV	90.17%	30,366	33.64%	18.76%	5.00%	0.45%	14.78%
	Crawford, KS	89.86%	39,171	36.60%				
	Unicoi, TN	90.55%	18,337	47.45%	19.66%	5.27%	2.31%	18.78%
16	Hardy, WV	0.00%	14,194	100.00%	16.61%	7.76%	3.72%	14.91%
	Trinity, CA	0.52%	14,032	100.00%				
	Trinity, CA	0.52%	14,032	100.00%	20.09%	16.45%	1.47%	15.07%
17	Harrison, WV	81.41%	69,479	43.13%	16.51%	5.02%	0.53%	18.88%
	Payne, OK	80.84%	77,604	36.10%				
	Payne, OK	80.84%	77,604	36.10%	10.42%	20.29%	2.96%	23.42%
18	Jackson, WV	68.36%	29,157	75.98%	17.68%	2.22%	0.23%	18.11%
	Hardeman, TN	68.75%	27,183	75.97%				
	Parke, IN	68.92%	17,224	83.96%	15.62%	4.58%	2.91%	15.76%
19	Jefferson, WV	87.30%	54,385	72.19%	11.80%	14.83%	1.19%	8.39%
	Newton, MO	87.04%	58,523	66.71%				
	Shelby, KY	88.00%	43,178	64.62%	12.03%	19.00%	4.74%	11.41%
20	Kanawha, WV	35.27%	192,254	24.86%	16.74%	11.44%	0.60%	13.73%
	Horry, SC	50.09%	280,753	50.76%				
	Horry, SC	50.09%	280,753	50.76%	17.11%	22.72%	4.36%	16.13%
21	Lewis, WV	80.16%	16,580	71.36%	17.88%	2.49%	0.14%	19.62%
	Westmoreland, VA	79.96%	17,714	72.61%				
	Stoddard, MO	80.81%	29,839	70.14%	17.84%	3.46%	0.27%	18.00%
22	Lincoln, WV	58.92%	21,694	100.00%	15.12%	1.32%	0.05%	26.64%
	Vilas, WI	58.77%	21,222	100.00%				
	Brown, IN	59.44%	15,017	100.00%	17.19%	3.16%	0.64%	10.81%
23	Logan, WV	23.33%	36,687	79.95%	15.17%	3.97%	0.18%	21.81%
	Allen, KY	19.45%	20,148	80.95%				
	Allen, KY	19.45%	20,148	80.95%	14.69%	3.77%	1.88%	20.29%
	McDowell, WV	24.97%	21,888	89.19%	16.54%	11.20%	0.31%	32.62%

	County	Availability	Population	Rural	65+	Minority	Non-English	Poverty
24	Allen, KY	19.45%	20,148	80.95%				
	Allen, KY	19.45%	20,148	80.95%	14.69%	3.77%	1.88%	20.29%
25	Marion, WV	81.82%	56,427	42.05%	16.91%	6.28%	0.57%	16.77%
	Payne, OK	80.84%	77,604	36.10%				
	Muhlenberg, KY	81.42%	31,370	69.73%	16.22%	6.98%	0.52%	20.58%
26	Marshall, WV	57.75%	32,651	50.98%	17.56%	2.61%	0.55%	17.97%
	Austin, TX	57.23%	28,764	67.69%				
	Geneva, AL	58.18%	27,125	87.34%	17.45%	15.30%	1.03%	16.31%
27	Mason, WV	11.50%	27,278	76.56%	17.03%	2.58%	0.26%	18.93%
	Lincoln, MT	15.67%	19,834	80.62%				
	Lincoln, MT	15.67%	19,834	80.62%	20.52%	5.80%	0.92%	18.63%
28	Mercer, WV	38.90%	62,473	46.96%	18.01%	8.92%	1.23%	22.83%
	Colleton, SC	41.63%	38,853	75.74%				
	Colleton, SC	41.63%	38,853	75.74%	15.63%	44.11%	1.92%	21.35%
29	Mineral, WV	29.62%	28,330	65.16%	17.34%	5.21%	0.56%	16.13%
	Goochland, VA	32.08%	22,377	94.55%				
	Goochland, VA	32.08%	22,377	94.55%	14.91%	23.64%	1.97%	7.08%
30	Mingo, WV	32.17%	26,642	89.60%	13.50%	3.33%	0.17%	21.60%
	Goochland, VA	32.08%	22,377	94.55%				
	Goochland, VA	32.08%	22,377	94.55%	14.91%	23.64%	1.97%	7.08%
31	Monongalia, WV	88.96%	96,759	28.80%	10.22%	10.28%	1.71%	21.05%
	Boone, KY	89.03%	121,933	27.86%				
	Boone, KY	89.03%	121,933	27.86%	9.52%	9.98%	2.69%	7.48%
32	Monroe, WV	1.62%	13,689	99.13%	19.63%	2.90%	1.14%	13.27%
	Bacon, GA	1.62%	11,229	72.05%				
	Bacon, GA	1.62%	11,229	72.05%	13.34%	24.02%	0.82%	16.48%
33	Morgan, WV	59.85%	17,642	100.00%	18.33%	3.37%	0.17%	15.84%
	Knott, KY	60.63%	16,317	100.00%				
	Brown, IN	59.44%	15,017	100.00%	17.19%	3.16%	0.64%	10.81%
34	Nicholas, WV	49.50%	26,340	78.96%	17.07%	2.08%	0.00%	18.67%
	Lawrence, TN	49.70%	41,868	77.09%				
	Lawrence, TN	49.70%	41,868	77.09%	16.09%	5.20%	1.73%	17.42%
35	Ohio, WV	83.44%	44,207	22.79%	18.48%	7.38%	0.81%	15.93%
	Steele, MN	83.15%	36,876	35.95%				
	Campbell, KY	82.72%	90,134	23.03%	12.79%	6.56%	0.60%	11.26%
36	Pendleton, WV	19.84%	7,730	100.00%	21.85%	4.44%	0.20%	15.14%
	Boone, NE	20.96%	5,486	100.00%				
	Boone, NE	20.96%	5,486	100.00%	21.14%	2.22%	0.15%	6.63%
37	Pleasants, WV	11.56%	7,587	63.78%	16.15%	3.30%	0.18%	13.67%
	Blaine, OK	8.60%	12,068	57.86%				
	Blaine, OK	8.60%	12,068	57.86%	14.44%	37.10%	10.08%	14.79%
38	Pocahontas, WV	1.23%	8,614	100.00%	19.31%	2.74%	0.21%	15.27%
	Trinity, CA	0.52%	14,032	100.00%				
	Trinity, CA	0.52%	14,032	100.00%	20.09%	16.45%	1.47%	15.07%
39	Preston, WV	7.26%	33,933	89.56%	15.68%	2.87%	0.69%	13.85%
	Clay, IN	7.63%	26,810	63.45%				
	Clay, IN	7.63%	26,810	63.45%	15.07%	2.77%	0.39%	12.49%
40	Putnam, WV	45.51%	56,073	42.34%	14.38%	3.80%	0.50%	10.40%
	Ravalli, MT	46.50%	40,489	85.32%				
	Ravalli, MT	46.50%	40,489	85.32%	19.22%	6.09%	0.79%	14.95%
41	Raleigh, WV	11.04%	79,188	43.92%	16.06%	12.19%	1.89%	17.51%
	Upshur, TX	35.28%	39,522	82.77%				
	Upshur, TX	35.28%	39,522	82.77%	15.75%	17.94%	2.07%	13.09%

	County	Availability	Population	Rural	65+	Minority	Non-English	Poverty
42	Randolph, WV	62.28%	29,585	67.22%	17.84%	3.17%	0.89%	17.08%
	Harrison, KY	62.91%	18,987	68.13%				
	Harrison, KY	62.91%	18,987	68.13%	14.92%	5.31%	1.10%	20.43%
43	Ritchie, WV	87.54%	10,529	100.00%	17.20%	1.67%	0.18%	18.87%
	Lancaster, VA	87.38%	11,352	100.00%				
	Atchison, MO	88.10%	5,593	100.00%	21.58%	2.27%	0.62%	13.12%
44	Roane, WV	25.42%	14,846	79.58%	17.19%	2.10%	0.60%	27.61%
	Allen, KY	19.45%	20,148	80.95%				
	Allen, KY	19.45%	20,148	80.95%	14.69%	3.77%	1.88%	20.29%
45	Summers, WV	3.76%	13,664	80.77%	19.26%	7.83%	0.20%	21.64%
	Bacon, GA	1.62%	11,229	72.05%				
	Bacon, GA	1.62%	11,229	72.05%	13.34%	24.02%	0.82%	16.48%
46	Taylor, WV	63.92%	17,042	64.86%	16.24%	3.07%	0.30%	15.83%
	Madison, TX	64.54%	13,764	69.51%				
	Lincoln, WI	63.53%	28,559	57.83%	18.33%	3.41%	0.60%	10.01%
47	Tucker, WV	10.35%	7,181	100.00%	21.02%	1.64%	0.32%	17.72%
	Mahnomen, MN	8.77%	5,451	100.00%				
	Mahnomen, MN	8.77%	5,451	100.00%	15.80%	50.16%	0.33%	23.60%
48	Tyler, WV	14.33%	9,160	74.21%	18.46%	1.49%	0.38%	18.12%
	Blaine, OK	8.60%	12,068	57.86%				
	Blaine, OK	8.60%	12,068	57.86%	14.44%	37.10%	10.08%	14.79%
49	Upshur, WV	68.86%	24,425	65.24%	16.67%	3.13%	0.35%	19.34%
	Attala, MS	68.41%	19,618	65.87%				
	Lewis, TN	69.16%	12,174	72.50%	16.21%	5.38%	0.21%	18.32%
50	Wayne, WV	49.16%	42,152	64.30%	16.51%	1.82%	0.17%	20.16%
	Franklin, LA	50.16%	20,678	73.21%				
	Lawrence, TN	49.70%	41,868	77.09%	16.09%	5.20%	1.73%	17.42%
51	Webster, WV	72.28%	9,146	100.00%	17.52%	1.80%	0.00%	22.87%
	Metcalfe, KY	72.92%	10,157	100.00%				
	Metcalfe, KY	72.92%	10,157	100.00%	16.28%	3.65%	1.33%	18.74%
52	Wetzel, WV	17.96%	16,522	56.14%	19.53%	1.59%	0.35%	17.55%
	Allen, KY	19.45%	20,148	80.95%				
	Allen, KY	19.45%	20,148	80.95%	14.69%	3.77%	1.88%	20.29%
53	Wirt, WV	28.84%	5,717	100.00%	15.64%	1.87%	0.00%	19.24%
	Lee, KY	28.01%	7,787	100.00%				
	Lee, KY	28.01%	7,787	100.00%	13.22%	4.10%	1.37%	31.65%
54	Wood, WV	95.23%	86,756	29.32%	16.93%	4.14%	0.53%	16.41%
	Umatilla, OR	94.43%	76,669	32.13%				
	Jasper, MO	94.55%	119,299	28.36%	13.38%	13.96%	3.02%	18.93%
55	Wyoming, WV	69.18%	23,706	89.83%	15.08%	2.21%	0.73%	17.27%
	Jasper, SC	68.38%	25,409	90.39%				
	Parke, IN	68.92%	17,224	83.96%	15.62%	4.58%	2.91%	15.76%

# Notes

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<sup>1</sup> National Telecommunications and Information Administration, “BTOP Evaluation Study,” *Program Reports*, 2013, <http://www2.ntia.doc.gov/BTOP-Reports#evaluation>.

<sup>2</sup> National Telecommunications and Information Administration, “Statement of Work for Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Evaluation Study,” 2010.

<sup>3</sup> National Telecommunications and Information Administration, “Statement of Work for Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Evaluation Study,” July 26, 2010.

<sup>4</sup> ASR Analytics, *BTOP Evaluation Study Design*, 2011.

<sup>5</sup> National Telecommunications and Information Administration, “Statement of Work for Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Evaluation Study,” 2010.

<sup>6</sup> National Telecommunications and Information Administration, “Statement of Work for Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Evaluation Study,” 2010.

<sup>7</sup> National Telecommunications and Information Administration, “About,” *BroadbandUSA: Connecting America’s Communities* (Washington, DC, June 11, 2012), <http://www2.ntia.doc.gov/about>.

<sup>8</sup> The total number of BTOP awards announced by September 30, 2010 was 233. As of June 30, 2013, this number was 224. The resource listed below provides more details about terminated and refused awards.

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<sup>9</sup> National Telecommunications and Information Administration, *Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Quarterly Program Status Report*.

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<sup>11</sup> Rural Utilities Service and National Telecommunications and Information Administration, “Broadband Initiatives Program & Broadband Technology Opportunities Program,” *Federal Register* 74, no. 130 (July 09, 2009): 33104–34, <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2009-07-09/pdf/FR-2009-07-09.pdf>.

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<sup>15</sup> ASR Analytics, *Delaware Department of State (Delaware Division of Libraries) Public Computer Center Round 2, Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Evaluation Study (Order Number D10PD18645)*, December 19, 2013.

- <sup>16</sup> ASR Analytics, *Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Public Computer Center Round 2, Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Evaluation Study (Order Number D10PD18645)*, September 13, 2013.
- <sup>17</sup> ASR Analytics, *Las Vegas-Clark County Urban League Public Computer Center Round 2, Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Evaluation Study (Order Number D10PD18645)*, August 01, 2013.
- <sup>18</sup> ASR Analytics, *Michigan State University Public Computer Center Round 2, Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Evaluation Study (Order Number D10PD18645)*, August 29, 2013.
- <sup>19</sup> ASR Analytics, *South Carolina State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education Public Computer Center Round 2, Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Evaluation Study (Order Number D10PD18645)*, September 11, 2013.
- <sup>20</sup> ASR Analytics, *Technology for All, Inc. Public Computer Center Round 2, Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Evaluation Study (Order Number D10PD18645)*, September 16, 2013.
- <sup>21</sup> ASR Analytics, *WorkForce West Virginia Public Computer Center Round 2, Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Evaluation Study (Order Number D10PD18645)*, September 23, 2013.
- <sup>22</sup> ASR Analytics, *C.K. Blandin Foundation Sustainable Broadband Adoption Round 2, Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Evaluation Study (Order Number D10PD18645)*, August 15, 2013.
- <sup>23</sup> ASR Analytics, *California Emerging Technology Fund Sustainable Broadband Adoption Round 2, Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Evaluation Study (Order Number D10PD18645)*, September 09, 2013.
- <sup>24</sup> ASR Analytics, *Smart Chicago Sustainable Broadband Adoption Round 2, Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Evaluation Study (Order Number D10PD18645)*, July 10, 2013.
- <sup>25</sup> ASR Analytics, *Connect Arkansas Sustainable Broadband Adoption Round 2, Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Evaluation Study (Order Number D10PD18645)*, September 10, 2013.
- <sup>26</sup> ASR Analytics, *Foundation for California Community Colleges Sustainable Broadband Adoption Round 2, Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Evaluation Study (Order Number D10PD18645)*, September 12, 2013.
- <sup>27</sup> ASR Analytics, *Future Generations Sustainable Broadband Adoption Round 2, Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Evaluation Study (Order Number D10PD18645)*, August 08, 2013.
- <sup>28</sup> ASR Analytics, *Urban Affairs Coalition Sustainable Broadband Adoption Round 2, Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Evaluation Study (Order Number D10PD18645)*, September 10, 2013.
- <sup>29</sup> ASR Analytics, *Clearwave Communications Comprehensive Community Infrastructure, Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Evaluation Study (Order Number D10PD18645)*, December 03, 2013.
- <sup>30</sup> ASR Analytics, *Executive Office of the State of West Virginia Comprehensive Community Infrastructure, Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Evaluation Study (Order Number D10PD18645)*, March 25, 2014.

- <sup>31</sup> ASR Analytics, *Lane Council of Governments Comprehensive Community Infrastructure, Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Evaluation Study (Order Number D10PD18645)*, April 04, 2014.
- <sup>32</sup> ASR Analytics, *Massachusetts Technology Park Comprehensive Community Infrastructure, Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Evaluation Study (Order Number D10PD18645)*, March 19, 2014.
- <sup>33</sup> ASR Analytics, *MCNC Comprehensive Community Infrastructure, Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Evaluation Study (Order Number D10PD18645)*, March 04, 2014.
- <sup>34</sup> ASR Analytics, *Merit Network, Inc. Comprehensive Community Infrastructure, Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Evaluation Study (Order Number D10PD18645)*, March 04, 2014.
- <sup>35</sup> ASR Analytics, *Mid-Atlantic Broadband Cooperative Comprehensive Community Infrastructure, Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Evaluation Study (Order Number D10PD18645)*, February 06, 2014.
- <sup>36</sup> ASR Analytics, *OneCommunity Comprehensive Community Infrastructure, Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Evaluation Study (Order Number D10PD18645)*, April 21, 2014.
- <sup>37</sup> ASR Analytics, *OSHEAN, Inc. Comprehensive Community Infrastructure, Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Evaluation Study (Order Number D10PD18645)*, March 10, 2014.
- <sup>38</sup> ASR Analytics, *South Dakota Network Comprehensive Community Infrastructure, Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Evaluation Study (Order Number D10PD18645)*, February 05, 2014.
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- <sup>40</sup> ASR Analytics, *Zayo Group Comprehensive Community Infrastructure, Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Evaluation Study (Order Number D10PD18645)*, February 06, 2014.
- <sup>41</sup> Ellen Taylor-Powell, Larry Jones, and Ellen Henert, *Enhancing Program Performance with Logic Models* (Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin-Extension, 2003), <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/lmcourse/>.
- <sup>42</sup> Taylor-Powell, Jones, and Henert, *Enhancing Program Performance with Logic Models*.
- <sup>43</sup> Taylor-Powell, Jones, and Henert, *Enhancing Program Performance with Logic Models*.
- <sup>44</sup> NTIA requested that the evaluation study team use this definition to match the analysis performed on the National Broadband Map (NBM), which is different from the definition used in the NOFA: advertised speeds of at least 768 kbps downstream and at least 200 kbps upstream.
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- <sup>45</sup> Rural Utilities Service and National Telecommunications and Information Administration, "Broadband Initiatives Program & Broadband Technology Opportunities Program."
- <sup>46</sup> Klaus Krippendorff, *Content Analysis: An Introduction*, 2nd ed. (Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, 2004).

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<sup>52</sup> USDA Economic Research Service, "Rural Digital Economy: Online Activities."

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 ASR Analytics, *C.K. Blandin Foundation Sustainable Broadband Adoption Round 2*, 8.  
 ASR Analytics, *California Emerging Technology Fund Sustainable Broadband Adoption Round 2*, 14.

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- <sup>528</sup> National Telecommunications and Information Administration, "Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Notices."
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- <sup>536</sup> National Telecommunications and Information Administration, "Post-Award Monitoring (PAM) Database."
- <sup>537</sup> The total number of BTOP awards announced by September 30, 2010 was 233. As of June 30, 2013, this number was 224. The resource listed below provides more details about terminated and refused awards.  
[http://www.ntia.doc.gov/files/ntia/publications/ntia\\_btop\\_18th\\_quarterly\\_report.pdf](http://www.ntia.doc.gov/files/ntia/publications/ntia_btop_18th_quarterly_report.pdf)
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- <sup>548</sup> ASR Analytics, *Connect Arkansas Sustainable Broadband Adoption Round 2*, 30.
- <sup>549</sup> ASR Analytics, *Mid-Atlantic Broadband Cooperative Comprehensive Community Infrastructure*, 24.
- <sup>550</sup> The Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board, "Recovery API," *Recovery.gov* (Washington, DC, March 20, 2013), <http://www.recovery.gov/FAQ/Developer/Pages/RecoveryAPI.aspx>.
- <sup>551</sup> Recovery.org provides the following guidance and example for calculating grant-funded jobs:
1. If a normal full-time schedule is 40 hours a week, multiply 40 hours x 52 weeks = 2,080 Total Hours per year.
  2. Divide 2,080 Total Hours by 4 to equal 520 regular quarterly hours.
  3. If two full-time employees each worked 520 hours (1,040 hours) for the quarter and another half-time employee worked 260 hours, the Total Hours for the three employees is 1300 (520 + 520 + 260 = 1300).
  4. Divide 1300 by 520 to equal 2.5 Recovery funded jobs during that quarter.
- For more information, visit <http://www.recovery.gov/News/featured/Pages/Calculator.aspx>
- <sup>552</sup> ASR Analytics, *Technology for All, Inc. Public Computer Center Round 2*, 17.
- <sup>553</sup> ASR Analytics, *Urban Affairs Coalition Sustainable Broadband Adoption Round 2*, 6.
- <sup>554</sup> ASR Analytics, *Clearwave Communications Comprehensive Community Infrastructure*, 19.

<sup>555</sup> National Telecommunications and Information Administration, “Statement of Work for Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Evaluation Study,” July 26, 2010.

<sup>556</sup> National Telecommunications and Information Administration, “Statement of Work for Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Evaluation Study,” July 26, 2010.

<sup>557</sup> Suffolk County, Massachusetts was removed from the service area because it contained no connected CAIs and is different from the listed counties in size and demographic makeup.

<sup>558</sup> All service area counties were determined by connected CAI locations and BTOP-funded fiber routes.

<sup>559</sup> National Telecommunications and Information Administration, “Application Search,” *Broadband USA*, 2014, <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/legacy/broadbandgrants/applications/results.htm>.

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<sup>561</sup> 1,269 counties fell within the service area of an awarded BTOP grant only, 183 fell within a BIP service area only, and 292 fell within both a BTOP and BIP service area for a total of 1,744 unique counties.

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<sup>564</sup> National Telecommunications and Information Administration and Federal Communications Commission, “State Broadband Initiative.”

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<sup>569</sup> Peter Stenberg et al., *Broadband Internet’s Value for Rural America, ERR-78* (Washington, DC: United States Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service, August 2009), 9–10, <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/err-economic-research-report/err78.aspx>.

<sup>570</sup> As implemented in the Match function in the Matching package for R.

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<sup>571</sup> Similarity in matching is the inverse of the distance between two sets of observations. The evaluation study team uses the Mahalanobis distance metric to calculate the distances between treatment counties and all possible control counties.

<sup>572</sup> Broadband availability and rural percentage of population are the county-level aggregate statistics described in Section 10.6.1. The natural logarithm of population was used because the untransformed population is very non-normally distributed. The rural county binary variable takes the value of one where a county has a 100 percent rural population and zero otherwise.

<sup>573</sup> The natural logarithm of population was used because the untransformed population is very non-normally distributed. A constant restriction (i.e., one-half standard deviation) on the log value also translates to a variable restriction on the population value. That is, the restriction is tighter the lower the population and looser the higher the population.

<sup>574</sup> Andrew Gelman and Jennifer Hill, "Causal Inference Using More Advanced Models," in *Data Analysis Using Regression and Multilevel/Hierarchical Models* (Cambridge, MA: Cambridge University Press, 2006), 199–233, doi:10.1017/CBO9780511790942.

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<sup>577</sup> United States Census Bureau, *2010 Census Summary File 1*, vol. 3 (Washington, DC, March 2012), <http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf#page=474>.

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<sup>584</sup> Peter Kuhn and Hani Mansour, "Is Internet Job Search Still Ineffective?," *Forthcoming in The Economic Journal* (December 2013), doi:10.1111/eoj.12119.

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# Glossary

Acronym	Definition
ACA	Affordable Care Act
ACS	American Community Survey
ACTION	Access to Computer Technology and Instruction in Online Networking
AFN	Austin Free-Net
AISD	Austin Independent School District
ALEKS	Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces
APEX	Advancement through Pardons and Expungement
APR	Annual Performance Progress Report
AR SAVES	Arkansas Stroke Assistance through Virtual Emergency Support
ASR	ASR Analytics, LLC
ATA	American Telemedicine Association
BAA	Broadband Awareness and Adoption
BIP	Broadband Initiatives Program
BPL	Bridgeport Public Library
BRN	Business Resource Network
BTOP	Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
C.K. Blandin	C. K. Blandin Foundation
CAE	Christina Adult Education
CAI	Community anchor institution
CCC	California Community College
CCI	Comprehensive Community Infrastructure
CCP	Community College of Philadelphia
CCRI	Community College of Rhode Island
CETF	California Emerging Technology Fund
CforAT	Center for Accessible Technology
CHA	Cambridge Housing Authority
Clearwave	Clearwave Communications
CPCWD	Center for Public Computing and Workforce Development
CPS	Chicago Public Schools
CPUC	California Public Utilities Commission
DDL	Delaware Division of Libraries

Acronym	Definition
DED0	Delaware Economic Development Office
DEED	Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development
DPW	Providence Department of Public Works
DYSJ	Digital Youth Summer Jobs
EMR	Electronic Medical Record
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
EOPSS	Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security
ESA	Economics and Statistics Administration
ESOL	English for Speakers of Other Languages
FAMU	Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
FCCC	Foundation for California Community Colleges
FERPA	Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
Future Generations	Future Generations Graduate School
FIGHT	Field Initiating Group for HIV Trials
FTE	Full-Time Equivalent
Gbps	Gigabits per second
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GPS	Global Positioning System
GVC	Great Valley Center
IBOP	Illinois Broadband Opportunities Partnership
ICF	Intelligent Community Forum
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
ICU	Intensive Care Unit
IECC	Illinois Eastern Community Colleges
IP	Internet Protocol
ISP	Internet Service Provider
kbps	kilobits per second
KCPL	Kanawha County Public Library
LCOG	Lane Council of Governments
LCS	Lee County Schools
LECG	LECG Corporation
LMC	Lake Michigan College

Acronym	Definition
LVUL	Las Vegas-Clark County Urban League
MassTech	Massachusetts Technology Park
MB123	MBI: MassBroadband123
MBC	Mid-Atlantic Broadband Cooperative
MBI	Massachusetts Broadband Institute
Mbps	Megabits per second
MC3	Michigan Child Collaborative Care
Merit	Merit Network, Inc.
MESA	Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement
MGSD	Mooresville Graded School District
MIRC	Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities
MNREM	Minnesota Renewable Energy Marketplace
MSU	Michigan State University
MTI	Mitchell Technical Institute
NBM	National Broadband Map
NCRBI	North Carolina Rural Broadband Initiative
NCREN	North Carolina Research and Education Network
NDA	Nondisclosure Agreement
NOFA	Notice of Funds Availability
NRAO	National Radio Astronomy Observatory
NTIA	National Telecommunications and Information Administration
NVPCC	Nevada Public Computer Centers
Parents ROCK	Reading on Computers with Kids
PCC	Public Computer Centers
PHA	Philadelphia Housing Authority
POP	Point of Presence
PPR	Quarterly Performance Progress Report
QR	Quick Response
RDC	Regional Development Commissions
REACH-3MC	Rural Education Anchor Community Healthcare Michigan Middle Mile Collaborative
Recovery Act	American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
RPM	Remote Patient Monitoring
RSI	Repetitive Strain Injuries
SBA	Sustainable Broadband Adoption

Acronym	Definition
SCMW	South Central Michigan Works
SCTCS	South Carolina Technical College System
SDN	South Dakota Network, LLC
SIH	Southern Illinois Healthcare
SIRN	State Interoperable Radio Network
SNAP	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
TANF	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
TFA	Technology for All
TMLP	Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant
UAC	Urban Affairs Coalition
UAMS	University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
UAS	University of Arkansas System
UDWI	Utilities District of Western Indiana
UME	University of Minnesota Extension
UNCP	University of North Carolina at Pembroke
VoIP	Voice over Internet Protocol
WAN	Wide Area Network
West Virginia	Executive Office of the State of West Virginia
WFWV	WorkForce West Virginia
WIC	Women, Infants, and Children
WVDE	West Virginia Department of Education
WVDELI	West Virginia Digital Entertainment Library Initiative
WVU	West Virginia University
Zayo	Zayo Bandwidth, LLC

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