

C O U N T Y O F M E N D O C I N O

Convening Broadband Leadership Team December 15, 2008

To work towards ubiquitous Broadband access for all rural communities in Mendocino County, the Executive Office will convene a Broadband Leadership Team in January 2009. The goal of this team is to work with all stakeholders regarding the following issues:

1. Identify real demands for affordable and reliable high speed internet access in unserved and underserved areas of the County.
2. Identify technical challenges and possible solutions to providing high speed internet access.
3. Identify economic development opportunities as the result of having high speed internet accessible throughout the County.
4. Identify sources of State and Federal legislative funds that the County can pursue.
5. Understand vendors'/providers' current infrastructure, their future plans, and their willingness to extend existing coverage/service areas.
6. Identify possible revisions to County codes and regulations to overcome limitations to Broadband deployment.
7. Identify possible partnership with Mendocino County Office of Education to share telecommunication infrastructure and/or services.
8. Identify possible partnership with vendors to co-locate County-owned wireless towers.
9. Other technical issues that would help to accelerate this Broadband effort.

The Broadband Leadership Team will include representatives from 6 major groups:

1. Steering Committee

This group consists of key members:

- Tom Mitchell, CEO of Mendocino County
- Paul Tichinin, Superintendent of Schools for the Mendocino County Office of Education
- Mendocino Coast Broadband Alliance

2. Economic Development

This group consists of all parties that will share potential benefit from Broadband availability in unserved and underserved areas. Having ubiquitous Broadband access will allow many new exciting and creative business opportunities.

- Economic Development and Financing Corporation
- WEST Company
- Mendocino County Promotional Alliance
- Mendocino County Lodging Association
- Mendocino Winegrowers Alliance

- MendocinoWorks
- Latino Organization
- Tribal Organization

3. Service Stakeholders

This group consists of organizations that would utilize Broadband to provide online services to the general public.

- City governments
- Libraries
- Museum
- Hospitals
- State & Federal agencies
- Youth organizations
- Schools
- Colleges

4. Vendors/Providers

This group consists of many local Internet Service Providers who will collaborate in this Broadband effort and make their services available to the public in unserved and underserved areas.

- AT&T
- ComCast
- MCN
- Willits Online

5. Other County Agencies

County agencies that help make this Broadband effort a success in planning and emergency services.

- County Executive Office
- General Services Agency
- Planning Team
- Planning & Building Services
- Sheriff

6. Communication Stakeholders

This group consists of the media and communications organizations.

The Broadband Leadership Team will meet online bi-monthly via WebEx to discuss current agendas, to follow up on previous action items, and to determine future courses of action. Agendas and supporting documents will be distributed via email, and will be available from the County website.

Broadband Leadership Team meetings will be hosted and facilitated by Mendocino County's Deputy CEO for Technology. Invitations to the first meeting will be sent out in January 2009.