Anchoring State Broadband Efforts

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**SPEAKERS**

- **Moderator: Anna Read**, officer – Broadband Research Initiative, Pew Charitable Trusts
- **Crystal Ivey**, broadband director, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development
- **Teresa Ferguson**, director – federal broadband engagement, Colorado Broadband Office
- **Eileen Harris**, development director, human-I-T
How States Are Expanding Broadband Access

Anna Read
aread@pewtrusts.org
States Expanding Broadband Access

- February 2020 Report
- Focused on state-led broadband initiatives
- pewtrusts.org/broadband-research-initiative
Scope of research

- 50-state policy and program analysis
- Selection of case study states
- Field research
  - Interviews with state broadband programs, grantees, other stakeholders
(Near) Universal truths of broadband

- Executive and legislative leadership
- “Projects are the people”
- Trusted partners and resources
Common characteristics of state broadband efforts

• Multi-faceted challenge with no one solution
• Takes time and resources
• Respect the process

Fiber being installed in Tennessee.
Tennessee’s Digital Inclusion Efforts

Crystal Ivey, Broadband Director | March 24, 2020
Legislation

• In 2017, Tennessee passed the Broadband Accessibility Act (TBAA).

• The TBAA addressed broadband gaps in three specific areas:
  – Funding – infrastructure grant program for broadband providers to deploy broadband in unserved areas
  – Deregulation – permitted electric cooperatives to provide broadband
  – Education – focused on digital inclusion and adoption as a part of the conversation
    • Less than 50% of Tennesseans who already have access to broadband subscribe to a service.
Digital Literacy

• Access to broadband infrastructure without adoption accomplishes little. Providers and communities alike must include adoption efforts in their overall broadband strategy to maximize broadband’s economic impact.

• Funding - a portion of the infrastructure grant is awarded local libraries across TN to offer free digital literacy classes to the public, equipment, and wi-fi hot spot devices.
Digital Literacy Classes

Digital literacy class topics include privacy and security online, how to use email, how to apply for jobs, and connecting with family.

More advanced topics include STEM, photo editing and coding for students.
FY18-FY20 Digital Literacy Funding

133 grants for $444K
Provider and Community Involvement

Encourage providers to make digital literacy a priority

- Grant application scoring
  - Score heavily on adoption and digital literacy on the infrastructure grants.
  - Providers must explain on their application how they will encourage adoption in the grant area.
  - Extra points awarded to applicants who will do more than general marketing.
- Ideas include digital literacy classes, public events, and discounted service plans.

Community Resources
[tn.gov/broadband](https://tn.gov/broadband)

Includes information on broadband resources, community planning, providers low-cost service options and adoption/digital inclusion.
Questions?

Crystal Ivey
Broadband Director
Tennessee
Department of Economic and Community Development

Crystal.Ivey@tn.gov
THANK YOU
Anchoring State Broadband Efforts

Teresa Ferguson
Director, Federal Broadband Engagement
Colorado Broadband Office

Mission

We are committed to enabling the development of a statewide communications infrastructure through public-private partnerships to meet the growing demand for broadband access for:

- Public Safety
- Education
- Healthcare
- Transportation
- Economic Development
- all Coloradans
Colorado Broadband Office

Leadership
● Chair DORA Broadband Development Board
● Coordinate with DOLA grant programs
● Align objectives across state agencies
● Enable regional solutions and partnerships

Alternate funding
● Federal grant/loan programs (USDA, FCC)
● Community resources (money/in-kind)
● Private investment

Information and education
● Communities and local organizations support
● Analysis and insight on investment priorities
● Technology education and outreach

Advocacy
● Policy to accelerate deployment
● Encourage private sector investment
● Coordinate with federal agencies and US congressional delegation on investment
Broadband Deployment Progress

- Rural household access to broadband improved from 77% to 87%
- 100% of school districts meet the FCC per student bandwidth goal
- DOLA awarded $23M in middle mile grants, since 2013
- DORA awarded $26.9M, 38 projects, benefiting 20,000 CO residences, since 2016
- USDA ReConnect Program FY19 $600M last mile broadband grants/loans/combo - Emery Telcom awarded $2.7M, Dove Creek, CO
- Increasing involvement by rural electric co-ops
- 140+ Colorado Cities and Counties have opted out of SB-152 Muni Ban
State of Colorado Grant Programs

Department of Local Affairs (DOLA)
- Planning and Middle Mile Infrastructure Grants
- $25M over 5 Years via the Energy & Mineral Impact Assistance Fund
- 50% Local Match
- Municipalities, Counties and Local Governments
  - >20 Regional Broadband Development Plans Completed

Department of Regulatory Affairs (DORA) - Broadband Deployment Fund
- Grants for last mile deployment in underserved areas to ISP’s
- 2014 legislation funds from voice high-cost support program to broadband
- Covers upto 75% of the project costs
- Communities outside municipal borders or have a population of <7,500
- Since 2016 awarded >$27M, 38 projects connecting approx 20,000 homes, farms & ranches
Project THOR

Phase 1 Deployment

Meet Me Centers
Eligible Communities
Fiber Route

Future connection to Grand Junction

NWCCOG Meet Me Center Denver
Region 10 Broadband Network
Colorado SB-152 Map

Colorado Communities Restoring Local Authority:
18 Communities Voted on S.B. 152 in Fall 2018

Counties
- Prior years
- Fall 2018

Cities
- Prior years
- Fall 2018

Community Networks
Institute for Local Self-Reliance

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Questions?

Teresa Ferguson
Director, Federal Broadband Engagement
teresa.ferguson@state.co.us
(303) 764-7954

COLORADO
Broadband Office
Governor’s Office of Information Technology
human-I-T

Turning E-Waste into Opportunity
human-I-T

- Three legs of the stool
- Refurbish e-waste for households in need

Impact since 2012:
- 13,000 devices donated
- 8,500 internet connections
- 1,500 digital literacy students
- 4.7 million pounds of e-waste diverted
Partnerships as Key

- Leveraging relationships of CBOs and anchor institutions
- Connecting people at home to relieve high demand for public access

Partners include:
- Housing Authorities
- Libraries
- School Districts
- Councilmembers
Flagship Digital Inclusion Programs

ConnectHome L.A.
- Partnership to connect public housing residents

Los Angeles College Promise Program
- Equipped 4,200 low-income students with a refurbished laptop, technical support, and low-cost internet assistance

OurCycle L.A.
- Collected all of County of Los Angeles E-Waste
- The program included prepaid or low-cost internet connections
State Level Partnerships

California Emerging Technology Fund
California Public Utilities Commission

Negotiating public benefit funds into the RFP Process

Examples:

• Small-cell build outs
• Large municipal IT contracts with vendors
Questions?

Eileen Harris | Development Director
323-364-4791 ext. 909
eileen@human-1-T.org
Q&A

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