

Priority Project 3 –Adoption through Community Technology Centers

Vision

The Leadership team recognized the need for an environment that offers access to technology for all residents in Henry County. The need is long term; however, the current economic conditions have accelerated the demand. Current facilities, such as the Library, are reporting that due to budget constraints residents are cancelling their home Internet service and have begun using community facilities. Today, someone who is searching for employment must often use the Internet to fill out an employment application. Further, people seeking unemployment must access the appropriate forms on-line. Over the past few months there have been dramatic increases in both activities. The Library is now the go-to facility for the above users and this represents a significant challenge. The Library simply is not equipped to handle the onslaught of traffic; this challenges many aspects of the facility, including human resource and bandwidth. To that end, the Leadership has decided to create a technology center that addresses the above issues. While creating a Technology Center will benefit the community, the leadership team recognized that some residents may have a difficult time traveling to the location. To address this concern the team envisioned the creation of a Mobile Technology Vehicle. The mobile tech center would be used to travel around the County thus providing technology access to those that otherwise could not participate.

Mission

Create a Technology Center that provides the residents with access to PC's, Internet connectivity, various applications, and education. Grow to multiple facilities and add a resource designed to reach those residents that are challenged by travel.

Goals

1. Public Computer Centers that provide;
 - a. community access to Broadband enabled computers, videoconference capability, various applications, and education.
 - b. equipment to meet the needs of the constituents.
 - c. accessibility geographically within the county.

Actions

1. Identify the team leader(s)

2. Establish a project implementation team
3. Create a Scope-of-Work that details:
 - a. Goals
 - b. Solutions
 - c. Measureable definition of success
 - d. Project plans with budgets and timelines for completion.
4. Prepare forms and applications to secure funding
5. Implementation
6. Launch **Awareness** effort

Measurement

Increase number of publicly available computers to equal 1 per 80 Broadband non-adopters. At the current adoption rate of 40%, this equates to 6,741 non-adopting households, equaling a need for 84 publicly available computers supported and maintained by public computer centers dispersed within the county geographically.

Increase Broadband Adoption from 40% to 81% within 18 months. Increase equates to 4,548 additional households adopting service, from 4,881, for a total of 9,429 by June 2011.

Timeline

To be determined during Scope-of-Work development - estimated completion 12/31/09.

Implementation Team

Project Leader: Pam Lieser, Director Napoleon Public Library

Project Team: TBD

In selecting the Priority Projects, above, Connect Ohio convened a core leadership team, comprised of local leaders from nine specific sectors. These sectors include Agriculture, Business and Industry, Community Organizations, Government, Health Care, Higher Education, K-12, Libraries, and Recreation & Tourism. Each sector team examined the status and opportunities within their own realm of the community and determined a vision for the Broadband-enabled future. Each sector then worked to produce a list of meaningful projects which would benefit them.

The sector projects were then rolled up to help in prioritizing larger community-wide projects and scored to determine their value to the community as a whole. The end result is a slate of three different types of projects:

- Community-wide Priority Projects – These are listed above, and are deemed to be the most meaningful projects, with the largest impact on Henry County as a whole,
- Sector Priority Projects – Listed below and identified as the most impactful projects that can be undertaken within their specific sector of the community, and
- Sector Project Ideas – upgrades and ideas that can be put into play to help the specific sector of the community enhance its offerings.

On the following pages, you will find an analysis and vision for each sector of the community, complete with its self-assessment and the priority projects identified for its own advancement. Sector-level projects have been incorporated into the Community-wide projects above, which deal with the larger issues of Broadband availability, adoption, affordability, awareness, and the applications that drive its use.