



United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development

Community Connect Awards – Virginia

2008 Grant Awards:

Lenowisco I, Inc.

Blackwater, Virginia

Grant Amount: \$759,600

Contact: Ron Flanary, (276) 431-2206

County: Lee; 9th Congressional District

Lenowisco, Inc. will be providing broadband services to Blackwater, Virginia through Rural Development funding. The Lenowisco Rural Area Network (RAN), one of the first conceived in the United States, is based on fiber-optics, using a blown fiber-optic installation method. Workshop topics offered at the new Community Center will include an introduction to computers, basic software applications, email, online research, e-commerce, digital photography, web design, and web page development.

County of Bland, Virginia

Mechanicsburg, Virginia

Grant Amount: \$311,300

Contact: Jonathan Sweet, (276) 688-4622

County: Bland; 9th Congressional District

Rural Development funds will be used to offer broadband services to the community of Mechanicsburg, Virginia. The County of Bland intends to implement a wireless system that can provide service to the Holly Brook Mechanicsburg Volunteer Fire Department and the community center. The community center will be used for the training and support of all residents in technical as well as small business functions, such as, Microsoft office, email correspondence, financial spreadsheets, and how to use the internet for research.

Almega Cable, Inc.

Trammel, Virginia

Grant Amount: \$549,890

Contact: Thomas Kurien, (817) 685-9588

County: Dickenson; 9th Congressional District

Almega Cable, Inc. will provide broadband services to the community of Trammel, Virginia. Through Rural Development funding, the Township Hall, Police Department, Volunteer Fire Department, Volunteer Rescue Squad, Elementary School, and High School will benefit with two years of free broadband access. This will benefit students, who can use the community center as a place to help and further their education.



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Tazewell County

Tannersville, Virginia

Grant Amount: \$855,000

Contact: James Spencer, (276) 988-1200

County: Tazewell; 9th Congressional District

Tazewell County will provide broadband services to residents and businesses of Tannersville, Virginia. Rural Development funds will be used to develop a wireless service delivery system network to provide internet services to the Community Center, the fire department, and the rescue squad for two years free of charge. The Community Center is expected to open in 2009 and will offer free training workshops to the community members.

Scott County Telephone Cooperative

Yuma, Virginia

Grant Amount: \$999,207

Contact: William Franklin, (276) 452-9119

County: Scott; 9th Congressional District

With Rural Development funds, Scott County Telephone Cooperative (SCTC) will offer broadband services to Yuma, Virginia. SCTC will provide free service to the Yuma Fire/Rescue Department, Yuma Ruritan Club, and the Yuma Elementary School. The school will no longer be the only school in Scott County that does not have a fiber connection to the Wide Area Network that SCTC supplies to the Scott County School System.

2007 Grant Awards:

Lenowisco I, Inc.

St. Charles, Virginia

Grant Amount: \$594,400

Contact: Ron Flanary, 276-431-2206

County: Lee

Rural Development funds will be used to provide broadband service utilizing a fiber optic network. The project will provide service to seven (7) critical community facilities as follows: St Charles Community Center, St Charles Elementary School, St. Charles Fire Department, St. Charles Rescue Squad, St. Charles Community Health Clinic, St. Charles Respiratory Care (Black Lung) Clinic, and St. Charles Dental Clinic.

2006 Grant Awards:



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Lenowisco I, Inc.

Ewing, Virginia

Grant Amount: \$454,558

Contact: Ron Flanary, 276-431-2206

County: Lee

Rural Development funds will be used to provide broadband service utilizing a fiber to the home system. The local library will act as a community center, allowing all residents free access to the Internet. Ewing, Virginia's local elementary school will greatly benefit from the addition of high speed Internet service in the community.

Techcore Consultants II DBA Almega Cable

Cleveland, Virginia

Grant Amount: \$220,650

Contact: Thomas Kurien, 817-685-9588

County: Russell

Rural Development funds will be used to upgrade the local cable television system in Cleveland, Virginia with hybrid fiber coax (HFC) allowing residents and businesses the option of receiving broadband service. Many critical facilities will benefit from such service including: town hall, police department, volunteer fire and rescue squads, and the local elementary school. Funding will also enable the community to add a room to the Town Hall to house ten computers with free high speed Internet access.

2005 Grant Awards:

Lenowisco I, Inc.

Rose Hill, VA

Grant Amount: \$506,048

Contact: Ron Flanary, 276-431-2206

County: Lee

This project will serve the community of Rose Hill, population 714, located in the central Appalachian Mountains of southwestern Virginia. The project will expand the Lenowisco Rural Area Network fiber optic Ethernet backbone infrastructure to deploy broadband to this currently unserved area. The project will provide free access to the public library and the elementary school. A community center will be created through the expansion of the library building. The new computer center will provide on-site instruction and technical support in the use of broadband internet service, ranging from beginner computer and Internet introduction for senior citizens to advanced e-commerce strategies for businesses. The project intends to bring affordable broadband connections to at least 40 homes and 10 businesses. Broadband will be an economic stimulus for retaining the region's businesses and creating new jobs in this impoverished area.



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2004 Grant Awards:

Scott County Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Nickelsville, VA

Grant Amount: \$586,737

Contact: William Franklin, 276-452-7224

County: Scott

The RUS grant to Scott County Telephone Cooperative, Inc., will fund a community center in Nickelsville, VA, including computers and staff for 2 years. Scott telephone will also provide a fiber to the premises (FTTP) network for the town, in an effort to bolster economic development opportunities, as the area's economy transitions away from complete reliance on production agriculture. "Always-on" Internet access can encourage new business migration, telecommuting and local entrepreneurs. The 440 residents of Nickelsville will benefit from this cooperative effort among area organizations.

2003 Grant Awards:

Town of Shenandoah, Virginia
Shenandoah, Virginia

Grant Amount: \$643,493

Contact: Kimberly Alexander, 540-652-8164

County: Page

The Town of Shenandoah, in Page County, is a small, rural, community in the heart of Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. Due to factory/plant closing, Shenandoah and Page County have lost over 900 jobs in the past 12 months. Lack of technology infrastructure is one of the most serious barriers to economic revitalization. Broadband Internet access will provide Shenandoah with the technology infrastructure it requires to attract new business to the area. This high-speed service would open up a world of educational and professional training opportunities to area residents. Broadband service will also provide critical community facilities with access to a greater network of professionals to improve and enhance their quality of service. Participating organizations include the Town Office, Shenandoah Community Computer Center, the Police Department, Fire Department, Rescue Squad, Community Library, a satellite office for the Page Memorial Hospital, the sole doctor's office and the sole dentist's office in town. The Shenandoah Pharmacy is the only pharmacy in town and they are participating.

2002 Grant Awards:

Scott County Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Gate City, Virginia



Grant Amount: \$500,000

Contact: Mr. Bill Franklin, 276-452-7201

County: Duffield;

The Pioneer Center for Business Opportunity, a local business incubator will serve as the community center that will be utilized to provide education and training in the use of the Internet and web browsers, community boards, directories, through the use of short courses, seminars and coordination with other teaching institutions in the region. This project proposes to use the existing Duffield central office to mount all of the electronic multiplexer equipment to provide a direct “fiber to the premise” solution that uses two buried fibers to each location to provide all of the communications services. Scott County will provide 100mbit Ethernet fiber optic connection to each household, business and institution within the project service area that signs up for the service.