



United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development

Community Connect Awards – Louisiana

2007 Grant Awards:

Nexus Systems, Inc.

Hall Summit, Louisiana

Grant Amount: \$719,736

Contact: Mark Stevenson, (318) 340-0750

County: Red River

Rural Development will provide Nexus System the funding for a wireless broadband infrastructure for Hall Summit, Louisiana. The town has provided a piece of land and a new community center is being constructed. Critical facilities participating in the two (2) free years of broadband access include: Hall Summit Police Station, Town Hall, the Mayor's office, and the volunteer fire department. Hall Summit was affected by Hurricane Rita, and lack of communications made it very difficult for emergency services to communicate properly. A wireless system may be able to help fill the gaps when other methods of communication fail.

PC One Cable, LLC.

Tangipahoa, Louisiana

Grant Amount: \$345,271

Contact: Jim Feeney, (201) 825-9090

County: Tangipahoa

PC One Cable, LLC owns the cable company in Tangipahoa, Louisiana. They plan to upgrade the analog system to provide broadband service in the community. The existing community center is owned by the town, and they have donated a room in the building to provide space for the ten computers with high-speed Internet access. Grant funding will allow for the necessary remodeling and upgrading of this room. Tangipahoa was hit by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The broadband service provided free of charge to the Police Department, Volunteer Fire Department, Volunteer Rescue Squad, and Town Hall will allow for quicker, better communications and real time updates of future storms.

2005 Grant Awards:

Bayou Internet, Inc.

Dodson, Louisiana

Grant Amount: \$758,227

Contact: Jerry Scroggin, 318-323-0011

County: Winn Parish

Dodson, Louisiana, a village of 357 residents in north central Louisiana, is challenged by



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poverty, geographic isolation, infrastructure deficiencies, and the out-migration of many of its young adults. Broadband transmission service will be delivered to the town via point to point wireless towers and use a 900 Mhz non-line of sight system to deliver broadband service to the end user. The project will bring broadband to a modular community center, Dodson Town Hall, Dodson Police and Fire Departments, Dodson Family Medical Center, Winn Parish Library, and Dodson High School. Affordable broadband access will substantially contribute to initiatives currently planned for improvements of community infrastructure. Broadband access will enhance economic development in the community and provide affordable internet access for education and health care for citizens, improving the quality of life for all families in this small community.

Infinity Wireless, Inc.

Pioneer, Louisiana

Grant Amount: \$442,500

Contact: Lynn Johnston, President, 318-428-1644

County: West Carroll Parish

This project will bring wireless broadband to Pioneer, Louisiana, a small town of 171 residents in northeastern Louisiana. The technology will utilize a non-line of sight 900 MHz broadcast system. The project will provide broadband service to the local fire department, police department, ambulance service, post office, and elementary school. Students will benefit from better research tools and teachers will have access to workshops via videoconferencing. Local farmers, mainly sweet potato producers, will have broadband access that will enable them to use real time video to reach retailers and compete more effectively.

2002 Grant Awards:

SEND Technologies, LLC

Waterproof, Louisiana

Grant Amount: \$714,668

Contact: Mark Stevenson, (318) 340-0750

County: Tensas Parish

SEND Technologies located in Monroe, Louisiana is a regional Internet service provider (ISP) that has been in business since April 1998. Grant funds will be used to provide community-oriented connectivity to Waterproof, Louisiana, a rural town of 834 residents and to approximately 976 residents in the surrounding area. Tensas Parrish is recognized as one of the most impoverished county/parish in the nation. With this grant, broadband connectivity will be available for the first time to residents to enable them to have access to educational opportunities that will enable them to gain the training skills necessary that can free them from the cycle of poverty that is so prevalent in the community.

Communication links will also be provided through broadband connectivity to the local police department which will allow them to be linked directly to the Tensas Sheriff's Department and the Louisiana State Police Department. This will allow for a quicker



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response time in the event of a community emergency or crisis. Community facilities served within the project include Lisbon Elementary School, Tensas Parish Detention Center, Waterproof Community Center, Volunteer Fire Station, Waterproof Police Department, and Volunteer Community Health Center.