

COMMUNITY NETWORKS

A BRIEF OVERVIEW

Technology does not solve problems.

People solve problems.

Community networks provide people with the tools to be better problem solvers.

CNs build capacities in the community.

CN roles

in the community

- Education
- Public spaces in cyberspace
- Economic development
- Infrastructure development
- Technology resource for the community

Community networks give back to citizens and neighborhoods their voice—we all have a story to tell.

Key areas of focus

CONTENT AND SERVICES

- Presents the community as a great place to live and to work
- Ensures every citizen has the skills to participate in the Information Economy
- Rich local content gives people a reason to get online
- People getting online creates demand for access
- Demand for access attracts private sector investment
- Private sector investment creates jobs and business opportunities

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Modest community investments in infrastructure create a level playing field for private sector investment
- Private sector investment creates a competitive marketplace for broadband access at affordable prices
- Broadband access at affordable prices promotes the long term economic vitality of the community
- Community infrastructure needs are dependent upon fair use of rights of way: Local government must be actively involved

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

21st century telecommunications infrastructure

Broad use of the Internet creates a trained workforce

More efficient social service and civic groups save money and provide better services

People feel more connected to each other (not to computers)

More participation in community and civic activities (the Internet does NOT make you lonely)

