

# State of Tennessee Broadband Stimulus Grant Proposal Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) August 2009

## **Mission**

To devise and execute a comprehensive plan to obtain and utilize ARRA funds to increase broadband availability to the greatest number of underserved citizens in rural areas of Tennessee.

The grant proposal totals more than \$40 M with eleven state agencies participating as partners.

## **Track 1 - Broadband Infrastructure -- \$27 M**

Tennessee's turnkey solution—tower access and middle-mile connectivity to wireless providers—offers affordable service to residents in a 10,000 square mile rural area. The grant will provide expanded access to 150,000 households, public libraries, and nearby businesses. This connectivity, together with the provisions of Tracks 2 and 3, will bring broadband's economic benefits to distressed rural communities.

## **Track 2 – Public Computer Centers - \$6.1M**

Track 2 is the track developed by the office of the Secretary of State and the Tennessee State Library and Archives. 180 libraries serving rural areas are targeted to receive technology benefits as a result of this grant. All libraries (288) in the state will benefit from tutorials and training modules produced through the grant funding. Libraries in metro/urban counties will be part of a grant proposal in the subsequent round.

## **Track 3 – Sustainable Adoption -- \$7.1M**

In tandem with large BTOP projects for build-out and for broadband education at rural public libraries, the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, working with Connected Tennessee, will advance the technology visions of local communities with a statewide marketing campaign, online resource center, and training to help many more citizens step across the Digital Divide and toward sustainable jobs.

Submission – August 18, 2009

Expected notification of award – mid-November 2009

Anticipated funding – end of December 2009