



Charles City Leaders Launch Technology Planning Effort

County enlists in Connect Iowa's Connected program to bridge technology gap, boost economy, and pave way for improved quality of life

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Charles City, IA – On Monday, June 2, Charles City community leaders held a kickoff meeting to join Connect Iowa's [Connected Community Engagement Program](#) that seeks to boost the local economy and quality of life for residents through increased access, adoption, and use of broadband.

There were 12 participants that attended the meeting, including representatives from the Charles City, Floyd County, the library, the Mayor's office, the Charles City Area Development Corporation and the hospital. This Kick Off meeting was at the Charles City Area Development Corporation at 401 North Main Street. The Connected program offers a comprehensive and localized way for communities to assess broadband use and increase technology in schools, libraries, homes, and businesses.

"We are excited to be a part of this important initiative that will put our residents on the information superhighway," said Timothy S. Fox, Executive Director of the Charles City Area Development Corporation. "As our world becomes increasingly technology-driven, we don't want to be left behind. The Connected community certification process will help us achieve a better business environment, more effective community and economic development, improved healthcare, enhanced education, and more efficient government."

The goal of the Connected Community Engagement Program is to increase the number of high-tech companies and jobs in Iowa and ensure that schools have access to the quality of broadband required to deliver the best educational resources available through the Internet.

For more information about the project or to join the Connected community technology team, please contact Connect Iowa at info@connectiowa.org, or Connect Iowa Program Manager Amy Kuhlert at (515) 421-2561.

Timothy S. Fox can be reached at tfox@charlescityia.com or by phone at 641-228-3020 (office) or 641-257-9058 (mobile)

Charles City will begin the assessment process immediately and hope to have the process completed no later than September 1, 2014.

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About Connect Iowa: Connect Iowa is a subsidiary of Connected Nation and operates as a nonprofit in the state of Iowa to promote broadband access, adoption, and use. The Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) is leading the initiative to increase broadband Internet access throughout rural Iowa. Connect Iowa was commissioned by the state to work with all broadband providers in Iowa to create detailed maps of broadband coverage and develop a statewide plan for the deployment and adoption of broadband. For more information visit: www.connectiowa.org.

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Connected Nation developed the Connected Community Engagement Program to help guide a community through an assessment of its overall broadband and technology status. Connected certified communities have measurably demonstrated their proficiency for effective Access, Adoption, and Use of broadband-supported technologies. Connected Nation through its partners provides a national platform for recognizing those communities that excel across these important benchmarks. Funded by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), this effort is part of the State Broadband Initiative. <http://www.connectednation.org/get-connected>