



Knoxville Enlists in Program to Bridge Technology Gap

Community launches Connect Iowa's Connected program to boost economy, pave way for improved quality of life

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Knoxville, IA – On July 1, Knoxville community leaders held a kick off 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.

The meeting was held at the Knoxville City Hall offices with representatives from the city, public works department, library, school system, hospital, county, and local business leaders attending. Participating in the Connected program will require an extensive assessment of overall broadband and technology innovation in Knoxville. A committee will be reaching out to others in the community to complete the assessment as needed.

Harold Stewart, Knoxville city manager, said, "We are excited to be a part of this important initiative that will put our residents on the information superhighway. As our world becomes increasingly technology-driven, we don't want to be left behind. Our goal is to have fiber access to every home and business. 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 Connected Community Engagement Program facilitates assessments of local broadband access, adoption, and use. The goal of the program is to help develop strategies to better harness the power of technology to stimulate local economic growth. The Connected program seeks to increase the number of high-tech companies and jobs, ensure that schools have sufficient access to broadband, and to maximize technology options for healthcare, libraries, local government, and citizens.

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.

Stewart can be reached at citymanager@knoxvilleiowa.gov or by phone at (641) 828-0550.

Knoxville will begin the assessment process immediately and hopes 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>