NEWS & INFORMATION

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Iowa unveils website to assist collaborative efforts in receiving Broadband funds

The State of Iowa has developed a new website, http://collaboration.iowa.gov/, to help Iowa Broadband service providers join with institutions, organizations, and individuals across Iowa when applying for funds available for high-speed Broadband (Internet) service. The Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) would like to inform all Iowans that this website provides a "meeting" point to find Broadband project ideas and partners, find complementary resources, combine expertise, and create stronger proposals to apply for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding.

"Initial indications are that applications involving as many partners as possible have the best opportunity to be successful," said IUB Chair Rob Berntsen. "This website is intended to assist collaboration efforts."

The National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) and Rural Utilities Service (RUS) are currently in the process of awarding ARRA funds under a first Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA). Applicants awarded federal funds for infrastructure projects may be eligible to apply to the Iowa Broadband Deployment Governance Board (Governance Board) for supplemental funding. NOFAs for the second and final round of ARRA Broadband funding were issued on January 15, 2010. Applications for most project categories under the second NOFA must be submitted to the NTIA or RUS between February 16 and March 15, 2010. Applicants that are successful in the second round of federal funding for Broadband infrastructure projects may also be eligible to apply to the Governance Board for supplemental funding.

IUB Member Krista Tanner currently serves as Chair of the Iowa Broadband Deployment Governance Board. More information about the Governance Board is available at http://broadband.iowa.gov/.

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