


Strategies to Enhance Your Broadband Service

Increase Awareness and Demand	Understanding the Landscape	Working With Your Provider – Build a Business Case	Contact a Broadband Initiative Team Member
<p>Test Your Speed. Go to www.speedtest.net</p> <p>Form a Broadband Committee. Work with other interested community leaders to form a community technology committee.</p> <p>Build Awareness. Community members, businesses and those living outside of city limits need to understand the importance of broadband and how new technologies can be utilized.</p> <p>Document Demand for Broadband. Understand how individuals and businesses are utilizing broadband and identify those interested in better service. Conduct a broadband household and business survey or complete the Intelligent Community Checklist to document demand.</p> <p>Resources Nebraska Broadband Map http://Broadbandmap.nebraska.gov</p> <p>Nebraska Broadband Blog www.nitc.ne.gov/news/community</p> <p>Nebraska Broadband Website http://broadbandnebraska.gov</p> <p>Community IT Planning Workbook http://broadband.nebraska.gov/workbook/html15/index.html.</p>	<p>Review the Nebraska Broadband Map. Know who the providers are in your region and what type of broadband has been deployed.</p> <p>Talk to Your Local Provider. Ask your local provider about current service available, future plans and what can be done to encourage deployment.</p> <p>Identify and Report Issues. Contact your local provider to report service issues. An online survey can be used to log service issues. The Public Service Commission may be able to help resolve issues.</p> <p>Contact Local and State Officials to make them aware that your community wants better broadband or is running into particular issues. They may be able to help identify strategies and solutions.</p> <p>Enhance Broadband in Libraries. Create a local school-library consortium that may enhance broadband at libraries and potentially be eRate eligible.</p> <p>Encourage Broadband Use. Classes at the local library or a maker space are great ways to help community members learn about new technologies.</p>	<p>Understand the Costs. Understand what costs can be controlled and work with a provider to identify solutions that are a win/win.</p> <p>Waive or Reduce Fees for Providers. Cities and counties assess several fees and taxes on providers. Are your fees excessive and deterring deployment?</p> <p>Reduce Regulatory Barriers. Examples of reducing regulatory barriers include streamlining permitting and pole attachments.</p> <p>Place Conduit in Right of Way. Communities can lease conduit to telecommunication providers, reducing costs for providers and reducing the need to dig up streets.</p> <p>Inventory High Points which may be used for fixed wireless deployments. This can help attract a fixed wireless provider and reduce their costs.</p> <p>Conduct an Engineering Study. Conducting an engineering study is another way to partner with a provider to identify the best locations to deploy broadband.</p> <p>Explore Financial Incentives. Offer a low-interest loan, a loan over a longer period, or explore grants or other cooperatives approaches.</p>	<p>The Broadband Initiative is focused on increasing broadband adoption and utilization across Nebraska.</p> <p>Anne Byers Nebraska Information Technology Commission Anne.byers@nebraska.gov 402-471-3805</p> <p>Charlotte Narjes University of Nebraska-Lincoln Cnarjes1@unl.edu 402-472-1724</p> <p>Connie Hancock University of Nebraska Extension Chancock1@unl.edu 308-254-4455</p> <p>Cullen Robbins Nebraska Public Service Commission Cullen.robbs@nebraska.gov 402-471-0230</p> <p>Holly Woldt Nebraska Library Commission holly.woldt@nebraska.gov 402-471-7980</p> <p>Tom Rolfes Nebraska Information Technology Commission Tom.Rolfes@nebraska.gov 402-471-7969</p> <p>Roger Meeks USDA Rural Utilities Service Roger.Meeks@wdc.usda.gov 402-420-1467</p> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;">  </div>

