

COMMUNITY
BROADBAND
INITIATIVE



WELCOME

Montana West Economic Development

Northwest Montana Association of Realtors

AGENDA

- 8:00 am Welcome – Introductions
- 8:15 pm Workshop Overview
- 8:30 am Broadband Basics
- 9:00 am Broadband Planning
- 9:30 am State of Broadband in Montana & Flathead County
- 10:15 am Stakeholder Panel
- 11:15 pm Provider Presentations
- 12:00 pm Box Lunch & Small Group Discussions
- 1:00 pm Small Group Reports
- 1:45 pm Broadband Toolbox - Planning & Funding Resources
- 2:10 pm Broadband Survey & Next Steps
- 2:20 pm Wrap-up

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Flathead County, Montana
Comprehensive Economic
Development Strategy (CEDS)



FLATHEAD VALLEY / GLACIER PARK REGION

June 4, 2018

Objective 2.7:

Support the growth of the internet-based home business as well as telecommuter jobs.

Objective 3.3:

Support improvements and availability of affordable and reliable high-speed broadband to enhance education, public safety, health care, business and government services.

Facilitate

Facilitate community conversations about options for addressing broadband needs.

Learn

Learn about public/private partnerships, funding resources and other tools for communities to undertake broadband initiatives.

Identify

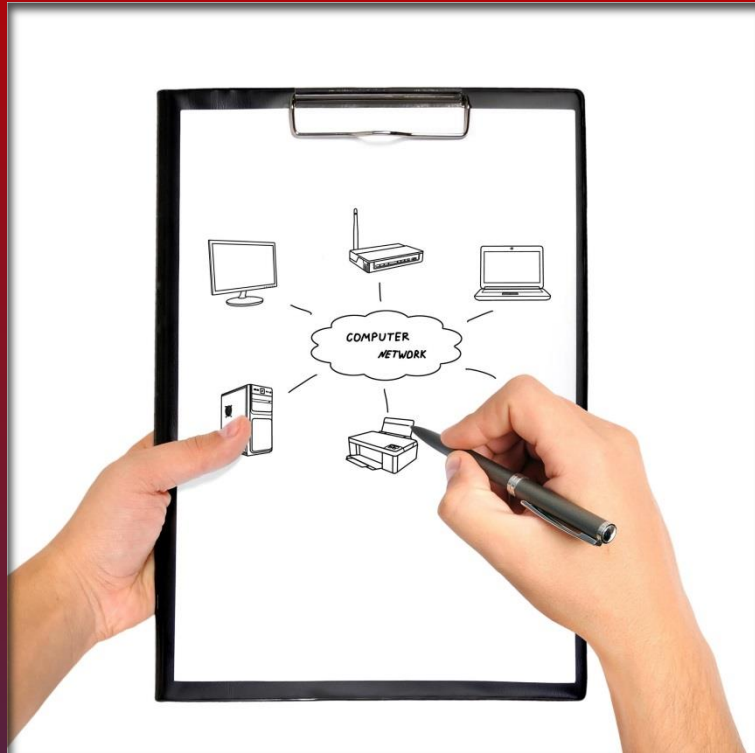
Identify next steps for cutting-edge problem solving.

WORKSHOP OUTCOMES



STAKEHOLDER PANEL

- ▶ Ahyoung Huff, KRH (Health Information Exchange MT)
- ▶ Mike Hausler, Flathead County IT
- ▶ Rich Lawrence, School District #5
- ▶ Kim Crowley, ImagineIF Libraries



- ▶ Teresa Holman, CenturyLink
- ▶ Mary Roehr, Charter Communications
- ▶ Tyler Ament, Velocity LTE
- ▶ Richard Dasen, MontanaSky
- ▶ Scott Richardson, Bullitt Communications

PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

- ▶ Broadband issues in your area
- ▶ Existing initiatives – success stories – resources
- ▶ Interest in task force or work group



Technical Assistance

Toolkits

Funding

Grant Writing

RESOURCES

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Technical Resources:

<https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/>

<http://www.bbpmag.com/>

www.fiberbroadband.org/

www.gig-u.org/

<https://blandinfoundation.org/programs/expanding-opportunity/broadband/>

<https://connectednation.org/>

<http://www.muninetworks.org/>

<https://www.baller.com/category/community-broadband/>

FUNDING RESOURCES

- Federal - USDA (RBEG, RUS, Community Connect Grant), EDA, CDBG
- Existing expenditures for telecommunication services
- Revenue bonds, TIF, taxing districts, CIP, Bank loan
- Public- Private partnerships
- Local Contributions

https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/resource-files/ntia_guidetofedfunding_062317.pdf

Timeframe	Task
Summer	MWED to conduct broadband survey
Summer	Communities organize working groups
Fall	Community broadband conversations
To be Determined	Community broadband projects

NEXT STEPS

SURVEY



- ▶ Respondent Profile
- ▶ Broadband Use
- ▶ Customer Satisfaction
- ▶ Priorities
- ▶ Resources