

Quotes

Health

“This funding application is closely aligned with other regional efforts utilizing stimulus funding to improve the quality of life in Northwest Missouri.” - *Lewis and Clark Information Exchange*

“As we approach 2014 and the mandate to convert all medical records to an electronic format, I am confident that access to a fiber optic broadband network will maximize our ability to comply with the new federal guidelines.” - *King City Manor*

“With 20,000 plus individuals in our very rural area having various disabilities, such access to broadband will permit numerous avenues of communication to and for these most deserving and yet vulnerable citizens.” - *Midland Empire Resources for Independent Living*

Education

“We feel that broadband internet access has become as important as the telephone and electricity to our modern society. These things may not be necessities of life, but those without access to them are at a distinct advantage in their professional and personal lives.” - *Northwest Missouri State University*

“I was shocked when I moved to the area and many of my staff only had dial-up service. I moved to a farm just outside the city limits, and found I could only access the Internet via microwave or satellite. Thus I know first hand how the plan of United Electric Cooperative will positively impact the region – including increasing the ability of rural residents to participate in online college courses.” - *Gordon E. Mapley, Dean, Missouri Western State University*

“ACES is also interested in pursuing telehealth psychiatry services in our rural area in the future and advanced fiber optic broadband would be required to facilitate this service.” - *Area Cooperative for Educational Support*

“In our area, the current connection is slow and tedious. Currently, our connection at the elementary does not meet the necessary speed that enables our teachers and students to use it consistently for any length of time. My staff often takes work home that needs to be done on the internet (for example planning electronic lessons, posting grades on the school website, etc.) because they have more efficient service in their home.” - *Darbi Bauman, South Nodaway Elementary Principal*

The confines of the current fiber network create challenges that limit their connection, course offering and dual credit classes. Only a maximum of three districts can connect at the same time, which limits their available course offerings to students.” - *Northwest Missouri Regional Professional Development Center*

Library

“Free public access to high speed internet is a major component of the library’s mission. In the past eight years, computer use in the library has more than tripled.” - *Maryville Public Library*

“Libraries have never been rich and many rural libraries are priced right out of the market.” - *Barbara Read, Rolling Hills Library*

Quotes

Political

“We encourage you to submit your project to the federal government for funding, and lend you our support... Consequently, your project will be a real boon to expanding broadband to rural and underserved Missourians. Without your vision and commitment, it would be many years before the Missourians who will benefit from your project would have broadband access.” - **Governor Jeremiah (Jay) Nixon**

“The lack of access is hindering the educational attainment, economic development, and job creation in the region.” - **Senator Claire McCaskill**

“Recently proposed state budget cuts will most likely cause our state funded internet network to stop providing services to schools in rural areas. This will leave dozens of schools in my district without any internet access; a significant detriment to student education.” - **State Representative Mike Thomson**

“United Electric Cooperative is in an excellent position to make a significant difference in their service territory constructing such a network. Currently only 37% of United’s customers have broadband service and only 11% of the homes have access to a defined high-speed service. That is the very definition of underserved.” - **Barry Hart, Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives**

Community

“The lack of rural broadband access has been a significant hurdle for communication, business and development in Northwest Missouri and the proposed high-speed fiber system would enable farmers, entrepreneurs, businesses and citizens to obtain and transmit bulky files and detailed information faster, more effectively and more accurately.” - **City of Cameron**

“United Electric Cooperative is committed to equal economic opportunity, health, educational advancement, and democratic participation can only thrive if everyone has equivalent access to these critical communication networks.” - **City of Stanberry**

“When entrepreneurs consider relocating an existing business or starting a new business, one of the top three site-selection criteria used is access to a fiber optic broadband network.” - **University of Missouri Extension**

General

“We feel that access to an affordable, high speed fiber system would also help attract and retain highly trained, educated and qualified teachers, administrators, doctors and health care health workers which in turn would help to keep local citizens in the community.” - **Charles Lawson, Lawson Equipment**

“I am always looking for new activities and material to integrate into my curriculum. I would not only be able to access more information with this type of system but also be able to integrate some interactive learning with the children that could not be supported through video.” - **Barb Farnan, Farnan’s Day Care**

“I am currently going to school to obtain a degree in Spanish Translation. Having affordable high-speed internet at home would allow me to be able to work from home without having to deal with the hassle of slow internet service.” - **Holli Sullins, College Student**

“I grew up on a farm and my father still tells the story of getting electricity from the Cooperative. It changed his life. We can change lives again. Just as electricity greatly improved quality of life, health and economic development, the rural broadband initiative can greatly change lives today.” - **Kevin Kirby, American Red Cross**