

Communications & Technology

Topic:

Communications/Technology

Goal:

To increase the communications/technology capability of Plumas County to function successfully in the 21't century.

Objectives:

- To assess existing telecommunication infrastructure and services (current and short-term plans).
- To develop a countywide schematic, understandable by the public, of telecommunications infrastructure and services.

Area of Focus:

Countywide

Timeline:

Six months total for project

Strategies/Activities:

- Identify the providers of services, and establish contact
- Request providers for infrastructure and services information, using uniform protocol
- Evaluate and summarize all results from providers
- Develop schematic in non-technical, graphical format
- Disseminate information to the public

Stakeholders:

- Plumas County Board of Supervisors
- Business owners
- County agencies
- Residents

Resources:

- 1995 report by John Sheehan
- Communications/Technology group
- Providers of technology services
- Title III money, HR2389
- HCD, EDA
- PSREC
- Other grant funders
- Pacific Bell and Citizens to help write the letter to request plans from providers (uniform protocol)

Barriers:

- Money
- Staff with expertise
- Lack of institutional cooperation
- Resistance to change

Outcomes:

- Schematic will exist, and will be available to all residents and businesses
- People will know in non-technical, graphic form, what is current available, as well as what is planned in the short term

Evaluation:

- Annual review and update to maintain accuracy
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Objective:

- To inventory and disseminate existing technology information to the general population

Area of Focus:

Countywide

Timeline:

Three months initially; annual or periodic reviews will correspond to schematic updates

Strategies/Activities:

- Use schematic developed in Objective I and 2, create an article, booklet, or other readable form for distribution
- Develop a feature a story for publication in Rural Life magazine
- Reprint that article on Plumas County website

Stakeholders:

- Plumas County Board of Supervisors
- Business owners
- County agencies
- Residents

Resources:

- Bob Dading
- Nell Thomas
- Schools
- Media
- Senior centers
- Chambers of Commerce
- Plumas Children's Network
- Service clubs
- Community resource directory
- Online PC website

Barriers:

- Money
- Staff with expertise

Outcomes:

- Residents will be aware of technology resources
- Residents will use technology

Evaluation:

- Annual review for accuracy, update in conjunction with schematic updates
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Objective:

- Identify and create alliances between major providers of technology services to implement alternatives
- Identify telecommunications alternatives, including 'long term,' that will increase individual and business capacity

Area of Focus:

Countywide

Timeline:

One year

Strategies/Activities:

- Recruit consultant with technology expertise
- Recruit major providers to form an alliance to design creative alternatives: PG&E, PacBell, Citizens, satellite companies, PSREC, cable TV, etc.

- Research communities who are farther along in process, and bring strategies/success stories to the alliance
- Develop alternatives to meet county needs, while not bankrupting anyone. Share of cost responsibility.

Stakeholders:

- Plumas County Board of Supervisors
- Business owners
- County agencies
- Residents

Resources:

- PSREC
- Communities
- NACCHO
- OES

Barriers:

- Money
- Lack of institutional cooperation
- Resistance to change

Outcomes:

- Alliance will exist. People will work together on technology issues
- Alternatives will be developed to meet county technological needs

Evaluation:

- Annual review of progress

Objective:

- To develop adequate bandwidth for individuals and businesses in Plumas County Area of

Focus:

Countywide

Timeline:

Long term, after alliance is formed

Strategies/Activities:

- Form alliance, per objectives 4 and 5
- Find common ground among alliance members
- Determine/identify economic interests/concerns of each alliance members
- Put viable reasons forward, include health and safety concerns
- Identify deal-breakers for each alliance member (dollar amount)
- Identify regulatory barriers
- Segment band-width users
- Use assessment (objective I and 2) to determine need throughout the county
- Identify market willingness to pay for capacity

Stakeholders:

- Plumas County Board of Supervisors
- Business owners
- County agencies
- Residents

Resources:

- Completion of objectives 1-5
- Advocacy by businesses and individuals
- Government

Barriers:

- Government
- PUC regulations
- Public's lack of willingness to pay cost
- Other regulatory restrictions

Outcomes:

- Adequate band width will positively impact Plumas County economy and quality of life

Evaluation:

- Annual review of progress