

# Chisago Lakes Area Blandin Broadband Community Vision Meeting Breakout Session Notes

June 19, 2020

## Advocacy

Assets	Barriers / Gaps
Chamber of Commerce- committee on advocacy could present; Chamber Cafe & YPN	capacity
Otter Tail County	Social media
Otter Tail Lakes Country Association	Changes in print habits- no longer daily, rising cost of print media
CARES funding- \$125,000 to Broadband, \$75,00 to Viking Library, \$200,000 to OTCLC	
Leighton Broadcasting	
Daily Journal/ other local papers	
PEG Access	
Park Region Telephone's TV studio	
Community Ed & partners- direct outreach efforts	
Social media	
Jean Bowman's Signature Events	

Desired Outcomes
Reach beyond our community and entice people to believe that they can relocate in OTC and have business opportunities and make community connections
All people in the county have the necessary skills to access broadband
Integrated information infrastructure
Wifi for all

## Broadband

Assets	Barriers / Gaps
Local telecommunication companies	Very difficult for schools that aren't in areas with broadband
Industries that are heavily dependent on reliable, fast internet (e.g. tourism, ag, etc.)	Communities without broadband aren't going to attract residents and businesses
Strong government partners	
Lakes (density)	

Desired Outcomes
Increased access to families/individuals without internet access (e.g. subsidized services, centralized wi-fi, etc.)
Enhancements for kids and educational systems.
Public education around broadband, why it's important, etc.

## Digital Equity

Assets	Barriers / Gaps
Public Libraries	Lack of broadband for all residents
Libraries Circulating Hotspots	Some residents have not experienced high speed Internet ~ which creates a knowledge gap
Community connections	Broadband not available
Community Support	Broadband not affordable for all people
MState	Outlying areas that are not served
MState contributes to diversity	People who lack the necessary equipment, commuters, updated operating systems

Schools that are responsive to workforce needs	Need to regulate Internet Access in effort to ensure all people have access, i.e. help people afford broadband similar to government programs like lifeline for telephones. There are programs for the Internet but they are not sufficient. Universal service funds to help support individual access.
Schools helping families with connectivity issues	The areas that have no access
Local Internet Service Providers dedicated to serving local, rural communities	Lack of equipment, computers, webcams
People creating study groups so that people without the Internet at home can access at a friends house	Income disparity that prohibits people from affording Internet access, or equipment.
Supportive communities and community members	The inconvenience and inefficiency of having to drive or walk somewhere to access the Internet.
Schools	Lack of Internet access for students puts them at an academic disadvantage
	Lack of Internet access puts job seekers at at a disadvantage
	Lack of Internet access puts employers and small business owners at a disadvantage
	Negative impact on community & economic development if broadband is not available in the community

<b>Desired Outcomes</b>
Expand access, even if temporary
Access for all
Remove disparity in quality of access
A Gig per house
Access to the tools people need to access the Internet
Access to equipment
Access in order to learn remotely
Some people willing to have less so that others can have some

# Innovation

Assets	Barriers / Gaps
Telework Handbook	HR Culture - Online onboarding
Willingness/acceptance/desire to embrace technology	Firms/resources to provide direction
Telework Hotel/Business Incubator	Human desire for in-person interaction
Large amount of family business changing hands in the near future	Large amount of family business changing hands in the near future
Small business innovation due to the pandemic	
IQ Academy	

Desired Outcomes
Brand Otter Tail County as a Telework Friendly area boosted by our natural assets
Lifestyle marketing
Awareness of Educational opportunities in Otter Tail County
Telework Hotel and Business Incubator with support to aid an entrepreneur

# Knowledge Workforce

Assets	Barriers / Gaps
Strong K-12	Availability of quality broadband
Active business community	Limits ability to attract residents or businesses
M State	Speed doesn't meet expectations of visitors - and that influences desire to come or move permanently
Build off work of RRI	Limiting for education system with distance learning
Quality of place	

Desired Outcomes
Continue recruit younger population with RRI efforts - ensure all components are in place
Access and training for displaced workers is available - M State as a partner to offer credit classes or certificates for technology skills - foundation could offer scholarships
County wide community access points / facility training and learning exist - community ed, libraries, etc.
Enhanced High School career fairs and hands on experiences - virtual support?