

**Federal Communications Commission
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau**

**Joint Federal Rural Wireless Outreach Initiative
*Rural Wireless Community VISION Program***

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Rural Wireless Community VISION Program

**Nancy Plon, Community VISION Program Coordinator
(202) 418-2899**

**ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED, E-MAILED, FAXED OR SUBMITTED ONLINE
BY 11 P.M. (ET)
DECEMBER 1, 2004**

ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS

The Rural Wireless Community **VISION** Program, which is part of the Joint Federal Rural Wireless Outreach Initiative, invites any rural community to submit an essay, which describes the community's vision for wireless connectivity and services. The application deadline is 11 P.M. (ET), December 1, 2004.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Step 1: Preparation of Community **VISION** Essay

Civic leaders (e.g., Mayors, City Planners, Economic Development Directors, State/County/City Governments or designated Community Representatives, including Business Leaders and Entrepreneurs) prepare a two to five page type-written essay summarizing the Community's **VISION**. The Essay should include information on each of the categories outlined in the Essay Guidelines.

Step 2: Submission of Community **VISION** Essay and Contact Information

Submission must be postmarked, e-mailed, faxed or submitted online by 11 P.M. (ET), December 1, 2004.

The Community's **VISION** Essay and contact information may be submitted online or manually:

- ▶ **Online:** You may submit your information online at <http://wireless.fcc.gov/outreach/ruralvision/application.html>
- ▶ **Manually:** You may submit your essay application manually via:
 - **E-mail:** WTBCommunityVision@fcc.gov
 - **Fax:** (202) 418-1186 ATTN: Nancy Plon
 - **Mail:** Federal Communications Commission
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
ATTN: Nancy Plon, Community **VISION** Program Coordinator
445 12th Street SW,
Washington, DC 20554

Step 3: Review and Selection by Evaluation Team

A joint team of FCC-WTB and USDA-RUS telecommunications and financial experts will:

- Review the **VISION** Essay
- Assign a value of 1-10 to each **VISION** category
- Calculate a total score

All essays are then ranked in order by total score. The communities with the top 12 **VISION** Essay scores will be considered to become Model Rural Wireless Communities.

Step 4. Notification of Selected Communities

- Selected communities will be notified by January 30, 2005.
- List of selected communities will be posted on the Rural Wireless Community **VISION** Program website.

**Federal Communications Commission
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau**

Approved by OMB
Control Number: 3060-1071
Expires: 03/31/05
Estimated time per response: 8 hours

**Rural Wireless Community VISION Program
ESSAY APPLICATION**

Submit the two to five page type-written essay by:

E-MAIL: WTBCommunityVision@fcc.gov

FAX: 202-418-1186 Attn: Nancy Plon

MAIL: Federal Communications Commission, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
ATTN: Nancy Plon, Community **VISION** Program Coordinator
445 12th Street SW,
Washington, DC 20554

CONTACT INFORMATION

Date _____
Community Name _____
Civic leader(s) submitting this essay:
Name _____ Title _____
Work Address _____
Work Telephone _____ Fax _____ Work E-mail _____
Name _____ Title _____
Work Address _____
Work Telephone _____ Fax _____ Work E-mail _____

ESSAY GUIDELINES

Vision:

1. What is the community's vision for wireless broadband connectivity and services?
2. What will the wireless broadband capabilities be used for? (e.g., education, health, safety, distance learning, e-commerce, arts, etc.?)
3. Who is providing the vision? (e.g., State, County, or City Governments or their designated representatives, such as Mayors, City Planners, Economic Development Directors, Private Parties, including Business Leaders and Entrepreneurs, etc.?)

Investment:

1. What funds are needed to achieve the vision?
2. What is the community willing to contribute in order to achieve the vision?
3. What further funding is needed? What funding has been applied for? What funding has been obtained?

Stakeholders:

1. Which community members are involved?
2. Which communities will be served?
3. What (geographic and political) district areas will be served? (city, county, state, groups, individuals?)

Involvement:

1. What is required for starting up the wireless broadband network and who is involved?
2. What is required for maintaining an ongoing operation and who will be involved?

Opportunities:

1. What community opportunities does the project provide?
2. Who will benefit from the opportunity?

Need:

1. What telecommunications does the community have currently?
2. What capabilities will the community gain and how urgently are they needed?
3. How will the wireless broadband network specifically benefit your community?

DISCLAIMER

The **VISION** Program is a program designed to support the deployment of broadband wireless networks in a manner that is neutral with respect to technology and the business plan options of the participants. The USDA, through its Community Connect Grant Program, provides grants directly to local or tribal governments in communities in which broadband services do not currently exist. The information or support provided by the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau through the **VISION** Program to Community Connect Grant Program participants shall not be considered or viewed as an endorsement of any ownership model for broadband systems.

Furthermore, the regulatory, legal, engineering, or technical assistance provided by Wireless Telecommunications Bureau staff members through the **VISION** program is voluntary and non-binding on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Such assistance does not represent an official endorsement by the FCC with respect to any related, existing, or subsequent requests, applications, and petitions made to the FCC by the various communities or relevant stakeholders. It is further understood that there are no express or implied warranties associated with any support or assistance received.

All decisions concerning implementation, administration, and continuation of the **VISION** program remain in the complete discretion of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and the USDA-RUS. Further, the applicability of the **VISION** program is limited by the governing statutes and existing policies, rules and regulations of both the FCC and the USDA.

RURAL WIRELESS COMMUNITY VISION PROGRAM LINKS

- 1) Rural Wireless Community VISION Program homepage
<http://wireless.fcc.gov/outreach/ruralvision/index.html>
- 2) Essay Instructions webpage
<http://wireless.fcc.gov/outreach/ruralvision/instructions.html>
- 3) Essay Guidelines webpage
<http://wireless.fcc.gov/outreach/ruralvision/guidelines.html>
- 4) Essay Application webpage
<http://wireless.fcc.gov/outreach/ruralvision/application.html>
- 5) Wireless Outreach homepage
<http://wireless.fcc.gov/outreach/index.html>
- 6) Joint Federal Rural Wireless Outreach Initiative homepage
<http://wireless.fcc.gov/outreach/ruralinitiative/index.html>

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