



Inland Empire Regional Broadband Consortium Summary Report February 19, 2015

Counties: Riverside County and San Bernardino County

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Key outcomes of consortium achievements in 3 years:

- Action Plan Goals:
 1. Identify unserved and underserved Priority Areas to help close the Digital Divide.
 2. Develop and adopt the Inland Empire Broadband Infrastructure and Access Plan.
 3. Foster and support CPUC California Advanced Services (CASF) applications in the Inland Empire.

- Accomplishments:
 1. Inland Empire Priority Areas adopted in CPUC Resolution T-17443.
 2. Inland Empire Broadband Infrastructure and Access Plan adopted November 6, 2014.
 3. \$14 million CASF grant applications submitted for the Inland Empire to date, serving Priority Areas with more applications in the works.

Best Practices Achieved:

1. The Consortium brought, and continues to bring, elected officials, policy makers, IT professionals, engineers, business leaders, and key community stakeholders together to address broadband needs and close the Digital Divide in the Inland Empire.
2. The Consortium created and adopted the Inland Empire Broadband Infrastructure and Access Plan, which provides contextual framework for broadband issues and can be implemented by the region.
3. The Consortium fostered CASF grant applications through regular broadband forums and reaching out to Internet Service Providers to address unserved and underserved areas in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, as well as providing technical support and assisting with regional support for applications.

Challenges Faced:

1. The Inland Empire Broadband Infrastructure and Access Plan needs to be implemented.
2. The region needs higher broadband speeds and reasonable monthly costs.
3. Mobile service is not an equal substitute for wireline internet at home or for business needs.
4. Areas identified as “served” by CPUC mapping and field testing may not actually be served.
5. Local government currently has no role in asking for or reviewing the type of broadband service provided in their community.
6. Broadband conduit and/or fiber should be required in new housing, commercial and industrial development, as well as in public infrastructure projects.
7. Services continue to go online, and in most cases, no consideration is given to how people connect to the internet to receive the service, which further deepens the Digital Divide.
8. The Consortium fills a need in the region and needs funding to stay in operation.

Outstanding Gaps/Needs:

1. Smart region policies and actions are needed in the Inland Empire
2. Outreach activities need to continue so that the Inland Empire stays engaged in broadband infrastructure, public housing needs, service and cost issues to close the Digital Divide.
3. CPUC needs to keep mapping up-to-date to show broadband service gaps.
4. CPUC should revise its broadband policy to include higher minimum speeds, eliminate mobile in its definition of “served,” and include cost as a consideration.
5. Internet providers need to invest in more broadband infrastructure in the Inland Empire.
6. There are not enough digital literacy programs in the Inland Empire for the disadvantaged.
7. Per capita giving in the Inland Empire is much lower than statewide; therefore more outside funding is needed for the Consortium and the region to address broadband issues.

Future Sustainability Action Plan

1. The Consortium will identify and apply for funding as available to support implementation of the Inland Empire Broadband Plan, and to continue working in the region.
2. The Consortium will continue to collaborate with CPUC, CETF, the Inland Empire Economic Partnership (IEEP), SmartRiverside, and its 35 members and many supporters in the region.
3. The Consortium will continue to work towards establishing additional partnerships.
4. The Consortium supports legislation for regional consortia and broadband in the state.