



Community Economic
Development Strategy

CEDS



2011 Five Year CEDS Regional Project - Action Initiative

Title or Name of the Project:

Southeast Alaska Rural Broadband Planning Project.

Motivation:

The FCC has made Broadband accessibility a priority for rural communities, understanding that Broadband can provide the backbone necessary for rural communities to strengthen their health care, emergency services, education systems, and employment opportunities. These are essential components to attracting businesses to a community, and for members of rural communities to participate fully in the nation's democracy, economy, culture, and society.

Objective:

The project will result in a Strategic Plan and implementation of *affordable* Broadband throughout Southeast Alaska. The Strategic Plan will show that Broadband implementation in Southeast is a critical need in order to be able to fill the gap that isolates communities from each other and the rest of the world and that it will allow people to obtain valuable information, adequate health care, employment, and education.

Obstacles:

The principle obstacles are funding for implementation of Broadband, and a strong plan for moving forward in the implementation. Funding for implementation can be pursued once a strong Strategic Plan is completed that includes the specific technology to be used, the System Design (construction/towers, etc), project-specific network diagrams, proposed Service Area Map, and financial information and sustainability of the costs of implementation, such as

- 1) Broadband System
- 2) Community Center (building/tower, etc)
- 3) Operating Expenses

Our greatest obstacle so far has been obtaining the services of a Broadband provider that is unbiased and affordable who will work with our Contractor to collect the information to complete the Strategic Plan.



Community Economic
Development Strategy

CEDS



2011 Five Year CEDS Regional Project - Action Initiative

Outcomes/ Results:

Successful completion of the objectives will be in achieving the following outcomes:

- 1) The Strategic Plan will be completed by October 31, 2011.
- 2) Once the Plan is finalized, funding for implementation can be pursued.
- 3) Once funding for implementation is awarded, the plan can be set in motion.

Leadership:

Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA) will partner with Southeast Conference for the successful completion of this project.

Action Plan and Implementation:

1. Funding has been obtained by CCTHITA through USDA – Rural Utility Services for the Strategic Plan and specific technology to be used, etc.
Key People:
Resources needed:
Timeline:
2. The award of funds for the Strategic Plan includes the completion of tasks in the Scope of Work for the assessment and collection of information for the Strategic Plan.
Key People:
Resources needed:
Timeline:
3. Planning sessions to be conducted that involve representation from each of the communities to help ensure that the Strategic Plan incorporates in its planning process, access to Broadband capability that will include the ability to use the infrastructure, the ability to afford the service, and the ability to have access to a reliable location that provides the service.
Key People:
Resources needed:
Timeline:
4. A survey will be designed and provided to the communities. Results are to be used during the Planning Sessions, and analyzed and incorporated in the Strategic Plan as appropriate.
Key People:
Resources needed:
Timeline
5. Submission of Strategic plan to USDA – RUS funder in the fall of 2011.



Community Economic
Development Strategy

CEDS



2011 Five Year CEDS Regional Project - Action Initiative

Key People:

Resources needed:

Timeline:

6. Application for funds for Implementation of Broadband based on Strategic Plan to be pursued in 2011-2012.

Key People:

Resources needed:

Timeline: Strategic Plan to be completed by October 31, 2011. Award of funds for the implementation of Broadband estimated to take over year. Implementation: 3 to 5 years.

Performance Measures:

Broadband implementation in Southeast is a critical need in order to be able to fill the gap that isolates communities from each other and the rest of the world and that it will allow people to obtain valuable information, adequate health care, employment, and education.

Funding:

The First Phase of the project, which is the development of the Strategic Plan, is funded at \$200K. Implementation costs will be available once the Strategic Plan is completed.