

Making Community Broadband Work for You



Broadband is helping communities close the digital divide and manage their transformation across multiple domains: business services, wholesale service opportunities, education and economic development. Learn more at the **BROADBAND COMMUNITIES 2023 Summit**.

The Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program provides more than \$42 billion to expand high-speed internet access. It will go a long way toward bringing broadband to underserved areas, but some communities could still get left behind.

Deploying broadband is not just about delivering speedier consumer internet in rural areas with limited options; it should also address markets that don't meet federal funding criteria. Unfortunately, these are the communities where incumbents haven't invested in high-speed services.

"Communities are saying, 'We're not rural, but we have areas where people are complaining,'" says Keith Quarles Jr., president of A2D, a competitive local exchange carrier. "These are the forgotten markets where the incumbents have made some upgrades to keep people calm."

UNIQUE USE CASES

In this issue, we track how three communities are promoting digital equity and addressing future uses:

- **Clayton County, Georgia:** A2D created eCommunity™ Holdings, an open-access platform to serve overlooked communities.
- **Sterling Ranch, Colorado:** A master-planned community makes fiber-based broadband a key attraction by equipping every

home with Quantum Fiber's 8 Gbps service.

- **Bay High School in Lincoln, Nebraska:** An alternative school is enhancing digital inclusion by using ALLO Communications gigabit fiber services.

FIBER ENABLES OPTIONALITY

When a community plants a broadband seed that includes dark fiber infrastructure, it creates a future-proofed structure that can be used for multiple consumer, business and wholesale carrier applications.

Dark fiber is fiber infrastructure that is not yet "lit" or put into use by a service provider. A community could sell fiber capacity to wireless operators backhauling 5G traffic.

Sterling Ranch is laying dark fiber. "Building out dark fiber gives us much optionality for the future," says Walker Hinshaw, COO of Lumiere Fiber.

Communities investing in broadband infrastructure can make a new mark for themselves. See how communities have crafted broadband plans to serve multiple applications during the **BROADBAND COMMUNITIES Summit** in May. 🌱

Sean Buckley
sean@bbcmag.com

CEO

Barbara DeGarmo / barbara@bbcmag.com

PUBLISHER

Nancy McCain / nancym@bbcmag.com

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Sean Buckley / sean@bbcmag.com

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Masha Zager / masha@bbcmag.com

EDITOR-AT-LARGE

Steven S. Ross / steve@bbcmag.com

COPY CHIEF

Eli Penberthy / eli@bbcmag.com

ADVERTISING SALES ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Irene Prescott / irene@bbcmag.com

EVENTS COORDINATOR

Dennise Argil / dennise@bbcmag.com

MULTIFAMILY NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Valerie M. Sargent / valerie@bbcmag.com

ART DIRECTOR

Karry Thomas

CONTRIBUTORS

- Rollie Cole, Sagamore Institute for Policy Research
- David Daugherty, FyberCorp
- Heather Burnett Gold, Mears Group Inc.
- Joanne Hovis, CTC Technology & Energy
- Trevor Jones, OTELCO
- Michael A. Kashmer, Digital Broadband Programming Consultant
- W. James MacNaughton, Esq.
- Christopher Mitchell, Institute for Local Self-Reliance
- Bryan Rader, Pavlov Media
- Craig Settles, Gigabit Nation

BROADBAND PROPERTIES LLC

CEO

Barbara DeGarmo

VICE PRESIDENT, BUSINESS & OPERATIONS

Nancy McCain

BUSINESS & EDITORIAL OFFICE

BROADBAND PROPERTIES LLC
1909 Avenue G • Rosenberg, TX 77471
281.342.9655 • Fax 281.342.1158

www.broadbandcommunities.com

Broadband Communities (ISSN 0745-8711) (USPS 679-050) (Publication Mail Agreement #1271091) is published 7 times a year at a rate of \$24 per year by Broadband Properties LLC, 1909 Avenue G, Rosenberg, TX 77471. Periodical postage paid at Rosenberg, TX, and additional mailing offices.
POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to **Broadband Communities**, PO Box 303, Congers, NY 10920-9852.
CANADA POST: Publications Mail Agreement #40612608. Canada Returns to be sent to Bleuchip International, PO Box 25542, London, ON N6C 6B2. Copyright © 2023 Broadband Properties LLC. All rights reserved.

