

15 March 2010
Media Advisory

Background sources for National Broadband Plan coverage

Regarding the FCC's upcoming release of the national broadband plan, Access Humboldt recommends perspectives offered by the Schools, Health and Libraries Broadband Coalition (<http://shlbc.org>), of which Access Humboldt is an active member.

The Schools, Health and Libraries Broadband Coalition has encouraged the FCC to:

- 1) Include community anchor institutions (such as schools, libraries, health providers, community media outlets and others) in the plan; and
- 2) Explore the idea of a Unified Community Anchor Network to best ensure high-speed broadband connectivity at community anchor institutions.

We are encouraged and hopeful that the proposed plan will include both these ideas. John Windhausen, Coordinator of the SHLB Coalition (shlbc.org), can be a good resource for you as you develop your coverage. He can be reached at jwindhausen@telepoly.com, (202) 256-9616.

Why we think this is so critical:

- Regardless of your age, income, or educational experience, it is almost impossible to succeed, find jobs, take classes, and obtain health information without high-speed Internet access. Yet almost 40 percent of Americans—often those with lower incomes and lower levels of education—still don't have online access at home.
- Community anchor institutions provide Internet and local media access to those who need it most including: the unemployed seeking jobs and job-training; English language learners taking online courses; the elderly needing health care services and advice; and people lacking broadband connections at home.
- Community anchor institutions need very high-capacity, "future-proof" broadband connections to provide 21st-century services to their communities. Yet:
 - Public libraries, schools, health providers and community media access organizations often do not have and cannot afford adequate broadband connections to keep up with the growing demand for Internet-based services, esp for local media to serve public, education and government purposes.
 - Many non-profit networks successfully operate at the regional, state, and local level to provide these services, but their current reach and capacity to serve additional anchor institutions is limited.
 - Today, only about one-third of anchor institutions are connected to high-speed Internet backbone services offered by Internet2 and National LambdaRail and their partner regional education networks.

- Broadband needs will only grow as online applications—such as distance learning courses, exchange of medical records, and job training videos—require increasingly higher bandwidth.
- A Unified Community Anchor Network (UCAN) can best ensure high-speed broadband connectivity at community anchor institutions. UCAN will:
 - Provide broadband connections most efficiently by aggregating demand and sharing capacity;
 - Be open to interconnection by other providers and users;
 - Create jobs and generate economic growth by supporting the construction of additional broadband capacity;
 - Leverage and build off of the expertise and networks of existing non-profit providers;
 - Work with private sector providers.
- For more information, please visit www.shlbc.org

[or contact: Sean McLaughlin, Knight Media Policy Fellow and Executive Director of Access Humboldt at 202-495-0616, e: sean@accesshumboldt.net](#)