50 Ideas to Connect Communities

If your community wants…

- **Greater broadband coverage**

- **More choices of broadband vendors or types of broadband.**

- **To help your businesses benefit from the Internet.**

- **Local government, organizations and agencies to provide information and services online.**

- **Your residents to be smart users of the Internet.**

- **To use the Internet to tell everyone about your community.**

Then Try some of these project ideas…

1. Get current coverage maps of broadband in your area.
2. Conduct an in-depth infrastructure assessment.
3. Create a digital audio / video / imaging studio for developing projects.
4. Create a mobile lab equipped with computers and internet access.
5. Create public access sites to the Internet at libraries or locations within easy access of all homes.
6. Develop a municipal-owned infrastructure.
7. Develop a public/private partnership with vendors.
8. Develop a videoconferencing center.
9. Develop and support local community technology, business or development centers.
10. Find out what grant funds or loans are available for infrastructure, hardware/software or community technology projects.
11. Invite current and potential vendors to propose what they can bring to the community.
12. Provide community presentations on what broadband is and how it works.
13. Provide opportunities for people to experience the Internet over a high speed connection. Arrange open access times at places that already have broadband, e.g. schools.
14. Train volunteers who will staff public access sites to assist users in using the Internet, applications, author articles on Internet basics, or provide classes.
15. Work with main street businesses, local officials and internet providers to make Wi-Fi available in town.
16. Conduct online debates and voting on local issues.
17. Create a volunteer helpline where residents can call upon a technical team to deal with problems at home or in their office.
18. Encourage local colleges to provide course material online.
19. Help technology-savvy youth start a local computer support business.
20. Hold a technology fair where vendors demonstrate technology, hardware, or applications that aren't currently available or used in the community.
21. Hold live or online events where local businesses share how they use the Internet with each other.
22. Offer classes for youth to learn to protect themselves from Internet predators.
23. Offer classes on internet security and protecting your identity.
24. Offer classes on how to shop online and avoid possible problems.
25. Offer classes to help individuals learn to design websites and use social media.

26. Offer classes to help local government agencies determine content for their websites.

27. Offer classes to help non-profit organizations maximize their use of the Internet, social media and other digital tools.

28. Offer classes to help small businesses learn how social media can improve their bottom line.

29. Offer classes to help people learn to search the Internet.

30. Offer classes to job seekers to get help searching for opportunities on the Internet and advice on resumes and applications.

31. Offer presentations on how businesses can save on long distance telephone with Voice-Over-Internet-Protocol (VOIP).

32. Provide presentations that highlight distance learning opportunities that community members may be interested in.

33. Create webpages, Facebook sites, blogs, audio or video podcasts about the community.

34. Research and publish the local history of the community on the Internet.

35. Offer classes for local government, chambers of commerce, tourism groups or nonprofit agencies to help them place local content on their websites

36. Offer classes on how to tell a great story.

37. Hold live or online events where local businesses share how they use the Internet with each other.

38. Create audio, video, web pages, Facebook groups or blogs to raise issues of personal and community interest.

39. Develop an online local volunteer matching system.

40. Local neighborhood watch volunteers use email, web and webcams to support their work.

41. Conduct online debates and voting on local issues.

42. Create online discussion lists/forums where people can add ideas for improving their community.

43. Develop a website of local information with links to all key local projects.

44. Offer local web hosting

45. Offer classes on developing websites, blogs, or podcasts.

46. Create a digital audio / video / imaging studio for developing projects.

47. Offer classes on working with digital photos or video.

48. Have youth teach classes on how to remix content found online.

49. Provide opportunities for entrepreneurial youths to develop online businesses.

50. Offer classes on how to create audio and video material for iPods and PDAs.

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**For more ideas, go to
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