

## The Headwaters Grant Fund Grantee Self-Evaluation – Final Report

The information requested on this form will allow the Headwaters Fund to better understand its funding and report to the public. A positive or negative self-evaluation will not impact your future chances in applying for and obtaining Headwaters funding; thus, please be candid. We also will not rate or otherwise evaluate grantees in our public reports.

You must return this form within 30 days of your Final Quarterly Report to the Headwaters Fund. Headwaters Fund staff may contact you with further questions about your project. If you have any questions, please contact Headwaters staff. Thank you.

Today's Date: December 21, 2010

Organization Name: City of Eureka

Project Title: Humboldt Telecommunications Planning Grant

Project Start Date: January 19, 2010

Project End Date: December 31, 2010

Please answer the following questions, using as much space as necessary on a separate page:

1. What were the project goals and were they achieved? Why or why not? Complete timely applications for Federal ARRA (BTOP) funds for broadband deployment in Humboldt County.

Achieved:

The Humboldt Broadband Stimulus Project directly supported two applications for broadband stimulus funding:

- The Humboldt Community Access Network (HCAN) is an NTIA (BTOP) Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) project, part of Access Humboldt's Digital Redwoods initiative, to deploy "middle mile" microwave network facilities serving community anchor institutions across Humboldt County, and connecting with Yurok Tribe's network in Klamath, Del Norte County.
- HoopaNet is a USDA - RUS (BIP) proposal for a wireless project of Hoopa Tribe to provide "last mile" service for Hoopa Valley and Orleans.

Further, by supporting these two applications, the Project also enabled Access Humboldt to participate in a BTOP Sustainable Broadband Adoption (SBA) proposal with ZeroDivide, a San Francisco based foundation, and Hoopa Tribe to apply for BTOP Public Computing Center (PCC) funds.

Of all the ARRA Broadband Stimulus funding applications submitted for projects in Humboldt County (including the Humboldt Broadband Stimulus Project and others, for

both funding rounds), only one project was successful in winning Federal broadband stimulus funds - the SBA project "Generation ZeroDivide" with Access Humboldt as a sub-grantee, winning \$132,000 of BTOP funds to conduct digital literacy and media education and outreach programs.

2. What are the lasting benefits of the project (provide quantitative and qualitative benefits)?

The Humboldt Broadband Stimulus Project took a "comprehensive community" approach - building collaboration across agencies and sectors - seeking to connect every community anchor facility in Humboldt County.

Many public jurisdictions participated in the Humboldt Broadband Stimulus Project through Access Humboldt's Digital Redwoods initiative, including: County of Humboldt, Yurok, Karuk, Hoopa and Wiyot tribes, Cities of Eureka, Arcata, Fortuna, Rio Dell, Ferndale, Blue Lake and Trinidad, College of the Redwoods District, Humboldt County Library, Humboldt County Sheriff - Office of Emergency Services, along with harbor district, school districts, fire districts and other special districts.

Coordination of public agencies with private non-profit and commercial interests has created lasting benefits for all parties. Many of the conversations convened by Access Humboldt have led to ongoing discussions among local agencies, community based organizations and diverse private interests.

For example, on December 21, 2010 Access Humboldt is opening the "Eureka Muni-Hub" a new broadband network facility at the Eureka Municipal Auditorium. This project is a public private collaboration that brings new broadband capacity to Eureka, connecting fiber optic and wireless networks to serve public, education and government purposes.

3. What challenges did you encounter during the project?

We had a very short turnaround time for the ARRA process. The timeline inhibited ability to educate all policymakers and affected parties. The federal grant process was also onerous.

4. How will you continue the work started by this project?

Access Humboldt will implement the "Generation ZeroDivide" project using BTOP funds - and continue to support the Digital Redwoods Initiative. For example: developing capacity at the Eureka Muni-Hub and cultivating the nascent collaborations sparked by the Humboldt Broadband Stimulus Project

5. What, if any, are your comments about working with the Headwaters Fund and its staff?

We have worked with the Headwaters Fund staff in the past and have always found them to be helpful and easy to work with.

6. Do you have any advice for the Headwaters Fund?

Consider funding for a Humboldt Broadband Media Advocate function - to actively organize, coordinate and represent local community interests for deployment and adoption of broadband media in Humboldt County. Particular focus on local, State and Federal policy issues and resources - for example substantial funding resources are managed by the California Public Utilities Commission (CASF, CTF, etc.)

7. Do you have any other comments?

Can the Humboldt Community Access Network (HCAN) be present and make an oral presentation at future Headwaters meeting?

Please attach any press releases, media stories, or other materials that have been published regarding the project/program funded by the Headwaters grant.

I, the undersigned, certify that the information reported in this document is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Name (print): David W. Tyson

Title: City Manager

Signature: 

# Times-Standard

## Stimulus funding to promote digital literacy in Humboldt County

Donna Tam/The Times-Standard

Posted: 08/26/2010 01:23:13 AM PDT

With the help of some stimulus funding and a national program to promote digital literacy, Access Humboldt is hoping to expand the digital horizon for a new generation of storytellers in Humboldt County.

The U.S. Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) last week announced a grant award to Access Humboldt for sustainable broadband adoption. Access Humboldt will receive more than \$150,000 in funding and support from ZeroDivide, a San Francisco-based foundation, for the Generation ZD Digital Literacy Program.

The program, which fits into the goals of Access Humboldt's Digital Redwoods Initiative, is aimed at teaching underserved and tribal youth digital skills in new media, such as video and audio, and ultimately promote broadband in the area. The curriculum includes training youth in digital storytelling.

Assemblyman Wesley Chesbro, D-Arcata, said the grant is a good example of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) at work locally.

"This ARRA stimulus funding for Access Humboldt is a positive step forward," he said in a statement. "Their Digital Redwoods initiative has programs and resources to support our least-served communities

and young people living on the other side of the digital divide."

Access Humboldt Executive Director Sean McLaughlin said learning how to use images and sound, and present it through digital devices, is becoming an imprint skill for youth.

"It's like learning how to read and write, it's like learning how to speak," he said.

North Coast Congressman Mike Thompson, D-St. Helena, who McLaughlin said helped Access Humboldt throughout the grant process, agreed that digital skills are necessary for youth to be competitive.

"In our globalized economy, the ability to access and navigate the Internet is increasingly a must-have skill," Thompson said in a statement. "The Digital Redwoods initiative will ensure that our underserved communities are able to learn these important skills. This Recovery funding is great news for Humboldt."

Access Humboldt is one of seven organizations in six states working with ZeroDivide to develop broadband digital literacy skills, local youth content distribution and community anchor capacity for broadband media programs. Other programs are being launched in Hawaii, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington and Utah, as well as within other California counties.

"We get to learn from all these other communities," McLaughlin said.

The organization will have a little more than two and a half years to establish the program and produce the projects. The organization has also received a member of the Digital Arts Service Corps -- a program that pairs with AmeriCorps to send media-

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# Times-Standard

savvy members out to improve the public media infrastructure of rural areas -- who will help identify local resources and people that can help.

For more information about the program, contact Access Humboldt at 476-1798.

Donna Tam can be reached at 441-0532 or [dtam@times-standard.com](mailto:dtam@times-standard.com).

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# Times-Standard

## Morse: The Broadband Forum continues to work toward digital access for all

Bob Morse/For the Times-Standard

Posted: 10/12/2010 01:24:31 AM PDT

Those of us who live along Humboldt Bay or other relatively densely populated areas may have become complacent with the stability and quality of our broadband connections. After all, we haven't had a serious fiber line failure for nearly three years, and getting access to DSL or cable is generally not a problem. But behind the scenes, a small group of people continue to push for improved services, especially for under- and unserved areas of the North Coast. About 100 of those dedicated souls attended the fifth Broadband Forum held recently at Fortuna's River Lodge.

Once again, citizens from Humboldt, Del Norte, Trinity and Mendocino counties joined state officials and industry representatives to assess the current condition of broadband service, to learn about what's being worked on and to make plans for future improvements. As before, the major issues of concern continue to be redundant and alternate fiber routes, bringing broadband to more remote areas and providing access to technology of any kind to less advantaged people in all parts of the region.

While the themes remained the same from past conferences, and some frustration was voiced over the overall failure of our region to secure any of the recently awarded federal broadband grants, the

overall tone was decidedly upbeat. Speaker after speaker offered evidence of real progress being made.

The following are some highlights from the conference. However, much more detail, including the agenda and

the presentations, can be found at <http://rredc.com/broadband>.

### Redundancy

Millions of dollars are being spread around the state through various sources. And while only a small fraction of that money is being used to benefit the North Coast at the moment, one crucial project was partially funded by a grant from the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF). With 40 percent of the cost being funded by CASF, IP Networks is on track to complete a fiber line along the Highway 36 corridor by the summer of 2011. According to IP Network's Mary-Lou Smulders, the line will provide an opportunity for local wireless company 101 Netlink to offer service to communities along that route.

Additionally, at least two other service providers have access to both the current AT&T fiber and the new IP Networks line. This means if you are a subscriber to any of those service providers, you will have true redundancy if one line goes down.

Details are still hard to come by, such as who the other providers are and what the services might cost. But since the original fiber was completed in 2003, Humboldt County has been subject to multiple telecommunication failures and held back economically from the insecurity of our situation.

### State of the State

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Everything costs money, and bringing broadband to rural areas costs big money. Although our region has been overlooked by the current federal programs, the state appears to be intent on continuing to invest in building up broadband infrastructure, and some of that focus will definitely be on the North Coast. To that end, the governor just signed SB 1040, which extends and expands the CASF, increasing available funds to \$225 million.

A second bill, SB 1046 (Padilla), if signed, will create a broadband council, which will be staffed by representatives of several agencies already involved in various aspects of telecommunications including the California Public Utilities Commission, the California Emerging Technologies Fund (CETA), CASF and a representative from the office of the state's Chief Information Officer. The goal would be to improve communications among the communications bureaucracy, I suppose.

## State of the Region

Tribes from throughout the region were well represented at the forum. Tribal lands generally have very poor telecommunications infrastructure, so it was encouraging that spokespeople from the Yurok, Hoopa, and Karuk tribes provided encouraging reports of ongoing projects and planned projects that will help bring those areas into the digital age.

As with the tribes, incremental progress is being made in each of the four counties, either with actual projects, policy changes or with future plans. Redwood Telephone, which hopes to build a fiber infrastructure to serve premises within the region, is continuing the pursuit of funding and, according to Scott Joachim, should be ready to begin building sometime next year.

One policy highlight: The Humboldt County Planning Commission has approved the Telecommunications Element for the General Plan Update. This will be the first such element included in any county General Plan in the state and is the result of many hours of hard work by the Planning Commission and members of the community such as Connie Stewart, Sean McLaughlin, Tina Nerat and Mary Cruse.

Thank you to all the people who are working so hard to keep the North Coast moving forward, whether it's through building and deploying new technology, helping to shape better policies or finding the money to support our growth.

If you would like to know more about these people, consider visiting and joining the Redwood Technology Consortium: <http://redwoodtech.org>.

Bob Morse is a web developer and consultant. You can find him at <http://morsemedia.net>, Facebook: <http://facebook.com/morsemedia>, and on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/bobmorse>. He is a longtime member of the Redwood Technology Consortium.

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# Times-Standard

## Redundant broadband expected by end of summer

Donna Tam/The Times-Standard

Posted: 12/20/2010 01:22:10 AM PST

The service provider helping to bring a redundant broadband cable along U.S. Highway 36 says the project is on track to be done by this summer, despite some unexpected requirements from the national forest the cable will run through.

The project, a cable that will run 130 miles parallel to U.S. Highway 36 from Cottonwood to Eureka, allows Internet service providers to have a back-up line in case the other one is disturbed.

Despite some broadband advocates saying that the environmental review requirements the U.S. Forest Service is requesting will slow the process, IP Networks President Gary George said the review was expected to save a few engineering issues.

"It's an ongoing process and we've made adjustments to our construction methods to adhere to the policies and process that the national forest wants to see," he said.

Gregg Foster, executive director at Redwood Region Economic Development, said the environmental studies were not originally anticipated and will most likely slow down the project, which has already limited construction hours due to the spotted owl. As a large section of the forest is home to the spotted owl, construction is not allowed during Feb. 1 to July 15.

Foster said he can understand taking precaution when it comes to the environment, but he thinks this construction work has minimal impact.

"This is a project that is so important for the community," he said. "I hope the forest service and

the federal government realizes that if they are adding unnecessary levels of bureaucracy on this project it is really unfortunate for the community."

The project has been highlighted throughout the recent 5th District election campaigns as an integral part of Humboldt County's economic future.

The cable will pass through about 28 miles of the Trinity-Shasta National Forest and about 2.3 miles of the Six Rivers National Forest.

Shasta-Trinity spokesman Patrick Murphy said he was unable to get in touch with the person in charge of the project and could not comment on it.

George Frey, a land and mineral specialist for Six Rivers National Forest, said the review is required with any construction permit. Earlier this month, Frey said he was waiting on more details on the project, including the type of equipment being used and method of installation, before determining how much damage the project may cause to the surroundings.

"Those are typical things to work out on any project," he said.

IP Networks has been developing the project for about a year and expects to finish it by summer 2011.

"We believe we've compensated for any weather, habitat delays," George said.

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Connie Stewart, a broadband proponent who has been helping to raise funds for the project, said a nother concern is the funding for the project. George said 60 percent of funds are coming from commercial businesses. The rest comes from state funds.

The project did not receive any stimulus funding, something that is mirrored to other broadband infrastructure projects on the North Coast, she said.

"We've got a Swiss cheese situation where there are communities that are underserved," she said.

Donna Tam can be reached at 441-0532 or [dtam@times-standard.com](mailto:dtam@times-standard.com).

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