



From the Desk of Lieutenant Governor Matthew Denn

Reviving Delaware

Stimulus Update

October 23, 2009

Delaware Submits First Round of Broadband Priorities

Last week, Delaware submitted to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration its first set of priorities for the ARRA's "Broadband Technology Opportunities Program."

As part of the ARRA competitive broadband application process, each state was asked to rank previously-submitted proposals that had some impact on their state. There were a large number of broadband proposals that touched in some way on Delaware—many of them only peripherally—but the two that Delaware emphasized to the federal government last week are proposals that were developed in Delaware, have 100% of their impact in Delaware, and will create both short-term and long-term benefits for the state.

The first of the two proposals involves the installation of broadband equipment in 36 Delaware public schools, and the installation of videoconferencing equipment at 17 statewide anchor locations. The 36 schools are spread throughout all three counties—18 of them are traditional public elementary schools, and the other 18 are public charter schools. The federal stimulus portion of this broadband grant, if we receive it, will be over \$6 million.

The second proposal is to provide significant, desperately needed upgrades to the internet protocol network at Delaware State University. The improvements will close a 'digital divide' that currently exists at DSU, by adding capability in the areas of network convergence, IP communications, and network security. The federal stimulus portion of this grant if it is received will be almost \$11 million.

In addition, fourteen other projects were recognized as having positive impact for the state, although not as direct or immediate as the two above.

A second round of broadband applications will be upcoming, and at that time Delaware intends to submit a proposal that will benefit the state's public libraries. In the interim, the process into which we have placed the two proposals outlined earlier is a fiercely competitive one, and we will be doing everything possible to improve Delaware's odds of receiving these funds.

All the best,

Matt Denn
Lieutenant Governor