



# BARREN COUNTY STRATEGIC TECHNOLOGY PLAN

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

A. Executive Summary .....	2
B. Why Does This Matter? .....	7
C. Where Are We and Where Are We Going? .....	12
D. How Do We Get There? .....	38



## **A. Executive Summary**

## **A. Executive Summary**

### **Purpose**

This document provides a “road map” for technology-based growth and economic development in Barren County. Detailed assessments and recommendations are provided in Tab 1 of this report. The full report provides an overview of ConnectKentucky’s findings and recommendations related to the assessment of Barren County’s technology needs, particularly related to computers, broadband and Information Technology.

### **Summary**

Barren County’s e-Community Leadership Team is leading the way into a new economy for Barren County, working in partnership with ConnectKentucky. By leveraging the latest in technology and networking, ConnectKentucky is ensuring Kentucky remains the place of choice to work, live and raise a family.

Pursuing the *Five A’s to technology acceleration in Kentucky* (Availability, Affordability, Awareness, Applications and Adoption) ConnectKentucky has established the Commonwealth as a national model for technology development. Over the past two years, Kentucky has achieved growth rates in technology availability and adoption that lead the nation.

Today, the world is smaller because technology makes it easier to work and to live nearly anywhere. In order to compete on a global scale, we must provide our citizens and businesses with the best available technology in the world, wherever they choose to live, learn, work or play. Central to technology-based development is access to and usage of computers and high-speed Internet, commonly referred to as “broadband.”

The need for improved technology in Kentucky is great. In 2003 rankings, Kentucky was 44<sup>th</sup> in its proportion of high-tech companies, 45<sup>th</sup> in household computer use, and 43<sup>rd</sup> in resident Internet use. But that is changing fast, as Kentucky transforms from a technology laggard into a national leader in universal access and innovative technology solutions. Some evidence of the progress Kentucky has made:

- According to the Federal Communications Commission, Kentucky leads the nation in its rate of broadband adoption over the past two years.
- In 2003, about 60 percent of Kentucky households had the ability to subscribe to broadband. Now, an estimated 77 percent of households can access broadband, an addition of 240,000 households over two years. Increased investment from telecommunications companies is expected to bring the broadband coverage rate to 90 percent by the end of 2006.

Though Kentucky’s recent progress has been swift, there remains much to be accomplished. If we do not act on our dreams, we are destined to remain at the bottom of most technology rankings.

With this vision of hope for all Kentuckians, Governor Fletcher introduced his *Prescription for Innovation*, a comprehensive initiative to achieve aggressive goals for broadband deployment and technology adoption in Kentucky. ConnectKentucky is working community by community, provider by provider to ensure that each of these goals is achieved by 2007, including:

1. Broadband availability for all Kentuckians, businesses and local governments;
2. Dramatically improved usage (adoption) of computers and the Internet;
3. Meaningful online applications for local government, businesses, educators, etc.;
4. Establishment of local technology leadership teams in every county promoting technology growth for: local government, business and industry, education, healthcare, agriculture, libraries, tourism and community-based organizations.

Governor Fletcher's *Prescription for Innovation* is being implemented through ConnectKentucky, in partnership with local community leaders. The leadership of Barren County asked ConnectKentucky to facilitate an evaluation of its current uses of technology, identifying and filling broadband coverage gaps and developing a strategic plan to increase the use of technology in each sector of the local community, including:

- Local government
- Business and industry
- K-12 education
- Higher education
- Healthcare
- Libraries
- Agriculture
- Tourism, recreation & parks
- Community-based organizations

This project has culminated in the development of initiatives to increase the competitiveness of Barren County through the expansion of broadband availability and the increased usage of computers and broadband-related applications. In completing this analysis, ConnectKentucky engaged local leaders in all economic sectors, led the group through a visioning exercise and developed a unique strategic plan for the county.

Additionally, ConnectKentucky has engaged its network of telecommunications and Information Technology resources to determine which technology resources are currently available to Barren County and which services are expected in the near future.

ConnectKentucky found that broadband is readily available in larger cities and communities, which contain more than 75% of the county's population, and there are broadband services of some kind available in various locations throughout the county. ConnectKentucky will work with current and potential broadband providers to achieve full broadband availability to all residents of Barren County by 2007.

ConnectKentucky recommends that Barren County focus on these general areas in order to encourage further build-out of broadband throughout the community and to create awareness of the broadband-related services that already exist.

- Creating awareness of the many available digital applications that provide convenience, growth, productivity and empowerment.
- Developing and expanding community applications that will drive the use of broadband access and ultimately encourage residents to become more technologically savvy.

### **Methodology**

**Activity 1** – Kickoff meeting and follow-up benchmarking meetings defined existing and future uses of broadband:

- How stakeholders currently use telecommunications and broadband services and applications
- What telecommunications and broadband needs are not currently being met
- What applications would be useful to increase the economic competitiveness of the area
- What telecommunications and broadband services and applications key stakeholders desire for the future

**Activity 2** – Interviews with key telecommunications and Information Technology providers in the community determined what services and infrastructure are in place now and what services and infrastructure are planned for the future.

**Activity 3** – ConnectKentucky reported the findings, provided analysis of potential alternatives and made recommendations on potential future initiatives:

- Benchmarked current uses of technology
- Researched applications that will enhance the economic vitality of the community in various participating sectors
- Recommended a strategic approach to adopting appropriate applications
- Provided project management to assure successful implementation
- Collected coverage data from existing broadband providers in the Commonwealth. In GIS format, mapped coverage footprints of all providers
- Provided data for areas not served by broadband
- Shared relevant market data with potential providers to encourage additional investment

- Identified possible grant and low-interest loan availability to areas not currently served
- Encouraged investment from all providers, including cable, telecommunications companies, municipals, satellite and wireless, to fill remaining gaps.

**How Do We Get There?**

ConnectKentucky will continue to assist the e-Community Leadership Team, working together to ensure that Barren County remains a strong place to work, live and raise a family. ConnectKentucky will remain engaged with the leadership and stakeholders from each sector to implement the recommendations provided in this report.



## **B. WHY DOES THIS MATTER?**

## **B. WHY DOES THIS MATTER?**

### **Business and Industry**

Today, a number of factors are forcing businesses to change time-honored models of operation, including global competition, a trend toward partnering/outsourcing for all but core functions, and a demand for more personalized services. Each of these trends can save businesses time and money, but they require a sound technological infrastructure. The good news is that while these trends are emerging, the costs of technology are falling.

Businesses cannot be sheltered from competitors. The reality is that Barren County businesses must adapt to the changing world in which they operate. Businesses have to learn the tools of the networked economy and innovate to survive.

Business and industry often experience the most direct benefit of high-speed Internet with increased sales, profit and growth. However, many businesses and industries are utilizing high-speed Internet to simplify processes, increase efficiency and develop new marketing methods. While the employees benefit immediately, the consumer ultimately sees lower prices and better quality.

Gaining benefits from the implementation of high speed Internet is not just for large corporations. For smaller businesses, technology creates an even playing field with companies much bigger than themselves. E-commerce (the buying and selling of goods over the Internet) allows small or even home-based businesses to operate and sell their goods on a national and sometimes international scale. Where small businesses were once limited to whatever local customers they could attract through local advertising and word of mouth, the Internet now allows them to attract customers across the globe.

Utilizing broadband and technology, businesses with multiple locations can save money by implementing Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP). VoIP allows businesses to call between those locations with little or no costs. It allows users to travel anywhere in the world and still make and receive phone calls. Additionally, VoIP allows for collaboration not available using traditional telephone methods.

Technology has allowed larger businesses to maximize efficiency in order to better serve customers. E-mail, intranets, paperless operations and automated logistics processes are just a few examples of how the Internet is allowing large companies to work with much greater efficiency and at lower costs. This allows those businesses to expand into other markets and grow their companies, or even pass the savings on to their customers.

### **K-12 Education**

For our children to succeed in the New Economy, the tools of the Information Age should be as comfortable to use as a pencil and paper. The future health of the nation's economy depends on how broadly and deeply we reach a new level of literacy – that includes strong academic skills, thinking, reasoning, teamwork skills, and proficiency in the use of technology. Our schools must equip every student, regardless of family income, with the ability to use these tools. Equally important is the use of these tools in the educational

process itself. The interactive nature of the Web provides a richer learning experience that engages and motivates students to explore and learn.

In Kentucky, Internet applications used in elementary and secondary schools continue to develop. Typically, the Internet is a communication tool for teachers and parents to remain up-to-date on the recent happenings of the classroom. Everything from homework assignments to scheduled activities and pictures can be found on classroom websites, keeping everyone connected to educational resources. Elementary and secondary schools provide students with the opportunity to learn more about computer technology and explore the Internet with school computer labs. Committed to protecting students and maintaining a safe, educational environment, schools monitor and restrict Internet access of students to ensure the highest quality resources are being viewed and to ensure the safety of our children.

### **Healthcare**

The healthcare industry has unique challenges. It inherently generates mountains of information yet at the same time is duty bound to keep these mountains hidden for the sake of individual privacy. For companies charged with managing and working with this information, high-speed Internet access and technology innovations are crucial. On a daily basis, doctors must keep up with the latest research; patient records have to be easily accessible and accurate; and images, test results and prescriptions have to be delivered promptly, without errors, to practitioners, pharmacies and insurance providers. In healthcare, errors and delays are not only costly, but also dangerous. Many providers are converting to electronic medical records which can be easily updated and shared on secure, internal networks. Network-based technologies like video-conferencing and digital stethoscopes allow specialists to consult with rural patients, reducing travel time and hazards. This ability to reach rural patients through technology has allowed many people to seek treatment that otherwise might not. Bringing the best of healthcare to every Kentucky citizen is a worthy goal.

Because of the nature of their activities, the healthcare industry has found the perfect partner in high-speed Internet technology. The convenience of the Internet has simplified information transfers and improved medical equipment while maintaining the integrity of confidential patient information.

### **Libraries**

Today, libraries are more than just books on the shelves. Everything from the card catalog to check out can be simplified with the help of high-speed Internet. Public libraries often play a vital role in the community by providing every resident with the opportunity to receive instruction and use the Internet free of charge. Though they are not available 24 hours a day as a home computer is, libraries are still a central point of access to the Internet that is available to each and every citizen in the community. Many businesses have been launched as a result of research done on a computer in a Kentucky library. Many children are able to do their homework online or research reports because of the Internet access provided by the local library. Because the library plays such an important role in the community, it is essential that local libraries are on the cutting edge of technology and

continue to develop new methods of keeping their patrons up to date. High speed Internet can help libraries continue their tradition as a trusted and indispensable resource.

### **Higher Education**

Colleges, universities and community and technical colleges in Kentucky continue to find new ways to use the Internet to improve everyday activities. Websites are an important source of information about the institution, from providing news and information concerning campus activities to online registration of classes. Colleges and universities often implement the use of the school websites to attract prospective students, remain connected to alumni and allow for online donations.

The most common application of high-speed Internet on college and university campuses, however, is typically not actually used on-campus. Most colleges and universities offer online classes and academic programs to better equip students with the opportunity to learn. In 2004, 35,000 students participated in higher education classes through Kentucky Virtual University, [www.kyvu.org](http://www.kyvu.org). By bringing the classroom to the students, participants from every walk of life and region of the state were able to participate in higher education classes. However, it is necessary to have high-speed Internet to participate successfully in online classes. High-speed Internet is crucial to supporting the capabilities and the possibilities of higher education in Kentucky.

### **Community-Based Organizations**

Non-profit agencies provide a wide variety of services to citizens, including health services, religious services, community sports and athletic facilities and public entertainment. Like any organization, community-based organizations need technology to manage operations, apply for grants, reduce costs, improve client services and better serve the community. Unfortunately, their budgets are typically limited, and they often depend on outdated technologies and donated services. As a result, community-based organizations must be creative in order to serve their constituents in the best manner possible. Fortunately, there is no shortage of creativity among community-based organizations, and many are using innovative solutions to offer important local services. As with other sectors, the Internet is an enabling factor for these creative solutions.

### **Government**

Government serves citizens in numerous ways, from providing services such as vehicle registration to providing information such as election results. While it is common for people to feel disengaged from the everyday actions of state and local government, technology has allowed governments to begin closing that gap. On the state level, Kentucky has developed [Kentucky.gov](http://Kentucky.gov), a comprehensive website that provides government services and information to all citizens. On this site, residents can purchase and update hunting licenses; car dealers can access title searches on cars; and citizens can monitor the progress of legislation when the General Assembly is in session. By bringing the services of the state government to the convenience of residents' homes, the [Kentucky.gov](http://Kentucky.gov) site provides participants a greater sense of relevance in the actions of state government.

Local governments have also seen the importance of an online presence. Local governments provide communities with many services, offer a great deal of local information and encourage public involvement and awareness. With a web presence, local governments can distribute information to more citizens, provide more opportunities for interaction with the agencies that affect them and make more convenient transactions that previously required a drive to the courthouse.

### **Tourism, Recreation, and Parks**

As citizens become more comfortable with the Internet, they typically continue to find more uses for it. One of the industries benefiting from this trend is the tourism industry. Increasingly, people are using the Internet to research, book and pay for airline tickets, hotels, rental cars, and to make other logistical arrangements for their vacations and business travel. In light of this fact, hotels, travel agents, restaurants, attractions and other support businesses in the tourism industry are taking advantage of this trend and making their information and services available on the Internet.

Additionally, with the help of high-speed Internet and computer technology, the leisure time planned and purchased over the Internet can also be used more efficiently, allowing for a more enjoyable experience. Whether it is vacation, recreation or a visit to a local park, high-speed Internet is making the travel experience more enjoyable and more convenient. Already, a number of innovative tourism attractions are using high-speed Internet to improve services and meet the changing demands of their guests.

### **Agriculture**

Too often, the agricultural community sees little need for broadband technology in the day-to-day activities of maintaining farms and livestock. However, broadband technology allows for growing innovation in agriculture, simplifying and mainstreaming important daily tasks, and developing marketing and sales. With high-speed Internet, farmers can remain up-to-date with everything from the weather to the conditions of the chicken facilities equipped with temperature-sensitive monitors. Livestock farmers can access market prices and gain access to the latest in livestock management techniques. Farmers can advertise and even sell goods on the Internet, generating customers from all over the world. The Internet can also help Kentucky farmers diversify their operations and develop cutting edge revenue streams thus alleviating some of the loss of revenue from the Tobacco Quota Buyout Program. Internet resources can give Kentucky farmers an edge on production and results. The possibilities are virtually endless. The marriage of agriculture and high-speed Internet can produce abundant success for farmers across Kentucky by creating opportunities.



## **C. WHERE ARE WE AND WHERE ARE WE GOING?**

## **C. WHERE ARE WE AND WHERE ARE WE GOING?**

### **BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY**

Barren County industries employ a total of 17,753 workers. The leading industry by employment is manufacturing with 5,497 employees, followed by services with 5,364 and trade, transportation, and utilities with 2,910 employees. Leading employers in Barren County are:

1. R R Donnelley, [www.rrdonnelley.com](http://www.rrdonnelley.com) with 1,200;
2. Dana Corporation, [www.dana.com](http://www.dana.com) with 800;
3. A C K Controls Inc. with 460; and
4. AMAK Brake LLC, [www.akebonobrakes.com](http://www.akebonobrakes.com), with 436 employees.

In Barren County, the business and industry sector is served by a number of groups including the Glasgow-Barren County Chamber of Commerce, [www.glasgowbarrenchamber.com](http://www.glasgowbarrenchamber.com), Glasgow/Barren County Industrial Development Economic Authority (idea), [www.glasgowbarrenidea.com](http://www.glasgowbarrenidea.com), and the Cave City Chamber of Commerce, [www.cavecity.com](http://www.cavecity.com).

Through the Glasgow/Barren County Industrial Development Economic Authority's website, potential business owners can retrieve community information such as details about existing businesses and industries, tax incentives offered by the county, demographics, available buildings and educational opportunities. Also available is information about "idea" and links to other helpful economic development websites.

Also serving the business and industry sector is the Glasgow – Barren County Chamber of Commerce, [www.glasgowbarrenchamber.com](http://www.glasgowbarrenchamber.com). The chamber site features information about existing businesses and industry in Glasgow and Barren County. Information is available about the chamber such as a listing of chamber members, information on special events and more. On the homepage, a news ticker with the latest chamber and community news, along with a "What's happening at the chamber?" link is additionally available.

More information about the Cave City Chamber of Commerce, [www.cavecity.com](http://www.cavecity.com), is available in the tourism sector.

### **The Assessment**

- **Networked Places** – In the category of networked places, Barren County's business and industry sector is currently at stage 2 on a 0 to 5 scale with some office employees having always-on connections to the Internet at their desks.
- **Applications and Services** – In the area of technology applications and services, the business and industry sector is currently at stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale with most businesses having an informational website. Some retail websites can accept credit card purchases, and some businesses participate in the electronic supply chain.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the business community, Barren County is currently at stage 2 on a 0 to 5 scale where some view the Internet as essential to business operations, and employees are trained on basic applications.

### The Vision

While the Barren County eCommunity Leadership Team found that business and industry's current use of technology is somewhat limited, the team has an aggressive vision for how the county's business and industry sector will be using technology in two years. The team set goals that would move the business and industry sector from stage 2 to stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale in the networked places category, and from the middle stages to stage 4 in both the applications and services and the leadership categories. The team's vision includes:

- Most office employees have **always-on connections** to the Internet at their desks
- Some mobile workers **have laptop computers and can access the office network remotely**
- Affordable **videoconferencing facilities are available** in the community
- Some **businesses outsource most of their computing services**
- Some retailers and manufacturers **sell goods out of state or internationally**
- Some employees **work remotely, some out of state**
- Some businesses **permit some employees to telework** one or two days a week
- Some businesses encourage employees to **take work-related courses online**
- Businesses are **working with educational partners to raise workforce skill levels**

### K-12 EDUCATION

The Barren County School District, <http://www.barren.k12.ky.us>, enrolled 4,090 students in the 2004-2005 school year. This year will bring the completion of a new and renovated Eastern Elementary School, which now means that all the elementary schools in Barren County have been built new or have been renovated within the past ten years. The district will soon break ground for the Trojan Academy, a one of a kind ninth-grade center that will serve seventh and eighth grade students. With the freshman students moving to a new building, there will now be additional space in Barren County High School. Barren County High School continues to be a leader in terms of dual credit and Advanced Placement (AP) offerings. Students at Barren County Middle School have the opportunity to complete Algebra and Latin for high school credit. Functioning well above grade level has now become the norm for the majority of the students in the elementary schools.

Transition to Adult Life

College	Military	Work	Voc/Tech Training	Work & Part-Time School	Not Successful
45.4%	3.2%	36.1%	6%	0%	9.2%
54.7%	2.6%	27.5%	4.8%	6.4%	4%

	Attendance Rate	Retention Rate	Dropout Rate	Graduation Rate
District	95.7%	6%	2.3%	81.2%
State	94.3%	3.3%	2.2%	81.5%

The Barren County School System is a state and national leader in terms of education technology. Whether it is streaming video to the classrooms, preschool students using clay animation, kindergarten students doing PowerPoint or high school seniors designing a computer network, Barren County is recognized as a model for technology integration. Four technology trainers, known as the V-Team, work with teachers across the district to assist in effective technology integration. The technical support engineers ensure a quality and stable network environment. The district now has video services at each school with access

to both SCRTC and EPB cable services. Barren County remains one of four Platinum school districts in the state and each school has retained Gold STLP status for their student technology leadership programs. Most recently, the district has implemented online testing to compliment the state-mandated assessment system.

	Spending per Student	Student / Teacher Ratio	Student / Computer Ratio	% of Classrooms with at Least One KETS Workstation With Internet Access
<b>District</b>	8160	17:1	3.2:1	100
<b>State</b>	8663	16:1	3.7:1	100

Caverna Independent Schools, <http://www.caverna.k12.ky.us>, enrolled 802 students in the 2004-2005 school year. The Caverna Independent District is a small rural district in south central Kentucky. It is unique in that it transcends the two counties of Barren and Hart. It serves primarily the community of Cave City in Barren County and Horse Cave in Hart County. The livelihood of the two communities' is centered around agriculture and tourism related to Mammoth Cave National Park. In 1957 the district became the first school in the state of Kentucky to integrate, and also had the first African American teacher in the state to teach in mixed classes.

Transition to Adult Life						
	College	Military	Work	Voc/Tech Training	Work & Part-Time School	Not Successful
<b>District</b>	66.7%	3.5%	22.8%	5.3%	0%	1.8%
<b>State</b>	54.7%	2.6%	27.5%	4.8%	6.4%	4%

	Attendance Rate	Retention Rate	Dropout Rate	Graduation Rate
<b>District</b>	93.9%	4.7%	2%	86.4%
<b>State</b>	94.3%	3.3%	2.2%	81.5%

Technology is an integral part of instruction in all schools of the Caverna District. All three schools have computers in each classroom, as well as a computer lab. Teachers have received copies of the National Educational Technology Standards for Students. Lesson plans reflect the incorporation of Technology into content areas. The district has purchased a remedial program for Math and Reading to be utilized at the elementary and middle school levels.

	Spending per Student	Student / Teacher Ratio	Student / Computer Ratio	% of Classrooms with at Least One KETS Workstation With Internet Access
<b>District</b>	8440	14:1	2.3:1	100
<b>State</b>	8663	16:1	3.7:1	100

Glasgow Independent Schools, <http://www.glasgow.k12.ky.us>, enrolled 1,918 students in the 2004-2005 school year. The Glasgow Independent School System's small size allows its teachers and staff members more time to get to know their students and address individual student needs. In the Glasgow Independent System, the faculty and staff value and protect instructional time thereby affording their students an academic edge. Academic achievement is celebrated through various means including newspaper articles, ceremonies and awards. Brain-based teaching strategies are used throughout the district to broaden student learning and increase student success.

Transition to Adult Life						
	College	Military	Work	Voc/Tech Training	Work & Part-Time School	Not Successful
<b>District</b>	66.1%	1.7%	19.5%	3.4%	5.1%	4.2%
<b>State</b>	54.7%	2.6%	27.5%	4.8%	6.4%	4%

	Attendance Rate	Retention Rate	Dropout Rate	Graduation Rate
<b>District</b>	95.3%	2.4%	1.9%	85.5%
<b>State</b>	94.3%	3.3%	2.2%	81.5%

All classrooms are equipped with at least one computer (most classes have several) to assist in research, e-mail, word processing and with technology integration (i.e. video production, web quest, power point, music keyboard lab and the Internet) to match the objectives being taught. The computer labs are staffed with technology assistants who trouble shoot and assist students with their technology work. Technology Professional Development is provided to staff district-wide each year. The middle school utilizes the River Deep computer program. The high school utilizes technology to offer Virtual High School courses and to assist students in credit recovery. Both elementary schools utilize technology in their reading and math programs.

	Spending per Student	Student / Teacher Ratio	Student / Computer Ratio	% of Classrooms with at Least One KETS Workstation With Internet Access
<b>District</b>	7907	15:1	4.7:1	100
<b>State</b>	8663	16:1	3.7:1	100

The non-public schools in Barren County are:

- Community Montessori School with an enrollment of 35 students in grades PK-K;
- Glasgow Christian Academy with an enrollment of 130 students; and
- Monroe County Mennonite School with an enrollment of 23 students in grades K-8.

### **The Assessment**

In its evaluation, the Barren County eCommunity Leadership Team determined that the K-12 education sector has made significant progress in making technology a priority, and the team set goals for enhanced access and use of technology and its applications. The current assessment includes:

- **Networked Places** – In the category of networked places, Barren County's K-12 education sector is currently at stage 4 on a 0 to 5 scale. Some high school students are provided their own laptop computers at school. Many classroom teachers have access to digital projection capabilities. Most middle and high schools have video programs that allow students to produce and share shows on a public network. Lastly, some schools use wireless sensors to monitor energy consumption.
- **Applications and Services** – In the category of technology applications and services, the education sector is currently at stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale. Some schools have an interactive website that offers access to homework assignments and communication with teachers and administrators. Many experienced teachers know how to incorporate Internet information into the curriculum. In addition, many teachers welcome e-mail from parents and students.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the education sector, Barren County is currently at stage 4 on a 0 to 5 scale. Some schools have comprehensive plans for learning activities using technology in the classroom. New hires are required to

have experience using new technology in the classroom. Computer labs are made available to family and community members, and schools take responsibility for continuing e-rate and other discounts.

### **The Vision**

The Barren County eCommunity Leadership Team recognizes that the school systems have made technology a priority, and the team has outlined a clear vision for enhanced technology usage and application in the classroom. The goals set forth by the Barren County eCommunity Leadership Team include reaching stage 5 on a 0 to 5 scale in each of the three categories outlined above. The vision includes:

- Many classrooms have large, flat-panel displays or projectors for **video-based instruction**
- Most schools have **converted their phone system to Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) to save money**
- Most high schools **have one-to-one computing for their students**
- Some school **computer labs have been made available to the public**
- Schools use the network to connect students, teachers and parents, **improve learning via online resources, and manage administrative responsibilities more efficiently**
- All **students meet grade level requirements** in the National Educational Technology Standards
- **Technology training** is offered in the community
- Many high school students **use online teachers and experts to explore subjects** and execute individual learning plans
- All **schools have comprehensive plans** for learning activities utilizing technology in the classroom
- School districts actively **promote information technology literacy** to drive positive impacts on economic performance, skills and innovation in the classroom
- The school systems play a vital role in **raising the skill level and awareness of community and family members**

### **HEALTHCARE**

Serving Barren County's healthcare sector is T.J. Samson Community Hospital, [www.tjsamson.org/index.html](http://www.tjsamson.org/index.html). T.J. Samson offers a variety of services to the region including acute care, preventive testing and treatment, community outreach activities, as well as partnerships with local health care providers, civic organizations and public schools.

The mission of T.J. Samson Community Hospital is to promote and provide for the health and well-being of those they serve. As a regional health care provider, T.J. Samson Community Hospital takes pride in being good stewards of its available resources and utilizing them to anticipate and meet the health needs of the region by promoting health in the communities and delivering quality, appropriate and compassionate care. The core values of the hospital are service, excellence, resources, value, innovation, compassionate care and ethics.

Also serving portions of Barren County is Caverna Memorial Hospital, [www.cavernahospital.com](http://www.cavernahospital.com). Caverna Memorial has served the community since 1967 as a critical care access hospital licensed for 25 beds. The hospital is conveniently located in southern Horse Cave on U.S. Highway 31-W about midway between downtown Horse Cave

and downtown Cave City. It is 5 minutes east of I-65 about half-way between Elizabethtown and Bowling Green, and also half-way between Louisville, KY and Nashville, TN.

There are ten members of the active medical staff with 21 other physicians maintaining either consulting or courtesy privileges at the hospital. The medical staff is diverse, experienced and totally committed to ensuring top-notch medical care at the facility. The employees are likewise committed to providing the best healthcare experience possible to every patient at each visit. The employees are consistently recognized by Alliant Management Services as being in the top 25 percent of system hospitals in terms of patient satisfaction survey results.

With a relentless commitment to providing high-quality hospital services, Caverna Memorial Hospital is well-positioned for a challenging future as they seek to build a better healthcare delivery system for their community.

Barren County is served by the Barren County Health Department, part of Barren River District Health, [www.barrenriverhealth.org](http://www.barrenriverhealth.org). The Health Department offers a wide-ranging number of environmental, clinical and community health services including: immunizations, screening, planning, counseling, educational programs and inspections. Through the Health Department's website, local health information can be found such as health status indicators, cancer occurrence rates and other health statistics. The Barren River District Health Department website is a source the community can use to find out about restaurant inspections, take a health quiz, take part in the 5-a-day challenge or learn about what precautions to take during a bioterrorism threat.

### **The Assessment**

The Barren County eCommunity Leadership Team found that the healthcare sector is beginning to use technology to its advantage and identified a large opportunity for technology applications within the healthcare community.

- **Networked Places** – In the category of networked places, Barren County's healthcare sector is currently at stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale with some doctors and nurses using laptop and palmtop devices connected to wireless networks to enter patient information and access databases.
- **Applications and Services** – In the category of technology applications and services, the healthcare sector is currently at stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale with many providers having informational websites, and many storing patient records electronically. Telemedicine is being evaluated, and some offices are electronically transmitting records to insurers for reimbursement.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the healthcare community, Barren County is currently at stage 2 on a 0 to 5 scale where some providers have begun the conversion to electronic medical records, and some are investigating how to deploy wireless technologies for mobile workers.

### **The Vision**

The Barren County eCommunity Leadership Team sees great potential for the use of technology in the healthcare sector but understands the industry is limited in its resources and ability to implement changes within a brief period. The team has set goals to move to stage 5 on a 0 to 5 scale in the networked places category, to stage 4 in the applications and services category, and to stage 5 in the leadership category. The team's vision includes:

- **Most equipment has been converted to digital**
- **Desktop videoconferencing** is routine at all hospitals and major clinics
- **Telephone systems have converted to VoIP** to save money
- **Remote monitoring of patients** with chronic conditions is standard procedure
- Some providers allow **patients to e-mail doctors**
- Most **providers store patient records electronically**
- Some lab **results and images are received electronically**
- Healthcare leaders see themselves as a **key part of the community's overall economic strategy**
- Leaders are visible and active in strategy development and implementation
- Executives of the region's hospitals, clinics, insurers, employers and other healthcare providers are **meeting regularly to find ways to collaboratively reduce the cost of healthcare** without compromising quality of service

## **LIBRARIES**

The Mary Wood Weldon Memorial Library, [www.weldonpubliclibrary.org](http://www.weldonpubliclibrary.org), is comprised of one main facility located in Glasgow, KY. The May Wood Weldon Memorial Library has an average total material circulation of almost 134,000 per year. The facility also contains 15 computer terminals for patron use, some of which are enabled for Internet access. The library makes many features available to patrons who prefer to access information about the library from the comfort of their own homes.

From the Weldon Memorial Library's website patrons can access the library's card catalog. A children's version of the catalog is also available for parents and children to use as they search for child-appropriate material. Users can access the library's calendar, a directory of staff and their contact information, as well as the library's hours of operation. There are also links to news and weather for the Barren County Area, the Barren County Genealogy website, the website for the city of Glasgow and a page specifically for children. Other links include: best selling books, new materials, library programs, authors of the month and general library information.

## **The Assessment**

The Barren County eCommunity Leadership Team found that the library sector had a great deal of potential with technology and could benefit a great deal from the implementation for more.

- **Networked Places** – In the category of networked places, the library sector is currently at stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale where there is rarely more than a 10-minute wait to use the Internet-enabled computers.
- **Applications and Services** – In the category of technology applications and services, the library sector is currently at stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale. Most libraries have catalogs online, and patrons may use the Internet to place books on hold and request books from other libraries in the library system. In addition, patrons can search online databases from home, school or work, and libraries host live video feeds of public interest events.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the library system, the sector is currently at stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale. The library research desk is an online community resource. Staff training on new technologies is a priority at most libraries. Libraries are using consultants to take advantage of e-rate and other discounts. Lastly, library policies reflect appropriate filtering requirements.

### The Vision

The Barren County eCommunity Leadership Team has set forth a two-year vision for enhancing the library so that it serves the community more effectively and efficiently, concentrating on networked places and leadership. The team set a goal of moving to stage 4 on a 0 to 5 scale in all three categories. The vision includes:

- Public libraries have **added network ports or wireless networks** and electrical outlets to carrels
- Patrons may **review their accounts online and pay fines by credit card**
- Patrons can **access the library online** as a portal for other online information services
- Libraries **help the community understand copyright issues and how to protect privacy on the Internet**
- New hires are required to have **experience using new technology**
- Libraries take internal responsibility for **continuing e-rate and other discounts**
- Libraries have **developed network management policies** and technologies to prevent patrons from sending spam

### HIGHER EDUCATION

The South Regional Postsecondary Education Center in Glasgow houses both Western Kentucky University and Bowling Green Technical College. The building was constructed in the fall of 2001, and has recently updated network connections since the original construction date. The building has Category 5 cabling with T-1 capabilities for all students. Even with all of the technologies available at the college, most students are limited at home because they are still using dial-up connections or limited cable access for Internet access, especially in the rural areas of the county and region.

Western Kentucky University's Glasgow Regional Center, [www.wku.edu/glasgow](http://www.wku.edu/glasgow), has a mission to offer a seamless postsecondary educational environment to its students, as well as to serve in the outreach missions of its two parent institutions. WKU offers 10 certificates, 8 associate degrees, portions of 15 bachelor degrees, and 8 graduate degrees at the Glasgow Regional Center. Some of the technology at the Center includes: Entrance Events Board, Interactive Video Service Rooms, a Mobile IVS Cart, SMART Boards, Classroom SMART Carts, Computer Labs, and Mobile Laptop Carts. Some of the labs include a Programmable Logic Controller Lab, a Welding Lab, Motors Control Lab, Fluid Power Lab, Cisco Lab and a HVAC Lab.

Bowling Green Technical College has two campuses in Glasgow: Glasgow Technical Campus, [www.bowlinggreen.kctcs.edu/gtc](http://www.bowlinggreen.kctcs.edu/gtc), and the Glasgow Health Campus, [www.bowlinggreen.kctcs.edu/ghc](http://www.bowlinggreen.kctcs.edu/ghc). The Glasgow Technical College's mission is to provide students with high quality education and training that will ensure employers in south central Kentucky have a skilled and versatile workforce. The Glasgow Health Campus was created in the area due to its nursing shortage. After a long history, the campus is now operated by the Bowling Green Technical College System. As of December 15, 2004, the 58th Practical Nursing class graduated bringing the total graduates to 1,973.

Other programs offered include:

- Medicaid Nurse Aide
- Medication Aide
- Emergency Medical Technician
- CPR/First Aid

The Glasgow Technical Campus has the bulk of the hands-on type courses for students. Other courses are available online such as math and some limited computer courses.

In Warren County, just west of Barren County, is the main campus of Western Kentucky University, [www.wku.edu](http://www.wku.edu). Its undergraduate division provides four-year programs leading to the Bachelor of Arts, the Bachelor of Fine Arts, the Bachelor of General Studies, the Bachelor of Science, the Bachelor of Science in Nursing and the Bachelor of Music degrees. Eighty-eight academic majors and 57 academic minors are available. A number of professional and pre-professional curricula provide additional options. Graduate Studies offers the Master of Arts, Master of Arts in Education, Master of Business Administration, Master of Science, Master of Music, Master of Public Service and the Master of Public Administration. Western also offers the Specialist Degree and Rank I and II programs.

Kentucky Virtual University (KYVU), [www.kyvu.org](http://www.kyvu.org), is the state's official virtual campus. Its mission is to be a student-centered, technology-based utility for the support of lifelong learning. Consistent with the statewide strategic agenda for postsecondary education, the primary purposes of KYVU are to enhance and expand educational access and increase educational attainment across Kentucky; upgrade workforce skills and expand professional development through basic and continuing education; increase collaboration and foster efficiency and effectiveness in delivering courses and programs; and increase global competitiveness of Kentucky's educational resources.

KYVU provides college credit, professional development and supplemental studies while providing a single access point to statewide learning support services over the Internet. KYVU serves as a clearinghouse for a growing list of online learning opportunities. Kentucky was the first state in the country to offer its residents a comprehensive package of online educational resources: a virtual university, a virtual high school ([www.kvhs.org](http://www.kvhs.org)) and a virtual library, which includes research help from reference librarians available at [www.kyvl.org](http://www.kyvl.org).

### **The Assessment**

The Barren County eCommunity Leadership Team found that the higher education sector is currently taking advantage of technology more than most others in the community; however, there is also a large opportunity to expand current services with technology applications.

- **Networked Places** – In the category of networked places, Barren County's higher education sector is currently at stage 5 on a 0 to 5 scale with many classrooms having been remodeled to include network connections and power outlets at every seat. Most students bring laptop computers or other network-enabled devices to class, and many classrooms have video equipment for recording lectures.
- **Applications and Services** – In the category of technology applications and services, the higher education sector is currently at stage 2 on a 0 to 5 scale where some faculty members are trained to use the Internet for instruction, and some classes use digital content and/or web-based content for instruction.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the higher education community, Barren County is currently at stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale where specialized courses are being developed to cater to area businesses seeking to improve the skills of workers. In addition, some colleges and universities have or are developing online classes to provide greater convenience for students and to increase student enrollment, and faculty training on new technology is a priority.

### **The Vision**

The Barren County eCommunity Leadership Team sees great potential for the use of technology in the higher education sector but understands that colleges and universities are limited in their resources and ability to implement changes within a brief period. The team has set goals of reaching stage 5 out of 5 in the category of network places along with reaching a stage 3 in the category of applications and services and reaching a stage 4 in leadership over the next two years. The team's vision includes:

- Many classrooms have been remodeled to **include network connections and power outlets at every seat**
- Most students **bring laptop computers or other network-enabled devices to class**
- Many **classrooms have video equipment** for recording lectures
- Many of the faculty are **trained to use the Internet for instruction**
- Many **classes use digital content and/or web-based content** for instruction
- **Students use chat rooms** to discuss lessons and ask questions of instructors outside of class hours
- **Online registration, catalogs and payment are available**
- Higher education and local businesses are **working together to raise the skill level of the current workforce**
- Community colleges are expanding their capacity by **using distance learning technologies to reduce the need for classroom time**
- Some colleges and universities are **developing online classes to market to students in other parts of the country and the world**

### **COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS**

There are approximately 110 community-based organizations in Barren County. These community organizations include religious, educational, charitable, scientific and literary organizations. Some examples of community-based organizations in Barren County are:

- United Way of Southern Kentucky, [www.uwsk.org](http://www.uwsk.org)
- Barren County Family YMCA, [www.barrencountyyymca.org](http://www.barrencountyyymca.org)
- Community Medical Care, [www.communitymedicalcare.org](http://www.communitymedicalcare.org)
- Boy Scouts of America, Shawnee Trails Council, [www.shawneetrails.org](http://www.shawneetrails.org)

The United Way of Southern Kentucky, [www.uwsk.org](http://www.uwsk.org), is a local, non-profit volunteer driven organization, which works to support health and human services in Southern Kentucky. Through their website, visitors can learn about the agencies served by United Way of Southern Kentucky, the regional need, resources available in each community, and learn more about the campaign drive, including information about how to make an online donation to the United Way.

### **Assessment**

The Barren County eCommunity Leadership Team found that the community-based organization sector is just beginning to use technology to its advantage and identified a large opportunity for technology applications within the community-based organizations.

- **Networked Places** – In the category of networked places, Barren County's community-based organization sector is currently at stage 2 on a 0 to 5 scale with some organizations having computers that are no older than three years old. Many organizations have e-mail, and some office employees have always-on connections to the Internet at their desks.

- **Applications and Services** – In the category of technology applications and services, the community-based organization sector is currently at stage 2 on a 0 to 5 scale with some organizations having informational websites.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the community-based organization community, Barren County is currently at stage 2 on a 0 to 5 scale. Organizations are minimally involved in community economic development issues. Little or no plans exist for better using telecommunications services and technologies, and some organizations provide technology training to their staff at least once a year.

### The Vision

The Barren County eCommunity Leadership Team sees great potential for the use of technology in the community-based organization sector but understands the sector is limited in its resources and ability to implement changes within a brief period. The team has set goals to move each of the three categories to stage 4 on a 0 to 5 scale. The team's vision includes:

- Many organizations with at least five employees have **direct connections to the Internet**
- All paid staff **have e-mail accounts**
- Some organizations **use VoIP to save money**
- Some office workers have converted from desktop computers to **portable wireless devices**
- Some office **computers have video cameras**
- Most organizations have an **informational website**
- A **unified portal provides** access to a broad range of community information and services
- **Most local chapters are able to share data with the parent organization**
- Some organization leaders are actively **involved in community economic development issues** and there are visible leaders taking a significant role in economic development
- Many organizations **plan to use telecommunications services and technologies** within the next year
- Most organizations **provide technology training** to their staff at least once a year

### GOVERNMENT

Government entities in Barren County are

- Barren County
- Cave City
- Glasgow (County Seat)
- Hiseville
- Park City.

The official website of Barren County, <http://barrenpva.ky.gov/>, ranks 42<sup>nd</sup> out of 60 official county websites in the state. The official Glasgow city website, <http://www.cityofglasgow.org>, ranks 38<sup>th</sup> out of 116 official city websites across the state. The official Park City website, <http://www.parkcity.ky.gov>, ranks 113<sup>th</sup> out of 116 official city websites across the state. Although Cave City is currently without an official City website, the Cave City Convention

Center and Tourism Bureau does offer an online presence for the community. Hiseville does not offer an official website.

A great deal of information and services are available through the Barren County Property Valuation Administration website, <http://barrenpva.ky.gov>. The goal of this website is to provide the information to its constituents in the most efficient way possible. General information dealing with a number of topics is available through the website such as information with real property, appeals process, appeals hearing, tangible property, agricultural exemption and much more.

The City of Glasgow, [www.cityofglasgow.org](http://www.cityofglasgow.org), has developed an online presence to keep the city residents informed on the latest happenings within city government. Through the website, a person can learn about the city officials, city council, employment, the historic Fort Williams, Barrens Big Band and more. Department websites are also available through the city website including the fire department, parks and recreation, administrative department, public works and Renaissance/Main Street.

Park City, [www.parkcity.ky.gov](http://www.parkcity.ky.gov), has also created a city website. Out of the 116 cities with official websites, Park City is the fourth smallest. Even though the Park City website is under construction, it still offers important information to its residents and potential visitors. Available information includes: business and civic-related information, city events, services, history, land use planning, driving directions and a city map.

### **The Assessment**

Although the government entities in Barren County have a limited online presence, the Barren County eCommunity Leadership Team found that the local government is currently using technology to improve processes in other areas.

- **Networked Places** – In the category of networked places, the government sector is currently at stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale with many employees having e-mail accounts. Some field workers are collecting data on laptop computers or palmtops, and webcams are starting to be deployed.
- **Applications and Services** – In the category of technology applications and services, the government sector is currently at stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale. Some e-government applications are available, such as simple building permit applications, e-mail listservs and some downloadable forms. E-mail from residents is manually routed to the appropriate departments, and some agencies routinely use the network to share data.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the government community, Barren County and its associated governments are currently at stage 2 on a 0 to 5 scale. Public agencies do not have a strategy for how best to use e-government. Minimal telecommunications planning has occurred, and elected officials are not involved in telecommunications issues.

### **The Vision**

The Barren County eCommunity Leadership Team has developed goals to provide a framework for robust e-government functions in the next two years, which will bring the sector to stage 4 in the category of networked places; the rating for applications and services to a stage 4; and the rating for leadership to stage 4. The team's vision includes:

- Some field workers **use wireless networks to upload and download data** in the field
- Some employees use **desktop videoconferencing**

- Sensors and **webcams monitor locations**, such as rivers that are important to public safety
- **Customers can make routine payments**, such as parking fines, **online using credit cards or electronic fund transfer**
- **Parks and recreation classes have online registration**
- Employees **can enter building inspections and violations from the field**
- Some agencies have a formal policy that **allows some employees to work from home at least one day a week**
- **Rights-of-way and tower siting policies** are in place
- Elected **officials understand the importance of the network** for economic development and quality of life

### **TOURISM, RECREATION AND PARK**

Tourism, recreation and park sector within Barren County is served by the Cave City Tourist and Convention Commission, [www.cavecity.com](http://www.cavecity.com). Through their website, visitors can learn about the many tourist attractions available throughout the Cave City area. From the web site, a person can schedule a cave tour, find sample itineraries, download coupons and more. Other sections available include a downloadable brochure, a listing of attractions, dining and stores and antiques, as well as printable maps and information regarding the Cave City Convention Center.

Also serving the tourism, recreation and parks sector is the Glasgow-Barren County Tourism Commission, [www.visitglasgowbarren.com](http://www.visitglasgowbarren.com). There are a number of recreational and tourism points of interest in Barren County with websites including:

- Barren River State Resort Park, <http://parks.ky.gov/resortparks/br/index.htm>
- Crystal Onyx Cave and Campground, <http://www.crystalonyxcave.com/>
- Diamond Caverns Golf Club, <http://www.mammothcave.com/dcrgolf.htm>
- Dinosaur World, <http://www.dinoworld.net/kentucky.htm>
- Floyd Collins Museum, <http://www.roadsideamerica.com/attract/KYCAVfloyd.html>
- Guntown Mountain, <http://www.mammothcave.com/guntown/index.htm>
- Hillbilly Hound Fun Park, <http://mammothcave.com/hound.htm>
- Kentucky Action Park/Jesse James Stables, <http://www.kentuckyactionpark.com/kyap-hrs.htm>
- Mammoth Cave Canoe and Kayak, <http://www.mammothcavecanoe-k.com/>
- Mammoth Cave Wax Museum, <http://www.mammothcavewaxmuseum.com/>
- Mammoth Cave Wildlife Museum, <http://www.mammothcave.com/guntown/wildlife.htm>
- Oakes Cabins and Campground, <http://www.theoakesmotel.com/>
- Onyx Cave, <http://www.mammothcave.com/guntown/onyxcave.htm>
- Singing Hills RV & Camping Park, [http://www.passport-america.com/campgrounds/united\\_states/kentucky/cave\\_city/singing\\_hills\\_campground/Default.asp](http://www.passport-america.com/campgrounds/united_states/kentucky/cave_city/singing_hills_campground/Default.asp)
- Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park Camp-Resort, <http://www.jellystonemammothcave.com/>
- Fox Hollow Golf Club, <http://www.foxhollowgolf.com/>
- South Central Kentucky Cultural Center, <http://www.cityofglasgow.org/sckcc/>

- Diamond Caverns, [http://www.cavecity.com/diamond\\_caverns.asp](http://www.cavecity.com/diamond_caverns.asp)
- Green River Canoe Outfitters, <http://www.mammothcavecanoe.com/>
- Park Mammoth Resort, [www.parkmammothresort.us](http://www.parkmammothresort.us)

### **The Assessment**

The Barren County eCommunity Leadership Team found that the tourism, recreation, and parks sector is beginning to use technology to its advantage and identified a large opportunity for technology applications within the tourism, recreation, and parks sector.

- **Networked Places** – In the category of networked places, Barren County’s tourism, recreation, and parks sector is currently at stage 2 on a 0 to 5 scale with some office employees having always-on connections to the Internet at their desks.
- **Applications and Services** – In the category of technology applications and services, the tourism, recreation, and parks sector is currently at stage 4 on a 0 to 5 scale. Some facilities have an informational website, and some outsource most of their computing services. Additionally, some facilities market themselves out of state or internationally, and some employees work remotely.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the tourism, recreation, and parks sector, Barren County is currently at stage 2 on a 0 to 5 scale where the Internet is seen as essential to business operations, and employees are trained on basic applications.

### **The Vision**

The Barren County eCommunity Leadership Team sees great potential for the use of technology in the tourism, recreation and parks sector but understands the industry is limited in its resources and ability to implement changes within a brief period. The team has set goals to move the networked places category to stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale, the applications and services category to stage 5, and the leadership category to stage 4. The team’s vision includes:

- Most office employees have **always-on connections** to the Internet at their desks
- Some mobile workers have laptop computers and **can access the office network remotely**
- **Affordable videoconferencing** facilities are available
- Some facilities **send and receive video mail**
- Some facilities **outsource most of their computing services**
- Some facilities routinely **use multiparty videoconferencing to coordinate operations**
- Some facilities permit some **employees to telework one or two days a week**
- Some facilities encourage employees to **take work-related classes online**
- Facilities work with educational partners to **raise workforce skill levels**

### **AGRICULTURE**

In 2002, there were 2,021 farms in Barren County comprising 240,440 acres or averaging 119 acres per farm. The total market value of production was \$62,794,000. Crop sales accounted for \$16,024,000 of the total value in 2002, and livestock sales accounted for \$46,770,000. The average market value of production per farm was \$31,071. Government payments totaled \$1,959,000 with an average of \$3,934 per farm. Barren County is ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in the value of agricultural products sold in the state. The leading agricultural products in sales in Barren County are:

1. Cattle and calves with \$20,670,000;
2. Milk and other dairy products from cows with \$15,974,000;
3. Poultry and eggs with \$9,463,000; and
4. Tobacco with \$9,386,000.

Barren County tobacco farmers received \$63,184,534 in burley payments from the Tobacco Buyout Program. There is no dark tobacco information available for Barren County.

In Barren County, the agricultural sector is served by Barren County's office of the University of Kentucky's Cooperative Extension Service, [ces.ca.uky.edu/Barren](http://ces.ca.uky.edu/Barren). The Cooperative Extension Service offers a wide variety of services and provides a great deal of information. Understanding the value of technology, the Cooperative Extension Service has high-speed Internet service in its office.

Additionally, the Barren County Cooperative Extension Service provides assistance in the areas of family and consumer sciences and 4H Youth Development. In family and consumer sciences, the goal is to help families eat healthy, spend smart, raise kids, and enjoy home. The mission of 4-H is to help young people become self-directing, productive and contributing members of society. Through their website, information is available to assist in accomplishing the goals outlined above.

Though most local farmers sell their products in small quantities or under contract, some pool their cattle making larger lots and take advantage of better marketing capabilities. These farmers use Internet marketing and communication to potential buyers as a way to gain interest in their sale animals. This method is proving to be very beneficial. Some producers are also using the Internet to locate and purchase equipment and parts, and for selling their commodities.

Producers of beef cattle will be more conducive to electronic technology because of the upcoming requirement of electronic identification for the age and source, as well as management document by their customers. The electronic identification may become mandatory for beef producers as early as 2008. Voluntary use of this technology has proven to be a great marketing tool for some local producers and has given them added profitability. Crop availability through online listings is also becoming a good marketing tool.

In July, 2006, The Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy established a Pilot Satellite Broadband Cost-Share Program for counties to adopt, using County Agricultural Development Funds. High-speed Internet (broadband) will allow Kentucky farmers to simplify important daily tasks, while developing marketing and sales opportunities. Internet resources will allow farmers to remain competitive and profitable in today's changing agricultural economy. ConnectKentucky is committed to assist as needed in efforts to establish county interest in adopting this program. Administrators may contact ConnectKentucky for assistance with vendor information, operation meetings or information about satellite broadband and service.

### **The Assessment**

The Barren County eCommunity Leadership Team found that the agricultural sector is just beginning to use technology to its advantage and identified a large opportunity for technology applications within the farming community.

- **Networked Places** – In the category of networked places, Barren County’s agricultural sector is currently at stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale with some suppliers and processors permitting employees periodically to telework, and some growers, suppliers and processors encouraging employees to take work-related classes online.
- **Applications and Services** – In the category of technology applications and services, the agriculture sector is currently at stage 2 on a 0 to 5 scale with some growers, suppliers, and processors having an informational website, and some growers, suppliers, and processors transmitting or receiving some orders electronically.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the agricultural community, Barren County is currently at stage 2 on a 0 to 5 scale where the Internet is seen as essential to business operations, and employees are trained on basic applications.

### **The Vision**


The Barren County eCommunity Leadership Team sees great potential for the use of technology in the agricultural sector but understands the industry is limited in its resources and ability to implement changes within a brief period. The team has set goals to move to stage 4 on a 0 to 5 scale in networked places and to stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale in the applications and services and leadership categories. The team’s vision includes:

- Some growers, suppliers, and processors use **VoIP to save money**
- Some workers have converted from desktop computers to **portable devices** with wireless connections
- Some office computers have **webcams for videoconferencing**
- Most growers, suppliers, and processors have **informational websites**
- Some websites can **accept credit card purchases**
- Some growers, suppliers, and processors participate in an **electronic supply chain**
- Some suppliers and processors permit employees periodically to **telework**

Some growers, suppliers, and processors encourage employees to take **work-related classes online**


<b>Business and Industry</b>	<b>Barren County</b>
------------------------------	----------------------

● Barren County's Benchmark Assessment Results are presented in red.  
 ■ Barren County's Vision for this Sector is presented in blue.

	Stage	Networked Places	Applications & Services	Leadership
<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;">Least Connected</div>  <div style="margin-top: 10px;">Most Connected</div> </div>	0	Not using the Internet.	No computer use or website. Customers use phone and postal mail.	No technology or telecom plan.
	1	Some employees have limited access to the Internet through a dial-up connection.	Some employees use basic e-mail services through their connection.	The Internet is considered a possible business enhancement.
	2	● Some office employees have always-on connections to the Internet at their desks.	Some businesses have an informational website. Some businesses transmit or receive some orders electronically.	● Some view the Internet as essential to business operations. Employees are trained on basic applications.
	3	■ Most office employees have always-on connections to the Internet at their desks. Some mobile workers have laptop computers and can access the office network remotely. Affordable videoconferencing facilities are available in the community.	● Most businesses have an informational website. Some retail websites can accept credit card transactions. Some businesses participate in the electronic supply chain.	Some businesses permit some employees periodically to telework. Some businesses encourage employees to take work-related classes offline. Employee training on new technology is a priority.
	4	Some businesses use Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) to save money. Some office workers have converted from desktop computers to portable device. Some office computers have webcams for videoconferencing.	■ Some businesses outsource most of their computer services. Some retailers and manufacturers sell goods out of state or internationally. Some employees work remotely, some out of state.	■ Some businesses permit some employees to telework one or two days a week. Some businesses encourage employees to take work-related courses online. Businesses are working with educational partners to raise workforce skill levels.
	5	Most businesses use Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) to save money. Most computers have video cameras. Some retailers and manufacturers use RFID (radio frequency identification) to track inventory and equipment.	Some businesses send and receive video mail. Some businesses outsource most of their computing services. Some businesses routinely use multiparty videoconferencing to coordinate operations.	Some businesses have restructured to focus on their core contribution and outsource nonessential functions. New hires are required to have experience using new technology in business applications.

● Barren County's Benchmark Assessment Results are presented in red.

■ Barren County's Vision for this Sector is presented in blue.


	Stage	Networked Places	Applications & Services	Leadership
 <p>Least Connected</p>	0	Not using the Internet.	Schools use phone and postal mail. Schools have no website.	There is no technology or telecom plan.
	1	Few middle and high schools have computer labs for students. Few classrooms/teachers have access to computer projectors.	Few schools have an informational website. The Internet is not used as a resource for instruction or homework assignments.	Few experienced teachers are trained on how to incorporate material from the Internet into their curriculum.
	2	Many middle and high schools have computer labs for students. Some classrooms and teachers have access to computer projectors.	Many schools have an informational website. The Internet is rarely used as a resource for instruction or homework assignments.	Few schools have plans for better using telecommunications services and technologies in their classrooms. Some experienced teachers are trained on how to incorporate material from the Internet into their curriculum.
	3	Schools provide at least one computer for every four students in grades K-12. Most classrooms have computers for student use. Some teachers use computer-based presentation tools and projectors for their lessons.	● Some schools have an interactive website that offers access to homework assignments and communication with teachers and administrators. Many teachers can incorporate Internet material into the curriculum. Teachers welcome e-mail from parents and students.	The school board sees opportunities to use the network to raise test scores and operate the school more efficiently. Teacher training on new technologies is a priority at most school districts. Schools are using consultants to take advantage of e-rate and other school discounts.
	4	● Some high school students are provided their own laptop computers at school. Many classroom teachers have access to digital projection capabilities. Most middle and high schools have video programs that allow students to produce and share shows on a public network. Some schools use wireless sensors to monitor energy consumption.	Many schools have an interactive website that offers access to homework assignments and e-mail contact with teachers and administrators. All teachers meet National Educational Technology Standards. Most students meet National Educational Technology Standards. Parents and family members are encouraged to participate in student learning via e-mail and online applications. Online classes are available to high school students via Internet-based instruction, including college online classes and Kentucky Virtual High School.	● Some schools have comprehensive plans for learning activities using technology in the classroom. New hires are required to have experience using new technology in the classroom. Computer labs are made available to family and community members. Schools take responsibility for continuing e-rate and other discounts.
	5	■ Many classrooms have large, flat-panel displays or projectors for video-based instruction. Most schools have converted their phone system to Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) to save money. Most high schools have one-to-one computing for their students. Some school computer labs have been made available to the public.	■ Schools use the network to connect students, teachers and parents, improve learning via online resources, and manage administrative responsibilities more efficiently. All students meet grade level requirements in the National Educational Technology Standards. Technology training is offered in the community. Many high school students use online teachers and experts to explore subjects and execute individual learning plans.	■ All schools have comprehensive plans for learning activities utilizing technology in the classroom. School districts actively promote information technology literacy to drive positive impacts on economic performance, skills and innovation in the classroom. The school system plays a vital role in raising the skill level and awareness of community and family members.
Most Connected				

# Healthcare

# Barren County

● Barren County's Benchmark Assessment Results are presented in red.

■ Barren County's Vision for this Sector is presented in blue.


	Stage	Networked Places	Applications & Services	Leadership
<p style="text-align: center;">Least Connected</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Most Connected</p>	0	Not using the Internet.	Customers use phone and postal mail. No website.	No technology or telecom plan.
	1	Some physicians and/or staff have access to the Internet through a dial-up connection.	Physicians and/or staff use a dial-up connection in order to access health-related sites.	Healthcare providers are considering what advantage may come from using the Internet in the office.
	2	Some doctors regularly use computers to enter and maintain patient records. Digital instruments and imaging equipment are being acquired.	Some providers have informational websites. Some providers store patient records electronically. Telemedicine is being evaluated. Some offices are electronically transmitting records to insurers for reimbursement.	● Some providers have begun the conversion to electronic medical records. Some providers are investigating how to deploy wireless technologies for mobile workers.
	3	● Some doctors and nurses are using laptop and palmtop devices connected to wireless networks to enter patient information and access databases.	● Many providers have informational websites. Many providers store patient records electronically. Telemedicine is being evaluated. Some offices are electronically transmitting records to insurers for reimbursement.	Many providers have begun the conversion to electronic medical records. Many providers are investigating how to deploy wireless technologies for mobile workers.
	4	Internet-based video conferencing is used to consult experts and for training programs. Some patients are being monitored at home and at work via portable devices with wireless transmitters.	■ Some providers allow patients to e-mail doctors. Most providers store patient records electronically. Some lab results and images are received electronically.	Work is underway by some providers to begin online exchanging of test results and other medical records with appropriate parties. Healthcare leaders are talking with the community about enhancing online services and using the network to improve communitywide healthcare.
	5	■ Most equipment has been converted to digital. Desktop videoconferencing is routine at all hospitals and major clinics. Telephone systems have been converted to Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) to save money. Remote monitoring of patients with chronic conditions is standard procedure.	All providers allow patients to schedule appointments, view records and get advice online. All patient records are stored electronically and routinely sent electronically to distant providers to aid diagnosis and treatment for emergency patients. Telemedicine routinely is used to access specialists. Wireless feeds in ambulances provide real-time patient assessment to ER staff.	■ Healthcare leaders see themselves as a key part of the community's overall economic strategy. Leaders are visible and active in strategy development and implementation. Executives of the region's hospitals, clinics, insurers, employers and other healthcare providers are meeting regularly to find ways to collaboratively reduce the cost of healthcare without compromising quality of service.

# Libraries

# Barren County

● Barren County's Benchmark Assessment Results are presented in red.

■ Barren County's Vision for this Sector is presented in blue.


	Stage	Networked Places	Applications & Services	Leadership
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Least Connected</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Most Connected</b></p>	0	Libraries do not provide Internet access.	Customers use postal mail or phone. No website.	There is no technology or telecom plan.
	1	Some employees have access to a dial-up connection.	Some employees are accessing e-mail and library-related websites.	Employees are accessing the Internet in order to help the patrons of the facility.
	2	Public libraries provide several computers with free access to the Internet.	Most libraries have a website with basic information about hours of operation and location.	Libraries are the first to offer free access and instruction in the use of the Internet.
	3	● There is rarely more than a 10-minute wait to use the Internet-enabled computers.	● Most libraries have catalogs online. Patrons may use the Internet to place books on hold and request books from other libraries in the library system. Patrons can search online databases from home, school, or work. Libraries host live video feeds of public interest events.	● The library research desk is an online community resource. Staff training on new technologies is a priority at most libraries. Libraries are using consultants to take advantage of e-rate and other discounts. Library policies reflect appropriate filtering requirements.
	4	■ Public libraries have added network ports or wireless networks and electrical outlets to carrels.	■ Patrons may review their accounts online and pay fines by credit card. Patrons can access the library online as a portal for other online information services.	■ Libraries help the community understand copyright issues and how to protect privacy on the Internet. New hires are required to have experience using new technology. Libraries take internal responsibility for continuing e-rate and other discounts. Libraries have developed network management policies and technologies to prevent patrons from sending spam.
	5	Most public libraries offer patrons a 54 mbps or faster wireless network.	Public libraries offer live video consultations. Public libraries allow patrons to borrow e-books over the Internet. They help patrons conduct research and assist with legal access to copyrighted databases and publications, including music and movies. Two-way videoconferencing is available to the general public.	Libraries continue to upgrade their facilities to offer the community the next generation in technology, services and training. Libraries actively promote information technology literacy to drive positive impacts on economic performance, skills, and innovation in the community.

# Higher Education

# Barren County

● Barren County's Benchmark Assessment Results are presented in red.

■ Barren County's Vision for this Sector is presented in blue. (Blue is used when Assessment and Vision are the same.)


	Stage	Networked Places	Applications & Services	Leadership
<p style="text-align: center;">Least Connected</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Most Connected</p>	0	Not using the Internet.	Use phone and postal mail.	There is no technology or telecom plan.
	1	Some on-campus residents have broadband connections through non-university providers.	Few faculty members are trained to use the Internet for instruction. Few classes use digital content and/or web-based content for instruction.	Few departments have plans for better utilizing telecommunications services and technologies in their operations.
	2	Most on-campus residences have a 10 mbps connection to the network. Some classrooms are wired to the college/university network and are equipped with digital projection capabilities.	● Some faculty members are trained to use the Internet for instruction. ● Some classes use digital content and/or web-based content for instruction.	Few departments have plans for better utilizing telecommunications services and technologies in their operations.
	3	Most on-campus residences have connections to the network in every room at least 10 mbps. Some classrooms have projection equipment that allows the instructor to display videos from the Internet into the classroom.	■ Many of the faculty are trained to use the Internet for instruction. ■ Many classes use digital content and/or web-based content for instruction. ■ Students use chat rooms to discuss lessons and ask questions of instructors outside of class hours. ■ Online registration, catalogs and payment are available.	● Specialized courses have been developed to cater to area businesses seeking to improve the skills of workers. ● Some colleges and universities have or are developing online classes to provide greater convenience for students and to increase student enrollment. ● Faculty training on new technology is a priority.
	4	Some classrooms have been remodeled to include network connections and power outlets at every seat. Many students bring laptop computers or other network-enabled devices to class. Some classrooms have video equipment for recording lectures.	Most of the faculty are trained to use the Internet for instruction. Most classes use digital content and web-based content for instruction. Some undergraduate students take distance learning classes for specialized subjects and graduate-level research.	■ Higher education and local businesses are working together to raise the skill level of the current workforce. ■ Community colleges are expanding their capacity by using distance learning technologies to reduce the need for classroom time. ■ Some colleges and universities are developing online classes to market to students in other parts of the country and the world.
	5	● ■ Many classrooms have been remodeled to include network connections and power outlets at every seat. ■ Most students bring laptop computers or other network-enabled devices to class. ■ Many classrooms have video equipment for recording lectures.	Many undergraduate students take distance learning classes for specialized subjects and graduate-level research. All aspects of higher education are available through the network including instruction and administration.	Colleges and universities see themselves as a vital partner in the community's economic development strategy and have formed partnerships with local businesses to provide skilled technology workers and innovative solutions. Colleges and universities actively promote information technology literacy to drive positive impacts on economic performance, skills, and innovation in the classroom.

# Community-Based Organizations

# Barren County

● Barren County's Benchmark Assessment Results are presented in red.

■ Barren County's Vision for this Sector is presented in blue.


	Stage	Networked Places	Applications & Services	Leadership
 <p>Least Connected</p> <p>Most Connected</p>	0	Not using the Internet.	No computer use. No website. Use phone and postal mail.	No technology or telecom plan.
	1	Accessing the Internet through a limited dial-up connection.	Currently using e-mail and possibly other basic Internet functions.	The Internet is seen as a possible enhancement and marketing tool.
	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Some organizations have computers that are no older than three years old.</li> <li>Many organizations have e-mail.</li> <li>Some office employees have always-on connections to the Internet at their desks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Some organizations have informational websites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Organizations are minimally involved in community economic development issues.</li> <li>Little or no plans exist for better using telecommunications services and technologies.</li> <li>Some organizations provide technology training to their staff at least once a year.</li> </ul>
	3	<p>Most organizations with at least five paid staff have at least one computer for every three employees.</p> <p>Many organizations have e-mail.</p>	<p>Many organizations have an informational website.</p> <p>Many local chapters are able to share data electronically with the national parent organization.</p> <p>Some organizations accept online donations.</p>	<p>Some organizations are involved in specific economic development initiatives, but most do not participate.</p> <p>Some organizations plan to use telecommunications services and technologies within the next year.</p> <p>Some organizations provide technology training to their staff at least once a year.</p>
	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Many organizations with at least five employees have direct connections to the Internet.</li> <li>All paid staff have e-mail accounts.</li> <li>Some organizations use Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) to save money.</li> <li>Some office workers have converted from desktop computers to portable wireless devices.</li> <li>Some office computers have video cameras.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Most organizations have an informational website.</li> <li>A unified portal provides access to a broad range of community information and services.</li> <li>Most local chapters are able to share data with the parent organization.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Some organization leaders are actively involved in community economic development issues and there are visible leaders taking a significant role in economic development.</li> <li>Many organizations plan to use telecommunications services and technologies within the next year.</li> <li>Most organizations provide technology training to their staff at least once a year.</li> </ul>
	5	<p>Many organizations use Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP).</p> <p>Every organization is connected to the Internet.</p> <p>Every computer can access the Internet via a local area network.</p> <p>Many computers have video cameras.</p> <p>Most organizations use affordable videoconferencing facilities.</p>	<p>Most organizations accept online donations.</p> <p>Some organizations use an interactive service to further engage the community and make their services more broadly available.</p> <p>Electronic data sharing is a common practice between organizations locally and with national parent organizations.</p>	<p>Organizations collaborate with one another regularly to share resources and provide up-to-date training to their employees and volunteers.</p> <p>Organizations have a defined role in supporting local economic development initiatives.</p> <p>Most organizations plan to use telecommunications services and technologies within the next year.</p>

**Government**

**Barren County**

● Barren County's Benchmark Assessment Results are presented in red.

■ Barren County's Vision for this Sector is presented in blue.


	Stage	Networked Places	Applications & Services	Leadership
<p style="text-align: center;">Least Connected</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Most Connected</p>	0	Not using the Internet.	No website.	There is no technology or telecom plan.
	1	Select employees have access to the Internet through a dial-up connection.	Some employees use the Internet for e-mail purposes.	The Internet is seen as a possible way to enhance the basic daily operations.
	2	Some employees have e-mail accounts.	Most public agency websites offer informational features such as a community calendar, staff directory and downloadable forms. Customers rely mostly on postal mail and telephone to conduct business.	<p>● Public agencies do not have a strategy for how best to use e-government.</p> <p>Minimal telecommunications planning has occurred.</p> <p>Elected officials are not involved in telecommunications issues.</p>
	3	<p>● Many employees have e-mail accounts.</p> <p>Some field workers are collecting data on laptop computers or palmtops.</p> <p>Webcams are starting to be deployed.</p>	<p>● Some e-government applications are available, such as simple building permit applications, e-mail listservs and some downloadable forms.</p> <p>E-mail from residents is manually routed to the appropriate departments.</p> <p>Some agencies routinely use the network to share data.</p>	<p>Government staff is actively involved in framing technology and telecommunications issues.</p> <p>Processes are underway for enhancing connectivity, rights-of-way management, and information technology innovation.</p> <p>Employees are trained and knowledgeable about basic applications.</p>
	4	<p>■ Some field workers use wireless networks to upload and download data in the field.</p> <p>Some employees use desktop videoconferencing.</p> <p>Sensors and webcams monitor locations, such as rivers, that are important to public safety.</p>	<p>■ Customers can make routine payments, such as parking fines, online using credit cards or electronic fund transfer.</p> <p>Parks and recreation classes have online registration.</p> <p>Employees can enter building inspections and violations from the field.</p>	<p>■ Some agencies have a formal policy that allows some employees to work from home at least one day a week.</p> <p>Rights-of-way and tower siting policies are in place.</p> <p>Elected officials understand the importance of the network for economic development and quality of life.</p>
	5	<p>The telephone system is being converted to Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) to save money.</p> <p>Many field workers use wireless networks to upload and download data in the field.</p> <p>Critical traffic signals are connected.</p> <p>Desktop videoconferencing is widely available.</p>	<p>Interactive applications, such as customer relationship management, online GIS and video streaming are in regular use.</p> <p>Employees manage benefits programs on an intranet.</p> <p>Emergency response teams can reliably communicate across jurisdictions.</p> <p>Council meetings are indexed and available for searching and retrieval online.</p>	<p>The government has telecommunications, e-government and information technology master plans in place to guide its efforts.</p> <p>Innovative processes are used to collaborate with the private sector.</p>

# Tourism, Recreation and Parks

# Barren County

● Barren County's Benchmark Assessment Results are presented in red.

■ Barren County's Vision for this Sector is presented in blue.


	Stage	Networked Places	Applications & Services	Leadership
<p>Least Connected</p>  <p>Most Connected</p>	0	Not using the Internet.	No computer use. No website. Customers use phone and postal mail.	There is no technology or telecom plan.
	1	Some employees can access the Internet through a dial-up connection.	Some employees currently use the Internet for e-mail.	The Internet is seen as a possible way to enhance operations.
	2	● Some office employees have always-on connections to the Internet at their desks.	Some facilities have an informational website. Some facilities transmit or receive some reservations electronically.	● The Internet is seen as essential to business operations. Employees are trained on basic applications.
	3	■ Most office employees have always-on connections to the Internet at their desks. Some mobile workers have laptop computers and can access the office network remotely. Affordable videoconferencing facilities are available.	Most facilities have an informational website. Some websites can accept credit card purchases. Some facilities participate in an electronic supply chain.	Some facilities permit some employees periodically to telework. Some facilities encourage employees to take work-related classes online. Employee training on new technology is a priority.
	4	Some facilities use Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) to save money. Some office workers have converted from desktop computers to portable devices with wireless connections. Some office computers have webcams for videoconferencing.	● Some facilities outsource most of their computing services. Some facilities market themselves out of state or internationally. Some employees work remotely.	■ Some facilities permit some employees to telework one or two days a week. Some facilities encourage employees to take work-related classes online. Facilities work with educational partners to raise workforce skill levels.
	5	Most facilities use Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) to save money. Most computers have video cameras.	■ Some facilities send and receive video mail. Some facilities outsource most of their computing services. Some facilities routinely use multiparty videoconferencing to coordinate operations.	Some facilities have restructured to focus on their core contribution and outsource nonessential functions. New hires are required to have experience using new technology in business applications.

# Agriculture

# Barren County

● Barren County's Benchmark Assessment Results are presented in red.

■ Barren County's Vision for this Sector is presented in blue.

	Stage	Networked Places	Applications & Services	Leadership
<p style="text-align: center;">Least Connected</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Most Connected</p>	0	Not using the Internet.	No computer use. No website. All contacts via phone and postal mail.	There is no technology or telecom plan.
	1	Some growers, suppliers and processors have limited access through a dial-up connection.	Some growers, suppliers and processors use e-mail and Internet.	The Internet is seen as a possible enhancement to the way daily business is conducted.
	2	Some growers, suppliers and processors have always-on connections to the Internet at their desks.	● Some growers, suppliers and processors have an informational website. Some growers, suppliers, and processors transmit or receive some orders electronically.	● The Internet is seen as essential to business operations. Employees are trained on basic applications.
	3	● Most growers, suppliers and processors have always-on connections to the Internet. Some mobile workers have laptop computers and can access the network remotely. Affordable videoconferencing facilities are available in the community.	■ Most growers, suppliers and processors have informational websites. Some websites can accept credit card purchases. Some growers, suppliers and processors participate in an electronic supply chain.	■ Some suppliers and processors permit employees periodically to telework. Some growers, suppliers and processors encourage employees to take work-related classes online.
	4	■ Some growers, suppliers and processors use Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) to save money. Some workers have converted from desktop computers to portable devices with wireless connections. Some office computers have webcams for videoconferencing.	Some suppliers and processors outsource most of their computing services. Some growers, suppliers and processors sell goods out of state or internationally.	Training on new technology is a priority. Some processors and suppliers permit employees to telework one or two days a week.
	5	Most growers, suppliers and processors use Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) to save money. Most computers have video cameras. Some use Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) to track inventory and equipment.	Some growers, suppliers and processors send and receive video mail. Some outsource most of their computing services. Some routinely use multiparty videoconferencing to coordinate operations.	Some suppliers and producers have restructured to focus on their core contribution and outsource nonessential functions. New hires are required to have experience using new technology.



## **D. HOW DO WE GET THERE?**

## **D. HOW DO WE GET THERE?**

### **PROJECT CONCEPT: Education, Training, and Awareness for Barren County**

#### **LONG-TERM GOAL**

This project will work to bring organization, promotion and delivery of technology education, training and awareness to the entire community of Barren County.

#### **WHY IT'S IMPORTANT**

An educated community is essential in today's global economy. There are opportunities to leverage existing resources in Barren County to expand and enhance workforce training programs, encourage more post-secondary education, and create additional awareness within the community in regard to technology. Education, training and awareness are essential in our ability to expand technology within each sector of the community. These community sectors include: agriculture, business and industry, community-based organizations, government, healthcare, higher education, K-12 education, libraries, and tourism, parks and recreation.

#### **SPECIFIC MEASURABLE OUTCOMES**

(Criteria: clear, compelling, outcome-oriented, achievable within one year)

1. Inventory of all education/training/awareness resources in Barren County.
2. Development of additional education, training and awareness materials to further the use of technology and broadband applications.
3. Increase the citizen usage rates of computers and broadband in Barren County.

#### **STEPS TO ACHIEVE OUTCOME**

1. Identify all organizations within Barren County performing community education, training and awareness.
2. Divide current resources offered by organizations into three categories: education, training and awareness.
3. Determine which sectors could benefit from education/training/awareness opportunities.
4. Create new ways to market and promote opportunities to appropriate groups within the community.
5. Determine gaps in education/training/awareness and ways to fill those gaps.

#### **EDUCATIONAL TEAM**

Barren County Adult Education  
Barren County Community Education  
Barren County Cooperative Extension Service  
Barren County School District  
Barren River Area Development District  
Bowling Green Technical College

Caverna Independent School District  
Glasgow Independent School District  
Mary Wood Weldon Memorial Library  
Western Kentucky University

## **PROJECT CONCEPT: Conceptual Plan for E-Government Services in Barren County**

### **LONG TERM GOAL**

Using technology, this project will work to improve internal and external efficiencies within city and county government, allowing for better communication between the different government entities and the citizens of Barren County.

### **WHY IT'S IMPORTANT**

Technology will allow local governments to deliver more applications and improved services to constituents while saving money. E-government will assist in achieving this objective, as well make the services more accessible to the constituents. With growing public acceptance of online transactions and e-commerce growing dramatically, a well-planned e-government strategy will provide for the request for and delivery of local government services over the Internet.

### **SPECIFIC MEASURABLE OUTCOMES**

1. Determine the public need for electronic access to government.
2. Develop a strategy for significantly reducing visits by the public to government offices for routine transactions.
3. Identify applications specifically designed to help businesses interface with governments more efficiently.

### **STEPS TO ACHIEVE MEASURABLE OUTCOMES**

1. Review current e-government applications to identify areas containing gaps.
2. Develop a survey instrument to identify applications of public interest. Use the survey to examine potential e-government applications.
3. Identify high-volume services to target for automation/online service.
4. Identify partners and entities to assist in implementation.
5. Develop and launch applications.

### **E-GOVERNMENT TEAM**

Barren County	Cave City
City of Glasgow	City of Hiseville
Park City	

## **POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS**

### **Business and Industry**

- Educate small businesses about telecommunications services and the benefits of using technology in business.
- Create a technologically capable workforce through training and skills development.
- Identify ways to reduce the cost of connecting to the Internet and find potential funding sources for small businesses.
- Get businesses together to aggregate demand for high-speed services, create a more attractive market for infrastructure providers and ensure that the services meet local needs.
- Organize demonstrations of the new technologies and present local role-model users.
- Develop a media campaign to help consumers and businesses understand the benefits of high-speed services and the Internet.
- Encourage Internet access from home for education, business, shopping, eBay and banking.
- Offer basic training classes on how to use e-mail, search the Internet and perform research.
- Develop a services directory for local IT-related services in the county including a list of local providers for technical support, comprised of individuals, businesses and schools.

### **Education**

- Provide training in information technology resources, especially for support staff and classified personnel.
- Establish a countywide consortium (made up of public and private schools and adult education) to consolidate technology planning in the education sector.
- Develop strategies for bridging the digital divide, such as after-school programs and community centers.
- Expand wide-area resources and increase bandwidth.
- Create web-based instructional materials.
- Identify options for opening school computer labs to the community after hours.
- Seek technology proficiency of Level 1-3 for K-12 teachers.

- Expand student, parent and teacher access to student information such as homework assignments and attendance records.
- Strive to have 10 percent of high school students and teachers complete one distance learning course per year.
- Win the support of school boards for increased resources for technology and training.
- Promote technology integration in classrooms and on teacher websites.
- Encourage parent involvement through technology
  - Provide iSafe training for students and parents
  - Encourage parents to access and use STI and i-High sites
  - Provide laptops for students to check out for home use
- Train students to provide technical support.
- Create an interactive online calendar for school events
  - Look at using calendar for entire community
  - Run ads in local papers and radio stations to advertise availability

### **Healthcare**

- Develop a survey for providers to gather baseline information on usage of technology in healthcare. Topics should include: e-mail access, Internet access, websites, electronic records, billing and telemedicine initiatives.
- Identify funding methods for enhancing educational infrastructure.
- Educate providers on available technologies and the benefits of technology in medicine.
- Provide safe, vendor-neutral, information technology training for healthcare providers, using the state and community and technical colleges, adult education programs and libraries.
- Using public and private partnerships, ensure that small providers and rural areas have access to affordable, high-speed networks so they can participate in telemedicine and teleconferencing services.
- Seek grants to upgrade technology and train medical staff.
- Develop better strategies to retain technical and professional healthcare staff.
- Create a focus group to identify the barriers to using technology in private practice.
- Educate doctors about how they can use technology in their offices.

- Provide basic technology education for healthcare providers, using state and community and technical colleges, adult education, distance learning and the library.
- Keep patient data on a central database shared among all medical providers to minimize the number of forms patients have to fill out on each visit. This would enable providers to avoid copying and faxing patient information.
- Provide online appointment scheduling and verification.

### **Library**

- Increase the number of public-access computers.
- Provide ports or wireless access points where patrons with laptop computers can connect to high-speed lines.
- Increase the use of mobile computer stations and broadband Internet in bookmobiles or outfitted vans, especially in rural areas.
- Market the current capabilities and services of the library system.
- Improve the current website and expand the library's ability to interact with patrons.
- Make library services more user-friendly.
- Offer more instruction on how to take advantage of the web's resources.
- Complete automation and networking.
- Explore options to increase customer-initiated transactions online, such as paying fines and accessing subscription databases.
- Market the training classes that are currently available.
- Develop more thorough employee technology training programs.

### **Higher Education**

- Develop wireless networks to allow students and faculty seamless access to the campus network.
- Develop advanced applications like Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) to save resources and enhance services.
- Substantially increase the number of web-enhanced and online courses.
- Identify an ongoing source of funds for technology acquisition and support.

- Provide continuous training to all educators and staff on technology use and applications.
- Provide information technology resources to the community, as well as educate the end-users in the use of technology.
- Inventory and market existing online training opportunities in the county.
- Encourage citizens to take advantage of the online classes already available.
- Encourage certification to reduce drive time and cost.
- Increase computer literacy by introducing new classes and training techniques.

### **Community-Based Organizations**

- Provide technical training programs for non-profits and for-profits to meet their special needs.
- Develop collaborative partnerships with educational institutions and corporate partners to provide web services and equipment.
- Recruit university and high school students to develop websites.
- Utilize a community portal that expands use of a variety of applications.

### **Government**

- Improve the ability to conduct business with government over the Internet, such as permitting, purchasing and payments.
- Increase the number of public access terminals in the county.
- Encourage inter-governmental sharing of software, information and e-commerce concepts.
- Allow the donation of appropriate surplus computers to non-governmental organizations and individuals.
- Develop more thorough employee technology training programs.
- Develop partnerships with businesses and grassroots organizations to improve technology usage countywide.
- Create a strategic plan to improve all automated systems, re-engineer manual procedures and restructure how departments collaborate.
- Use streaming video to broadcast council or court meetings on the Internet.

- Build a public-private consortium to identify best practices in website design and content, such as ADA compliance, multiple language support and navigation techniques.
- Create a county website and post all meeting agendas, minutes and attachments online.
- Provide training and awareness to senior citizens.
- Teach senior citizens how to file medical claims and insurance online.

### **Tourism, Recreation & Parks**

- Encourage more local companies to sell their goods and services online to promote local businesses and increase sales.
- Develop programs to set up public access points in malls, public buildings and farm worker communities.
- Encourage local hotels to provide computers and high-speed Internet access to their occupants.
- Get all organizations and hotels online with links to the tourism website.
- Provide wireless access at parks.

### **Agriculture**

- Increase broadband awareness among the agricultural community and develop educational materials to help them understand the importance of broadband.
- Create a list of providers to help the agricultural sector understand what service is available and from whom.
- Consider creating a local agricultural portal for sharing news and market information.
- Create and promote the use of videoconferencing centers for use by the agricultural community, and create promotional materials to show possible usages of video conferencing.
- Create and promote materials for the new eXtension service, a national web-based information and education network providing 24/7/365 access to objective, science-based information from universities and partners nationwide.
- Develop educational materials to help the agricultural community understand the importance of broadband and what is available.
- Promote online sales and auctions.