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Commonwealth!



**CONNECT ANDERSON
COUNTY**



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ANDERSON COUNTY STRATEGIC TECHNOLOGY PLAN

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A. Executive Summary

A. Executive Summary

Purpose

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

Summary

Anderson County’s e-Community Leadership Team is leading the way into a new economy for Anderson 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 44th in its proportion of high-tech companies, 45th in household computer use, and 43rd 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 Anderson 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
- Community-based organizations

This project has culminated in the development of initiatives to increase the competitiveness of Anderson 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 Anderson 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 Anderson County by 2007.

ConnectKentucky recommends that Anderson 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 Anderson 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?

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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 Anderson 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.

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

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 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. 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, 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 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 coops 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?

County Profile and Leadership Team Comments

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

Anderson is among Kentucky's most unique counties for many reasons, not the least of which is that it's home to the state's only burgoo festival. On the outer edge of the "Golden Triangle," Anderson County is a growing, family-friendly community with easy access to all the amenities of Frankfort, Lexington, and Louisville via Route 127, Interstate 64, or the Bluegrass Parkway. Anderson County's Business and Industry sector is served primarily by the Anderson Community Development Office and the Anderson Chamber of Commerce, www.andersoncoc.org, in Lawrenceburg. These entities understand the value of technology and its impact on businesses and growth.

According to a Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development estimate, by 2006, there will be 1,345 Anderson Countians who will turn 18 and enter the workforce. This represents quite an opportunity for potential employers entering the area. The economy of Anderson County is based on industry, centered around Lawrenceburg, and on agriculture. Many county residents commute north to state government jobs in Frankfort. The Bluegrass Parkway, which provides rapid access to Versailles and Lexington, made the county one of the fastest-growing areas in the Bluegrass region during the 1980s.

Anderson County businesses employ 3,995 workers. Manufacturing is the leading industry sector with 1,252 employees, followed by services and the trade/transportation/utilities sector with 808 and 618 employees, respectively. General Cable is the leading single employer with 400 employees; YKK Snap Fasteners America, Inc. has 330; Florida Tile Industries, Inc. has 190; and Wild Turkey Distillery employs 138. Anderson County has experienced six manufacturing expansions and one supportive/service expansion since 2002.

The Assessment

- **Networked Places** – In the category of networked places, Anderson County's business and industry sector scored a 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, business and industry scored a 2 on a 0 to 5 scale. The team found that some businesses have informational websites, and some businesses transmit or receive orders electronically.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the business community, Anderson County scored a 2 on a 0 to 5 scale. Some view the Internet as essential to business operations, and employees are trained on basic applications.

The Vision

While the Anderson 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 to a score of 3 in the three categories outlined above. 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.
- Most businesses have **informational websites**.
- Some retail websites can **accept credit card** transactions.
- Some businesses permit some employees periodically to **telework**.
- Employee **training** on new technology is a priority.
- Affordable **videoconferencing** facilities are available in the community
- Some businesses participate in **electronic supply** chain.
- Some businesses encourage employees to take **work-related classes** offline

EDUCATION K-12

Anderson County Schools enrolled 3,657 in 2003-2004. Anderson County retention and dropout rates are lower than state averages. The percentage of Anderson County graduates who go straight to work is significantly higher than state averages (26.7 percent for the state and 42.7 percent for Anderson County). Technology in Anderson County schools is integrated according to the guidelines established in the Kentucky Department of Education Core Content and Program of Studies.

There are two non-public schools in Anderson County: Abundant Life Christian Academy (PK-4), which enrolls 35 students, and Christian Academy of Lawrenceburg (PK-12), which enrolls 128 students.

The Assessment

In its evaluation, the Anderson 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:

- **Network Places** – In the category of network places, Anderson County's K-12 education sector scored a 3 on a 0 to 5 scale. Most schools provide at least one computer for every five students in grades seven and above. Most classrooms have computers for student use, and some teachers use computer-based presentation tools and projectors for their lessons.
- **Applications and Services** – In the category of technology applications and services, the education sector scored a 3 on a 0 to 5 scale. Many 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-based lesson plans into the curriculum, and most teachers welcome e-mail from parents and students.

- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the education sector, Anderson County scored a 4 on a 0 to 5 scale. Some schools have comprehensive plans for learning activities utilizing technology in the classroom, and computer labs are made available to family and community members.

The Vision

The Anderson 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 vision includes:

- **Interactive school websites** that offer access to homework assignments and e-mail contact with teachers and administrators;
- Teachers use computer-based **presentation tools** and projectors for their lessons
- **Parents and family members will be encouraged to participate** in student learning via e-mail and online applications;
- When appropriate, seniors will take **college-level classes on the Internet**;
- **Comprehensive plans** for learning activities will use technology in the classroom;
- New hires will be **required to have experience using new technology** in the classroom;
- **Computer labs** are made available to family and community members.
- Some seniors are taking **college-level classes** on the Internet

HEALTHCARE

Anderson County's healthcare needs are served by the Frankfort Regional Hospital in nearby Frankfort. There is also a County Health Department in Lawrenceburg.

The Assessment

The Anderson 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 community.

- **Network Places** – In the category of network places, Anderson County's healthcare sector scored a 2 on a 0 to 5 scale. Some doctors and nurses regularly use computers to enter and maintain patient records. Digital instruments and imaging equipment are being acquired.
- **Applications and Services** – In the category of technology applications and services, the healthcare sector scored a 1 on a 0 to 5 scale. Physicians and/or staff are utilizing a dial-up connection in order to access health-related sites.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the healthcare community, Anderson County scored a 2 on a 0 to 5 scale. Some providers have begun the conversion to medical records. Some providers are investigating how to deploy wireless technologies for mobile workers.

The Vision

The Anderson 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 each of the three categories to a rating of 3 on a 0 to 5 scale. The team's vision includes:

- 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**

LIBRARIES

The Anderson County Public Library, www.andersonpubliclibrary.org, was opened on November 8, 1908 with funds from Andrew Carnegie and a local library tax. The current location was opened in 1974 and is now named the Anderson County Public Library. The library operates a bookmobile. Computers with Internet access are available to all adult patrons. The library has an online card catalog. Staff members already use PC's for video conferencing. The library is exploring RFID and they have obtained several preliminary cost figures.

The Internet is essential to the library. The staff has had training on the new system to varying degrees. All staff members are encouraged to take classes that will benefit their work. Three staff members are signed up for on-line courses this fall through LCC.

The virtual university and virtual library are two avenues Kentuckians statewide can utilize to create equal access to college and to help "level the playing field" for all citizens willing to do the work. The library currently uses DSL for online needs. Wireless applications are being researched, but the security aspects need to be evaluated before continuing with that research.

The library's resources are primarily generated by local tax dollars. It receives about \$22,000 from state aid. Completion is coming to a close on the newly expanded facility, which has increased in size from 5,500 square feet to 13,444 square feet. The only limitation placed on library patrons is the inability to check out materials if there are outstanding fines or overdue materials.

The Assessment

The Anderson County eCommunity Leadership Team found that the library rated higher overall than most other sectors in its current use of technology.

- **Network Places** – In the category of network places, libraries scored a 3 on a 0 to 5 scale. There seems to be an adequate number of computers for

- those currently needing access; there is rarely more than a 10-minute wait for computer resources.
- **Applications and Services** – In the category of technology applications and services, libraries again scored a 2 on a 0 to 5 scale. The Anderson County Library has a website with basic information about hours of operation and location.
 - **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the library system, the sector again scores a 2 on a 0 to 5 scale. The Library is one of the first to offer free access and instruction in the use of the Internet.

The Vision

The 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 network places and leadership. The team set an aggressive goal for the category of network places, with plans to move from a score of 3 to 5 in two years. The vision includes:

- A publicly accessible wireless network with a **minimum speed of 100 mbps**, allowing for more productive time on computers;
- **Increased number of network ports or wireless networks** and electrical outlets to carrels.
- The library research desk is an online community resource, with their **catalogs available online**.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Bluegrass Community & Technical College, <http://www.central.kctcs.edu/Anderson>, in Lawrenceburg offers classes in Industrial Maintenance, Environmental Technology, Industrial Electricity, Electronics, Office Systems Technology, Fire Rescue, Fire Science, and Adult Basic Education. BCTC currently has a 100mb LAN with a 3MB Wan connection through KPEN, with fiber connectivity from the central communications room to each end of the building. Internet access is available on every computer in the building. Some wireless access points have been installed, and the signal covers 70 percent of the building. As students use technology as a learning tool in or outside of the classroom, it is imperative that the county have advanced communication support for them. In the future, wireless coverage should be expanded to 100 percent at every school in the district. VoIP phone systems were recently installed in December of 2005.

The Assessment

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

- **Network Places** – In the category of network places, Anderson County's higher education sector scored a 3 on a 0 to 5 scale. Some classrooms have projection equipment that allows the instructor to display videos from the Internet into the classroom.
- **Applications and Services** – In the category of technology applications and services, the higher education sector scored a 3 on a 0 to 5 scale. Many

- faculty members are trained to use the Internet for instruction. Many classes use digital content and/or web-based content for instruction.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the higher education community, Anderson County scored a 4 on a 0 to 5 scale. Higher education and local businesses are working together to raise the skill level of the current workforce, and they are expanding their capacity by using distance learning technologies.

The Vision

The Anderson 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 achieving a rating of 4 out of 5 in the category of applications and services over the next two years, as well as a rating of 5 out of 5 in leadership. The team's vision includes:

- Some classrooms have projection equipment that allows the instructor to **display videos from the Internet into the classroom**
- Some students bring **laptop computers** or other **network-enabled devices** to class;
- Most of the faculty are trained to use the **Internet** for instruction;
- Most classes use **digital content and/or web-based content** for instruction;
- Some undergraduate students take **distance learning** classes for specialized subjects and graduate-level research;
- The college sees itself as a **vital partner in the community's economic development strategy** and has formed partnerships with local businesses to provide skilled technology workers and innovative solutions; and
- The college **actively promotes technology literacy** to drive positive impacts on economic performance, skills, and innovation in the classroom.

COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

There are approximately 65 non-profit organizations in Anderson County. These community-based organizations include religious, educational, charitable, scientific or literary organizations.

The Assessment

The Anderson 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.

- **Network Places** – In the category of network places, Anderson County's community-based organization sector scored a 2 on a 0 to 5 scale. Some organizations have computers that are no older than three years old. Many have e-mail. 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 scored a 2 on a 0 to 5 scale. Some organizations have informational websites.

- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the community-based organization community, Anderson County scored a 2 on a 0 to 5 scale. Organizations are minimally involved in economic development issues. Little or no plans exist for better utilizing telecommunications services and technologies. Some organizations provide technology training to their staff at least once a year.

The Vision

The Anderson 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 above to a rating of 3 on a 0 to 5 scale. The team's vision includes:

- Most **community-based organizations have e-mail**.
- Many organizations have an **informational website**.
- Many local chapters are able to **share data electronically** with the national parent organization.
- Some organizations **accept online donations**.
- Some organizations are involved in specific **economic development** initiatives, but most do not participate.
- Some organizations plan to use **telecommunications services and technologies** within the next year.
- Some organizations provide **technology training to their staff** at least once per year.

GOVERNMENT

Anderson County government entities include Anderson County and Lawrenceburg (county seat). The County government does not have an official website. The city of Lawrenceburg is in the process of updating its website.

The Assessment

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

- **Network Places** – In the category of network places, the government sector scored a 2 on a 0 to 5 scale. Some employees have e-mail accounts.
- **Applications and Services** – In the category of technology applications and services, the government sector scored a 1 on a 0 to 5 scale. Some employees use the Internet for e-mail purposes.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the government community, Anderson County and its associated governments scored a 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.
- Elected officials are not involved in telecommunications issues.

The Vision

The Anderson County eCommunity Leadership Team has developed goals to provide a framework for e-government functions in the next two years, bringing the rating in each category up to a 3. The team's vision includes:

- Many employees have **e-mail accounts**.
- Some field workers are **collecting data on laptop computers or palmtops**.
- **Webcams** are starting to be deployed.
- 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.
- Some agencies routinely **use the network to share data**.
- Government staff is **actively involved in framing technology and telecommunications** issues.
- Processes are underway for **enhancing connectivity, rights-of-way management, and IT innovation**.
- Employees are **trained and knowledgeable on basic applications**.

TOURISM, RECREATION & PARKS

Anderson County attractions include Beaver Lake, Four Roses Distillery, Wild Turkey Distillery, and Lovers Leap Winery. Anderson is among Kentucky's most unique counties and is the home of the state's only burgoo festival. It is also home of the Tyrone Railroad Bridge, called Young's High Bridge. It was named after William Bennett Henderson Young, president of the Louisville Southern Railroad. The bridge was built by the Union Bridge Company of New York. It is 1,659 feet in length, 283 feet above the low water mark, and has a 551-foot-long cantilever span. When it was built, it was one of the highest of its kind, and had the longest cantilever span. The bridge is unique for never having been rebuilt, modified, or strengthened. It stands today as it was originally built. Young's High Bridge has not been condemned and is listed by Norfolk Southern as out of service. The bridge is structurally sound and can still carry its weight limit.

The Assessment

The Anderson 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.

- **Network Places** – In the category of network places, Anderson County's tourism, recreation, and parks sector scored a 1 on a 0 to 5 scale. Some employees can access the Internet through a dial-up connection.
- **Applications and Services** – In the category of technology applications and services, the tourism, recreation and parks sector scored a 1 on a 0 to 5 scale. Some employees currently utilize the Internet for the purpose of e-mail.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the tourism, recreation and parks sector, Anderson County scored a 1 on a 0 to 5 scale. The Internet is seen as a possible way to enhance operations.

The Vision

The Anderson County eCommunity Leadership Team sees great potential for the use of technology in the tourism 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 each of the three categories above to a rating of 2 on a 0 to 5 scale. The team's vision includes:

- 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**.

AGRICULTURE

In 2002, Anderson County had 748 farms totaling 83,857 acres. The average farm size is 112 acres. The market value or production was nearly \$9 million in 2002. Of that figure, livestock accounted for \$6.2 million. The average market value per farm was just under \$12,000. Government payments in 2002 were up 32 percent from 1997 levels, going from \$128,000 to \$169,000. Cattle and calves are the leading agricultural product followed by tobacco and milk/dairy. Total burley payments in 2002 were \$17,987,000. There were no dark tobacco payments in that year.

The Assessment

The Anderson 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.

- **Network Places** – In the category of network places, Anderson County's agricultural sector scored a 2 on a 0 to 5 scale. Some growers, suppliers, and processors have always-on connections to the Internet at their desks.
- **Applications and Services** – In the category of technology applications and services, the agriculture sector scored a 1 on a 0 to 5 scale. Some growers, suppliers, and processors utilize email and the Internet.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the agricultural community, Anderson County scored a 1 on a 0 to 5 scale. The Internet is seen as a possible enhancement to the way daily business is conducted.

The Vision

The Anderson 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 its rating in all categories to a 3 on a 0 to 5 scale. The team's vision includes:

- 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.


- Some suppliers and processors **permit employees periodically to telework.**
- Some growers, suppliers, and processors encourage employees to take **work-related classes online.**
- Most growers, suppliers, and processors have **informational websites;**
- Some websites can accept **credit card purchases;** and
- Some growers, suppliers, and processors participate in an **electronic supply chain.**

Business and Industry


Anderson County

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

■ Anderson 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 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.	Utilize basic e-mail services through their connection.	Internet is considered a possible business enhancement.
	2	● Some office employees have always-on connections to the Internet at their desks.	● Some businesses have 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 informational Website. Some retail Websites can accept credit card transactions. Some businesses participate in 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 VoIP (Voice over IP) 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 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.


● Anderson County's Benchmark Assessment Results are presented in red.
 ■ Anderson County's Vision for this Sector is presented in blue. (Blue is used when Assessment and Vision are the same.)

Least Connected	Stage	Networked Places	Applications & Services	Leadership
	0	Not using the Internet.	Use phone and postal mail. No Website.	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. Internet is not used as a resource for instruction or homework assignments.	Few experienced teachers are trained in 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 utilizing telecommunications services and technologies in their classrooms. Some teachers can incorporate Internet material into their curriculum.
	3	● ■ Schools provide at least one computer for every five students in grades 7-12. 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/administrators. Many teachers can incorporate Internet material into the curriculum Teachers welcome e-mail from parents/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 students bring their own laptop computers to school. Some computer labs close. Many classrooms 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 are trained to use the Internet for instruction. Parents and family members are encouraged to participate in student learning via e-mail and online applications. Some seniors are taking college-level classes on the Internet.	● Some schools have comprehensive plans for learning activities utilizing 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	Most students bring their own laptop computers to school. Most computer labs have been closed. Many classrooms have large, flat-panel displays or projectors for video-based instruction. Most schools have converted their phone system to VoIP to save money.	Schools use the network to connect students, teachers and parents, improve learning via online resources, and manage administrative responsibilities. Schools have ICT literacy requirements in place. Technology training is offered in the community. Many high school students use online resources to explore subjects and develop learning plans.	■ Many schools have comprehensive plans for learning activities utilizing technology in the classroom. School districts actively promote ICT 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

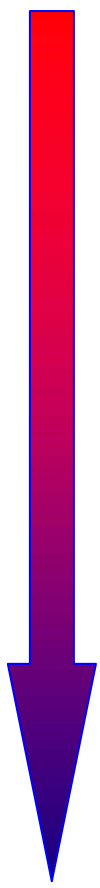
Anderson County

● Anderson County's Benchmark Assessment Results are presented in red.
 ■ Anderson 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 are utilizing a dial-up connection in order to access health-related sites.	Considering what advantage may come from implementation of Internet in 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 videoconferencing 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 converted to 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	Anderson County
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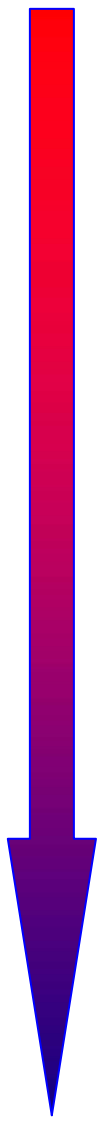
● Anderson County's Benchmark Assessment Results are presented in red.
 ■ Anderson County's Vision for this Sector is presented in blue. (Blue is used when Assessment and Vision are the same.)

	Stage	Networked Places	Applications & Services	Leadership
	Least Connected	Libraries do not provide Internet access.	Customers use postal mail or phone. No Website.	There is no technology or telecom plan.
	0	Some employees have access to a dial-up connection.	Some employees are accessing e-mail and library-related Websites.	Employees are accessing Internet in order to help the patrons of the facility.
	1	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.
	2	● There is rarely a more than 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.
	3	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.
	4	■ Most public libraries offer patrons a 100 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 ICT literacy to drive positive impacts on economic performance, skills, and innovation in the community.
Most Connected	5			

Higher Education


Anderson County

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Least Connected	Stage	Networked Places	Applications & Services	Leadership
	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 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/or 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.	■ The college/university sees itself as a vital partner in the community's economic development strategy and has formed partnerships with local businesses to provide skilled technology workers and innovative solutions. ■ The colleges/universities actively promotes ICT literacy to drive positive impacts on economic performance, skills, and innovation in the classroom.
Most Connected				

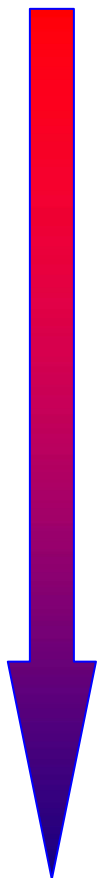
Community-Based Organizations	Anderson County
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● Anderson County's Benchmark Assessment Results are presented in red.
 ■ Anderson County's Vision for this Sector is presented in blue.

	Stage	Networked Places	Applications & Services	Leadership
	Least Connected			
	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 utilizing e-mail and possibly other basic Internet functions.	Internet is seen as a possible enhancement and marketing tool.
	2	● Some CBOs have computers that are no older than three years old. Many CBOs have e-mail. Some office employees have always-on connections to the Internet at their desks.	● Some CBOs have informational Websites.	● CBOs are minimally involved in community economic development issues. Little or no plans exist for better utilizing telecommunications services and technologies. Some CBOs provide technology training to their staff at least once a year.
	3	■ Most CBOs with at least five paid staff have at least one computer for every three employees. Many CBOs have e-mail.	■ Many CBOs have an informational Website. Many local chapters are able to share data electronically with the national parent organization. Some CBOs accept online donations.	■ Some CBOs are involved in specific economic development initiatives, but most do not participate. Some CBOs plan to use telecommunications services and technologies within the next year. Some CBOs provide technology training to their staff at least once a year.
	4	Many CBOs with at least five employees have direct connections to the Internet. All paid staff have e-mail accounts. Some CBOs use VoIP to save money. Some office workers have converted from desktop computers to portable wireless devices. Some office computers have video cameras.	Most CBOs have an informational Website. A unified CBO 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 CBO leaders are actively involved in community economic development issues and there are visible leaders taking a significant role in economic development. Many CBOs plan to use telecommunications services and technologies within the next year. Most CBOs provide technology training to their staff at least once a year.
Most Connected	5	Many CBOs use VoIP. Every CBO is connected to the Internet. Every computer can access the Internet via a local area network. Many computers have video cameras Most CBOs use affordable videoconferencing facilities.	Most CBOs accept online donations. Some CBOs utilize an interactive service to further engage the community and make their services more broadly available. Electronic data sharing is a common practice between CBOs locally and with national parent organizations.	CBOs collaborate with one another regularly to share resources and provide up-to-date training to their employees and volunteers. CBOs have a defined role in supporting local economic development initiatives. Most CBOs plan to use telecommunications services and technologies within the next year.

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

	Stage	Networked Places	Applications & Services	Leadership	
	Least Connected	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 community calendar, staff directory, and downloadable forms. Customers rely mostly on postal mail and telephone to conduct business.	● Public agencies do not have a strategy for how best to use e-government. Minimal telecommunications planning has occurred. Elected officials are not involved in telecommunications issues.	
	3	■ Many employees have e-mail accounts. Some field workers are collecting data on laptop computers or palmtops. Webcams are starting to be deployed.	■ Some e-government applications are available, such as simple building permit applications, e-mail listserv and some downloadable forms. E-mail from residents is manually routed to the appropriate departments. Some agencies routinely use the network to share data.	■ Government staff is actively involved in framing technology and telecommunications issues. Processes are underway for enhancing connectivity, rights-of-way management, and IT innovation. Employees are trained and knowledgeable on basic applications.	
	4	Some field workers use wireless networks to upload and download data in the field. Some employees are using desktop videoconferencing. Sensors and webcams monitor locations, such as rivers, that may be a threat to public safety.	Customers can make routine payments, such as parking fines, online using credit cards or EFT. Parks and recreation classes can be registered for online. Building inspections and violations can be entered from the field.	Some agencies have a formal policy that allows some employees to work at 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.	
	Most Connected	5	The telephone system is being converted to VoIP to save money. Many field workers use wireless networks to upload and download data in the field. Critical traffic signals are connected. Desktop videoconferencing is widely available.	Interactive applications, such as customer relationship management, online GIS, and video streaming are in regular use. Employees manage benefits programs on an intranet. Emergency response teams can reliably communicate across jurisdictions. Council meetings are indexed and available for searching and retrieval online.	The government has telecommunications, e-government and IT master plans in place to guide its efforts. Innovative processes are used to collaborate with the private sector.

Tourism, Recreation, and Parks

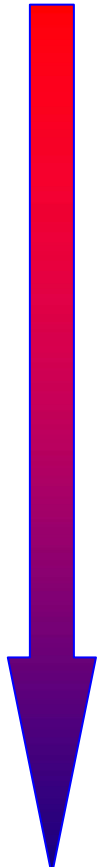
Anderson County

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	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 utilize the Internet for the purpose of 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 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 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 are working with educational partners to raise workforce skill levels.
	5	Most facilities use 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	Anderson County
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● Anderson County's Benchmark Assessment Results are presented in red.
 ■ Anderson County's Vision for this Sector is presented in blue.

	Stage	Networked Places	Applications & Services	Leadership
 <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">Least Connected</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">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 utilize 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 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 VoIP to save money. Most computers have video cameras. Some use 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?

The County Leadership Team identified the following project ideas during an extensive meeting process.

The team identified the first three Priority Action Items listed as the most important areas to focus on during the next 12 to 18 months. Project teams are already working on each of these.

The second part lists additional Potential Action Items generated for each sector of the community. These “potential action items” may help guide the County as it continues to build its technological capacity.

Priority Action Items

Education & Awareness

Leaders: Rhonda Wheeler, Jeff Sauer
Team Members: Michael Miller, Guy Hollander

Goal:

Organize, promote and deliver technology education, training, and awareness to the community. Develop a strategy to help the community become more aware of the benefits available through using the internet and computers in their daily lives. Some suggestions mentioned include coaching, creating awareness of need, and improving access (outreach).

Importance:

An educated community is essential in today’s global economy. There are opportunities to leverage existing resources to expand and enhance workforce training programs, encourage more post-secondary education, and create additional awareness within the community in regards to broadband and technology utilization.

Outcomes:

- An integrated approach to the organization, promotion, and delivery of technology education, training, and awareness for the community
- Inventory of all technology training resources available in the county
- Increased citizen usage of computers and the Internet
- Improved basic computer skills and knowledge levels for residents encouraging greater economic opportunities

Steps:

- Identify all organizations performing technology education and training services
- Create a list of training classes currently being offered
- Determine what additional classes need to be included
- Develop a collaborative and cooperative approach for delivery between all organizations
- Educate community about online banking through local banks
- Partner with local media to provide knowledge to community through local newspaper and radio
- Use Mobile Skill Unit for training and awareness in outlying areas
- Partner with local area development district to provide more education and training as needed
- Engage high school students to provide part-time help

Participants:

BCTC – Bluegrass Community and Technical College -

www.central.kctcs.edu/Anderson

Anderson County Public Library - www.andersonpubliclibrary.org

Anderson County High School - www.anderson.k12.ky.us

Anderson County Community Education

UK Cooperative Extension Service

Online Communications

Leaders: Tami Vater, Howard Phillips

Team Members: Orville Baker, Vernon Huber, Barry Drury

Goal:

Increased online presence for local organizations via the development of a community portal and websites for local businesses, organizations, and agencies

Importance:

Businesses of all sizes benefit from high-speed Internet. For smaller businesses, technology creates an even playing field with much larger companies. E-commerce allows the small or even home-based business to sell their goods on a national and sometimes international scale. Whereas 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.

Outcomes:

- New and enhanced websites for local businesses and organizations
- Improved communications and marketing via increased online presence
- Co-op program for students to assist local businesses
- Increased information available online for every sector of the community, including government, business, and tourism

Steps:

- Re-design website for chamber of commerce
- Create an online calendar for local events and training and education classes and activities
- Enhance websites for tourist facilities and attractions
- Create an integrated community portal for easy access to various online services and information
- Offer classes for website design and maintenance for local businesses – in conjunction with education project team

Participants:

Anderson Community Development – www.andersoncoc.org

Anderson Chamber of Commerce – www.andersoncoc.org

City of Lawrenceburg - www.lawrenceburgky.org

Anderson County PVA

Bluegrass Energy – Fox Creek District

Government Communications

Leaders: Todd Sparrow, Charlie O’Neal

Team Members: Robert Hume, Tommy Burris, Mike Barnes, Troy Young

Goal:

Enabling local government agencies, both city and county, to improve their internal and external communications and provide more online information and citizen services

Importance:

Like any organization, local government needs technology to manage operations, reduce costs, improve client services, and better serve the community.

Improving online communications will enable local governments to deliver more

applications and improved services to constituents while saving money. With growing public acceptance of online transactions and e-commerce, a well-planned e-government strategy will provide for the request and delivery of local government services over the Internet.

Outcomes:

- Government forms and information available online
- Online calendar of events and activities
- Updated and interactive county and city websites
- Develop a strategy for significantly reducing visits by the public to government offices for routine transactions
- Identify applications specifically designed to help businesses interface with governments more efficiently

Steps:

- Determine what forms and information need to be available online
- Review current e-government applications to identify gap areas
- Determine what services need to be provided, and identify potential providers
- Map out the phases for short term and long range plans
- Create a ky.gov website for county government
- Put basic information online about offices, services, meetings, forms, and events on county website
- Link county and city information for an integrated look and feel

Participants:

City of Lawrenceburg - www.lawrenceburgky.org
Anderson County Fiscal Court
Lawrenceburg Police Department
Anderson County Public Safety
Anderson County Health Department

Potential Action Items

Business and Industry

- Promote awareness and training to overcome fear factor – security, spam, etc
 - How to determine good info from bad – scams, phishing, etc
 - How to protect yourself
- Provide training for online banking
 - Show the benefits - faster, safer, convenience, cost savings, etc.
- Encourage access from home for education, business, shopping, eBay, banking
- Offer basic training classes – how to use e-mail, searching Internet, research
- Utilize online meter reading to eliminate manual readings
- Encourage more hotspots – bookstore, businesses, library
- Develop a services directory for local technology-related services in the county
- Develop a media campaign to help consumers and businesses understand the benefits of high-speed services and the Internet
- Create a one-stop Anderson County website that will have hyperlinks to businesses, schools, the newspaper, the library, utilities, and even personal home pages

Education K-12

- Utilize the portable ITV room, installed for use with distance learning classes
- Promote technology integration in classrooms and teacher websites
- Encourage parent involvement through technology
 - iSafe training for students and parents
 - Encourage parents to access and use STI and i-High sites
- Provide technical support - offer classes to students to assist in local support issues
- Add links to teacher websites – for homework assignments, tests, etc.
- Create an interactive online calendar for school and community events
 - Look at using for entire community
 - Run ads in local paper and radio local station to advertise availability
- Develop informational websites for each school, with interactive features
- Ask businesses to donate surplus computers to low-income parents

Healthcare

- Show doctors how to use technology in their offices
- Provide basic education on technology for healthcare providers using state and community colleges, adult education, distance learning and the library.

- Keep general patient data on a shared central database between all medical providers
 - To eliminate redundancy of forms patients need to fill out each visit
- Enable providers to have better access to patient information, instead of copying and faxing between providers
- Provide online appointment scheduling and checking

Libraries

- Provide “how to” classes on basic computer usage and functions – like Lowe’s workshops
- Make more e-books available
- Communicate what training classes are currently available
- Create an online calendar with list of events and classes
- Increase the number of public access computers and provide wireless access
- Develop Internet training programs for the public, targeting specific needs
 - Coordinate with schools, businesses, adult ed, UK extension office
 - Offer more instruction on how to take advantage of the web’s resources.
- Improve and enhance the current library website
 - Work with K-12 and ATC to engage students to assist
- Digitize genealogy and historic info

Higher Education

- Create a Cyber Café at KCTCS.
- Encourage people to take advantage of the online classes already available
 - Build knowledge, skills, and desire to familiarize themselves with online education opportunities
 - Encourage certification – reduce drive time and cost
- Increase computer literacy by introducing new offerings and techniques for training
- Form partnership between all education organizations (Extension, [BCTC](#), Adult Ed)
- Increase awareness of national research information available across the country

Community-Based Organizations

- Provide training for church leaders on how to set up a web page
- Provide training for church members on how to use a church website
- Provide training on website development – some available for free
 - Using personal webspace – 20M free with user account

- Identify and list the community-based organizations in the county and websites
- Develop collaborative partnerships with educational institutions and corporate partners to provide web services/design and equipment.
- Encourage organizations to use e-mail and the web to reduce the cost of paper mail.
- Facilitate collaboration and cooperation among community-based organizations to help them share the costs of technology and expertise.

Government

- Provide access to online government forms and the ability to complete them in real time for both county and city applications
- Create a county website, and post all meeting agendas, minutes and attachments online
- Enable additional government services online
 - permitting, purchasing, payments, paying taxes, tax forms, reservation forms, ambulance bills, dog tags, etc.
 - License renewals, voter registration, online voting, PVA records, district and circuit court records, deeds, etc.
 - Address security concerns.
- Digitize PVA records, maps, and utilities, etc. for online access
- Send emergency notifications to the public via e-mail and website
 - Road closures, safety issues, etc.
- Provide training and awareness to senior citizens
 - Filing medical claims and insurance online, Medicaid, etc.
- Encourage city-county collaboration
- Create a partnership of public and private entities to develop a regional portal

Tourism, Recreation & Parks

- Provide online sports registrations for Little League and soccer
- Get all organizations and hotels online with links to/from tourism website
- Offer video conference capability to all sectors from central location
- Create websites that are both informative and interactive to market local attractions to potential in-state and out-of-state tourists
 - Use webcams at the parks for online viewing
 - Electronic brochures and information available for downloading
- Establish a countywide portal to share information, market the community, list attractions, list hotels, and post a calendar of events
- Encourage more local companies to sell their goods and services online to promote local businesses and increase sales
- Encourage local hotels to provide wireless hotspots for online access

Agriculture

- Market organic plants on-line
- Host an online farmer's market
- Increase broadband awareness among the agriculture community.
 - Develop educational materials to help the agriculture community understand the importance of broadband
- Create and/or 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
- Promote online sales and auctions
- Use GPS and RFid applications on farms