



JACKSON 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 Jackson 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 Jackson County’s technology needs, particularly related to computers, broadband and Information Technology.

Summary

Jackson County’s e-Community Leadership Team is leading the way into a new economy for Jackson 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 Jackson 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 Jackson 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 Jackson 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 Jackson County by 2007.

ConnectKentucky recommends that Jackson 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 Jackson 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 Jackson 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. 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 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?

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BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

Jackson County businesses and industries employ a total of 2,910 workers. Over 50% of the employees in Jackson County commute outside of the county.

The leading industries by employment are:

1. Manufacturing with 1,111;
2. Trade, Transportation, and Utilities with 301; and
3. Information with 99.

The leading employers in Jackson County are:

1. Drywall and Utility Contractors
2. Mid-South Electronics Inc. with approximately 200 employees;
3. Aerospace & Defense Group with 210; and
4. Phillips Diversified Mfg. Inc. with 40 employees.

People's Rural Telephone Cooperative (PRTC) is another strong presence in Jackson County with Internet penetration within the county at 31 percent and 53 percent of that population subscribing to DSL.

The Assessment

- **Networked Places** – In the category of networked places, Jackson County's business and industry sector is currently at stage 4 on a 0 to 5 scale with some office workers having converted from desktop computers to portable devices.
- **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 informational websites, and some retail websites can accept credit card transactions. Additionally, some businesses participate in the electronic supply chain.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the business community, Jackson County is currently at stage 4 on a 0 to 5 scale with some businesses permitting some employees to telework one or two days a week.

The Vision

While the Jackson 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 the middle stages to stage 5 in the three categories outlined above. The team's vision includes:

- 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 received **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

K-12 EDUCATION

Jackson County Schools, <http://www.jackson.k12.ky.us>, had a district enrollment of 2,176 students during the 2004-2005 school year. The Jackson County Public School System is comprised of McKee Elementary, Sand Gap Elementary, Tyner Elementary, Jackson County Middle School and Jackson County High School. Each elementary has a Family Resource Center and the middle and high school each have a Youth Service Center which works to reduce barriers to learning. There is an alternative school for students in grades 6-12 and the Barnabas School is designed for students transitioning from a state agency placement to a regular education setting. A transitional unit is provided for at-risk students who may drop out of school or have dropped out of school and want to return. Preschool services are provided for eligible three- and four-year-old children at each elementary school. All students receive a free breakfast and lunch through the Universal Feeding program. To provide further educational opportunities, the Continuing Education Center assists people in obtaining a G.E.D. and/or job skills. The Jackson County Area Technology Center provides vocational training to high school students and adults and also houses the community theatre and Centernet facility. These support services and programs are provided to facilitate education completion by students.

The motto of the Jackson County Public Schools is: "We, the stakeholders of the Jackson County School District, accept the responsibility to create lifelong learners and successful citizens by providing an exemplary instructional environment characterized by high academic standards and expectations that accommodate the individualized learning needs of all students." In order to accomplish this, the schools focus on providing quality instruction and services so students gain the necessary knowledge and skills to develop to their fullest potential.

	Attendance Rate	Retention Rate	Dropout Rate	Graduation Rate	College	Military	Work	Voc/Tech Training	Work & Part-Time School	Not Successful
District	92.1%	2.5%	1.6%	78.7%	25.4%	0.7%	54.2%	0.7%	10.6%	8.5%
State	94.3%	3.3%	2.2%	81.5%	54.7%	2.6%	27.5%	4.8%	6.4%	4%

To enhance and promote technology use in schools, a half-time technology resource teacher is assigned to each school. These teachers work with classroom teachers one-on-one to integrate technology into the curriculum. The district technology department strives to provide the latest technologies, support and training to all staff and students. All staff and students have e-mail access for communication purposes and Internet access for research purposes. All schools have wireless access in addition to up-to-date, high speed electronics. Voice mail for staff was added this year. Many classrooms have three to four workstations and all schools have an up-to-date computer lab, where students and staff can utilize the latest technologies. The Jackson County Centernet is made available for video conferences and college courses. Training on the integration of technology into the classroom is ongoing throughout the school year. JCHS and JCMS students with reading disabilities are given the opportunity to take the CATS test online. Each school has an

active Student Technology Leadership Program and has represented the county at the state level for several years. The district and each school also maintain a webpage. The district website is located at: <http://www.jacksoncoschools.net>

	Spending per Student	Student Teacher Ratio	Student/Computer Ratio	% of Classrooms with at Least One KETS Workstation With Internet Access
District	10123	14:1	3.7:1	100
State	8663	16:1	3.7:1	100

Jackson County Christian School is the only non-public school in the county with a student enrollment of 49 in grades PK-5.

The Assessment

In its evaluation, the Jackson 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, Jackson County’s K-12 education sector is currently at stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale. Most schools provide at least one computer for every four students in grades K-12. 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 is currently at stage 4 on a 0 to 5 scale. Many schools have an interactive website that offers access to homework assignments and e-mail contact with teachers and administrators. Most teachers meet National Education Technology Standards, as do most students.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the education sector, Jackson 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, and new hires are required to have experience using new technology in the classroom.

The Vision

The Jackson 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 Jackson County eCommunity Leadership Team include reaching stage 4 in the category of networked places as well as moving to stage 5 in the applications and services category and the leadership category. The vision includes:

- Some high school students are provided their own **laptop computers** at school.
- 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
- Schools use the network to connect students, teacher, and parents, **improve learning via online resources**, and manage administrative responsibilities more efficiently
- All students meet grade level requirement 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 school 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

HEALTHCARE

Although there are no hospitals in Jackson County, most residents who need inpatient care look to facilities in nearby Richmond, London or Lexington. Healthcare providers within Jackson County include the Jackson County Health Department, Jackson Manor Nursing Home located in Annville, as well as three primary medical care facilities that serve McKee, Annville and Whitehouse. The primary care facility in Whitehouse is fully connected and utilizes electronic medical records technology.

Assessment

The Jackson 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, Jackson County's healthcare sector is currently at stage 4 on a 0 to 5 scale with internet-based videoconferencing being used to consult experts and for program training.
- **Applications and Services** – In the category of technology applications and services, the healthcare sector is currently at stage 2 on a 0 to 5 scale where some providers have informational websites, and some providers store patient records electronically. In addition, 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, Jackson County is currently at stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale where many providers have begun the conversion to electronic medical records, and many providers are investigating how to deploy wireless technologies for mobile workers.

The Vision

The Jackson 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 the networked places and leadership categories to a stage 5 on a 0 to 5 scale and the applications and services category to a state 3. The team's vision includes:

- Most equipment have been converted to digital
- Desktop videoconferencing is routine at all hospitals and major clinics
- Telephone systems have converted to Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) to save money
- Remote monitoring of patients with chronic conditions is standard procedure

- 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.
- 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

LIBRARIES

The Jackson County Public Library, <http://www.jcplib.org/>, is located in McKee, Kentucky. In April, 2006, Jackson County Public Library held a grand opening for their new building, an 8,800 square foot facility that boasts a new community room able to accommodate up to 50 people. The library also has a children's area which houses two non-connected computer terminals with educational game applications, as well as a teen room which has DSL-connected computers. The DSL is provided free by the Peoples Rural Telephone Cooperative. In addition, 10 DSL-connected computers available to the general public are available. Both the children's and adult card catalog is automated, and patrons can go online and check their overdue charges, as well as renew books using their bar coded library card. The library currently has a contract with the "Gear Up" Program through Berea College. This program assists teens who are getting ready for college. FASFA and other college forms are made available online at the teen room. Future plans include obtaining e-books and taking the library's abundant Genealogy resources online. The library recently contracted with Pro Quest to add Ancestry.com.

The Assessment

The Jackson 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, Jackson County's Library sector is currently at stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale. 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 4 on a 0 to 5 scale. Patrons may review their accounts online and pay fines by credit cards.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the Library community, Jackson County is currently at stage 4 on a 0 to 5 scale. Libraries help the community understand copyright issues and how to protect privacy on the Internet.

The Vision

The Jackson 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 5 on a 0 to 5 scale in all the above categories. The vision includes:

- 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 information technology literacy** to drive positive impacts on economic performance, skill and innovation in the community

HIGHER EDUCATION

Although higher education facilities currently don't exist in Jackson County, there are 43 facilities within 60 miles.

Most community members attend Eastern Kentucky University Richmond Campus, and the nearest community college is Somerset Community College located 30 miles away at the London Campus.

The Jackson County Area Technical Centre offers college classes through Midway and videoconferencing, as well as ITV classes.

The Assessment

The Jackson 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, Jackson County's higher education sector is currently at stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale with most on-campus facilities having 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.
- **Applications and Services** – In the category of technology applications and services, the higher education sector is currently at stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale. 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.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the higher education community, Jackson County is currently at stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale. 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.

The Vision

The Jackson 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 4 out of 5 in all three categories over the next two years. The team's vision includes:

- 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 and technical 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

Jackson County is rich in community-based organizations. There are approximately 29 CBOs that enrich the lives of those living in Jackson County. These organizations include the Kiwanis Club, the Jackson County Development Association, Empowerment Zone Board, The Jackson County Cattle Association, Farmer's Market and the Industrial Authority/Chamber of Commerce. Each of the community-based organizations work tirelessly for the community administering programs such as Vision 2020, welfare reform and providing food to area families in need.

Assessment

The Jackson 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, Jackson County's community-based organization sector is currently at stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale. Most organizations with a least five paid staff have at least one computer for every three employees. Many organizations have e-mail.
- **Applications and Services** – In the category of technology applications and services, the community-based organization sector is currently at stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale with many organizations having an informational website.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the community-based organization community, Jackson County is currently at stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale. Some organization leaders are actively involved in community economic development issues. 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.

The Vision

The Jackson 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 5 on a 0 to 5 scale. The team's vision includes:

- Many organizations use **Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP)**
- **Every organization is connected** to the Internet
- Every computer can **access** the Internet **via a local network**
- Many computers have **video cameras**
- Most organizations use affordable **videoconferencing facilities**
- Most organizations accept **online donations**
- Some organizations use an **interactive service** to further engage the community and make their services more broadly available
- **Electronic data sharing** is a common practice between organizations locally and with national parent organizations
- Organizations **collaborate** with one another regularly to share resources and provide up-to-date training to their employees and volunteers
- Organizations have a defined role in **supporting local economic development** initiatives
- Most organizations plan to use **telecommunications services** and technologies within the next year

GOVERNMENT

Government entities in Jackson County are:

- Jackson County
- McKee (County Seat)

Jackson County governments' official online presence is represented through the Empowerment Zone.

The Assessment

Although the government entities in Jackson County have a limited online presence, the Jackson 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.
- **Applications and Services** – In the category of technology applications and services, the government sector is currently at stage 1 on a 0 to 5 scale with some employees using the Internet for e-mail purposes.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the government community, Jackson County and its associated governments are currently at stage 4 on a 0 to 5 scale where some agencies have a formal policy that allows some employees to work from home at least one day a week.

The Vision

The Jackson 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 3; and the rating for leadership to stage 5. The team's vision includes:

- 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 are critical to public safety
- 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**
- The government has **telecommunications, e-government and information technology master plans** in place to guide its efforts. Innovative processes are used to collaborate with the private sector

TOURISM, RECREATION AND PARKS

Recreational and tourism points of interest in Jackson County include:

- Old West Town
- Jackson County Community Theatre
- Daniel Boone National Forest Recreational Area
- ATV Trails
- Horseback Riding
- Horse Lick Bio Reserve
- Jackson County Fair
- Kentucky Appalachian Heritage Trails

The Jackson 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, Jackson 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 2 on a 0 to 5 scale where some facilities have an informational website, and some facilities have an informational website
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the tourism, recreation, and parks sector, Jackson County is currently at stage 1 on a 0 to 5 scale where the Internet is seen as a possible way to enhance operations.

The Vision

The Jackson 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 and leadership categories above to stage 4 on a 0 to 5 scale, and the application and services to a stage 3 of 5. The team's vision includes:

- 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**
- 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 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 level**

AGRICULTURE

In 2002, there were 727 farms in Jackson County comprising 82,215 acres with an average of 113 per farm. The total market value of production was \$7,899,000 with an average of \$10,866 per farm. Crop sales accounted for \$4,430,000, and livestock sales accounted for \$3,469,000 of the total value in 2002. Government payments totaled \$166,000, averaging \$1,595 per farm. Jackson County is ranked 83rd in the value of agricultural products sold in the state. The leading agricultural products in sales in Jackson County are:

1. Tobacco with \$805,000;
2. Cattle and calves with \$2,021,000; and
3. Milk and other dairy products from cows with \$1,368,000.
4. Beehives
5. Sorghum
6. Farmer's Market Produce
7. Blackberries, Blueberries, Tomatoes, Cantalopes

Jackson County tobacco farmers received \$16,990,490 in burley payments from the Tobacco Buyout Program in 2002, and there were no dark payments.

The Assessment

The Jackson 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, Jackson County's agricultural sector is currently at stage 1 on a 0 to 5 scale with some growers, suppliers and processors having limited access through a dial-up connection.
- **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, Jackson 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 Jackson 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 3 on a 0 to 5 scale in networked places and applications and services and a 4 on a 0 to 5 scale in the leadership category. The team's vision includes:


- Most growers, supplier and processors have **always-on connections** to the Internet

- Some mobile works 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**
- **Training** on new technology is a priority
- Some processors and suppliers permit employees to **telework** one or two days a week

Business and Industry	Jackson County
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● Jackson County's Benchmark Assessment Results are presented in red.

■ Jackson 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.

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

■ Jackson 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.	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.

Healthcare

Jackson County

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

■ Jackson 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.	<p>● Some providers have informational websites.</p> <p>Some providers store patient records electronically.</p> <p>Telemedicine is being evaluated.</p> <p>Some offices are electronically transmitting records to insurers for reimbursement.</p>	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.	<p>■ Many providers have informational websites.</p> <p>Many providers store patient records electronically.</p> <p>Telemedicine is being evaluated.</p> <p>Some offices are electronically transmitting records to insurers for reimbursement.</p>	<p>● Many providers have begun the conversion to electronic medical records.</p> <p>Many providers are investigating how to deploy wireless technologies for mobile workers.</p>
	4	<p>● Internet-based video conferencing is used to consult experts and for training programs.</p> <p>Some patients are being monitored at home and at work via portable devices with wireless transmitters.</p>	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	<p>■ Most equipment has been converted to digital.</p> <p>Desktop videoconferencing is routine at all hospitals and major clinics.</p> <p>Telephone systems have been converted to Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) to save money.</p> <p>Remote monitoring of patients with chronic conditions is standard procedure.</p>	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.	<p>■ 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.</p> <p>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.</p>

Libraries

Jackson County

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

■ Jackson 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	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

Jackson County

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

■ Jackson 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.	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

Jackson County

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


■ Jackson 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	Some organizations have computers that are no older than three years old. Many organizations have e-mail. Some office employees have always-on connections to the Internet at their desks.	Some organizations have informational websites.	Organizations are minimally involved in community economic development issues. Little or no plans exist for better using telecommunications services and technologies. Some organizations provide technology training to their staff at least once a year.
	3	● Most organizations with at least five paid staff have at least one computer for every three employees. Many 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 a year.
	4	Many organizations with at least five employees have direct connections to the Internet. All paid staff have e-mail accounts. Some organizations use Voice over Internet Protocol (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.
	5	■ Many organizations use Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP). Every organization is connected to the Internet. Every computer can access the Internet via a local area network. Many computers have video cameras. Most organizations use affordable videoconferencing facilities.	■ Most organizations accept online donations. Some organizations use an interactive service to further engage the community and make their services more broadly available. Electronic data sharing is a common practice between organizations locally and with national parent organizations.	■ Organizations collaborate with one another regularly to share resources and provide up-to-date training to their employees and volunteers. Organizations have a defined role in supporting local economic development initiatives. Most organizations plan to use telecommunications services and technologies within the next year.

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

■ Jackson 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.	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 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 information technology innovation. Employees are trained and knowledgeable about basic applications.
	4	■ 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.
	5	The telephone system is being converted to Voice over Internet Protocol (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 tele-communications, e-government and information technology master plans in place to guide its efforts. Innovative processes are used to collaborate with the private sector.

Tourism, Recreation and Parks

Jackson County

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

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


<p style="text-align: center;">Least Connected</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Most Connected</p>	Stage	Networked Places	Applications & Services	Leadership
	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

Jackson County

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

■ Jackson 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. 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: Create a Community Website for Jackson County

LONG-TERM GOAL

This project team will work to create a website for the community of Jackson County that will act as a clearinghouse of government and civic information for the local county/community by providing access to all pertinent applications, links, and websites for the citizens of Jackson County.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

A County/City Community Website would provide a new and vital way of delivering pertinent services to citizens living in Jackson County. By harnessing the power of the Internet, an electronic community "one stop shop" could eventually be realized. A growing range of services could be accessed by residents of Jackson from either their own homes or from community facilities within the county. This would bridge the problem of rural isolation by making needed community services and information available at a touch.

SPECIFIC MEASURABLE OUTCOMES

1. Increase community access to pertinent information and services
2. Creation and implementation of an established clearinghouse of community information for Jackson County residents
3. Increase in community comfort level of Jackson County citizens through use of the Website.
4. Promote technology usage through website communication device

STEPS TO ACHIEVE MEASURABLE OUTCOMES

1. Engage services of Kentucky.gov to assist with technical hosting, design and implementation of a website for each of the named community entities.
2. Identify and decide on all pertinent links and applications.
3. Create webpage design
4. Launch webpage
5. Market webpage to increase usage by the community

NAMES OF IMPLEMENTATION CHAMPIONS

Jackson County Judge Executive
McKee Mayor's Office

PROJECT CONCEPT: Community Technical Training and Awareness For Jackson County

LONG-TERM GOAL

This project will increase the comfort level, value awareness and attitude toward the use of technology within the entire Jackson County community.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

It is essential in today's world that the community be comfortable and experience confidence in the use and value of technology. There are opportunities to leverage existing resources in Jackson County to overcome barriers and improve trust through technology training programs and to create additional awareness within the community in regard to technology. Increasing the comfort level and confidence within the community is 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. Make available to the public classes and training sessions that address pertinent issues such as Internet Safety and use same as a resource tool to help facilitate confidence and trust in the internet.
2. Development of additional education, training and awareness materials to focus on the use of technology and broadband applications.
3. Increase the citizen usage rates of computers and broadband in Jackson County.

STEPS TO ACHIEVE OUTCOME

1. Identify all organizations within Jackson County currently performing any community education, training and awareness.
2. Build on the current resources being offered to include internet safety as well as basic applications and awareness.
3. Determine which sectors could benefit from focused technology training and market same to the public.
4. Determine gaps in technology training and awareness and ways to fill those gaps.

NAMES OF IMPLEMENTATION CHAMPIONS

Educational Team

K-12 Education

Jackson County Schools

Higher Ed/Community Education

Jackson County Cooperative Extension Service

Jackson County Public Library

PROJECT CONCEPT: Project CAFÉ... Computers Are For Everyone...

LONG-TERM GOAL

This project will work to place computers into the hands and homes of all families in Jackson County. The goal is to increase the ability of all citizens to have a level playing field when it comes to technology accessibility, as well as increase the comfort level, value awareness and attitude toward the use of technology within the entire Jackson County community.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

It is essential in today's world that the all community members be given an equal opportunity to own and utilize technology. By creating a low interest loan pool available to the general population of Jackson County, we increase the comfort level, experience, and confidence in the use and value of technology. There are opportunities to leverage existing resources such as grants, low-interest loans and other resources within Jackson County in an effort to overcome barriers and improve accessibility to technology for everyone within the community.

SPECIFIC MEASURABLE OUTCOMES

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

1. Work with local entities to secure resources to create a low interest loan pool to be managed by a local financial institute.
2. Use this income pool to purchase computer equipment which can be bundled with high speed internet and offered to community members who might not otherwise have the opportunity to secure such hardware.
3. Increase the citizen usage rates of computers and broadband in Jackson County.

STEPS TO ACHIEVE OUTCOME

1. Identify all resources available to and within Jackson County that could be tapped to form an income pool for the purpose of purchasing equipment.
2. Secure bids for and purchase equipment.
3. Bundle equipment with the high speed internet accessibility.
4. Market and offer same to low income families at an affordable price.

PROJECT CONCEPT: Agriculture Cost Share Program

LONG-TERM GOAL

This project will create a “non-model” program utilizing tobacco settlement dollars. The program would provide in-service training to demonstrate to the local agricultural community the technology value within farm operations. In demonstrating the efficiency, use and value to be derived from adding computer technology to daily agriculture business, we would increase the comfort level and awareness toward the use of technology within the entire Jackson County agricultural community.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

It is essential that the local agriculture community be prepared to utilize technology so as to compete in the global economy. By demonstrating the value of adding technology to the local agricultural sector of Jackson County, we increase the comfort level, experience, and confidence in the use of technology in farming. By leveraging a portion of the tobacco settlement resources, growers, producers and suppliers could be provided with in-service training.

SPECIFIC MEASURABLE OUTCOMES

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

1. Provide in-service technology training to local farms.
2. Increase the usage rates of technology and broadband within the Jackson County agricultural community.

STEPS TO ACHIEVE OUTCOME

1. Work with government entities to secure a portion of the tobacco settlement dollars to be utilized specifically for in-service training for local farmers.
2. Utilize tobacco settlement resources to develop and implement appropriate local farm training programs.
3. Increase the usage rates of technology and broadband within the Jackson County agricultural community.

POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS

Business and Industry

- Educate small businesses about telecommunications services and the benefits of using technology in business.
- Create a high-tech center to showcase the latest technology.
- Create a technologically capable workforce through training and skills development.
- Develop a local directory of information technology services.
- 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.
- Teach businesses how to use e-commerce to sell to public agencies.
- Provide technical training programs for non-profits and for-profits to meet their special needs.
- Promote awareness and training to overcome the Internet fear factor.
 - How to determine good information from bad, such as scams and phishing
 - How to protect yourself
- Provide training for online banking in an effort to demonstrate the benefits of online banking, including speed, safety, convenience and cost savings.
- Encourage Internet access from home for education, business, shopping, eBay and banking.
- Use online meter reading to eliminate manual readings.
- Encourage more hotspots in locations such as bookstores, businesses and libraries.
- Develop a services directory for local IT-related services in the county.
- List local providers for technical support, including 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.
- Build relationships between schools and broadband providers.
- 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.
- Develop school websites with interactive features.
- 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.
- Make it easier for low-income families to access computers and the Internet to facilitate communications with teachers and schools.
- Ask businesses to donate surplus computers to low-income parents.
- Provide low-income parents with low-cost Internet connections through the school district.
- Create training, internships or career ladders for technical support staff.
- 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.

- Add links to teachers' web pages for homework assignments, tests, etc.
- 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
- Ask businesses to donate surplus computers to low-income parents.

Healthcare

- Develop a providers' survey 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, which would enable providers to avoid copying and faxing patient information.
- Provide online appointment scheduling and verification.

Library

- Investigate cost-efficient ways to increase bandwidth to rural libraries.
- Increase the number of public-access computers.

- Provide ports or wireless access points where patrons with laptop computers can connect to high-speed lines.
- Develop expanded Internet training programs for the public, targeting specific needs and groups.
- Increase the use of mobile computer stations 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.
- Improve technical support for public computers and the library website.
- Offer more instruction on how to take advantage of the web's resources.
- Support county applications for technology grants that will also benefit the library system.
- Complete automation and networking.
- Explore options to increase customer-initiated transactions online, such as paying fines and accessing subscription databases.
- Work through issues related to providing personal laptop access at the library, such as security, networking, wiring and electricity.
- Identify and catalog technology training programs already in place.
- Make more e-books available.
- Communicate which training classes are currently available.
- Create an online calendar.
- Increase the number of public access computers and provide wireless access.
- Coordinate with schools, businesses, adult education and the UK extension office.
- Improve and enhance the current library website and work with K-12 to engage students to assist.
- Digitize genealogy and historic information.
- Apply for grants to get laptops for a computer lab for public instruction.

Higher Education

- Substantially increase the number of web-enhanced and fully web-based courses.
- Improve countywide access to distance learning classes.
- 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 institutions of higher education to work together to develop online courses and programs.
- Encourage citizens to take advantage of the online classes already available.
- Increase computer literacy by introducing new classes and training techniques.
- Form a partnership among all education organizations including the Extension Office, Community and Technical Colleges and Adult Education Offices.
- Increase awareness of national research information available across the country.

Community-Based Organizations

- Identify the community-based organizations in the county and list their websites.
- Develop a list of potential funding sources for technology acquisition.
- Develop collaborative partnerships with educational institutions and corporate partners to provide web services/design and equipment.
- Develop a networking event to share information, ideas, and innovations in technology deployment.
- Recruit university and high school students to develop websites.
- Encourage community-based organizations to use e-mail and the web to reduce the use of paper mail.
- Introduce a community portal that expands use of a variety of applications.
- Help community-based organizations find locations to access the Internet.
- Facilitate collaboration to share the costs of technology and expertise.
- Develop “train-the-trainer” workshops to help agencies take advantage of technology resources and explain the benefits to clients.
- Provide training on web page development, including the use of free web pages.

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.
- Set goals to be completed in one year.
- Develop more thorough employee technology training programs.
- Seek grant funding to improve infrastructure and support functions.
- 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.
- Increase city-county collaboration.
- Use streaming video to broadcast council or court meetings on the Internet.
- Create a partnership of public and private entities to develop a regional portal.
- 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.
- Issue emergency notifications, such as road closures, via e-mail and the website.
- Provide training and awareness to senior citizens.

Tourism, Parks and Recreation

- Improve and correct local links and identification.
- Establish a countywide web portal to share information, market the community, list attractions and hotels and provide a calendar of events.
- Encourage more local companies to sell their goods and services online to promote local businesses and increase sales.

- Develop affordable, high-speed services for rural parts of the county.
- Develop a community portal page to promote tourism in the county.
- Use technology to market county attractions to potential in-state and out-of-state tourists.
- 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.
- Offer videoconferencing capability to all sectors from a central location.
- Use hand-held devices for inventories, tickets and reservations.
- 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.
- Make electronic brochures and information available for downloading.
- Encourage more local companies to sell their goods and services online to promote local businesses and increase sales.

Agriculture

- Increase broadband awareness among the agricultural community.
- Develop educational materials to help the agricultural community to understand the importance of broadband.
- Create a list of providers to help the agricultural sector understand what service is available and from whom.
- Provide high-speed Internet access at the UK Cooperative Extension office.
- 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.
- Provide high-speed wireless Internet access at the UK Cooperative Extension Office.
- Develop educational materials to help the agricultural community understand the importance of broadband and what is available.
- Create a national animal identification database.
- Promote online sales and auctions.
- Use GPS and Radio Frequency Identification on farms.