



# EDMONSON COUNTY STRATEGIC TECHNOLOGY PLAN

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## **A. Executive Summary**

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### **Purpose**

This document provides a “road map” for technology-based growth and economic development in Edmonson 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 Edmonson County’s technology needs, particularly related to computers, broadband and Information Technology.

### **Summary**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Governor Fletcher's *Prescription for Innovation* is being implemented through ConnectKentucky, in partnership with local community leaders. The leadership of Edmonson 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 Edmonson 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 Edmonson 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 Edmonson County by 2007.

ConnectKentucky recommends that Edmonson 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 Edmonson 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 Edmonson County businesses must adapt to the changing world in which they operate. Businesses have to learn the tools of the networked economy and innovate to survive.

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

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

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

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

### **K-12 Education**

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

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

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

### **Healthcare**

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

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

### **Libraries**

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

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

### **Higher Education**

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

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

### **Community-Based Organizations**

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

### **Government**

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

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

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

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

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

### **Agriculture**

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



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

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### **BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY**

The Edmonson County business and industry sector employs 1,567 workers. The leading industry by employment is services with 417 employed. Second is the trade, transportation, and utilities sector with 158 employed, followed by construction with 103 employees. The leading employers are JASCO International with 21 employed, and Yahagi America Molding Inc. with 18 employees.

The business and industry sector is served by the Edmonson County Industrial Foundation, [www.edmonsoncounty.com/default.htm](http://www.edmonsoncounty.com/default.htm), and the Edmonson County Chamber of Commerce, [www.edmonsoncounty.com](http://www.edmonsoncounty.com). These organizations offer community and business-related information online. Through their websites, information about the community such as site locations, education and incentives are available. Additional information available includes demographics, a listing of chamber members and a community calendar.

### **The Assessment**

- **Networked Places** – In the category of networked places, Edmonson County's business and industry sector is currently at stage 2 on a 0 to 5 scale with some office employees having always-on connections to the Internet at their desks.
- **Applications and Services** – In the area of technology applications and services, the business and industry sector is currently at stage 2 on a 0 to 5 scale with some businesses having an informational website, and some businesses transmitting or receiving some orders electronically.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the business community, Edmonson County is currently at stage 2 on a 0 to 5 scale. Some view the Internet as essential to business operations, and employees are trained on basic applications.

### **The Vision**

While the Edmonson 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 4 in the three categories outlined above. The team's vision includes:

- Some businesses 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 businesses **outsource** most of their computing services to **local service providers** to allow for concentration on core business functions
- Some retailers and manufacturers **sell goods out of state or internationally**
- Some employees **work remotely**, some out of state
- Some businesses permit some employees to **telework** one or two days a week
- Some businesses encourage employees to take work related **courses online**
- Businesses are working with educational partners to **raise workforce skill levels**

## **K-12 EDUCATION**

The Edmonson County School District, [www.edmonson.k12.ky.us](http://www.edmonson.k12.ky.us), enrolled 1,935 students in the 2004-2005 school year. The Edmonson County School District is composed of one preschool, two elementary schools (kindergarten through fourth grades), one fifth- and sixth-grade center, one middle school (sixth through eighth grades) and one high school (ninth through 12th grades). The school district is served by a total of 153 certified educators. The staff of the Edmonson County School District accepts the responsibility of providing meaningful learning experiences that will enable all students to reach high levels of academic and non-academic performance, demonstrate positive social and emotional growth and become productive members of society. The fifth and sixth grade center has completed renovation and improvements in the heating and cooling system. The district is currently implementing a long-range planning process that involves teachers, staff, students, administration, the board of education and the community.

	Attendance Rate	Retention Rate	Dropout Rate	Graduation Rate
District	94.6%	2.2%	2.4%	81.3%
State	94.3%	3.3%	2.2%	81.5%

<b>Transition to Adult Life</b>						
	College	Military	Work	Voc/Tech Training	Work & Part-Time School	Not Successful
District	37.8%	1.8%	45.9%	7.2%	4.5%	2.7%
State	54.7%	2.6%	27.5%	4.8%	6.4%	4%

The elementary schools, the fifth/sixth grade center and the middle school have hired a curriculum specialist who assists teachers with their continual technology training needs and provides support for teachers with regard to technology integration. All classrooms have high-speed Internet connectivity. All staff continually train to integrate technology into the instructional program. More recent programs that have been integrated into the instructional program include United Streaming computer-delivered video content, and an expanded Orchard Learning instructional content. Several of the district's schools are expanding their computer/video projection capabilities and are implementing enhanced student technology interaction through the Classroom Performance System.

	Spending per Student	Student Teacher Ratio	Student/Computer Ratio	% of Classrooms with at Least One KETS Workstation With Internet Access
District	\$8,595	14:1	3.5:1	100
State	\$8,663	16:1	3.7:1	100

Each school within the Edmonson County School District has made technology a priority. Following are the technology report cards detailing their current uses:

- **South Edmonson Elementary** - South Edmonson Elementary utilizes technology by implementing programs including the Accelerated Reading Program, Star Test Reading Program, United Streaming, Orchard Language Arts Program and Orchard Math Program. The school also has two separate computer labs available for staff and students, allowing them the opportunity to explore and learn. Classrooms are also equipped with scan converters to allow the computer screen to be projected to larger television screens. Technology is also embedded throughout the school for research

and portfolio development. AlphaSmarts are used to enter writing tasks and electronic editing via computer. There are currently 165 computer stations being used at South Edmonson Elementary. Many of these workstations were purchased by the Parent Teacher Organization or donated by individuals, governmental agencies and companies.

- **Kyrock Elementary** - Kyrock Elementary uses technology by implementing programs such as Orchard Language Arts and Math, Accelerated Reading, Star Test Reading and Read Write Gold. Currently, the school houses 150 computers. The third and fourth graders use AlphaSmarts to enter writing tasks and electronic editing via computer. Teachers use technology to present material, research various topics, organize materials and provide opportunities to cater to the learning needs of various students. Microsoft Office is used extensively to enhance productivity. and the school also uses shared network resources. Teachers continuously update website information as a way to communicate with parents, students and the community. Digital cameras and video cameras are used to enhance instruction. Students present morning news broadcasts using several pieces of technology in a mock studio. Teachers have recently been trained and are exploring usage of direct streaming transmission with the encyclopedia program.
- **Edmonson County Fifth/Sixth Grade Center** - At the Edmonson County Fifth/Sixth Grade Center, technology is an integral part of the curriculum. Accelerated Reader, Orchard Math, Orchard Grammar and various other technology programs ensure that students are using technology to enhance their learning experiences. The school has a computer lab and two wireless, mobile computer centers that provide rich technology access for their students. Teachers continually upgrade their technology skills through in-service, both inside and outside of the building. Teachers are using the Internet to locate open response questions appropriate for grade and subject level. Next year, instruction will be enhanced through the use of United Streaming.
- **Edmonson Middle School** - Edmonson Middle School has several programs in place to enhance the use of technology in teaching. Accelerated Math is a computer program used by students that allows them to work at their individual level on supplemental math materials. All students have the opportunity to use computers for word processing, taking Accelerated Reader tests, using instructional software and researching topics using the Internet. The STLP class instructs students on use of digital cameras, scanners and instructional software. Many of the students are taught to produce graphs and charts using Microsoft Excel, and make class presentations using PowerPoint.
- **Edmonson County High School** - Edmonson County High School offers two computer labs for writing, and math and science. Teachers use technology to present material in class, and to provide students with hands-on opportunities for using technology. Technology is used in the classrooms for research on assigned topics, organization of materials, presentation of projects and for exploration of new areas of interest. The technology used here by students includes computer programs, Internet search engines, digital cameras, graphing calculators and video cameras. Students help develop web sites, create news programs and write computer programs. The teachers and administrators of Edmonson County High School feel they provide students the opportunity needed to become literate in the use of technology, and are always looking to improve and increase the use of technology.

### **The Assessment**

In its evaluation, the Edmonson 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, Edmonson County's K-12 education sector is currently at stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale. 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 3 on a 0 to 5 scale with some schools having an interactive website that offers access to homework assignments and communication with teachers and administrators. Many experienced teachers know how to incorporate Internet information into the curriculum, and many teachers welcome e-mail from parents and students.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the education sector, Edmonson County is currently at stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale. 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, and schools are using consultants to take advantage of e-rate and other school discounts.

### **The Vision**

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

- Many classrooms have large, flat-panel displays or projectors for **video-based instruction**
- Most schools have **converted their phone system to Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) to save money**
- Most high schools have **one-to-one computing for their students**
- Some school **computer labs have been made available** to the public
- 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

## **HEALTHCARE**

Hospitals serving Edmonson County are located in Bowling Green in nearby Warren County. Emergency services are provided by the Edmonson County Ambulance Service located in Brownsville.

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

Edmonson County is home to the Edmonson Health Care, [www.edmonsonhealthcare.com](http://www.edmonsonhealthcare.com). Edmonson Health Care is a 24-hour licensed nursing care facility. The motto of the Nursing Center is "Remembering the past, responsive to the present and ready for the future." It has licensed therapy nursing services, outpatient therapy services, skilled nursing and rehabilitative care, therapeutic diets and more. Visitors can learn about the various services offered by Edmonson Health Care.

### **The Assessment**

The Monroe 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, Monroe County's healthcare sector is currently at stage 2 on a 0 to 5 scale with some doctors regularly using computers to enter and maintain patient records. Additionally, digital instruments and imaging equipment are being acquired.
- **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. Some providers have informational websites. Some providers store patient records electronically. Telemedicine is being evaluated. Some offices are electronically transmitting records to insurers for reimbursement.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the healthcare community, Monroe County is currently at stage 2 on a 0 to 5 scale with some providers having begun the conversion to electronic medical records, and some providers investigating how to deploy wireless technologies for mobile workers.

### **The Vision**

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

- **Internet-based video conferencing** is used to consult experts and for training programs
- Some **patients are being monitored at home and at work** via portable devices with wireless transmitters

- Some providers allow **patients to e-mail doctors**
- Most providers **store patient records electronically**
- Some lab **results and images are received electronically**
- Work is underway by some providers to **begin online exchanging of test results and other medical records** with appropriate parties
- Healthcare leaders are **talking with the community about enhancing online services and using the network to improve communitywide healthcare**

## **LIBRARIES**

Edmonson County Public Library, <http://www.youseemore.com/edmonson/>, is located in Brownsville. From the library's website, you can access their entire catalog in English, French and Spanish. A calendar for the year, hours of operation, staff listing and contact information are all also available online. The library has also included history links, information for children's programming and various other services offered by the library. Through their implementation of technology, Edmonson County Library's current annual total material circulation of more than 52,000 will undoubtedly increase, as will their value to the community.

The public library has seen a substantial increase in the use of public computers over the past year. The library hopes to be able to increase the number of computers for public use. The library wants to purchase laptops that can be used for individual patrons, as well as training sessions throughout the library. The library wants to create a computer lab that would be available to the public for general use, and as a facility that would provide training courses for people interested in learning how to use computers and the Internet.

### **The Assessment**

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

- **Networked Places** – In the category of networked places, the library sector is currently at stage 4 on a 0 to 5 scale. The library has added network ports or wireless networks and electrical outlets to carrels.
- **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 card, and they can access the library online as a portal for other online information services.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the library system, the sector is currently at stage 4 on a 0 to 5 scale. The library helps the community understand copyright issues and how to protect privacy on the Internet. New hires are required to have experience using new technology. The library takes internal responsibility for continuing e-rate and other discounts, and libraries have developed network management policies and technologies to prevent patrons from sending spam.

### **The Vision**

The Edmonson 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 three categories. The vision includes:

- The library offers **patrons a 54 mbps or faster wireless network**
- The library **offers live video consultations**
- The library **allows patrons to borrow e-books over the Internet**
- The library 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
- The library **continues to upgrade its facilities** to offer the community the next generation in technology, services and training
- The library actively **promotes information technology literacy** to drive positive impacts on economic performance, skills and innovation in the community

### **HIGHER EDUCATION**

Although higher education facilities are not present in Edmonson County, there are 12 other facilities within 60 miles of the county.

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

Bowling Green Technical College, [www.bowlinggreen.kctcs.edu](http://www.bowlinggreen.kctcs.edu), offers degrees, diplomas and certificates in 27 major programs of study. Bowling Green Technical College currently has four campuses located in Bowling Green and Glasgow and will soon see the addition of two new locations at the Kentucky Transpark and Franklin.

Understanding the value of information technology and its connection to economic development, Bowling Green Technical College's Information Technology Department has a mission to provide technical education and training as a way to foster economic growth and prosperity. The IT Department offers an associate degree in information technology with options in computer programming, Network Administration Cisco Track, and Network Administration Microsoft Track. They also offer certificates in A+, Cisco and Microsoft.

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

KYVU provides college credit, professional development and supplemental studies while providing a single access point to statewide learning support services over the Internet. KYVU serves as a clearinghouse for a growing list of online learning opportunities.

Kentucky was the first state in the country to offer its residents a comprehensive package of online educational resources: a virtual university, a virtual high school, [www.kvhs.org](http://www.kvhs.org), and a virtual library, including research help from reference librarians, [www.kyvl.org](http://www.kyvl.org).

Since Edmonson County is currently without institutions of higher education, all assessments have been combined into the K-12 Education sector as part of an education plan for the community.

### **COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS**

There are approximately 20 community-based organizations in Edmonson County. These community-based organizations include religious, educational, charitable, scientific and literary organizations. Some include the following:

- Edmonson County Arts Council, Inc.
- Disabled American Veterans
- Independent Order of Odd Fellows
- Edmonson County Lions Club
- Woodmen of the World

### **The Assessment**

The Edmonson 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, Edmonson County's community-based organization sector is currently at stage 1 on a 0 to 5 scale with most organizations accessing the Internet through a limited dial-up connection.
- **Applications and Services** – In the category of technology applications and services, the community-based organization sector is currently at stage 1 on a 0 to 5 scale with most organizations currently using e-mail and possibly other basic Internet functions.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the community-based organization community, Edmonson County is currently at stage 1 on a 0 to 5 scale where the Internet is seen as a possible enhancement and marketing tool.

### **The Vision**

The Edmonson 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 3 on a 0 to 5 scale. The team's vision includes:

- 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

## **GOVERNMENT**

Government entities in Edmonson County are Edmonson County and Brownsville. The government entities of Edmonson County do not have official websites. Even though Edmonson County is currently without an online presence, the government sector has set some goals for technology growth. Edmonson County's Government does envision a technology center in the community that would offer computer stations for use by the public, along with computer awareness training. The government sector envisions technology as a wonderful opportunity for the public to become better informed on local, state and federal issues. In turn, this would educate citizens on the importance of being involved with local and regional issues.

### **The Assessment**

Although the government entities in Edmonson County have a limited online presence, the Edmonson 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 2 on a 0 to 5 scale with some employees having e-mail accounts.
- **Applications and Services** – In the category of technology applications and services, the government sector is currently at stage 2 on a 0 to 5 scale. Most public agency websites offer informational features such as a community calendar, staff directory and downloadable forms, and customers rely mostly on postal mail and telephone to conduct business.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the government community, Edmonson County and its associated governments are currently at stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale. 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, and employees are trained and knowledgeable about basic applications.

### **The Vision**

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

- Some **field workers use wireless networks to upload and download data in the field**
- Some **employees use desktop videoconferencing**
- **Sensors and webcams monitor locations**, such as rivers, that are important to public safety
- Customers can make routine payments, such as parking fines, **online using credit cards or electronic fund transfer**
- Parks and recreation classes have **online registration**
- Employees can enter **building inspections and violations from the field**

- Some agencies have a formal policy that allows some **employees to work from home at least one day a week**
- **Rights-of-way and tower siting policies are in place**
- **Elected officials understand the importance of the network** for economic development and quality of life

### **TOURISM, RECREATION AND PARKS**

The tourism, recreation and parks sector is served by the Edmonson County Tourist Commission. The Tourist Commission has a website available at [www.cavesandlakes.com](http://www.cavesandlakes.com). Through the website, a visitor can learn about Mammoth Cave National Park, golfing, restaurants, fun activities, fishing and boating, horseback riding, camping and more. Downloadable maps highlighting area attractions are also available. The tourism and recreation sector understands the importance of technology, but also sees obstacles to its usage. To address the obstacles, the sector recognizes that education and website assistance are needed. The sector further envisions a time where all destinations and facilities are online with all websites interlinked. Tourism and recreational points of interest in Edmonson County include:

- Diamond Caverns Golf Club, [www.diamondcaverns.com](http://www.diamondcaverns.com)
- Mammoth Cave National Park, [www.nps.gov/macac/home.htm](http://www.nps.gov/macac/home.htm)
- Nolin Lake State Park, [parks.ky.gov/stateparks/nl](http://parks.ky.gov/stateparks/nl)
- Nolin Lake Dam, [www.LrL.usace.army.mil/nrl](http://www.LrL.usace.army.mil/nrl)
- Park Mammoth Resort, [www.parkmammoth.us](http://www.parkmammoth.us)
- Moutardier Marina, [www.cavesandlakes.com/nolin](http://www.cavesandlakes.com/nolin)

Many lodging and camping facilities in Edmonson County have websites. Some are:

- Mammoth Cave Hotel, [www.mammothcavehotel.com](http://www.mammothcavehotel.com)
- Lakeside Dreams, [www.mammothcave.com](http://www.mammothcave.com)
- Serenity Hill Bed and Breakfast, [www.serenityhillbedandbreakfast.com](http://www.serenityhillbedandbreakfast.com)
- Moutardier Marina & Lake View Cabins, [www.cavesandlakes.com/nolin](http://www.cavesandlakes.com/nolin)
- Park Mammoth Resort, [www.parkmammothresort.us](http://www.parkmammothresort.us)
- Reinecke's Resort Cottage, [www.mammothcave.com/reinecke.htm](http://www.mammothcave.com/reinecke.htm)
- Diamond Caverns Resort and Golf Club, [www.mammothcave.com](http://www.mammothcave.com)
- Double "J" Stables & Campground, [www.doublejstables.com](http://www.doublejstables.com)

Mammoth Cave National Park, [www.nps.gov/macac/home.htm](http://www.nps.gov/macac/home.htm), has an extensive website available with news, volunteering opportunities and more. Through its trip-planner feature, a visitor can find a cave tour listing with schedule, surface activities, events, safety and warning issues, along with information for the kids. Detailed information is available on each of the cave tours. Park maps, publications and image galleries are also available. Coming soon is a flash-enabled "1844 Tour of the Cave." Educational material is also available on the site.

### **The Assessment**

The Edmonson 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, Edmonson 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 with some facilities have an informational website, and some facilities transmitting or receiving some reservations electronically.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the tourism, recreation, and parks sector, Edmonson 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 Edmonson 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 each of the three categories above to stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale. The team’s vision includes:

- Most office employees **have always-on connections to the Internet at their desks**
- Some mobile workers **have laptop computers** and can access the office network remotely
- Affordable **videoconferencing facilities are available**
- 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**

### **AGRICULTURE**

In 2002, there were 670 farms in Edmonson County, comprising 93,661 acres and averaging 140 acres per farm. The total market value of production was nearly \$10 million, averaging \$14,859 per farm. Crop sales accounted for \$3.3 million, and livestock sales accounted for \$6.6 million. Government payments totaled \$354,000, or \$1,616 per farm. Edmonson County is ranked 76<sup>th</sup> in the value of agricultural products sold in the state. The leading agricultural products in sales in the county are:

- Cattle and calves – \$3,874,000
- Milk and other dairy products from cows – \$1,570,000
- Tobacco – \$1,415,000

Edmonson County tobacco farmers received \$9,109,604 in burley payments from the Tobacco Buyout Program. There were no dark payments.

In Edmonson County, the agricultural sector is served by Edmonson County’s office of the University of Kentucky’s Cooperative Extension Service, [ces.ca.uky.edu/Edmonson](http://ces.ca.uky.edu/Edmonson). The Cooperative Extension Service offers a wide variety of services and provides a great deal of

information. Understanding the value of technology, the Cooperative Extension Service has high-speed Internet service in its office.

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

### **The Assessment**

The Edmonson 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, Edmonson 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 1 on a 0 to 5 scale with some growers, suppliers and processors using e-mail and Internet.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the agricultural community, Edmonson County is currently at stage 1 on a 0 to 5 scale where the Internet is seen as a possible enhancement to the way daily business is conducted.

### **The Vision**

The Edmonson 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 all three of the categories above. The team's vision includes:

- Most growers, suppliers and processors have **always-on connections to the Internet**
- Some mobile **workers have laptop computers** and **can access the network remotely**
- **Affordable videoconferencing facilities** are available in the community
- Most **growers, suppliers and processors have informational websites**
- Some **websites can accept credit card purchases**
- Some **growers, suppliers and processors participate in an electronic supply chain**
- Some suppliers and processors **permit employees periodically to telework**
- Some growers, suppliers and processors **encourage employees to take work-related classes online**

<b>Business and Industry</b>	<b>Edmonson County</b>
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● Edmonson County's Benchmark Assessment Results are presented in red.

■ Edmonson 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;"><b>Least Connected</b></div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;"><b>Most Connected</b></div> </div>	<b>0</b>	Not using the Internet.	No computer use or website. Customers use phone and postal mail.	No technology or telecom plan.
	<b>1</b>	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.
	<b>2</b>	● 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.
	<b>3</b>	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.
	<b>4</b>	■ 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.
	<b>5</b>	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.

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

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


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

# Edmonson County

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

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


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

# Libraries

# Edmonson County


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

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

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

# Higher Education

# Edmonson County


	Stage	Networked Places	Applications & Services	Leadership
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Least Connected</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Most Connected</b></p>	<b>0</b>	Not using the Internet.	Use phone and postal mail.	There is no technology or telecom plan.
	<b>1</b>	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.
	<b>2</b>	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.
	<b>3</b>	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.
	<b>4</b>	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.
	<b>5</b>	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

# Edmonson County

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

■ Edmonson 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**

**Edmonson County**

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

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


	Stage	Networked Places	Applications & Services	Leadership
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Least Connected</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Most Connected</b></p>	0	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 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

# Edmonson County

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

■ Edmonson 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

# Edmonson County

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

The goal of this project is to provide the organization, promotion and delivery of technology education, training and awareness to the entire community of Edmonson County.

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

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

#### **SPECIFIC MEASURABLE OUTCOMES**

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

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

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

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

#### **NAMES OF IMPLEMENTATION CHAMPIONS**

##### **Educational Team**

##### **K-12 Education**

Edmonson County School District, [www.edmonson.k12.ky.us](http://www.edmonson.k12.ky.us)

Edmonson County Cooperative Extension Service, [ces.ca.uky.edu/Edmonson](http://ces.ca.uky.edu/Edmonson)

Edmonson County Public Library, <http://www.youseemore.com/edmonson/>

Barren River Area Development District, [www.bradd.org](http://www.bradd.org)

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

### **LONG TERM GOAL**

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

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

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

### **SPECIFIC MEASURABLE OUTCOMES**

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

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

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

### **E-GOVERNMENT TEAM**

City of Brownsville  
Edmonson County  
Barren River Area Development District, [www.bradd.org](http://www.bradd.org)

## **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 services directory for local IT-related services in the county, including providers for technical support, including individuals, businesses and schools.
- 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.
- Encourage Internet access from home for education, business, shopping, eBay and banking.

### **Education**

- Provide training in information technology resources, especially for support staff and classified personnel.
- Establish a countywide consortium (made up of public and private schools and adult education) to consolidate technology planning in the education sector.
- Develop strategies for bridging the digital divide, such as after-school programs and community centers.
- Expand wide-area resources and increase bandwidth.
- 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.
- Ask businesses to donate surplus computers to low-income parents.

- Provide low-income parents with low-cost Internet connections through the school district.
- Promote technology integration in classrooms and on teacher websites.

### **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.
- Educate providers on available technologies and the benefits of technology in medicine.
- Keep patient data on a central database shared among all medical providers to minimize the number of forms patients have to fill out on each visit. This would enable providers to avoid copying and faxing patient information.
- Provide online appointment scheduling and verification.

### **Library**

- 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 library, bookmobiles and 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.
- 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.
- Work through issues related to providing personal laptop access at the library, such as security, networking, wiring and electricity.

### **Community-Based Organizations**

- Identify and list the community-based organizations in the county, as well as their websites.
- Develop a list of potential funding sources for technology acquisition.
- 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.
- Help community-based organizations find locations to access the Internet.
- Provide training on web page development, including the use of free web pages.

### **Government**

- Increase the number of public access terminals in the county.
- Develop more thorough employee technology training programs.
- Develop partnerships with businesses and grassroots organizations to improve technology usage countywide.
- Increase city-county collaboration.
- Digitize Property Valuation Administration records, maps and utilities for online access.
- Create a county website and post all meeting agendas, minutes and attachments online.
- Provide training and awareness to senior citizens including how to file medical claims and insurance online.
- Encourage city-county collaboration.

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

- Improve and correct local links and identification.
- Improve countywide web portal to more effectively 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.

- Get all organizations and hotels online with links to the tourism website.
- Provide wireless access at parks.

### **Agriculture**

- Increase broadband awareness among the agricultural community.
- Develop educational materials to help the agricultural community understand the importance of broadband.
- 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.