



## **What is e-Vermont?**

The *e-Vermont* Community Broadband Project is a two-year initiative to help rural Vermont towns take full advantage of the Internet and advance a wide variety of local needs including economic development, school innovation, job creation, downtown marketing, community engagement, and e-commerce. The new *e-Vermont* Partnership will work with selected communities statewide in a comprehensive effort combining online services, training, access, awareness, and planning.

By reaching the bedrocks of Vermont communities—schools, businesses, municipal government, libraries, health and social services groups—the *e-Vermont* Project will promote new collaborative efforts for identifying and implementing previously untapped resources and help our towns fully realize the potential of the digital age. *e-Vermont* is not stringing cable or fiber, but is working to make better use of broadband where it is available.

The *e-Vermont* project will learn from each of the selected towns and share these best practices in the utilization of digital tools through symposia and conferences statewide.

## **e-Vermont Goals**

- Increase civic involvement and build community
- Advance local government communications, efficiency and transparency
- Promote local business innovation and prosperity
- Improve health and wellness service and delivery
- Advance 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning in and out of school
- Support local use of the Internet in myriad ways to advance communications, education and community projects
- Increase “take-rates” for broadband in rural areas to encourage Internet providers to extend existing networks.

## **e-Partners**

*e-Vermont* will be led by the Vermont Council on Rural Development

Partners include:

- Digital Wish
- Front Porch Forum
- The Snelling Center for Government
- Vermont Department of Libraries
- Vermont Department of Public Service
- Vermont Small Business Development Center
- Vermont State Colleges

### **e-Vermont Communities**

The 2010 *e-Vermont* communities are:

- Brighton
- Bristol
- Canaan
- Cambridge
- Grand Isle County
- Ludlow
- Middlesex
- Newport
- Poultney
- Pownal
- Sunderland
- West Rutland

A second round of communities will be selected in 2011. Details on the application process are posted at [www.vtrural.org](http://www.vtrural.org).

### **Funding and Support**

The Vermont Broadband Project is supported by a \$2.5 million stimulus grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Additional support comes from these Vermont philanthropists and corporate associates:

- Comcast
- Dell
- Evslyn Family Foundation
- Jan and David Blittersdorf Foundation
- Microsoft
- UVM's Center for Rural Studies
- Vermont Rural Partnership
- VT Community Foundation

### **What Will e-Vermont Do?**

*e-Vermont* will provide training and education, equipment and facilitation, and some funding to the selected communities. The Vermont Broadband Project will be guided by the *e-Vermont* Partnership, but its focus is on the grassroots needs of each selected community. Local task forces will lead the way in developing specific plans for their locale. Potential actions supported by *e-Vermont* include:

- e-government – training and consultation on podcasting, on-line meetings, community scheduling, website development
- Computer equipment and enhancement of e-services in libraries
- Specialized classes ranging from basic computer literacy to advanced applications to meet the range of community and business needs
- Building community calendars, business directories, buy-local maps, arts and crafts tours, sports schedules, ride shares, and a variety of new locally-driven digital applications
- Expanding on-line computer health information and opportunities
- Providing direct business consultation services to improve business efficiency and expand web-based marketing, commerce and profitability
- Building on-line networks that link neighbors to each other and to local services
- Delivering new netbook computers to the families of middle school children who receive school lunch assistance
- Involving youth in leadership to build community connection
- Providing teacher training and curriculum development assistance to spur Internet utilization in and out of school
- Providing new computer based services to connect seniors with their families

### **For More Information**

Contact Helen Labun Jordan, *e-Vermont* Project Director at 802-225-6091 or by email at [eVermont@vtrural.org](mailto:eVermont@vtrural.org).