



McCREARY COUNTY STRATEGIC TECHNOLOGY PLAN

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A. Executive Summary

A. Executive Summary

Purpose

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

Summary

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

K-12 Education

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

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

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

Healthcare

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

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

Libraries

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

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

Higher Education

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

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

Community-Based Organizations

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

Government

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

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

Tourism, Recreation, and Parks

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

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

Agriculture

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



C. WHERE ARE WE AND WHERE ARE WE GOING?

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BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

McCreary County's business and industry employs a total of 3,144 workers.

Leading industries by employment:

- Manufacturing with 581;
- Trade, Transportation and Utilities with 447; and
- Public Administration with 360 employees.

Leading employers:

- Outdoor Venture Corp.
- McCreary County Hardwood Inc.
- Forest and Park Service
- Pine Knot Job Corps
- The United States Penitentiary (USP)

Industrial Development Organizations in McCreary County:

- McCreary County Industrial Development Authority, Whitley City, (606) 376-5602
- McCreary County Industrial Development Corporation, Stearns, (606) 376-5011
- McCreary County Development Association, Whitley City, (606) 376-9142
- McCreary County Forest Industries Association, Pine Knot, (606) 354-3501

Pine Knot Job Corps Center, <http://philadelphiaregion.jobcorps.gov/Trades/Center-PineKnot.html> Pine Knot Job Corps Center, located in Pine Knot, Kentucky, offers a high school diploma program and a GED program, in addition to the following vocational training programs:

- Automotive Repair
- Culinary Arts
- Bricklayer Painter
- Carpentry
- Urban Forestry
- Computer Service Technician
- Welding
- Construction Craft Labor

Pine Knot Job Corps Center trains more than 200 students each year. Pine Knot Job Corps Center partners with area employers to give students real-world experience.

The McCreary County eCommunity Leadership Team recognizes the need to make citizens aware of the benefits of the Internet in business, as well as ongoing technology training for employees.

The Assessment

- **Networked Places** – In the category of networked places, McCreary County's business and industry sector is currently at stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale with most office employees having always-on connections to the Internet at their desks. Some mobile workers have laptop computers and can access the office network remotely, and affordable videoconferencing facilities are available in the community.
- **Applications and Services** – In the area of technology applications and services, the business and industry sector is currently at stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale with most

businesses having informational websites. Some retail websites can accept credit card transactions. Additionally, some businesses participate in the electronic supply chain.

- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the business community, McCreary County is currently at stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale with some businesses permitting some employees periodically to telework. Some businesses encourage employees to take work-related classes offline, and employee training on new technology is a priority.

The Vision

While the McCreary 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 networked places and applications and services, and to a stage 5 in the leadership sector. 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 have **restructured to focus** on their **core contribution** and **outsource nonessential functions**
- New hires are **required to have experience using new technology** in business applications.

K-12 EDUCATION

McCreary County School District (<http://www.mccreary.k12.ky.us>) enrolled 3,153 students in the 2004-2005 school year. The mission of McCreary County Schools, with the support of the community, is to provide all students with the individualized educational and social experiences that will enable them to succeed and attain their maximum potential so they can become productive and effective contributors to the community and the nation. The McCreary County School District presently has three schools that serve elementary level students: Whitley Elementary (K-6); Pine Knot Primary School (K-3); and Pine Knot Intermediate School (4-6). The district has two schools that serve middle school students: McCreary County Middle School and McCreary Central Academy. There are three schools that serve high school age students: McCreary Central High School; McCreary Central Academy; and Pine Knot Career Institute.

	Attendance Rate	Retention Rate	Dropout Rate	Graduation Rate	College	Military	Work	Voc/Tech Training	Work & Part-Time School	Not Successful
District	92.4%	4.1%	0.8%	87.7%	18%	2.7%	30.6%	5%	37.8%	5.9%
State	94.3%	3.3%	2.2%	81.5%	54.7%	2.6%	27.5%	4.8%	6.4%	4%

Technology is used in various ways throughout the district. Computers are distributed among classrooms and computer labs. Computer labs are used for group instruction, special projects and portfolio development. All classrooms are equipped with Internet

access for projects that require research within the classroom. There are over 1,035 computer workstations within the district, and over 1020 of them have Internet access. There are also over 2,130 data/voice/video wiring runs in the district. The computer to teacher ratio is 1 to 1. The student computer ratio is 1 to 4.3. The district has also been approved for over \$450,000 from the Universal Service Fund for the 2004-2005 school year for technology related goods and services. The district participates in the USDA Space Explorers Internet Based Programming. Some of the activities include online events with real NASA scientists and educators and press opportunities and online chat with experts, scientists and astronauts. Both the middle schools and the high school now have a Student Technology Leadership Program, which provides opportunities for students to become leaders in the area of technology at their schools. All of the schools except for one are fibered together for increased bandwidth needed for instruction. The district is implementing a K-12 student technology skill continuum which may be found on the district's web site at www.mccreary.k12.ky.us. Thanks to the local cable company, the school district continues to have a T.V. channel to serve the community by providing announcements, upcoming events, school related activities and videotaped programming that is broadcast to all cable subscribers within the district.

	Spending per Student	Student Teacher Ratio	Student/Computer Ratio	% of Classrooms with at Least One KETS Workstation With Internet Access
District	10975	15:1	2.5:1	100
State	8663	16:1	3.7:1	100

Beulah Mt. Christian School is the sole non-public school in the county. It enrolls 17 students in grades 2 through 12.

The McCreary County School District currently is at a 1 to 3.5 computer/student ratio. The district is in the process of replacing the current phone systems with Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) solutions. Three of the five school HVAC systems are controlled and monitored by computer systems for better energy consumption. All locations are being updated to wireless high-speed access. The district has implemented many web-based applications, many of which allow parents to view their child's progress online. Teachers currently use e-mail to communicate with parents, and are in the practice of placing lessons on the school's website.

Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) measures of academic progress (MAP) are state-aligned computerized adaptive assessments that provide accurate, useful information about student achievement and growth. This application is scheduled to be implemented in the fall of 2006.

The McCreary County eCommunity Leadership Team realizes that students must have the proper tools and the proper training, and they are very aware of the importance of technology in the education sector of their community. Two hundred and nine McCreary County eighth-grade students and their families received free home computers, software and printers through ConnectKentucky's No Child Left Offline initiative in May of 2006. The McCreary County distribution was the fourth distribution of computers through the innovative program. No Child Left Offline recycles and refurbishes surplus state computers and distributes them to eighth graders without computers at home.

The Assessment

In its evaluation, the McCreary 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, McCreary County's K-12 education sector is currently at stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale with most schools providing at least one computer for every five students in grades seven and above. Most classrooms have computers for student use, and some teachers use computer-based presentation tools and projectors for their lessons.
- **Applications and Services** – In the category of technology applications and services, the education sector is currently at stage 2 on a 0 to 5 scale where many schools have an informational website, however the Internet is not used as a resource for instruction or homework assignments.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the education sector, McCreary County is currently at stage 2 on a 0 to 5 scale. Few schools have plans for better utilizing telecommunications services and technologies in their classrooms, and some teachers can incorporate Internet material into their curriculum.

The Vision

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

- Some students are given **laptop or portable computers** to use at school and home
- Many classrooms teachers have access to **digital projection** capabilities
- Most middle and high schools have video programs that allow students to **produce and share shows** on a public network
- Some schools use **wireless sensors** to monitor energy consumption
- Schools **use the network to connect students, 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

McCreary County is one of the 10 counties included in the **Lake Cumberland Service Region of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services**, <http://chfs.ky.gov/dcbs/Service+Regions/LCSR.htm#McCreary>, which lies in three of Kentucky's geographical regions: Pennyrite, Eastern Coalfield and Outer Bluegrass. Their stated goals are:

- To provide the finest health care possible for people in our state facilities;
- To provide the best preventative services through our public health programs;
- To provide the most outstanding service for our families and children;
- To protect and prevent the abuse of children, elders and people with disabilities; and
- To build quality programs across-the-board; and by doing all of these things.

The two locations are:

Family Support
Whitley City Plaza
Whitley City, KY 42653
(606) 376-5304

Protection and Permanency
South Highway 27
Whitley City, KY 42653
(606) 376-5365

Winchester, Patton, and Burgess, P.S.C.

Box 99, South Fork Center
Whitley City, KY 42653
(606)376-5391
College of Medicine Family Practice

Lifeline Home Health Care, www.lifelineweb.com/locations/mccreary.htm provides a complete array of home-centered health services to help people lead healthier, happier, more independent lives at home. Called Lifeline's Complete Care Approach, the program offers significant advantages to patients, physicians, discharge planners, case managers and payers.

Lifeline Home Health Care
Whitley City Office
56 Medical Lane
Whitley City, KY 42653
606-376-5400
800-766-5438

Adanta Behavioral Health Services of Whitley City

Whitley City Clinic
South Fork Plaza 90 Medical Lane
Whitley City KY 42653
Phone: (606) 376-2466
Hotline: (800) 633-5599
Web Site: www.adanta.org
Primary Focus: Mental health and substance abuse services

The McCreary County eCommunity Leadership Team members are aware of the many technological advancements being utilized in the healthcare field. Electronic medical records will soon be mandatory in healthcare. A Picture Archiving Communications System (PACS) for radiology imaging is a major technological application needed in the field. The availability of telemedicine would provide tremendous benefits for citizens, such as allowing diagnostics to be performed locally without patients having to travel far distances. Home patient monitoring is in the immediate future with the technology currently available. Physician order entry systems will expedite patient treatment and therefore speed up patient recovery, which will reduce the opportunity for medical errors.

The Assessment

The McCreary 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, McCreary 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 3 on a 0 to 5 scale. Many providers have informational websites, and many store patient records electronically. Telemedicine is being evaluated, and some offices are electronically transmitting records to insurers for reimbursement
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the healthcare community, McCreary County is currently at stage 2 on a 0 to 5 scale. Some providers have begun the conversion to electronic medical records, and some are investigating how to deploy wireless technologies for mobile workers.

The Vision

The McCreary 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 **videoconferencing** is used to consult experts and for training programs
- Some **patients are being monitored at home and at work via portable devices** with wireless transmitters
- Some providers allow **patients to e-mail doctors**
- Most providers **store patient records electronically**
- Some **lab results and images are received electronically**
- Work is underway by some providers to begin **online exchanging of test results and other medical records with appropriate parties**
- Healthcare leaders are talking with the community about **enhancing online services and using the network to improve communitywide healthcare.**

LIBRARIES

The McCreary County Public Library's website, www.mccrearylibrary.org offers general information for all patrons. Their vision is to be an information and enrichment source for all members of the McCreary County community. Emphasis is placed on supporting formal

educational pursuits and on stimulating the interest for reading in young children. The public library will continue to be the gateway for quality services to the community through the twenty-first century. The mission is to make concentrated efforts to provide, or make available, popular materials for leisure interests, as well as technological resources for the educational needs of the people in the service area.

The Team realizes that the library, in so many ways, is considered one of the beacons for technology in the county. Therefore, it is very important for the citizens of McCreary County that technology is available and current in the facility.

The Assessment

The McCreary 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 2 on a 0 to 5 scale with public libraries providing several computers with free access to the Internet.
- **Applications and Services** – In the category of technology applications and services, the library sector is currently at stage 2 on a 0 to 5 scale where most libraries have a website with basic information about hours of operation and location.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the library system, the sector is currently at stage 1 on a 0 to 5 scale. Employees are accessing the Internet in order to help the patrons of the facility.

The Vision

The McCreary 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 the networked places category, and to stage 3 in the applications and services and leadership categories. The vision includes:

- Most public libraries **offer patrons a 54 mbps** or faster wireless network
- 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**

HIGHER EDUCATION

Somerset Community College (www.somerset.kctcs.edu/) has a campus facility in Whitley City that serves the McCreary County area. The facility's vision is to enhance the technological infrastructure, to education faculty and staff in technology's uses, and to encourage students to use technology for business transactions with the college, as well as for course work and communication with teachers and fellow students.

Their distance learning program serves over 900 students and offers a wide variety of evening courses in order to make the educational opportunities provided by the college more accessible to all of the citizens of the ten-county service area. An extensive schedule of undergraduate courses is offered in Albany, Liberty, Monticello, Mt. Vernon, Russell Springs, Somerset and Stanford, Kentucky. These off-campus courses address the needs of learners who want to continue their personal and professional development, yet find it impossible or impractical to come to Somerset's main campus. Students in the off-campus program include traditional and non-traditional students, whether they are high school graduates or GED participants. Students are also comprised of life-long and professional development learners in business, industry and government.

The McCreary County eCommunity Leadership Team fully understands the value to the citizens of McCreary County in using technology and advanced telecommunications for education and training.

The Assessment

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

- **Networked Places** – In the category of networked places, McCreary County's higher education sector is currently at stage 2 on a 0 to 5 scale with 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.
- **Applications and Services** – In the category of technology applications and services, the higher education sector is currently at stage 1 on a 0 to 5 scale. Few faculty members are trained to use the Internet for instruction, and few classes use digital content and/or web-based content for instruction.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the higher education community, McCreary County is currently at stage 2 on a 0 to 5 scale with some departments having plans for better utilizing telecommunications services and technologies in their operations.

The Vision

The McCreary County eCommunity Leadership Team sees great potential for the use of technology in the higher education sector but understands that colleges and universities are limited in their resources and ability to implement changes within a brief period. The team has set goals of reaching stage 3 out of 5 in all three categories over the next two years. The team's vision includes:

- 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

COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

There are approximately 35 community-based organizations including religious, educational, charitable, scientific and literary organizations. The non-profit organization website for McCreary County is www.mccrearycounty.com/nonprofit.htm. These include:

- Cooperative Extension Service 4-H programs - <http://ces.ca.uky.edu/mccreary/youthdev/>. The 4-H/Youth Development program creates opportunities and supportive environments for youth and adults to become capable, competent and caring citizens. The emphasis is on "hands-on" learning that focuses on the youth's area of interest. Programs are conducted with the help of parents, adult volunteer leaders and professional staff who organize educational experiences. Youth participate in organized 4-H clubs, special interest and project groups, 4-H school enrichment programs, 4-H camp and other special activities.
- Cooperative Extension Service Family and Consumer Sciences programs - <http://ces.ca.uky.edu/mccreary/fcs/>. The goal of the Family & Consumer Sciences Program is to improve the quality of life for individuals and families. They address the challenges of critical issues affecting people's daily lives in a changing environment. Programs focus on economic, social and physical well-being of their clients. The organization strengthens personal and family relationships, encourages healthful choices and identifies resources to extend income
- American Legion Post 115, P.O. Box 428, Stearns, Kentucky 42647, (606) 376-9826
- Disabled American Veterans, Whitley City, Kentucky 42653, (606) 376-5321
- McCreary County Senior Citizens Center, Whitley City, Kentucky 42653
- Kiwanis Club of McCreary County, www.angelfire.com/ky3/mccrearykiwanis
- McCreary County Senior Citizens Center, P.O. Box 806, Whitley City 42653
- McCreary County Educational Development Foundation, Whitley City, (606) 376-5747
- McCreary County Historical Foundation, Inc., Stearns, (606) 376-5330
- Veterans of Foreign Wars, Stearns, (606) 549-7025
- Christian Appalachian Project (CAP), which operates a community center and a child and development center offering GED classes. The community center houses support groups for alcoholics and narcotic addicts and offers community meeting places, but bringing families together and strengthening the family unit is the top priority of the organization.
- UNITE, Champions Against Drugs
- McCreary Christian Center offers a food pantry, free medical clinic and pharmacy, nutrition classes for diabetics, an annual community health fair and health screenings a few times a year.
- Pine Knot Job Corps Center, <http://philadelphiaregion.jobcorps.gov/Trades/Center-PineKnot.html> Pine Knot Job Corps Center, located in Pine Knot, Kentucky, offers a high school diploma program and a GED program, in addition to the following vocational training programs:
 - Automotive Repair Culinary Arts
 - Bricklayer Painter
 - Carpentry Urban Forestry

- Computer Service Technician Welding
- Construction Craft Labor

Pine Knot Job Corps Center trains more than 200 students each year. There are many fun activities to take part in on center, such as hiking, billiards, arts and crafts and weightlifting, as well as sports, including basketball, softball and volleyball. Students can also take advantage of leadership opportunities through the Student Government Association, the Pioneer Leadership organization, a peer counseling group and community service projects. Pine Knot Job Corps Center partners with area employers to give students real-world experience.

- McCreary County Community Housing Development Corporation (McCHDO), www.mcchdo.org which builds affordable, sustainable homes designed to serve a family for several generations. The local board of directors set a higher standard for these homes because they are an investment in the family and the community. McCHDO employs a construction crew of local residents, which is a small boost to the area's economy. Empowerment of local residents also occurs through McCHDO's Do-It-Yourself In-Kind Material Distribution program. Donated home improvement supplies are distributed to Appalachian homeowners for a minimal handling fee.

The McCreary County eCommunity Leadership Team understands the need for organizations in outlying areas, such as volunteer fire departments and community watches, to have the ability to communicate online. However, there is a need to improve community-based organization portal capabilities to make this a reality. Since community-based organizations are charged with being the best possible stewards of donated money, technology is viewed as a great way to save money. Some community-based organizations see the Internet as a way to increase donations and promotions, and are interested in the prospect of using videoconferencing during business operations.

Assessment

The McCreary 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, McCreary County's community-based organization sector is currently at stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale. 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. In addition, some organizations provide technology training to their staff at least once a year.
- **Applications and Services** – In the category of technology applications and services, the community-based organization sector is currently at stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale with many organizations having an informational website. Many local chapters are able to share data electronically with the national parent organization, and some organizations accept online donations.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the community-based organization community, McCreary County is currently at stage 2 on a 0 to 5 scale. Organizations are minimally involved in community economic development issues. Little or no plans exist for better using telecommunications services and technologies, and some organizations provide technology training to their staff at least once a year.

The Vision

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

- Many organizations use **Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP)**
- Every organization is **connected to the Internet**
- Every computer can **access the Internet** via a local 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

Government entities in McCreary County are:

- McCreary County
- Parkers Lake
- Pine Knot
- Smithtown
- Stearns
- Whitley City (County Seat)

The official McCreary County website, <http://www.mccrearycounty.com/>, ranks 31st out of 60 official county websites in the state. Other government entities in McCreary County are currently without official websites; however, website implementation is one of the priorities for this county.

Local government in McCreary County, www.mccrearycounty.com/government.htm is unique by Kentucky and national standards. There are no incorporated areas located within the county's boundaries. The county has five unincorporated urban places (Whitley City, Stearns, Pine Knot, Smithtown and Parker's Lake). However, none of these areas have governing bodies. As a result, county government has assumed greater responsibility for delivery of the many services and programs typically provided by city governments in addition to those normally provided by county governments. Constitutional and statutory authority for local governance in McCreary County is vested solely in the county judge/executive and the fiscal court.

The end result is that McCreary County's governmental structure closely resembles that of urban county governments found in Lexington KY, Nashville TN and Los Angeles CA. McCreary County owns and operates its own 911 system, emergency medical service, fire department, water system, road department, community parks, public library, soil conservation district, industrial development authorities (two), jail, airport and sanitary sewer system.

The McCreary County eCommunity Leadership Team understands the importance in bringing eGovernment applications to the citizens of McCreary County.

The Assessment

Although the government entities in McCreary County have a limited online presence, the McCreary 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 community calendar, staff directory and downloadable forms. Additionally, customers rely mostly on postal mail and telephone to conduct business.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the government community, McCreary County and its associated governments are currently at stage 2 on a 0 to 5 scale. Public agencies do not have a strategy for how best to use e-government. Minimal telecommunications planning has occurred. Elected officials are not involved in telecommunications issues.

The Vision

The McCreary 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 3 in the category of networked places; the rating for applications and services to a stage 4; and the rating for leadership to stage 3. The team's vision includes:

- Many **employees have e-mail** accounts
- Some **field workers are collecting data on laptop computers** or palmtops
- **Webcams** are starting to be deployed
- Customers can make **routine payments**, such as parking fines, **online** using credit cards or EFT
- **Parks and recreation classes** can be registered for online
- Building **inspections and violations** can be entered from the field
- 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**

TOURISM, RECREATION AND PARKS

There is a local tourism website, www.mccrearycounty.com/tourism.htm with links to many local attractions. Some of the many tourism and recreational points of interests in McCreary County include:

- Cumberland Falls State Resort Park, <http://parks.ky.gov/resortparks/cf/index.htm>, is known as the "Niagara of the South." The 125-foot wide curtain of water is dramatic day or night. However, it's only at night during a full moon that the moonbow can be seen, a phenomenon not found anywhere else in the Western Hemisphere.
- Southern and Eastern Kentucky Tourism Development Association (SEKTDA) is a non-profit organization created in 1987 to promote, expand, develop and market the existing and potential tourism industry throughout Southern and Eastern Kentucky in an effort to contribute to the economic and cultural growth of the region. Their latest website, www.tourseky.com/ provides an interactive look at the many attractions in the entire SEKTDA area. Attractions in McCreary County can be found at www.tourseky.com/county.lasso?id=30.
- Bear Oil Trading Company, www.bearoiltradingcompany.com/, is an experience of the past. Bear Oil Trading Company produces primitive folk art, original design furniture and decorative accessories utilizing recycled wood.
- Eagle Falls Resort, www.eaglefallsresort.com/
- Bear Creek Horse Camp, www.tourseky.com/detail.lasso?id=7515
- Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area
- Big South Fork Scenic Railway, www.bsfsry.com/, is the home page of the Big South Fork Scenic Railway. Located in the beautiful hills of southern Kentucky, visitors can enjoy the breathtaking scenery of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area while the train makes its way through deep gorges and hugs steep cliff lines.
- McCreary County Museum, with an online informational link from the Big South Fork Scenic Railway website, is located in the heart of historic downtown Stearns, KY. The McCreary County Museum is housed in the old Stearns Coal and Lumber Company Corporate headquarters built in 1907. The Museum was founded in 1988 and visitors are invited to come and explore two floors of local history. The first floor is filled with historic documents, objects and photographs pertaining to McCreary County and the Stearns Coal & Lumber Company. The second floor has a replica bedroom and parlor from the early 1930s. In addition to these exciting exhibits they have tried to show the culture and lifestyle of McCreary Countians over the years with social exhibits that include a replica church room, a sporting exhibit and musical exhibit. The Museum overlooks the town of Stearns which features the Big South Fork Scenic Railway and local craft and gift shops.
- The Stearns District of the Daniel Boone National Forest, www.fs.fed.us/r8/boone/districts/stearns features two state Wild Rivers, (Rock Creek and Cumberland), and two federal candidates for National Wild and Scenic River designation (Marsh Creek and Rock Creek). The district surrounds the northern portion of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area. The website has links to the many district features and recreational facilities.
- The area has several horse camps that allow visitors to enjoy the trails of the Daniel Boone National Forest, www.fs.fed.us/r8/boone/documents/rogs/stearns
 - Barren Fork Horse Camp
 - Bell Farm Horse Camp
 - Stampede Run Horse Camp, www.stampederun.com/
- Sheltowee Trace Outfitters, www.ky-rafting.com/ is an outdoor adventure provider.

- Sheltowee Trail, www.sheltoweetrace.com/ is a 260-mile back country trail through Daniel Boone National Forest, Big South Fork NRRRA, and Natural Bridge, Cumberland Falls, & Pickett State Parks in Kentucky and Tennessee

The McCreary County eCommunity Leadership Team realizes that more people use the web every day for all areas of their lives. Recreation departments strive to continue to make it as easy as possible to review and participate in recreational opportunities. This Sector feels that having wireless (WiFi) broadband access in cities and state park areas would draw more citizens to businesses and parks.

The Assessment

The McCreary 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, McCreary County’s tourism, recreation, and parks sector is currently at stage 1 on a 0 to 5 scale with some employees accessing the Internet through a dial-up connection.
- **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. Some facilities have an informational website, and some transmit or receive some reservations electronically.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the tourism, recreation, and parks sector, McCreary County is currently at stage 1 on a 0 to 5 scale. In this category, the Internet is seen as a possible way to enhance operations.

The Vision

The McCreary 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 networked places and leadership categories to stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale and applications to stage 2. 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 129 farms in McCreary County, comprising 14,894 acres and averaging 97 acres per farm. The market value of production was \$566,000, averaging \$3,678 per farm. Crop sales accounted for \$126,000 of the market value of production, livestock accounted for \$440,000, and government payments totaled \$10,000. McCreary County is

ranked 112th in the value of agricultural products sold in the state. The leading agricultural products in sales in the county are:

1. Cattle and calves with \$316,000;
2. Other crops and hay with \$56,000; and
3. Tobacco with \$51,000.

McCreary County tobacco farmers received \$342,348 in burley payments from the Tobacco Buyout Program. There was no dark tobacco information available for McCreary County.

The McCreary County Cooperative Extension Service, <http://ces.ca.uky.edu/mccreary/>, is part of the University of Kentucky's and Kentucky State University's off-campus information network. They deliver information, education and solutions. They grow ideas into better communities, stronger local economies and healthier lives.

In July, 2006, The Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy established a Pilot Satellite Broadband Cost-Share Program for counties to adopt, using County Agricultural Development Funds. High-speed Internet (broadband) will allow Kentucky farmers to simplify important daily tasks, while developing marketing and sales opportunities. Internet resources will allow farmers to remain competitive and profitable in today's changing agricultural economy. ConnectKentucky is committed to assist as needed in efforts to establish county interest in adopting this program. Administrators may contact Jeff Rose at ConnectKentucky for assistance with vendor information, operation meetings or information about satellite broadband and service. Jeff can be reached via e-mail at jrose@connectky.org or by phone at 877.781.4320.

The Assessment

The McCreary 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, McCreary County's agricultural sector is currently at stage 2 on a 0 to 5 scale with some growers, suppliers, and processors having always-on connections to the Internet at their desks.
- **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, McCreary County is currently at stage 1 on a 0 to 5 scale. The Internet is seen as a possible enhancement to the way daily business is conducted.

The Vision

The McCreary County eCommunity Leadership Team sees great potential for the use of technology in the agricultural sector but understands the industry is limited in its resources and ability to implement changes within a brief period. The team has set goals to move to stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale in networked places and leadership, and to stage 2 on a 0 to 5 scale in the applications and services category. The team's vision includes:

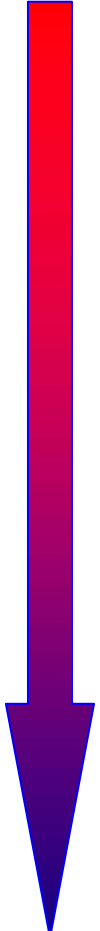
- Most growers, suppliers and processors have **always-on connections** to the Internet
- Some mobile workers have **laptop computers and can access the network remotely**
- Affordable **videoconferencing facilities** are available in the community
- Some growers, suppliers and processors have an **informational website**

- Some growers, suppliers and processors **transmit or receive some orders electronically**
- Some suppliers and processors **permit employees periodically to telework**
- Some growers, suppliers and processors **encourage employees to take work-related classes online**

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

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

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

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

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


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

Most Connected

Healthcare **McCreary County**

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

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

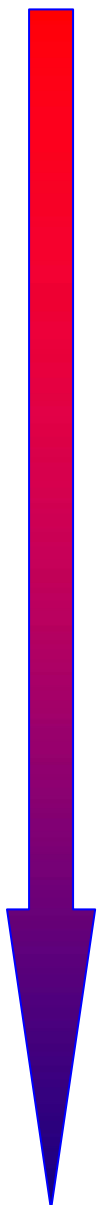
<p style="text-align: center;">Least Connected</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Most Connected</p>	Stage	Networked Places	Applications & Services	Leadership
	0	Not using the Internet.	Customers use phone and postal mail. No website.	No technology or telecom plan.
	1	Some physicians and/or staff have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

Libraries

McCreary County

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

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


 <p>Least Connected</p>	Stage	Networked Places	Applications & Services	Leadership
	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.
Most Connected				

Higher Education

McCreary County

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

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


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

Community-Based Organizations

McCreary County

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

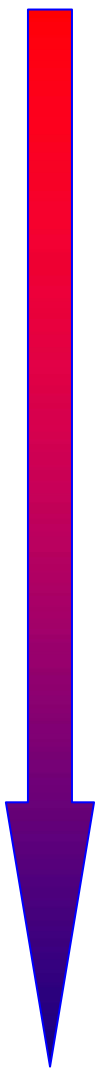
■ McCreary County's Vision for this Sector is presented in blue.

	Stage	Networked Places	Applications & Services	Leadership
 <p>Least Connected</p>	0	Not using the Internet.	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.
Most Connected				

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


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

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

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


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

Agriculture

McCreary County

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

■ McCreary 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: Implement and Coordinate Ongoing Education, Training and Awareness for McCreary County

LONG-TERM GOAL

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

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

An educated community is essential in today's global economy. There are opportunities to leverage existing resources in McCreary 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 McCreary County
2. Development of additional education, training and awareness materials to further the use of technology and broadband applications
3. Increase the use of computers and broadband in McCreary County

STEPS TO ACHIEVE OUTCOME

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

Educational Team

K-12 Education

McCreary County Schools, www.mccreary.k12.ky.us

Higher Education

Somerset Community College www.somerset.kctcs.edu/ campus facility in Whitley City

Community Education

The McCreary County Public Library, www.mccrearylibrary.org

The McCreary County Cooperative Extension Service, <http://ces.ca.uky.edu/mccreary/>

Lake Cumberland Area Development District, www.lcadd.org

PROJECT CONCEPT: Build Websites for Whitley City, Stearns, Smithtown and Pine Knot; and Incorporate eGovernment Services for the Existing McCreary County Website

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 McCreary County.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

Technology will allow local governments to deliver more applications and improved services to constituents while saving money. With growing public acceptance of online transactions and e-commerce growing dramatically, a well-planned e-government strategy will provide for the request 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

Whitley City, Stearns, Smithtown and Pine Knot City Offices

McCreary County Offices, www.mccrearycounty.com/government.htm

Technical Assistance –

- Somerset Community College www.somerset.kctcs.edu/ campus facility in Whitley City
- Lake Cumberland Area Development District, www.lcadd.org

PROJECT CONCEPT: Creation of a Local County/Community Website Portal

LONG TERM GOAL

The goal of this project is to create a Local County/Community Website Portal to serve as a clearinghouse of information by providing access to all pertinent links and websites for the citizens of McCreary County. This project will not only focus on the services that are available in McCreary County, but also provide information for both **Community-Based Organizations and Tourism, Recreation and Parks.**

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

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

SPECIFIC MEASURABLE OUTCOMES

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

STEPS TO ACHIEVE MEASURABLE OUTCOMES

1. Engage services of Kentucky.gov to assist with technical hosting, design and implementation.
2. Identify and decide on all pertinent links to be included
3. Create webpage design
4. Launch webpage
5. Market webpage to increase usage by the community

COMMUNITY WEBSITE PORTAL TEAM

Tourism, www.mccrearycounty.com/tourism.htm

Community-Based Organizations, www.mccrearycounty.com/nonprofit.htm

McCreary County Schools, www.mccreary.k12.ky.us

Somerset Community College www.somerset.kctcs.edu/ campus facility in Whitley City

The McCreary County Public Library, www.mccrearylibrary.org

The McCreary County Cooperative Extension Service, <http://ces.ca.uky.edu/mccreary/>

Lake Cumberland Area Development District, www.lcadd.org

POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS

Business and Industry

- Educate business leaders about the potential benefits of websites and online business.
- Provide videoconferencing availability to enhance the education opportunities for businesses.
- Work with the education sector on establishing classes for online business opportunities through websites.
- Publish curriculums for online videoconferencing classes.
- Educate small businesses about telecommunications services and the benefits of using technology in business.
- Develop a local directory of information technology services.
- Identify ways to reduce the cost of connecting to the Internet and find potential funding sources for small businesses.
- Get businesses together to aggregate demand for high-speed services, create a more attractive market for infrastructure providers and ensure that the services meet local needs.

Education

- Provide training in information technology resources, especially for support staff and classified personnel.
- Successfully implement Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) measures of academic progress (MAP), state-aligned computerized adaptive assessments that provide accurate, useful information about student achievement and growth.
- Provide ongoing support and expansion for the No Child Left Offline Program in the County.
- \$50M at state level has been approved to provide new computers for students across the state. Based on our district technology impact survey, technology needs to be used more throughout the curriculum in McCreary County. Impress upon staff and students the advantage of using the technology that is available to impact learning.
- Establish a countywide consortium (made up of public and private schools and adult education) to consolidate technology planning in the education sector.
- Build relationships between schools and broadband providers.

Healthcare

- Establish a local healthcare website with links to WebMD and other medical sites.
- 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.
- Develop and implement real-time home monitoring systems for patients.
- Identify funding methods for enhancing educational infrastructure.
- Educate providers on available technologies and the benefits of technology in medicine.
- Provide safe, vendor-neutral, information technology training for healthcare providers, using the state and community and technical colleges, adult education programs and libraries.
- Using public and private partnerships, ensure that small providers and rural areas have access to affordable, high-speed networks so they can participate in telemedicine and teleconferencing services.
- Seek grants to upgrade technology and train medical staff.
- Develop better strategies to retain technical and professional healthcare staff.
- Create a focus group to identify the barriers to using technology in private practice.
- Educate doctors about how they can use technology in their offices.
- Provide basic technology education for healthcare providers, using state and community and technical colleges, adult education, distance learning and the library.
- Keep patient data on a central database shared among all medical providers to minimize the number of forms patients have to fill out on each visit, which would enable providers to avoid copying and faxing patient information.
- Provide online appointment scheduling and verification.

Library

- Plan to purchase software to make our online catalog available over the website for patrons to contact us and access the catalog.
- Plan to have wireless network available in the library (currently working on a grant).
- Funding and information is needed to expand our Internet service.
- Increase the number of public-access computers.

- Provide ports or wireless access points where patrons with laptop computers can connect to high-speed lines.
- Develop expanded Internet training programs for the public, targeting specific needs and groups.
- Increase the use of mobile computer stations in bookmobiles or outfitted vans, especially in rural areas.

Higher Education

- Provide ongoing technology training for instructors in the latest technological advances.
- Develop a partnership with the Education and Workforce groups.
- Enhance the technological infrastructure in an effort to educate faculty and staff in its use, and to encourage students to use the technology for transacting business with the college, as well as for course work and communication with teachers and fellow students.
- Enhance the Center's program offerings for area businesses and their management and employees.
- Develop wireless networks to allow students and faculty seamless access to the campus network.
- Substantially increase the number of web-enhanced and online courses.
- Provide information technology resources to the community as well as educate the end-users in the use of technology.
- Inventory and market existing online training opportunities in the county.

Community-Based Organizations

- Update and maintain the non-profit website to identify all community-based organizations in the county and list their websites.
- Make sure organizations in outlying areas (such as volunteer fire departments, community watches, etc.) are participating online.
- Provide perpetual Training, Training, Training.
- Develop a list of potential funding sources for technology acquisition.
- Develop collaborative partnerships with educational institutions and corporate partners to provide web services and design, as well as equipment.

- Develop a networking event to share information, ideas and innovations in technology deployment.
- Recruit university and high school students to develop websites.

Government

- Develop better infrastructure mapping systems using GIS software.
- Develop E-Government applications and make them available to citizens.
- 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.
- Create a partnership of public and private entities to develop a regional portal.
- Digitize Property Valuation Administration records, maps and utilities for online access.
- Issue emergency notifications, such as road closures, via e-mail and the website.

Tourism, Parks and Recreation

- Establish a countywide web portal to share information, market the community, list attractions and hotels and provide a calendar of events.
- Provide wireless (WiFi) broadband access in cities and state park areas.
- Encourage more local companies to sell their goods and services online to promote local businesses and boost the local economy.
- Use technology to market county attractions to potential in-state and out-of-state tourists.
- Use webcams at the parks for online viewing.
- Make electronic brochures and information available for downloading.
- Provide wireless access at parks.

Agriculture

- Publicize examples of technology success stories in the agriculture sector.
- Increase broadband awareness among the agricultural community.

- Develop educational materials to help the agricultural community understand the importance of broadband.
- Create a list of providers to help the agricultural sector understand what service is available and from whom.
- Consider creating a local agricultural portal for sharing news and market information.
- Create and promote the use of videoconferencing centers for use by the agricultural community and create promotional materials to show possible usages of video conferencing.
- Create and promote materials for the new eXtension service, a national web-based information and education network providing 24/7/365 access to objective, science-based information from universities and partners nationwide.
- Create a national animal identification database.
- Use GPS and Radio Frequency Identification on farms.