



# Strategies to Enhance Telecommunications Infrastructure

SMART IDEA  
*The Partnership Roles of Private Sector  
& Government*

DEPARTMENT OF  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



# Community Development

- Chambers
- Economic Development Groups
- Local Governments (city & county)
- Civic Groups
- COGs
- RC&Ds



[www.community.state.ia.us](http://www.community.state.ia.us)

# Frequently Asked Questions

- What is the state doing to close this 'digital divide'?
- We need high-speed, how can we get it now?
- Are there any grants?



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# Separating Fact from Fiction

- High-speed can't work on copper lines/ our lines are no good
- All of our businesses are ready to buy it right now
- We need fiber optic
- Everything will be wireless





# Iowa Research

- **Statewide Assessment of Internet Use: 2001**
- **Assessing High-Speed Internet Access in the State of Iowa: 2001**
- **Alliance for Advanced Telecommunications Services Final Report: 2001**



# Telecommunications Pilots

- Iowa County, Keokuk, Red Oak
- Telecommunications Assessments of needs and market
- Education and Public Information



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# Technical Assistance

- **IDED's Telecommunications Assessments**
- **10 Communities over 3 years**
- **Selection requires partnership with local providers**

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# Iowa Resources

- **Special Projects Manager - Telecommunications**
- **Iowa Alliance for Advanced Telecommunications**
- **Large number of private sector providers**





# Roles of Government & Private Sector

- The need to work together has never been greater
- There is a role for government
- Private sector involvement is critical
- Roles should be collaborative, not competitive





# Ideas for Community Collaboration

- **Demonstration Days at Libraries**
- **Collect used computers for low-income families**
- **Participate in job fairs and any vendor booth opportunity**
- **Speak before chambers and ED groups**





# Thank you!

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