

Dakota Future Broadband Policy

Dakota Future provides linkages between businesses, government and education to create and maintain a world class social and economic environment in Dakota County.

Background

Over a short time, broadband infrastructure and services has become an essential asset for community economic development and vitality. All facets of life – health, education, work, entertainment and community – are conducted via broadband telecommunications networks.

Broadband technologies continue to evolve rapidly and include various wireline and wireless technologies. Across the globe, fiber optic networks are replacing copper. Wireless smart phones provide broadband access and transactional capabilities to a mobile consumer. New business models and practices are emerging that further disrupt the marketplace.

Dakota Future Broadband Principles

As the link between business, government and education, the Dakota Future Board of Directors adopts the following principles regarding broadband:

Ubiquity and Quality– World class broadband needs to be available to everyone in Dakota County, including businesses, institutions and individuals.

Affordable and Available Access – Broadband access should be affordable and competitively priced when compared to our global competitors. For those who cannot afford home broadband and the necessary computer, public access should be made available at schools, libraries, senior and community centers, and affordable housing developments.

Competitive Marketplace – A competitive environment generally improves service availability, affordability and quality. Competition can be enabled through a variety of network development, ownership and operating models ranging from multiple proprietary networks to shared networks carrying multiple competitive providers.

Government Role – As world-class broadband infrastructure and services are integral to current and future economic competitiveness and quality of life, communities need the authority to determine and enable their broadband-based future.

Private Sector Role - In support of a competitive marketplace and working closely with local government, encourage additional or upgraded broadband capabilities via the private sector to reach community goals and to provide quality services to businesses, institutions and individuals.

Role of Content – Maximize the value of broadband networks by facilitating the creation and distribution of varied forms of local content (government, education, health care, business, music and arts, civic engagement, etc.) and by linking community institutions and citizens.

Role of Collaboration – Achieving the principles listed above may be beyond the capabilities of the private and public sectors working independently. Collaboration, through a wide range of activities, including finance, regulation, market development, and/or aggregation of demand, expands the opportunity to achieve our goals for economic development and quality of life.

Adopted August 2009.