

**ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WORK GROUP (ACS)**

Lead Organization: Great Valley Center

ACTIONS	STATUS		2009 - 2ND QUARTER REPORT
<b>OVERALL WORK GROUP STAFFING REQUIREMENTS</b>			
Plan, organize and manage all work group meetings; maintain work group records and minutes; maintain Advanced Communications Services (ACS) portion of Partnership Web site; provide reports. Note: the Action Plan referred to throughout matrix is identified in Goal 3, Objective A and intended per SAP to be developed as an Intermediate Action.		O N G O I N G	
<b>Goal 1: Expedite the provision of advanced communications services (ACS) access in all areas of the San Joaquin Valley.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Objective A: Raise the profile of access to ACS as a fundamental and necessary service for all residents and businesses.</b>		IP	
Convene stakeholders and experts group as the ACS Work Group.		IP	
Work with state agencies to develop an action plan for implementing the Governor’s Executive Order to include barriers, strategies, and indicators for progress.		IP	
Vet the concept of a Regional Advanced Communication Office (RASCO) and come to Work Group consensus.		NP	Determined not to be feasible at this time.
Oversee state agencies and Work Group development of topic areas list for indicators report, which would be produced following the 30-month time line at the end of year three.			
<b>Objective B: Inform local elected officials about the benefits of ubiquitous access to ACS and provide model policies and other tools to help facilitate deployment.</b>		IP	Toolkit is being developed by Advanced Communications Services Work Group.
In conjunction with PUC, local government organizations, and state agencies, develop a primer document for elected officials by synthesizing and augmenting existing primers to be approved by the work group.		IP	Primer is being developed.
Develop list of partner organizations for discussions of steps in years three and beyond.			
<b>Objective C: Identify communities and neighborhoods without affordable connections to delivery of ACS.</b>	C		Final Report of the California Broadband Task Force (January 2008) identified communities and neighborhoods without affordable connections to the delivery of advanced communications services.
Work with the PUC and others to develop a directory of the ACS service providers in the Central Valley for the purpose of identifying underserved communities.		IP	
Work with the PUC to determine how to survey service providers to garner information on costs and service provision. Work with PUC to develop base map of available infrastructure and access costs.			

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<b>Objective D: Increase availability of affordable ACS in rural and other underserved areas.</b>	C	Access rates over 95%
Develop matrix showing the areas where coverage does not appear available per the coverage data supplied by the main providers.	C	Identified through Final Report of the California Broadband Task Force (January 2008).
Work with appropriate state agencies and Work Group to identify incentives a Technology Opportunity Zone could provide and how it could be implemented.	IP	Working with groups that are applying for stimulus dollars to fulfill this need.
Work with CPUC, CSAC, LCC, CSBA providers, stakeholders and Work Group, to develop action plan for increasing availability of affordable ACS in rural and underserved areas.	IP	Stimulus applications in progress to address underserved areas.
<b>Objective E: Increase deployment of ACS by current and prospective service providers.</b>		
Invite representatives of CPUC, CSAC, LCC, CSBA, providers and stakeholders to determine initial strategies for implementation of ACS Action Plan referenced in Objective D.	IP	
<b>Objective F: Increase deployment through wired, fixed wireless, wireless and other available technologies.</b>	NP	Low priority. There are a number of forums already in existence that have this function.
Provide opportunities for presentations by affected parties on regulatory barriers to implementing emerging technologies. Work with CPUC to identify strategies for reducing these barriers.		
<b>Objective G: Eliminate installation barriers that discourage deployment.</b>	NP	Based on anticipated stimulus dollars, a number of companies would be interested in providing installation.
Initiate this work in conjunction with Objective F.		
<b>Objective H: Identify and seek all available funding for deployment of ACS.</b>	IP	Applications are being submitted to several organizations for the expansion of the Pixley Project.
Develop a list of potentially applicable funding sources and identify the most promising through the Work Group process.	IP	
Utilizing Work Group and state agency resources, solicit legislative assistance for eliminating restrictions on the Rural Telecommunications Infrastructure grant program.		
<b>Objective I: Leverage unused bandwidth for the benefit of the greatest number of users.</b>	IP	
Convene representatives of CENIC and Broadband Institute of California to discuss the feasibility of a best practices guidebook. Identify funding for such a guidebook.	IP	
Convene this same group to meet with Federal Communications Commission staff to discuss unused bandwidth.	IP	
<b>Objective J: Incorporate ACS infrastructure into all new residential and commercial construction.</b>	IP	
Begin discussions with California Building Industry Association in regard to incorporating ACS into new construction.		
Initiate Work Group draft model policies and ordinances based upon above discussions.		
Facilitate BTH and HUD meetings regarding integration ACS into affordable housing programs.		

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<b>Goal 2: Promote accessibility and utilization of ACS in targeted underserved communities and populations.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
<b>Objective A: Increase utilization of ACS by all residents.</b>		IP Applications are in progress for the purpose of increasing the utilization of advanced communications services by all residents.
Work with CPUC, state agencies and the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) to explore opportunities for cooperation and joint ventures to expand accessibility to underserved communities.		IP <i>Application will be submitted to the CETF.</i>
Explore avenues and partnerships for funding solicitation and project implementation. Capture in Action Plan.		IP
Evaluate Pixley Connect project as a model for other communities.		IP Program evaluation is complete and applications have been made to expand the Pixley model.
<b>Objective B: Inform local elected officials about the importance and benefit of access to ACS and IT for all residents and businesses.</b>		IP
Expand upon primer listed in Goal 1, Objective B.		IP
Expand list of partner organizations for discussions of steps in years three and beyond.		IP
<b>Objective C: Implement projects to provide access to ACS and IT for all residents and businesses to provide access to ACS and IT for all residents and businesses to eliminate the digital divide.</b>		IP Applications have been made to expand the Digital Connectors project--high school students provide IT services to the community.
In addition to activities listed in Goal 1, Objective D; incorporate discussions with CETF and other potential funders regarding a process to invite proposals.		<i>Discussions in progress.</i>
<b>Objective D: Develop and implement a program to ensure all high school students graduate with basic computer literacy skills.</b>		IP Pursuing collaboration with PreK-12 Education Work Group.
Engage PreK-12 Education Work Group in discussions leading to identification of task force to begin this work.		IP
Work with PreK-12 Education Work Group to monitor progress on development of curriculum and implementation plan.		IP
<b>Objective E: Expand the number of public locations for access to ACS to help disadvantaged residents and businesses to bridge the digital divide.</b>		IP
Work with CPUC to identify needed amendments to existing statutes, regulations and funding programs to address obstacles. In conjunction with CPUC, develop report.		
Identify appropriate routes and champions for seeking amendments		
<b>Goal 3: Expand and replicate successful model programs to increase access to ACS and IT to bridge the digital divide.</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Applications to expand the Pixley model are currently under review.

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<b>Objective A: Develop and implement a plan to expand and replicate the most successful strategies and programs to bridge the digital divide.</b>	IP	
Refer to above related activities		
<b>Objective B: Foster demand for ACS access in underserved and disadvantaged communities, such as encouraging economic development and growth of home-based businesses.</b>	IP	Have had discussions with SBC hto encourage economic development and growth in home-based business.
All activities above will be in support of this goal but outcomes will be outside of the 30-month timeframe.		
<b>Goal 4: Accelerate deployment of ACS infrastructure through telemedicine and eHeatch technology.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Objective A: Develop and implement a telemedicine and eHealth plan to connect health clinics with medical centers.</b>	IP	Telemedicine report was released by University of California, Merced.
Work with Health and Human Services Work Group to Convene CA Telemedicine and eHealth Center, CETF, BTH, HHS and stakeholders to develop plan for model project		
Work with Health and Human Services Work Group to engage partners above in developing plan for implementing Electronic Health records.		
<b>Objective B: Build upon ACS infrastructure for telemedicine and eHealth to promote other applications for education and economic development to increase access and affordability.</b>	IP	
Ensure opportunities are provided for CENIC and EDCs to participate in above activites.		
<b>Challenges/Problems/Bottlenecks/Feedback encounted during the quarter</b>		
<b>New funds leveraged during the quarter.</b>		