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A PROPOSAL FOR NATIONAL BROADBAND FIELD HEARINGS

GN Docket No. 09-51

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Summary

Field hearings on the proposed National Broadband Plan will enable the commissioners to hear directly from those most in need of universal, competitive, affordable and accessible broadband service.¹ At the hearings, the Commission can develop an exemplary record through the testimony of local witnesses.

We are proposing that the Commission conduct fifteen hearings during the summer and fall of 2009. Ideally each of the commissioners would attend each hearing. These hearings would afford the Commission an opportunity to explore the transformative power of broadband to unleash new waves of innovation, to create jobs and economic growth, to improve national competitiveness, and to create new tools for:

- **Telemedicine**, to deliver efficient, affordable, and personalized healthcare to all Americans, wherever they may be;
- **E-Learning**, to provide high-quality education to the underserved;
- **Telepresence or Telework**, to provide reduced energy costs and consumption, and to create new global job opportunities;
- **E-Government**, to create and engage in civic participation and democracy;
- **E-Commerce**, to allow all communities, especially minority business enterprises (“MBEs”), to participate more fully in the global economy; and

¹ Announced at FCC Open Meeting, April 8, 2009; see also National Broadband Plan Notice of Inquiry, GN Docket No. 09-51 (April 8, 2009) (“Broadband Plan NOI”).

- **E-Service**, to offer opportunities for citizens from communities of color to provide volunteer service to seniors, adults and youth.

Purposes of the Hearings

- By using experts at varying levels of industry, including corporations, non-profit organizations and government officials, the Commission could use the hearings to address questions regarding broadband access and adoption, as well as a comprehensive overview of the opportunities created by broadband utilization.
- The hearings would address questions set forth in the National Broadband Plan Notice of Inquiry² that cannot readily be answered without testimony from suppliers and consumers in the field. For example, hearings would assist the Commission in framing the best definition of access to broadband,³ a subject that defies objective analysis without a testimonial record. The hearings would also afford an opportunity to discuss with industry experts the appropriate data collection and methods of measuring progress in meeting the objectives of the national broadband plan.⁴
- Discussions would also center on defining markets and identifying entry barriers,⁵ as well as examining the current state of the industry to discern what mechanisms are in place to lift these barriers. The Commission would have the opportunity to listen to which mechanisms are working and where there is room for improvement.⁶ The hearings are also an appropriate forum for discussing universal service programs with health care, library, and school professionals.⁷
- Hearing locations in low-income urban and rural areas and tribal lands where broadband is unavailable, or where it is available but not widely adopted, would garner discussion on the necessary level of emphasis on affordability, as well as other factors such as digital literacy that may affect broadband adoption and utilization.⁸
- These local hearings would also be beneficial to the Commission in developing the specific policy goals of the National Broadband Plan, such as how broadband can be used to: (1) foster community development,⁹ (2) improve the quality of health care –

² Id. See also infra notes 17-28.

³ Broadband Plan NOI at ¶25.

⁴ Id. at ¶¶29, 32-34, 61.

⁵ Id. at ¶35.

⁶ Id. at ¶36-37.

⁷ Id. at ¶39.

⁸ Id. at ¶¶52-57.

⁹ Id. at ¶80.

especially in relation to rural communities,¹⁰ and (3) enhance education, including distance learning.¹¹

- The hearings would afford the Commission the opportunity to speak with industry professionals about how broadband is being used to increase efficiency and worker training, as well as discuss how, and in what ways, broadband can continue to increase effectiveness for various businesses and governmental entities.¹² Hearings would also address opportunities for, and methods of, encouraging private investment and the effectiveness of public/private partnerships.¹³
- Discussion would address issues involving small, minority and women owned businesses, answering questions regarding market entry barriers as well as how to encourage diversity,¹⁴ and give the Commission the opportunity to hear about how broadband can be used to effectively increase economic growth.¹⁵
- The Commission would also be able to listen to feedback on how companies and organizations regard the national broadband plan in relation to the Commission's other statutory provisions and generate ideas and advice about how these provisions can be viewed in creating the best possible national broadband plan.¹⁶

Structure of the Hearings

- Hearings would consist of two panels made up of four to five local experts, authorities or civic leaders with knowledge or experience with substantive issues of interest to the Commission. The first panel would cover broadband deployment, competition and affordability, and the second panel would cover broadband adoption, utilization and literacy. An opportunity would be provided after each panel for public comment and questions from the floor.
- Each moderator will be well known and connected to the location.
- The Commission should invite NTIA and RUS to participate in the hearings to develop a better understanding of where FCC, NTIA and RUS programs overlap and diverge.

¹⁰ Id. at ¶84.

¹¹ Id. at ¶89-92.

¹² Id. at ¶94. See also id. at ¶¶112-114 (asking for comments addressing how to utilize broadband to increase inter-agency coordination and efficiency).

¹³ Id. at ¶¶95, 115.

¹⁴ Id. at ¶¶100-101.

¹⁵ Id. at ¶102.

¹⁶ Id. at ¶¶106-111.

Substantive Issues the Hearings Could Address

- The witnesses would help the Commission “identify and promote the best and most efficient means of achieving...[a national broadband plan].”¹⁷ For example, managers of local cable, wireline, wireless or satellite companies may be able to identify what resources are necessary to extend broadband beyond its “last-mile connections.”¹⁸
- Librarians, principals, local businesses, service providers and consumers may help define access to broadband and determine the importance of public access.¹⁹ These witnesses, as well as those from minority business entities and communications organizations that already have programs in place to promote broadband adoption, can answer questions about how much price and competition factor into the questions of access and adoption.²⁰ Community organizations, local service providers, and minority business entities can address questions about the market, thereby helping to create a definition, pinpoint where barriers exist in gaining entry, and address opportunities and challenges in finding and securing broadband investment.²¹
- Experts from service providers, local government, hospital administrators, principals and librarians as well as other consumer and community organizations, businesses and minority business entities can best answer questions regarding reporting and measuring progress,²² the need for universal broadband service,²³ and the effectiveness of current broadband practices in ensuring that every person has competitive access.²⁴
- Local governments and service providers, especially those in rural and tribal locations, can speak to the effectiveness of the Commission’s past policies in securing access for these areas and make suggestions for more effective regulatory initiatives.²⁵
- Librarians, principals, training center managers, and communication organizations may provide the best record on how to maximize broadband adoption and develop the benefits of broadband education and training at all levels.²⁶

¹⁷ Broadband Plan NOI at ¶12.

¹⁸ Id. at ¶17.

¹⁹ Id. at ¶23. See also id. at ¶102 (asking about the potential for broadband to bring about employment opportunities).

²⁰ Id. at ¶¶27, 52-54, 48.

²¹ Id. at ¶¶35, 37, 95-97, 115.

²² Id. at ¶¶33, 61. These groups may also be in the best position to advise the Commission on how to use reporting data to further its goals.

²³ Id. at ¶¶ 39-41.

²⁴ Id. at ¶36.

²⁵ Id. ¶¶42-44 (examining wireless service policies and spectrum use).

²⁶ Id. at ¶¶55-56, 88-94.

- Public safety officials and hospital administrators and specialists would be able to comment on the best way to access and implement broadband use by these communities.²⁷
- Local minority business entities and civil rights organizations would address how to foster diversity and offer insight into the current entry barriers facing minority and women owned businesses.²⁸

Illustrative Schedule for a Hearing

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – Commissioners’ working lunch with community leaders.

1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. – Visit the Community

- Tour regional facilities and local offices
- Schools
- Businesses
- Neighborhoods without broadband access
- Libraries
- Civil rights organizations
- Other community centers or training centers

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. - Dinner with State and Local Officials; Governor proclaims broadband adoption day.

6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Hearings

- State/Local Officials Open the Hearings

6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Broadband Deployment, Competition and Affordability Panel led by Moderator

7:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - Questions/Comments from Audience Members

7:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. – Broadband Adoption, Utilization and Literacy Panel led by Moderator

8:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - Questions/Comments from Audience Members

8:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Service providers’ opportunity to publicly present a deliverable to the community. For example, the deliverable could be a program to help expand access and adoption throughout the community.

²⁷ Id. at ¶¶77, 81-84.

²⁸ Id. at ¶101.

9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. - Reception

- Recognize providers and civic leaders who are being proactive and leading broadband initiatives
- Local Entertainment

10:00 p.m. – Adjourn

Proposed Hearing Sites

MMTC has undertaken to recommend a geographically and demographically diverse range of sites with the expectation that through hearings in these sites, the Commission could develop a record containing the answers to virtually every broadband policy question whose answer requires the testimony of local witnesses. The sites are:

1. Albuquerque, NM
2. Anacostia, D.C.
3. Belle Glade, FL
4. Billings, MT
5. Campti, LA
6. Charleston, SC
7. Greenville, MS
8. Memphis, TN
9. Okmulgee, OK
10. Petersburg, VA
11. Quincy, FL
12. San Jose, CA
13. San Juan, PR
14. Washington, GA
15. Weirwood, VA

Of these 15 sites:

- Eight sites are in urban areas
- Seven sites are in rural areas
- Ten sites are in the south
- Six sites are west of the Mississippi River
- Twelve sites in majority-minority communities
- Three sites are in or adjacent to Native American communities
- One site is in Puerto Rico
- Two sites are governed by Hispanic Mayors
- Eight sites are governed by African American Mayors

MMTC is appreciative of the assistance of the National Conference of Black Mayors (NCBM) and the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) in identifying several of the sites.

Albuquerque, NM

- Albuquerque is an ideal location to discuss the problems surrounding broadband access in Native American communities.
- The five Native American tribes within New Mexico are The Navajo, Apache, Ute, Hopi and Pueblo.²⁹ Located in Albuquerque, the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center is a museum and event center that preserves and celebrates Pueblo culture.³⁰
- In New Mexico, the Commission can explore the problems of broadband access with each of the tribal nations located in New Mexico, some of which do not even have access to basic electricity. Senator Tom Udall recently announced, “New Mexico’s Native American communities will receive \$12 million in funding...[to] promote rural electrification, build housing for low-income families and help create a transportation system that will make future job creation possible.”³¹ While some communities are struggling to receive electricity, others have been able to implement broadband programs. Included in the Senator’s announcement was funding in the amount of “\$122,821 for the Navajo Nation Department of Information Technology’s Connect Navajo program to expand broadband access on Navajo lands.”³²
- The demographics of Albuquerque, NM are:
 - Population of 448,607
 - 71.6 percent Caucasian
 - 39.9 percent Hispanic American
 - 14.8 percent some other race
 - 3.9 percent Native American
 - 66.2 percent employed
 - \$20,884 income per capita
 - 10.0 percent of families; 13.5 percent of individuals living below poverty level.³³

²⁹ See Native America in New Mexico, New Mexico Tourism Department, available at http://www.newmexico.org/native_america/ (last visited May 5, 2009).

³⁰ See Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, available at <http://www.indianpueblo.org/index.html> (last visited May 5, 2009).

³¹ See Udall Initiatives Help New Mexico Native Americans Access Electricity, Housing, Transit, Press Release (March 12, 2009), available at <http://tomudall.senate.gov/record.cfm?id=309556> (last visited May 5, 2009).

³² Id.

³³ United States Census Fact Sheet (2000): Albuquerque, NM, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Albuquerque” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2000”) (last visited May 11, 2009). See also United States Census Fact Sheet (2005-2007) American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates: Albuquerque, NM, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Albuquerque” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2005-2007”) (last visited May 11, 2009). The 3-year estimated population is 505,578; 67.7 percent Caucasian, 43.7 percent Hispanic American, 17.9

- The demographics of Bernalillo County, NM are:
 - Population of 556,678
 - 70.8 percent Caucasian
 - 42.0 percent Hispanic American
 - 16.1 percent some other race
 - 4.2 percent Native American
 - 65.5 percent employed
 - \$20,790 income per capita
 - 10.2 percent of families; 13.7 percent of individuals living below poverty level.³⁴

- The demographics of New Mexico are:
 - Population of 1,819,046
 - 66.8 percent Caucasian
 - 42.1 percent Hispanic American
 - 17.0 percent some other race
 - 9.5 percent Native American
 - 61.0 percent employed
 - \$17,261 income per capita
 - 14.5 percent of families; 18.4 percent of individuals living below poverty level.³⁵

percent some other race, 4.9 percent Native American. Id. Of those old enough to work, 67.0 percent are working. Id. The estimated income is \$24,897 per capita and 10.9 percent of families and 14.8 percent of individuals are living below the poverty level. Id.

³⁴ United States Census Fact Sheet (2000): Bernalillo County, NM, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Bernalillo County” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2000”) (last visited May 11, 2009). See also United States Census Fact Sheet (2005-2007) American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates: Bernalillo, NM, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Bernalillo County” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2005-2007”) (last visited May 11, 2009). The 3-year estimated population is 618,845; 68.9 percent Caucasian, 44.8 percent Hispanic American, 17.7 some other race, and 4.7 percent Native American. Id. Of those old enough to work, 66.3 percent are working. Id. The estimated income is \$25,144 per capita and 11.1 percent of families and 14.9 percent of individuals are living below the poverty level. Id.

³⁵ United States Census Fact Sheet (2000): New Mexico, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “New Mexico” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2000”) (last visited May 11, 2009). See also United States Census Fact Sheet (2005-2007) American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates: New Mexico, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “New Mexico” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2005-2007”) (last visited May 11, 2009). The 3-year estimated population is 1,942,847; 68.7 percent Caucasian, 44.1 percent Hispanic American, 15.4 percent some other race, and 9.2 percent Native American. Id. Of those old enough to work 62.2 percent are working. Id. The estimated income is \$21,586 per capita and 14.2 percent of families and 18.4 percent of individuals are living below the poverty level. Id.

Anacostia Neighborhood of Washington, DC

- Anacostia has a largely African American population and high poverty rate. Situated in the Nation’s capital, this neighborhood would develop the record in terms of broadband access and affordability.
- According to FCC Form 477 (zip code inventory), as of 2007 there are 12 high-speed Internet providers to at least one person in Anacostia’s zip code, 20020,³⁶ however, access is impeded by affordability.³⁷ The Pew Internet and American Life Project reports that as of May 2008, “about one-third of people who do not have high-speed Internet or broadband service reported that it was because service was too expensive.”³⁸ In Washington D.C., 41 percent of households are without dial up or broadband Internet service.³⁹
- According to Neighborhood Info DC,⁴⁰ as of 2000, the demographics of Historic Anacostia are:
 - Population of 4,873
 - 97 percent African American
 - 2.1 percent Caucasian
 - 0.4 percent Hispanic American
 - 45 percent employed

³⁶ See Number of Holding Companies Reporting High-Speed Subscribers by Zip Code as of December 31, 2007, available at http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Common_Carrier/Reports/FCC-State_Link/IAD/hzip1207.pdf (last visited May 5, 2009) (“2007 High Speed Subscription Report”).

³⁷ See Cecilia Kang, One Step Off the Superhighway: Push to Expand Internet Access Leaves Behind the Urban Poor, Wash. Post (February 28, 2009), available at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/02/27/AR2009022702959.html> (last visited May 11, 2009).

³⁸ Id. (citing Home Broadband Adoption 2008, Pew Internet and American Life Project, iii, 11 (July 2008), available at http://www.pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2008/PIP_Broadband_2008.pdf (last visited May 11, 2009)).

³⁹ See Kang, supra note 37 (citing Statistical Abstract of the United States, U.S. Census Bureau, Table 1119 (2009), available at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2008pubs/09statab/infocomm.pdf> (last visited May 11, 2009), referencing U.S. Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Networked Nation: Broadband in America 2007, January 2008.

⁴⁰ NeighborhoodInfo DC, available at www.neighborhoodinfodc.org/about.html (last visited May 11, 2009). NeighborhoodInfo DC is an organization established by Urban Institute and Washington DC Local Initiatives Support Corporation. Id. NeighborhoodInfo DC has agreements in place to collect data from various city offices. Id. 2000 Census Data was unavailable for Anacostia.

- 38 percent poverty rate⁴¹
- The demographics of the District of Columbia are:
 - Population of 572,059
 - 60.0 percent African American
 - 30.8 percent Caucasian
 - 7.9 percent Hispanic American.
 - 63.6 percent employed
 - \$28,659 income per capita.⁴²
 - 16.7 percent of families; 20.2 percent of individuals living below poverty level.⁴³

Belle Glade, FL

- Belle Glade is a city afflicted with deep poverty, yet ironically it is located in the midst of one of the nation's wealthiest counties -- Palm Beach County. This city is prime for discussions about digital literacy in poor and multi-lingual areas as well as discussions on how to use broadband to foster community development in an environment with strained race relations.
- The city's primary industry is sugar.⁴⁴ Alarming, issues involving racial profiling are occurring in these types of agricultural communities in the southeast United States. In Belle Glade, immigrants have been detained for long periods without any charges.⁴⁵

⁴¹ DC Neighborhood Cluster Profile: Cluster 28: Ward 8 Historic Anacostia, available at http://www.neighborhoodinfodc.org/nclusters/nbr_prof_clus28.html (last visited May 5, 2009).

⁴² See U.S. Census Fact Sheet (2000), available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (last visited May 11, 2009). All Numbers from 2000 Census reflect 1999 dollars.

⁴³ United States Census Fact Sheet (2000): District of Columbia, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type "District of Columbia" in link to "Get a Fact Sheet for your Community" and follow link to "2000") (last visited May 11, 2009). See also United States Census Fact Sheet (2005-2007) American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates: District of Columbia, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type "District of Columbia" in link to "Get a Fact Sheet for your Community" and follow link to "2005-2007") (last visited May 11, 2009). The 3-year estimated population is 585,267; 55.5 percent African American, 34.4 percent Caucasian, and 8.3 percent Hispanic American. *Id.* Of individuals at least sixteen years old, 66.5 percent are employed. *Id.* The estimated (2007 inflation-adjusted) income is \$38,009 per capita and 15.7 percent of families and 18.8 percent of individuals are living below the poverty level. *Id.*

⁴⁴ Associated Press, One livelihood Leaves Town, Jeopardizing Another, N.Y. Times (August 11, 2008), available at http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/12/sports/football/12rabbits.html?_r=1&scp=6&sq=Belle%20Glade&st=cse (last visited May 11, 2009).

⁴⁵ See Luis F. Perez, Immigrant Detention Often Unconstitutional, Palm Beach County Public Defender Says, South Florida Sun-Sentinel (March 30, 2009), Sun-Sentinel archives, available

Research focusing on similar southern areas finds much worse for Latino farm workers, including: abuse, wage theft, deficient or nonexistent medical treatment after being injured on the job and racial profiling by authorities.⁴⁶ One of the most heartbreaking findings is that people do not know where to go to get help. Many of these workers do not know how to contact government enforcement agencies such as the Department of Labor or realize such agencies exist.⁴⁷ Many citizens are fearful of subscribing to telephone or cable service out of fear that friends or family members could be profiled.

- The demographics of Belle Glade are:
 - Population of 14,906
 - 50.7 percent African American
 - 30.3 percent Caucasian
 - 27.6 percent Hispanic American
 - 40.2 percent do not speak English at home
 - 55.7 percent employed
 - \$11,159 income per capita
 - 28.5 percent of families; 32.9 percent of individuals living below poverty level.⁴⁸
- In contrast, the demographics for Palm Beach County, the county that includes Belle Glade, are:
 - Population of 1,131,184
 - 79.1 percent Caucasian
 - 13.8 percent African American
 - 12.4 percent Hispanic American
 - 55.6 percent employed
 - \$28,801 income per capita
 - 6.9 percent of families; 9.9 percent of individuals living below poverty level.⁴⁹

by subscription at http://pqasb.pqarchiver.com/sun_sentinel/search.html (last viewed May 12, 2009).

⁴⁶ See Under Siege: Life for Low-Income Latinos in the South, A Report by the Southern Poverty Law Center (April, 2009), available at <http://www.splcenter.org/legal/undersiege/> (last visited May 11, 2009).

⁴⁷ Id.

⁴⁸ United States Census Fact Sheet (2000): Belle Glade city, FL, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Belle Glade city” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community”) (last visited May 11, 2009). Updated Census Data for 2005-2007 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates is unavailable for Belle Glade City, FL.

⁴⁹ United States Census Fact Sheet (2000): Palm Beach County, FL, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Palm Beach County” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2000”) (last visited May 11, 2009). See also United States Census Fact Sheet (2005-2007) American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates: Palm Beach County, FL, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Palm Beach County” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2005-2007”) (last visited May 11, 2009).

Billings, MT

- Billings, MT is an ideal location for a regional hearing to discuss the problems and success stories of implementing broadband technology throughout various Native American tribes.
- There are seven reservations and twelve tribes in Montana.⁵⁰ The Montana area tribes are the Assiniboine, Little Shell, Blackfeet, Chippewa, Northern Cheyenne, Cree, Pend D'Oreille, Crow, Gros Ventres, Salish, Kootenah, and Sioux.⁵¹ The reservations are spread out across the state.⁵²
- The Montana Indian Technology and Cultural Heritage (TeCH) is establishing learning centers in various locations throughout Montana and its reservations in order to "...provide reservation residents with the training and equipment needed to use new technologies and with opportunities and technical support to capture and preserve the history, stories and other cultural resources of their tribes."⁵³
- A hearing in Billings would provide an opportunity to discuss broadband issues concerning access in tribal communities. In terms of broadband access, it is recognized that traditionally, tribal communities have not had the opportunity to participate in the world marketplace. Broadband grants and loans programs "will enable Indian Tribes to realize the benefits of a global economy that, to date, has left many Tribes in the United States on the sidelines, resulting in third world economic conditions."⁵⁴
- The demographics of Billings are:

The 3-year estimated population is 1,264,012; 73.3 percent Caucasian, 16.7 percent Hispanic American and 15.6 percent African American. *Id.* Of those old enough to work, 58.7 percent are employed and the estimated income is \$32,432 per capita. 7.2 percent of families and 10.6 percent of individuals in Palm Beach County live below the poverty level. *Id.*

⁵⁰ See Montana Indian Nation, Billings Public Schools website, available at http://www.billings.k12.mt.us/literacy/mont_indian/mainpage.htm (last visited May 5, 2009).

⁵¹ See www.montanatribes.org (last visited May 11, 2009).

⁵² See *Fast Facts about Montana Tribal Governments*, prepared by the Montana Indian Education Association, 17 (Dec. 2006), available at www.billings.k12.mt.us/literacy/mont_indian/fastfacts.pdf (last visited May 5, 2009) (showing map of tribal lands in Montana).

⁵³ See Montana Indian Technology and Cultural Heritage (TeCH) Learning Centers, Goals, available at <http://btc.montana.edu/tech/TeCH.htm> (last visited May 5, 2009).

⁵⁴ See Comments of Native American Telecom, LLC., Joint Request for Information and Notice of Public Meeting on the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program ("BTOP") and the RUS Grants and Loans Program Established in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Docket No. 090309298-9299-01 (April 13, 2009) at 1.

- Population of 89,847
 - 91.9 percent Caucasian
 - 4.2 percent Hispanic American
 - 3.4 percent Native American
 - 67.7 percent employed
 - \$19,207 income per capita
 - 9.2 percent of families; 12.0 percent of individuals living below poverty level.⁵⁵
- The demographics of Yellowstone County, MT are:
 - Population of 129,352
 - 92.8 percent Caucasian
 - 3.7 percent Hispanic American
 - 3.1 percent Native American
 - 68.7 percent employed
 - \$19,303 income per capita
 - 8.5 percent of families; 11.1 percent of individuals living below poverty level.⁵⁶

Campti, LA

- Campti is a small town in Louisiana that is struggling to survive. Some agencies are in a position to assist Campti, such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), but without broadband access, Mayor Judy Daniels is unable to access the applications for assistance.

⁵⁵ United States Census Fact Sheet (2000): Billings city, MT, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Billings city” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2000”) (last visited May 11, 2009). See also United States Census Fact Sheet (2005-2007) American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates: Billings, MT, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Billings city” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2005-2007”) (last visited May 11, 2009). The three-year estimated population is 97,053; 90.1 percent Caucasian, 5.1 percent Hispanic American, and 4.4 percent Native American. Id. Of those old enough to work, 67.1 percent are working. Id. The estimated income is \$24,037 per capita, and 8.9 percent of families and 12.7 percent of individuals are living below the poverty level. Id.

⁵⁶ United States Census Fact Sheet (2000): Yellowstone County, MT, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Yellowstone County” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2000”) (last visited May 11, 2009). See also United States Census Fact Sheet (2005-2007) American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates: Yellowstone County, MT, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Yellowstone County” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2005-2007”) (last visited May 11, 2009). The 3-year estimated population is 138,198; 91.0 percent Caucasian, 4.7 percent Hispanic American, and 4.1 percent Native American. Id. Of those old enough to work, 67.7 percent are working. Id. The estimated income is \$23,696 per capita and 8.1 percent of families and 11.4 percent of individuals are living below the poverty level. Id.

- The EPA posted a news release announcing that \$71.1 million of stimulus funds will be made available to Louisiana for state water system improvements.⁵⁷ This announcement, as well as the information relating to grant procurement and follow up, including a mandatory online training program for all EPA non-profit applicants, are located on the EPA’s website.⁵⁸ This website is an essential tool for anyone looking to secure federal funding for environmental improvements, however, those without broadband access are shut out of the process, unable to meet the preliminary training requirements.
- The Louisiana Public Service Commission regulates telecommunications for the state.⁵⁹ According to FCC Form 477-zip code inventory, as of 2007 there are 6 high-speed Internet providers, serving at least one person in the Campti zip code 71411.⁶⁰
- The demographics of Campti are:
 - Population of 1,057
 - 74.5 percent African American
 - 24.9 percent Caucasian
 - 45.4 percent employed
 - \$7,219 income per capita
 - 47.3 percent of families; 45.4 percent of individuals living below poverty level.⁶¹
- The demographics of Natchitoches Parish County are:
 - Population of 39,080
 - 57.9 percent Caucasian
 - 38.4 percent African American
 - 1.4 percent Hispanic American
 - 54.8 percent employed
 - \$13,743 income per capita
 - 20.9 percent of families; 26.5 percent of individuals living below poverty level.⁶²

⁵⁷ See EPA Makes \$565 Million in Recovery Act Funds Available to Several States, Tribes to Provide Clean and Safe Water, Create Jobs; Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas to receive funding to boost aging water and wastewater infrastructure, News Release from Region 6 (March 17, 2009), available at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/e8f4ff7f7970934e8525735900400c2e/fl1efa6ab71c3bcd98525757c006b4cea!OpenDocument> (last visited May 11, 2009).

⁵⁸ See EPA South Central: Region 6, Region 6 Grant Information, available at <http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/gandf/index.htm> (last visited May 7, 2009).

⁵⁹ See Louisiana Public Service Commission Website, available at <http://www.lpsc.org/default.asp> (last visited May 11, 2009).

⁶⁰ See 2007 High Speed Subscription Report *supra* n. 36.

⁶¹ United States Census Fact Sheet (2000): Campti Town, LA, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Campti Town” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community”) (last visited May 11, 2009). Updated Census Data for 2005-2007 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates is unavailable for Campti Town, LA.

Charleston, SC

- Charleston is a diverse and historic city. Charleston's economy is dependent in part on high-tech manufacturing,⁶³ yet broadband adoption in this city has lagged, especially for minorities and persons with low income.⁶⁴
- The Medical University of South Carolina is located in Charleston.⁶⁵ Recently the Commission awarded a grant to the university's Chief Information Officer on behalf of Health Sciences South Carolina in order to "develop and implement a wireless broadband network for rural counties of South Carolina."⁶⁶ This forum would provide an opportunity to discuss the challenges and success of the developing system.
- Charleston and North Charleston are also known for their military bases and institutions,⁶⁷ and they have large elderly and retired populations.

⁶² United States Census Fact Sheet (2000): Natchitoches Parish County, LA, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type "Natchitoches Parish County" in link to "Get a Fact Sheet for your Community" and follow link to "2000") (last visited May 11, 2009). See also United States Census Fact Sheet (2005-2007) American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates: Natchitoches Parish County, LA, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type "Natchitoches Parish County" in link to "Get a Fact Sheet for your Community" and follow link to "2005-2007") (last visited May 11, 2009). The 3-year estimated population is 39,233; 56.6 percent Caucasian, 39.2 percent African American, and 1.7 percent Hispanic American. Of those old enough to work, 55.8 percent are working. *Id.* The estimated income is \$16,097 per capita and 24.0 percent of families and 30.1 percent of individuals are living below the poverty level. *Id.*

⁶³ See Discover Charleston County, available at website for the Hon. Henry E. Brown, Jr. (1st Dist – SC) <http://brown.house.gov/District/charleston.html> (last visited May 5, 2009).

⁶⁴ See Kyle Stock, Task Force to Promote Broadband Access, *The Post and Courier* (January 25, 2008), available at http://www.charleston.net/news/2008/jan/25/task_force_promote_broadband_access28590/ (last visited May 11, 2009) (discussing newly formed Alliance for Digital Equality task force in Charleston, stating that "[i]n Charleston, many area neighborhoods are a long way from the information superhighway, even though free Internet access is available at public libraries, according to Paul Stoney, president and chief executive of the YMCA of Greater Charleston and a member of the newly formed council.")

⁶⁵ See Medical University of South Carolina, available at <http://www.musc.edu/> (last visited May 5, 2009).

⁶⁶ See FCC awards \$8 million grant to HHSC to advance Internet connectivity of rural health care providers, Health Sciences South Carolina News Release (March 1, 2009), available at http://www.healthsciencessc.org/news/releases/HSSC_FCC_rel030109v2.pdf (last visited May 5, 2009).

⁶⁷ See Discover Charleston County, *supra* n. 63. See also The Citadel – The Military College of South Carolina, available at <http://www.citadel.edu/main/> (last visited May 5, 2009).

- Charleston City’s demographics are:
 - Population of 96,650
 - 63.1 percent Caucasian
 - 34.0 percent African American
 - 1.5 percent Hispanic American
 - 13.2 percent veterans
 - 62.2 percent employed
 - \$22,414 income per capita
 - 13.3 percent of families; 19.1 percent of individuals living below poverty level.⁶⁸

- North Charleston City spans Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester Counties.⁶⁹ Its demographics are:
 - Population of 79,641
 - 49.4 percent African American
 - 44.8 percent Caucasian
 - 4.0 Hispanic American
 - 17.8 percent veterans
 - 63.8 percent employed
 - \$14,361 income per capita
 - 19.9 percent of families; 23.2 percent of individuals living below poverty level.⁷⁰

⁶⁸ United States Census Fact Sheet (2000): Charleston, SC, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Charleston” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2000”) (last visited May 11, 2009). See also United States Census Fact Sheet (2005-2007) American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates: Charleston, SC, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Charleston” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2005-2007”) (last visited May 11, 2009). The 3-year estimated population is 110,866; 64.5 percent Caucasian, 31.5 percent African American and 2.9 percent Hispanic American. Id. Of those at least sixteen years of age, 64.5 percent are working, the estimated income is \$29,831 per capita and 11.5 percent of families and 18.6 percent of individuals are living below the level of poverty. Id. Of the population at least eighteen years old, 11.6 percent are civilian veterans. Id.

⁶⁹ See City of North Charleston Home Page, available at <http://www.northcharleston.org/AboutUs/LocationMap.aspx> (last visited May 5, 2009).

⁷⁰ United States Census Fact Sheet (2000): North Charleston, SC, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “North Charleston” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2000”) (last visited May 11, 2009). See also United States Census Fact Sheet (2005-2007) American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates: North Charleston, SC, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “North Charleston” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2005-2007”) (last visited May 11, 2009). The 3-year estimated population is 84,491; 48.5 African American, 43.8 percent Caucasian and 7.0 percent Hispanic American. Of those at least sixteen years old, 65.4 percent are working. Id. The estimated income is \$17,870 per capita and 18.9 percent of families and 24.1 percent of individuals are living below the poverty level. Of the population at least eighteen years old, 17.3 percent are civilian veterans. Id.

- The demographics of Charleston County are:
 - Population of 309,969
 - 61.9 percent Caucasian
 - 34.5 percent African American
 - 2.4 percent Hispanic American
 - 15.3 percent veterans
 - 63.7 percent employed
 - \$21,393 income per capita
 - 12.4 percent of families; 16.4 percent of individuals living below poverty level.⁷¹

- Berkeley County’s demographics are:
 - Population of 142,651
 - 68.0 percent Caucasian
 - 26.6 percent African American
 - 2.8 percent Hispanic American
 - 20.2 percent veterans
 - 65.7 percent employed
 - \$16,879 income per capita
 - 9.7 percent of families; 11.8 percent of individuals living below poverty level.⁷²

- Dorchester County’s demographics are:

⁷¹ United States Census Fact Sheet (2000): Charleston County, SC, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Charleston County” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2000”) (last visited May 11, 2009). See also United States Census Fact Sheet (2005-2007) American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates: Charleston County, SC, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Charleston County” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2005-2007”) (last visited May 11, 2009). The 3-year estimated population is 340,326; 64.0 percent Caucasian, 31.5 percent African American and 3.4 percent Hispanic American. Id. Of the age eligible working population, 65.4 percent are employed and the estimated income is \$28,649 per capita. In Charleston County, 11.1 percent of families and 16.0 percent of individuals are living below the level of poverty. Of the population at least eighteen years old, 13.5 percent are civilian veterans. Id.

⁷² United States Census Fact Sheet (2000): Berkeley County, SC, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Berkeley County” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2000”) (last visited May 11, 2009). See also United States Census Fact Sheet (2005-2007) American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates: Berkeley County, SC, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Berkeley County” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2005-2007”) (last visited May 11, 2009). The 3-year estimated population is 158,365; 66.9 percent Caucasian, 26.2 percent African American and 3.5 percent Hispanic American. Id. Of the population old enough to work, 67.1 percent are employed; the estimated income is \$21,964 per capita and 8.3 percent of families and 10.7 percent of individuals are living below the level of poverty. Id. Of the population at least eighteen years old, 18.8 percent are civilian veterans. Id.

- Population of 96,413
 - 71.0 percent Caucasian,
 - 25.1 percent African American
 - 1.8 percent Hispanic American
- 19.7 percent veterans
- 65.8 percent employed
- \$18,840 income per capita
- 7.1 percent of families; 9.7 percent of individuals living below poverty level.⁷³

Greenville, MS

- Greenville, located in Washington County, MS, is the largest city in the Mississippi Delta – one of the poorest regions in the United States. Reliable broadband service is a significant issue for all of Greenville and Washington County.⁷⁴
- Washington County recently chose a company called NorthStar to apply for stimulus funds on its behalf.⁷⁵ The Delta Economic Development Center is working to provide reliable broadband technology to local companies such as Greenville-based SentryNet in order to generate employment opportunities and bolster the economy.⁷⁶ For SentryNet, broadband was reportedly so unreliable in Greenville that the company contemplated leaving the market altogether.⁷⁷
- Greenville is an ideal city in which to discuss current barriers to inter-agency cooperation and receive feedback on how broadband can create opportunities to foster increased

⁷³ United States Census Fact Sheet (2000): Dorchester County, SC, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Dorchester County” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2000”) (last visited May 11, 2009). See also United States Census Fact Sheet (2005-2007) American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates: Dorchester County, SC, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Dorchester County” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2005-2007”) (last visited May 11, 2009). The 3-year estimated population is 117,660; 70.1 percent Caucasian, 25.5 percent African American and 2.8 percent Hispanic American. Id. Of the population old enough to work, 66.1 percent are working; the estimated income is \$22,526 per capita and 7.8 percent of families and 10.9 percent of individuals are living below the poverty level. Id. Of the population at least eighteen years old, 16.8 percent are civilian veterans. Id.

⁷⁴ See Terri Ferguson Smith, County’s Quest to Merge on the Information Highway, Delta Democrat Times (April 9, 2009, available by subscription at <http://www.ddtonline.com/articles/2009/04/09/news/news3.txt> (last visited May 7, 2009).

⁷⁵ Id.

⁷⁶ Id.

⁷⁷ Id. (quoting Executive Director of Delta Economic Development Center, Ed Johnson, “They’ve [SentryNet] had too many glitches in their system over the years because we haven’t had the technology to support that...they were seriously thinking about moving shop to Pensacola, Fla., so we have to save those jobs.”).

cooperation. There are a reported 13,000 agencies in the Delta area with a shared goal of achieving regional improvement.⁷⁸ Failure to meet this goal is thought to be due in part to “efforts [which] lack coordination, definition and sincerity.”⁷⁹

- The Central District of the Mississippi Public Service Commission, which regulates broadband in Washington County, recently announced that it is going to be posting meetings and hearings online in order to reach the communities.⁸⁰
- The demographics of Greenville are:
 - Population of 41,633
 - 69.6 percent African American
 - 28.9 percent Caucasian
 - 57.1 percent employed
 - \$13,992 income per capita
 - 25.7 percent of families; 29.6 percent of individuals living below poverty level.⁸¹
- The demographics of Washington County are:
 - Population of 62,977
 - 64.6 percent African American
 - 34.0 percent Caucasian
 - 56.7 percent employed
 - \$13,430 income per capita
 - 24.9 percent of families; 29.2 percent of individuals living below poverty level.⁸²

⁷⁸ See Patrick L. Ervin, Collaboration is the Key to a Community’s Prosperity, Delta Democrat Times (April 17, 2009), available by subscription at <http://www.ddtonline.com/articles/2009/04/17/news/news5.txt> (last viewed May 7, 2009).

⁷⁹ Id.

⁸⁰ See Commission Chairman Posey Announces PSC to ‘Go Live’ on the Internet, Press Release (April 16, 2009), available at <http://www.psc.state.ms.us/pressreleases/central/04-16-09%20PSC%20to%20go%20live%20on%20Internet.pdf> (last visited May 11, 2009).

⁸¹ United States Census Fact Sheet (2000): Greenville, MS, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Greenville” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2000”) (last visited May 11, 2009). See also United States Census Fact Sheet (2005-2007) American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates: Greenville, MS, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Greenville” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2005-2007”) (last visited May 11, 2009). The 3-year estimated population is 38,897 with no updated data on race. Id. Of those old enough to work, 58.9 percent are working. Id. The estimated income is \$15,842 per capita and 28.4 percent of families and 30.8 percent of individuals are living below the poverty level. Id.

⁸² United States Census Fact Sheet (2000): Washington County, MS, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Washington County” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2000”) (last visited May 11, 2009). See also United States Census Fact Sheet (2005-2007) American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates: Washington

Memphis, TN

- Memphis is a large city with a diverse population, which can evince the problems and success stories of broadband access and adoption in cities of this size.
- Historically, Memphis has encountered both struggles and triumphs in the civil rights arena. It is now home to the National Civil Rights Museum located at the infamous Lorraine Motel, where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated.⁸³ Today this vibrant city is predominantly African American.
- An ideal site for a hearing in Memphis is the Benjamin L. Hooks Center at the University of Memphis.
- Although broadband is widely available in Shelby County, the county in which Memphis is located,⁸⁴ a 2007 Connected Tennessee consumer technology assessment showed that only 46 percent of county residents use broadband at home. Of those residents that use dial-up, 35 percent do not understand the benefits of using broadband.⁸⁵
- The demographics of Memphis are:
 - Population of 650,100
 - 61.4 percent African American
 - 34.4 percent Caucasian
 - 3.0 percent Hispanic American
 - 63.0 percent employed

County, MS, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Washington County” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2005-2007”) (last visited May 11, 2009). The 3-year estimated population is 56,605; 66.3 percent African American and 31.0 percent Caucasian. Id. Of those old enough to work, 58.2 percent are working. Id. The estimated income is \$16,008 per capita and 28.8 percent of families and 32.2 percent of individuals are living below the poverty level. Id.

⁸³ See History of Memphis, City of Memphis, available at <http://www.cityofmemphis.org/framework.aspx?page=296> (last visited May 5, 2009). See also National Civil Rights Museum: Permanent Exhibits, available at <http://www.civilrightsmuseum.org/permexhibits.htm> (last visited May 5, 2009).

⁸⁴ See Shelby County Broadband Inventory Map, Connected Tennessee, available at ftp://ftp.connectedtn.org/CTPublic/Connected_Tennessee_Mapping/County_Maps/County_Broadband/Broadband_Shelby.pdf (last visited May 25, 2009). See also Shelby County, Density of Households Unserved by a Broadband Provider Map, Connected Tennessee, available at http://www.connectedtennessee.org/ecommunity_strategies/find_your_county/shelby/ (last visited May 5, 2009).

⁸⁵ 2007 Connected Tennessee Consumer Technology Assessment for Shelby County, Tennessee, available at http://www.connectedtennessee.org/_documents/Shelby.pdf (last visited May 5, 2009).

- \$17,838 income per capita
- 17.2 percent of families; 20.6 percent of individuals living below poverty level.⁸⁶
- The demographics of Shelby County are:
 - Population of 897,472
 - 48.6 percent African American
 - 47.3 percent Caucasian
 - 2.6 percent Hispanic American
 - 65.6 percent employed
 - \$20,856 income per capita
 - 12.9 percent of families; 16.0 percent of individuals living below poverty level.⁸⁷

Okmulgee, OK

- Okmulgee is located 40 miles south of Tulsa, Oklahoma.⁸⁸ Oklahoma is home to 39 Tribal Nations,⁸⁹ and Okmulgee serves as the headquarters for the Muscogee (Creek)

⁸⁶ United States Census Fact Sheet (2000): Memphis, TN, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Memphis” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2000”) (last visited May 11, 2009). See also United States Census Fact Sheet (2005-2007) American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates: Memphis, TN, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Memphis” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2005-2007”) (last visited May 11, 2009). The 3-year estimated population is 649,443; 62.4 percent African American, 31.9 percent Caucasian, 4.6 percent Hispanic American. Id. Of the population that is at least sixteen years old, 64.9 percent are working. Id. The estimated income is \$20,880 per capita and 20.2 percent of families and 24.3 percent of individuals are living below the poverty level. Id.

⁸⁷ United States Census Fact Sheet (2000): Shelby County, TN, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Shelby County” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2000”) (last visited May 11, 2009). See also United States Census Fact Sheet (2005-2007) American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates: Shelby County, TN, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Shelby County” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2005-2007”) (last visited May 11, 2009). The 3-year estimated population is 908,701; 50.8 percent African American, 43.5 percent Caucasian, 3.9 percent Hispanic American. Id. Of those old enough to work, 66.5 percent are working. Id. The estimated income is \$24,899 per capita and 15.0 percent of families and 18.9 percent of individuals are living below the poverty level. Id.

⁸⁸ See City of Okmulgee website, available at <http://www.okmulgeonline.com/template1.asp?pg=330> (last visited May 11, 2009).

⁸⁹ See Oklahoma’s Tribal Nations: Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission – Tribal Nations, available at www.ok.gov/oiaac/Tribal_Nations/index.html (last visited May 5, 2009). See also Official website of Oklahoma recognizing nine Nations and eight Tribes in Oklahoma, available at <https://www.ok.gov/3167/3512/578/> (last visited May 5, 2009).

Nation.⁹⁰ Okmulgee is an ideal location to hold a hearing on tribal issues not only because of its accessible location, but it also allows the Commission an opportunity to visit the College of Muscogee Nation which provides an educational focus on Native American culture and is a partner of Oklahoma State University.⁹¹

- The demographics of Okmulgee city are:
 - Population of 13,022
 - 58.8 percent Caucasian
 - 21.3 percent African American
 - 13.6 percent Native American
 - 53.9 percent employed
 - \$13,633 income per capita
 - 19.6 percent of families; 24.1 percent of individuals living below poverty level.⁹²

- The demographics of Okmulgee County are:
 - Population of 39,685
 - 69.7 percent Caucasian
 - 12.8 percent Native American
 - 10.2 percent African American
 - 56.1 percent employed
 - \$14,065 income per capita
 - 14.9 percent of families; 18.9 percent of individuals living below poverty level.⁹³

⁹⁰ See The Official Tribal Website for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation: MSC Government Branches, available at http://themuscogeeecreeknation.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=21&Itemid=8 (last visited May 11, 2009).

⁹¹ See College of Muscogee Nation: CMN Mission, available at <http://www.mvsktc.org/mission.htm> (last visited May 11, 2009).

⁹² United States Census Fact Sheet (2000): Okmulgee city, OK, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Okmulgee city” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community”) (last visited May 11, 2009). Updated Census Data for 2005-2007 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates is unavailable for Okmulgee city, OK.

⁹³ United States Census Fact Sheet (2000): Okmulgee County, OK, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Okmulgee County” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2000”) (last visited May 11, 2009). See also United States Census Fact Sheet (2005-2007) American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates: Okmulgee County, OK, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Okmulgee County” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2005-2007”) (last visited May 11, 2009). The three-year estimated population is 39,278; 69.4 percent Caucasian, 10.3 percent Native American, and 9.2 percent African American. *Id.* Of those old enough to work, 59.1 percent are working. *Id.* The estimated income is \$17,695 per capita, and 20.7 percent of families and 23.7 percent of individuals are living below the poverty level. *Id.*

- The demographics of Oklahoma are:
 - Population of 3,450,654
 - 76.2 percent Caucasian
 - 7.9 percent Native American
 - 7.6 percent African American
 - 62.1 percent employed
 - \$17,646 income per capita
 - 11.2 percent of families; 14.7 percent of individuals living below poverty level.⁹⁴

Petersburg, VA

- Petersburg is an independent city located in eastern Virginia.⁹⁵ In 2008 the broadband penetration rate for the combined area of Petersburg and Richmond, VA was a reported 41 percent of households.⁹⁶
- Petersburg holds a renowned place in African American history; a history that begins in the 1600s and progresses through several periods of civil rights advancement.⁹⁷ In recent months the Petersburg Museums have developed a cost-effective way to ensure greater community participation in the exhibits.⁹⁸ By utilizing broadband, the museums have begun to post their exhibits online.⁹⁹

⁹⁴ United States Census Fact Sheet (2000): Oklahoma, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Oklahoma” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2000”) (last visited May 11, 2009). See also, United States Census Fact Sheet (2005-2007) American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates: Oklahoma, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Oklahoma” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2005-2007”) (last visited May 11, 2009). The 3-year estimated population is 3,576,929; 75.3 percent Caucasian, 7.4 percent African American, 6.9 percent Native American, and 6.9 percent Hispanic American. Id. Of those old enough to work, 62.7 percent are working. Id. The estimated income is \$21,700 per capita and 12.5 percent of families and 16.6 percent of individuals are living below the poverty level. Id.

⁹⁵ See National Association of Counties (NACO), available at http://www.naco.org/Template.cfm?Section=Find_a_County&Template=/cfiles/counties/state.cfm&statecode=va (last visited May 6, 2009). See also Petersburg, VA, website available at <http://www.petersburg-va.org/econdev/location.htm> (last visited May 6, 2009) (detailing the location of Petersburg, VA).

⁹⁶ See The Need for Internet Speed: Broadband Penetration Increased More Than 300% Since 2002, Press Release, Scarborough Research (April 15, 2008), available at http://www.scarborough.com/press_releases/Broadband%20FINAL%204.15.08.pdf (last visited May 6, 2009).

⁹⁷ See African American History, Petersburg Area Regional Tourism website, available at <http://www.petersburgarea.org/Index.aspx?page=171> (last visited May 6, 2009).

⁹⁸ See Brian J. Couturier, History Goes Online, , The Progress-Index (May 4, 2009), available at <http://www.progress->

- Petersburg also has an online television channel featuring links to video in categories ranging from local government to shopping.¹⁰⁰
- The demographics of Petersburg are:
 - Population of 33,740
 - 79.0 percent African American
 - 18.5 percent Caucasian
 - 1.4 percent Hispanic American
 - 56.5 percent employed
 - \$15,989 income per capita
 - 16.7 percent of families; 19.6 percent of individuals living below poverty level.¹⁰¹

Quincy, FL

- Quincy is located in Gadsden County, Florida. This location will develop the record as to ways in which broadband can improve community development. In Quincy, city officials created their own internet service in an effort to bring internet and broadband access to the area.¹⁰²
- In 2006 Gadsden County was named USDA Rural Development Community of the Year.¹⁰³ Yet according to the 2000 Census, a significant percentage of residents are living below the poverty level.¹⁰⁴

[index.com/articles/2009/05/04/news/pi_progindex.20090504.a.pg1.pi0504museum_s1.2484709_top3.txt](http://www.petersburgva.com/articles/2009/05/04/news/pi_progindex.20090504.a.pg1.pi0504museum_s1.2484709_top3.txt) (last visited May 11, 2009).

⁹⁹ Id.

¹⁰⁰ See Petersburg TV, available at <http://petersburgtv.com/> (last visited May 6, 2009).

¹⁰¹ United States Census Fact Sheet (2000): Petersburg city, VA, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Petersburg city” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2000”) (last visited May 11, 2009). See also United States Census Fact Sheet (2005-2007) American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates: Petersburg city, VA, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Petersburg city” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2005-2007”) (last visited May 11, 2009). The 3-year estimated population is 32,672; 77.1 percent African American, 20.3 percent Caucasian, and 2.6 percent Hispanic American. Id. Of those old enough to work, 61.0 percent are working. Id. The estimated income is \$18,289 per capita and 10.2 percent of families and 16.6 percent of individuals are living below the poverty level. Id.

¹⁰² See Quincy, Fla., Homegrown Internet Provider to Begin Offering Broadband Service, Tallahassee Democrat (October 5, 2004), available at RedOrbit News, http://www.redorbit.com/news/technology/91833/quincy_fla_homegrown_internet_provider_to_begin_offering_broadband_service/index.html (last visited May 11, 2009).

¹⁰³ See Gadsden County Website, available at <http://www.gadsdengov.net/> (last visited May 5, 2009).

- The Florida Public Service Commission regulates telecommunications in Gadsden County.¹⁰⁵ PSC Chairman and Quincy resident Matthew Carter is a pastor who, with his wife, developed a community program for the children of his congregation to have a place to work with computers and finish homework.¹⁰⁶
- The demographics of Quincy are:
 - Population of 6,982
 - 64.2 percent African American
 - 31.6 percent Caucasian
 - 6.9 percent Hispanic American
 - 57.3 percent employed
 - \$15,133 income per capita
 - 16.8 percent of families; 19.1 percent of individuals living below poverty level.¹⁰⁷
- The demographics of Gadsden County are:
 - Population of 45,087
 - 57.1 percent African American
 - 38.7 percent Caucasian
 - 6.2 Hispanic American
 - 56.6 percent employed
 - \$14,499 income per capita
 - 16.4 percent of families; 19.9 percent of individuals living below poverty level.¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁴ See U.S. Census Fact Sheet (2000): Gadsden County, *infra*, n. 80.

¹⁰⁵ See Florida Public Service Commission, available at <http://www.psc.state.fl.us> (last visited May 5, 2009).

¹⁰⁶ See Matthew Carter – TCC Alum, Member of the Florida Public Service Commission and Pastor of Beulah Hill Missionary Baptist Church, Tallahassee Community College, available at http://www.tcc.cc.fl.us/about_tcc/testimonials/matthew_carter (last visited May 11, 2009).

¹⁰⁷ United States Census Fact Sheet (2000): Quincy city, FL available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Quincy city” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community”) (last visited May 11, 2009). Updated Census Data for 2005-2007 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates is unavailable for Quincy city, FL.

¹⁰⁸ United States Census Fact Sheet (2000): Gadsden County, FL, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Gadsden County” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2000”) (last visited May 11, 2009). See also United States Census Fact Sheet (2005-2007) American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates: Gadsden County, FL, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Gadsden County” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2005-2007”) (last visited May 11, 2009). The 3-year estimated population is 46,539; 55.1 percent African American, 39.7 percent Caucasian and 8.2 percent Hispanic American. *Id.* Of the population at least sixteen years old, 54.1 percent are working. *Id.* The estimated income is \$16,563 per capita and 17.6 percent of families and 20.2 percent of individuals are living below the level of poverty. *Id.*

San Jose, CA

- San Jose demonstrates both the significant impact that broadband is capable of achieving, as well as the problems still facing those who do not have broadband.
- The self-proclaimed Capital of Silicon Valley,¹⁰⁹ San Jose leads the United States in venture capitalism and technology.¹¹⁰ The San Jose and San Francisco region ranked number one in a 2008 national broadband adoption survey with “62 percent of households having broadband access.”¹¹¹
- The California Broadband Task Force, based in San Jose, is a team of individuals from both the public and private sectors, formed to assess needs and issue advice regarding development of broadband.¹¹² Organizations such as Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network, are working to solve broadband issues by “bringing together leaders from business, labor, government, the universities, and the non-profit sector to think outside the box and build creative solutions.”¹¹³
- The demographics for San Jose are:
 - Population of 894,943
 - 47.5 percent Caucasian
 - 30.2 percent Hispanic American
 - 26.9 percent Asian Americans
 - 66.9 percent employed
 - \$26,697 income per capita
 - 6.0 percent of families; 8.8 percent of individuals living below poverty level.¹¹⁴

¹⁰⁹ See City of San Jose: Office of Economic Development: About San Jose, available at <http://www.sjeconomy.com/aboutsj/> (last visited May 5, 2009).

¹¹⁰ See City of San Jose: Office of Economic Development: About San Jose, San Jose, Capital of Silicon Valley: #1 Community for Innovators in U.S., available at <http://www.sjeconomy.com/aboutsj/communityinnovators.asp> (last visited May 5, 2009).

¹¹¹ Mike Freeman, Easy Access Puts S.D. Near Top in Broadband-Use Survey, The San Diego Union-Tribune (April 17, 2008), available at http://cfx.signonsandiego.com/uniontrib/20080417/news_1n17broadban.html (last visited May 11, 2009).

¹¹² See California Broadband Initiative: About California Broadband Task Force, available at <http://www.calink.ca.gov/taskforce/aboutus.asp> (last visited May 5, 2009).

¹¹³ Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network: About Us, available at <http://www.jointventure.org/aboutus/overview.html> (last visited May 5, 2009) (working on a variety of Silicon Valley issues including research on Smart Health, Smart Valley and Wireless Silicon Valley).

¹¹⁴ United States Census Fact Sheet (2000): San Jose City, CA, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “San Jose City” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2000”) (last visited May 11, 2009). See also United States

- San Jose is located in Santa Clara County. The demographics of Santa Clara County are:
 - Population of 1,682,585
 - 53.8 percent Caucasian
 - 25.6 percent Asian American
 - 24.0 percent Hispanic American
 - 67.2 percent employed
 - \$32,795 income per capita
 - 4.9 percent of families; 7.5 percent of individuals living below poverty level.¹¹⁵

San Juan, Puerto Rico

- San Juan is the capital and largest metropolis in Puerto Rico.¹¹⁶ A Puerto Rico hearing site will develop the record on problems and solutions for securing broadband access in an area where it is difficult to build out and maintain service.
- Together, OneLink Communications and Integrated Broadband Services have been providing San Juan with broadband service since 2006.¹¹⁷ OneLink is the largest cable company in Puerto Rico, providing service to eight municipalities.¹¹⁸

Census Fact Sheet (2005-2007) American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates: San Jose City, CA, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “San Jose City” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2005-2007”) (last visited May 11, 2009). The 3-year estimated population is 898,901; 49.3 percent Caucasian, 31.3 percent Hispanic American, and 30.7 percent Asian American. Id. 66.9 percent of eligible aged persons are employed. Id. Average income of \$32,487 per capita with 7.4 percent of families and 10.2 percent of individuals living below the poverty level. Id.

¹¹⁵ United States Census Fact Sheet (2000): Santa Clara County, CA, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Santa Clara County” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” follow link to “2000”) (last visited May 11, 2009). See also United States Census Fact Sheet (2005-2007) American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates: Santa Clara County, CA, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Santa Clara County” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” follow link to “2005-2007”) (last visited May 11, 2009). The 3-year estimated population is 1,722,819; 52.5 percent Caucasian, 29.8 percent Asian American, and 25.4 percent Hispanic American. Id. Of those at least sixteen years old, 66.0 percent are employed. Id. The estimated income is \$38,513 per capita and 5.9 percent of families and 8.7 percent of individuals living below the poverty level. Id.

¹¹⁶ See The Puerto Rico Channel, available at <http://www.puertorico.com/metro/san-juan/> (last visited May 11, 2009).

¹¹⁷ See IBBS Completes BBX Implementation in San Juan Puerto Rico, News Release (Jan. 20, 2006), available at http://www.ibbs.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=97&Itemid=90, (last visited May 11, 2009).

¹¹⁸ Id. See also OneLink Communications Mapa de Cobertura (Coverage Map), available at <http://www.onelinkpr.com/portal/content/view/29/55/> (last visited May 11, 2009).

- Nearly half of Puerto Rico is below the poverty level.¹¹⁹
- San Juan is an ideal location for the Commission to discuss problems in broadband access where “deployment of fiber and other wire infrastructure is severely limited by the topographical characteristics of the island, as approximately 75 percent of Puerto Rico consists of hills or mountains.”¹²⁰ The International Telecommunications Union published data on regional internet and broadband usage indicating that in 2007, 20.75 percent of Puerto Ricans used the internet and only 2.99 percent subscribed to broadband.¹²¹
- A recent article reported that a company called Biomet is creating a center in Guaynabo that will give medical professionals access to information on advancements in the field through their website and video conferencing.¹²² Biomet management recognized “a real need for knowledge and realized Puerto Rico can be the link through which we can transfer the latest information in Spanish about medical technological advances in the U.S. to Latin America and the Caribbean. This way, they don’t have to wait for book translations since the information is transmitted in real time.”¹²³
- The demographics of San Juan are:
 - Population of 421,958
 - 98.0 percent Hispanic American
 - 72.7 percent Caucasian
 - 11.9 percent African American
 - 44.3 percent employed

¹¹⁹ United States Census Fact Sheet (2000): Puerto Rico, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Puerto Rico” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2000”) (last visited May 11, 2009). See also, United States Census Fact Sheet (2005-2007) American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates: Puerto Rico, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Puerto Rico” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2005-2007”) (last visited May 11, 2009) (three- year survey estimates 41.4 percent of families, and 45.2 percent of individuals were living below the poverty level).

¹²⁰ See Comments of Nevesem, Inc., In re American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 – Broadband Initiatives, Docket No. 090309298-9299-01, (April 13, 2009) at 5, available at <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/comments/7A8A.pdf> (last visited May 5, 2009).

¹²¹ See Data by Region: Internet Indicators: subscribers, users and broadband subscribers, International Telecommunications Union (2007), available at http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/icteye/Reporting/ShowReportFrame.aspx?ReportName=/WTI/InformationTechnologyPublic&RP_intYear=2007&RP_intLanguageID=1 (last visited May 5, 2009). Percentages are based on number of users per one hundred inhabitants.

¹²² See Jose E. Maldonado, Biomet to open \$2 million educational/research center, Caribbean Business (April 23, 2009), available at <http://www.caribbeanbusinesspr.com/archives/> (last visited May 5, 2009).

¹²³ Id. (quoting sales manager, José A. Álvarez).

- \$12,531 income per capita
- 36.9 percent of families; 40.8 percent of individuals living below poverty level.¹²⁴
- The demographics of Puerto Rico are:
 - Population of 3,808,610
 - 98.8 percent Hispanic American
 - 80.5 percent Caucasian
 - 8.0 percent African American
 - 40.7 percent employed
 - \$8,185 income per capita
 - 44.6 percent of families; 48.2 percent of individuals living below poverty level.¹²⁵

Washington, GA

- Washington will assist in developing the record as to innovative ways in which communities can access broadband as well as make the most of broadband utilization.
- Washington is a small town with a majority of African American residents. Since being elected, Mayor Willie Burns has been able to reinvigorate the town.¹²⁶ By inviting

¹²⁴ United States Census Fact Sheet (2000): San Juan zona urbana, PR, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “San Juan zona urbana” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2000”) (last visited May 11, 2009). See also United States Census Fact Sheet (2005-2007) American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates: San Juan zona urbana, PR, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “San Juan zona urbana” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2005-2007”) (last visited May 11, 2009). The three-year estimated population is 413,051; 98.2 percent Hispanic American, 68.6 percent Caucasian, and 15.4 African American. Of those old enough to work, 53.6 percent are working. Id. The estimated income is \$15,274 per capita, and 34.0 percent of families and 37.6 percent of individuals are living below the poverty level. Id.

¹²⁵ United States Census Fact Sheet (2000): Puerto Rico, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Puerto Rico” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2000”) (last visited May 11, 2009). See also, United States Census Fact Sheet (2005-2007) American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates: Puerto Rico, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Puerto Rico” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community” and follow link to “2005-2007”) (last visited May 11, 2009). For the 3- year survey the estimate of total population was 3,926,638; 98.6 percent Hispanic American, 76.0 percent Caucasian, 11.7 some other race, and 7.3 percent African American. Id. 47.1 percent of work those old enough to work were employed, average income was \$9,808 per capita and 41.4 percent of families, and 45.2 percent of individuals were living below the poverty level. Id.

¹²⁶ See Maynard Eaton, Georgia Conference of Black Mayors is flexing its political muscle, The Atlanta Voice (May 24, 2007), available at <http://bobrow-williams-group-llc.com/Documents/Atlanta%20Voice%20Newspaper%20-%20GA%20Coference%20of%20Black%20Mayors%20Is%20Flexing%20Its%20Political%20Muscle.pdf> (last visited May 11, 2009).

federal officials to speak at the Georgia Conference of Black Mayors, Burns gave the Mayors an opportunity to explore various ways in which federal government can assist rural communities.¹²⁷ Mayor Burns states that the city's "budget is \$18 million for 4,200 citizens. We're focusing on quality of life. We almost have \$2.5 million in reserves. When I became mayor, I had \$400,000."¹²⁸ Recently, this city was able to use its knowledge and training to secure a water and sewage filtration grant of one million dollars.¹²⁹

- Washington, GA is an ideal location for the Commission to receive information on how broadband can improve public safety and encourage efficient inter-agency cooperation. The Washington police force now utilizes "wireless video flashlights and button video cams...cameras are also installed in the downtown areas...[and] [a]ccess to the server can be securely granted to public safety agencies involved in multi-agency investigations."¹³⁰
- Washington, Georgia's demographics are:
 - Population of 4,295
 - 60.7 percent African American
 - 38.0 percent Caucasian
 - 52.4 percent employed
 - \$13,659 income per capita
 - 17.6 percent of families; 23.0 percent of individuals living below poverty level.¹³¹
- The city of Washington is located in Wilkes County, Georgia. Wilkes County's demographics are:
 - Population of 10,687
 - 55.1 percent Caucasian
 - 43.1 percent African American
 - 2.0 percent Hispanic American
 - 56.3 percent employed
 - \$15,020 income per capita

¹²⁷ Id.

¹²⁸ Id. (quoting Mayor Burns).

¹²⁹ See Best Practice Note: Getting stimulus funding for smaller cities – Washington, GA, National Conference of Black Mayors, available at <http://ncbm.org/2009/04/best-practice-note-getting-stimulus-funding-for-smaller-cities/> (last visited May 5, 2009).

¹³⁰ See Historic Washington, GA, Puts the Spotlight on Public Safety with Innovative Wireless, Reuters (Aug. 4, 2008), available at <http://www.reuters.com/article/pressRelease/idUS118654+04-Aug-2008+BW20080804> (last visited May 11, 2009).

¹³¹ United States Census Fact Sheet (2000): Washington City, GA, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type "Washington City" in link to "Get a Fact Sheet for your Community") (last visited May 11, 2009). Updated Census Data for 2005-2007 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates is unavailable for Washington City, GA.

- 13.0 percent of families; 17.5 percent of individuals living below poverty level.¹³²

Weirwood (Nassawadox), VA

- This rural community located in Northampton County, Virginia, is predominantly African American, stricken by poverty, and without access to broadband.¹³³ In its Rural Broadband Report, the Commission described Weirwood as giving “rural broadband deployment a human face,”¹³⁴ adding:

As MMTC describes it, Weirwood is an isolated rural community on Virginia’s Eastern Shore, on the site of a former cotton plantation. Weirwood is only a mile and a half from U.S. Route 13, along which lies a broadband Internet backbone. The residents of Weirwood, however - mostly African-American descendants of former slaves - lack access to broadband. MMTC states that Weirwood has “absolutely no ability to raise internally” the funds needed to build a broadband node to the community from the existing backbone line. Pending acquisition of thorough, reliable, and disaggregated data, we glimpse through Weirwood the state of broadband deployment in impoverished rural areas (footnotes omitted).

- For areas without broadband access, like Weirwood, the FCC recognizes that DSL or satellite may be reasonable means to getting high speed internet,¹³⁵ however, these options are often expensive and may require a long term commitment.¹³⁶ Weirwood has satellite access for video in homes facing south, but not satellite broadband or any other form of broadband.
- Weirwood is an ideal hearing location because broadband data is already being collected in an effort to improve the area. Northampton and Accomack Counties, along with the Eastern Shore of Virginia Broadband Authority, a non-profit organization, are currently undertaking a broadband survey of these counties in order to improve broadband access

¹³² United States Census Fact Sheet (2000): Wilkes County, GA, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Wilkes County” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community”) (last visited May 11, 2009). Updated Census Data for 2005-2007 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates is unavailable for Wilkes County, GA.

¹³³ See Rural Broadband Strategy: Comments of the Minority Media and Telecommunications Council, GN Docket No. 09-29 (filed March 25, 2009).

¹³⁴ FCC, “Bringing Broadband to Rural America” (May 22, 2009), ¶31.

¹³⁵ See Getting Broadband: FCC Consumer Facts, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau. Available at www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/highspeedinternet.html (last visited May 5, 2009).

¹³⁶ Id. (noting the costs associated with satellite). See also Verizon High Speed Internet Overview, available at <http://www22.verizon.com/residential/highspeedinternet> (last visited May 11, 2009) (advertising phone and internet bundle starting price of \$49.99 per month or high speed internet alone for \$17.99 per month but customers must sign a two year agreement and have Verizon voice service).

and service.¹³⁷ Nassawadox, whose Post Office serves Weirwood, is four miles from Weirwood and is the home of Northampton County’s high school and its hospital – each of which would be available as a hearing location.

- The demographics for Nassawadox Town are:
 - Population of 572
 - 54.9 percent African American,
 - 43.2 percent Caucasian
 - 1.2 percent Hispanic American
 - 38.0 percent employed
 - \$14,626 income per capita
 - 24.0 percent of families; 32.8 percent of individuals living below poverty level.¹³⁸

- Northampton County’s demographics are:
 - Population of 13,093
 - 53.3 percent Caucasian,
 - 43.0 percent African American
 - 3.5 percent Hispanic American.
 - 53.6 percent employed
 - \$16,591 income per capita
 - 15.8 percent of families; 20.5 percent of individuals living below poverty level.¹³⁹

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¹³⁷ See Broadband survey, available at <http://www2.designnine.com/easternshore/go-to-survey> (last visited May 11, 2009). See also Eastern Shore of Virginia Broadband Authority: About Us, available at <http://www.esvabroadband.net/about-us> (last visited May 5, 2009).

¹³⁸ United States Census Fact Sheet (2000): Nassawadox, VA, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Nassawadox” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community”) (last visited May 11, 2009). Updated Census Data for 2005-2007 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates is unavailable for Nassawadox, VA. Census data for Weirwood, VA was unavailable; however, MMTTC is advised by the Northampton County Branch of the NAACP that Weirwood’s population of about 150 is 100% African American.

¹³⁹ United States Census Fact Sheet (2000): Northampton County, VA, available at <http://factfinder.census.gov> (type “Northampton County” in link to “Get a Fact Sheet for your Community”) (last visited May 11, 2009). Updated Census Data for 2005-2007 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates is unavailable for Northampton County, VA.