Funding for Broadband: Indiana & Beyond

The need for, and benefits, of aggregating high-speed Internet access for public libraries
Polls: Who are you?

- Does your library have adequate Internet connectivity speed?
- Are you the local advocate/expert for increasing broadband?
Today’s presentation

- Need for broadband
- Funding and aggregation
- Indiana research
- Role of the library in society
- Federal broadband initiatives
- BTOP & BIP
Is there any doubt libraries need broadband?

- Think of all the ways public libraries and their patrons use the Internet
  - Computer training
  - Career or employment counseling
  - Small business counseling
  - Others?
Libraries need reliable broadband

- Scholarly research
- Anecdotal articles and reports
- ALA’s *Libraries Connect Communities*
  - Public Library Funding and Technology Access Study (McClure & Bertot)
Recognizing the need in Indiana

- Previous aggregation attempt
- More efficiency & cost effectiveness needed
- Public Library Internet Consortium (PLIC)
PLIC Structure

- Opt-in
- Single Internet Service Provider
- E-rate optional
Assumed Benefits

- Stable fees
- Lowered costs
- Guaranteed connection speeds
- Added technical & consulting support
Costs & Challenges

- Leadership need
- Additional hoops
- Vendor chances

- Shrinking budgets
- Greater needs
- Defining Broadband
PLIC Review

- SLIS proposal to ISL – survey
- Is aggregation worth the money?
- Connectivity details not a priority for directors

- Published Fall of 2009
  - Government Information Quarterly
  - Public Libraries
Member/non-member bandwidth

- **155M or above**: 1 member, 1 non-member
- **6M - 45M**: 5 members, 5 non-members
- **1.6M - 5M**: 11 members, 5 non-members
- **1.5M (T1)**: 3 members, 3 non-members
- **257K - 1.4M**: 6 members, 2 non-members
- **56K - 256K**: 5 members, 3 non-members
- **Less than 56K**: 3 members, 3 non-members
- **Don't Know**: 19 members, 12 non-members

*Non-members (N=52) vs Members (N=102)*
E-rate applications & PLIC status

- **Applied Directly**
  - Members: 11
  - Non-members: 15

- **PLIC Applied on Behalf**
  - Members: 88
  - Non-members: 0

- **No, didn't apply**
  - Members: 3
  - Non-members: 32

- **Don't Know or No response**
  - Members: 0
  - Non-members: 5
SLD funding of internet access
Program offerings by bandwidth

- Children’s storytime
- Computer training for the public
- Career or employment counseling
- Small business counseling

Legend:
- Less than 1.5 M (T1)
- 1.5 M (T1)
- Greater than 1.5 M (T1)
- Don't Know/No Answer
Role of Library in Society

- Successfully Networked Public Library
  - Bertot, McClure, Jaeger, and Ryan
- Network Infrastructure
- Networked services include the equipment
- Virtual Branch
  - More than just a website
- Community engagement
The Broadband Initiatives

- National Broadband Plan
- Broadband map
- Funding – Commerce & Agriculture
  - Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
  - Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP)

http://www.broadbandusa.gov/
National Broadband Plan

- FCC: 768 Kbps  ALA: 1.5 Mbps
- National focus for services in:
  - Education
  - Healthcare
  - Energy independence
  - Job creation and economic growth
- Reduce redundancy
- Formal report to Congress: March 17
Broadband Map

- What is it?
- Why do libraries care?
Poll: Where are you?

- Rural (population of 20,000 or under)
- Suburban
- Urban
BTOP & BIP

- RUS (BIP) - $2.5 billion
- NTIA (BTOP) - $4.7 billion
- One-time funding (not for operations)

- Broadband infrastructure
- Public Computing Centers
- Sustainable Broadband Adoption
BTOP Round 2 ($2.6 billion)

- Comprehensive Community Infrastructure
  - $2.35 billion

- Public Computing Centers
  - $150 million

- Sustainable Broadband Adoption
  - $100 million

- Favor Community Anchor Institutions
  - Libraries, Schools, Community colleges
  - Hospitals, Public Safety, Community Support
Specially designated funding

- Last Mile projects: $1.7 Billion
  - 75% grant & 25% loan
- Middle Mile projects: $300 Million
  - 75% grant & 25% loan
- Satellite projects: $100 Million
  - 100% grant
- Rural Library Broadband: $5 Million
  - 100% grant
  - Separate Regional Library Broadband grants ??
A word about E-rate

- E-rate cannot be used as matching funds for BTOP grants
- E-rate is a great resource to assist libraries as they struggle to finance their connectivity
How can you leverage funding?

- Look first for partners
  - Other libraries
  - Other government units
  - Any organization with common interests

- What funding opportunities are out there
  - E-rate
  - BTOP
  - BIP
ALA Resources

- Know Your Stimulus
  www.ala.org/knowyourstimulus/

- Webinar series:
  - January 22: Round Two: Get Connected
  - February 5: BTOP & BIP: How to Connect
  - Sometime shortly after February 15 (Feb 19th?)
Thank you

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