About

The Connected Community Engagement Program is a facilitated broadband and technology planning program designed to address the most pressing technology challenges facing communities today. Connected engages local leaders to evaluate their community's current state of technology access, adoption, and use. Connected offers communities the opportunity to measure the supply, demand, and use of technology in the community with unprecedented data gathering, analysis, and planning. Connected's unique community technology assessment provides insight into the local technology ecosystem, identifies gaps and opportunities, and supports the development of an actionable technology plan to improve the community's standing in the digital economy.

Accelerate benefits of technology to residents, businesses, and institutions
Facilitate a multi-sector technology assessment and planning process
Educate and **empower** local leaders to advance community broadband goals
Bridge the gap to valuable broadband tools and resources

Participating Connected communities receive:

- ✓ Start-to-finish program guidance and facilitation by an experienced Community Technology Advisor
- ✓ Customized data collection tools for data gathering and assessment
- ✓ Community Technology Action Plan that provides the local team with specific objectives and strategies for improving technology access, adoption, and use
- ✓ Connected branding toolkit to promote the community's plan development and successes
- ✓ Membership to the Connected Community of Communities to share and learn from peers on best practices for plan implementation
- ✓ Access to Connected's partner network selected to assist communities with specific development needs
- ✓ Geospatial analysis of community infrastructure opportunities and gaps
- ✓ Opportunity to become Connected certified following assessment and plan implementation

Connected Community Engagement Program By the Numbers

3,247 Community Team Members	**325** Communities Engaged Across 7 States
129 Technology Action Plans Completed	**62** Communities Connected Certified

Through the Connected Community Engagement Program we have put together a plan for broadband access, use, and engagement. This is the first time our area has looked at improving broadband access, and it's been a tremendous tool in building improved access for the future.

– Delta County Economic Development Alliance

The Connected Program has helped not only our local communities get connected, it has helped our local entrepreneurs and businesses succeed right from their own homes or businesses located outside the city limits.

– West Central MichiganWorks!

Benefits

> *Connected Community certification says to potential investors that Clarksville-Montgomery County understands today's global business environment and is committed to providing the tools necessary for industries to build, grow, and create jobs in our community. An impartial assessment of our digital infrastructure validates the high quality of resources available in our area.*
>
> **– Clarksville-Montgomery County Economic Development Council**

Benchmarking and planning
Find out where your community stands in relation to similar places and national benchmarks.

Inform a technology planning effort with unprecedented data on infrastructure, adoption, and use. Connected helps communities gather and analyze data on technology use across sectors, from agriculture to education and healthcare to public safety.

Recognition
Leverage Connected certification status and plan as a recruitment tool for residents and industry. Communities need a competitive advantage they can promote in order to thrive.

Network with other communities
Collaborate with other communities and partners—share best practices, spread policy insights, disseminate solutions, gather information, and adapt to evolving opportunities.

Create an empowered and informed community team
The Connected process educates, empowers, and unifies community leaders and cross-sectoral stakeholders to address broadband issues, develop a vision, and manage their action plan.

Outcomes

All communities are different. Below are just some of the ways Connected Communities are embracing their plans to improve their local technology landscape:

- Comprehensive vision for technology and community well-being
- Stronger cross-sector and organization/agency relationships
- More engaged and technology aware citizens
- Increased residential and business adoption
- Broadband infrastructure expansion
- Targeted digital literacy programs
- Business-oriented digital learning
- Jobs created and saved
- Better leveraging of assets
- 1:1 device initiatives in schools
- E-government and e-health initiatives
- Better preparation for grant applications
- More efficient local policy and zoning laws
- National recognition
- Increased awareness and expansion of public computer availability

> *We knew we had a problem, but it sat unaddressed for a number of years. We didn't address it because we didn't know how to start or where to go for help. Most of our peers (rural counties) had the same issue. This is where the Connected program came in.*
>
> **– Osceola County Community Development**

Read more Connected success stories online at: http://connectmycommunity.org/.

For More Information

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CONNECTED PLANNING PROCESS

1 ENGAGE
2 ASSESS
3 PLAN
4 ACT