



*"Committed to the Future  
of Rural Communities"*



Mr. Thomas C. Dorr  
USDA Under Secretary, Rural Development  
and  
The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
US Representative, 2<sup>nd</sup> District of West Virginia  
Invite You to Attend a Free Broadband Workshop

Monday, October 2, 2006 - 9:00 am Check In  
Marriott Hotel, Charleston, West Virginia

Join Us and Understand the Application Processes for:

- Rural Broadband Access Loans and Loan Guarantees
- Community Connect Broadband Grants
- Distance Learning/Telemedicine Loans and Grants

*Understand program eligibility and other important requirements!  
Determine programs that are right for you and your community!  
Consult with Program Experts regarding your project!  
Improve your chances for successful loan and grant applications!*

Welcome and Introductions, Robert Steptoe, West Virginia State Director, USDA Rural Development

Speakers (10:00 am until Noon)

- **Thomas C. Dorr, USDA Under Secretary, Rural Development**  
*Welcoming Remarks*
- **Jacqueline M. Ponti, Assistant Administrator, USDA Telecommunications Program**  
*Keynote Address: USDA Telecommunications Programs and Vision for the Future*
- **Ron Mellon, General Field Representative, USDA Rural Development Telecom Program**  
*The USDA Telecom and Broadband Program in West Virginia Today*
- **Karen Weaver, City Manager, City of Philippi, West Virginia**  
*A Community Connect Broadband Grant Success Story*
- **Pam Bennett, Senior Loan Specialist, USDA Broadband Division**  
*Introduction to the USDA Telecom and Broadband Programs*
- **Shelley Moore Capito, US Representative, 2<sup>nd</sup> District West Virginia**  
*Closing Remarks*

Afternoon Breakout Sessions (1:00 pm until 3:30 pm)

- **The Broadband Loan Application Process for Service Providers**  
*Pam Bennett, Broadband Division Senior Loan Specialist*
- **Distance Learning/Telemedicine Grants, Loans and Loan/Grant Combinations**  
*Ron Mellon, General Field Representative West Virginia*
- **The Community Connect Broadband Grant Program**  
*Alyssa Clemsen, USDA Broadband Grant Specialist*

Register as soon as possible at: [Sarah.Ash@wv.usda.gov](mailto:Sarah.Ash@wv.usda.gov) or call 304.284.4862 or 1.800.295.8228; FAX to 304.284.4893 (304.284.4836 TTY/TDD). Space is limited. Morning beverages and light refreshments provided. Lunch is on your own. USDA Rural Development staff will be available on site for individual guidance. Appointments (recommended) can be made by contacting GFR Ron Mellon at [ronald.mellon@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:ronald.mellon@wdc.usda.gov).

West Virginia's Community Connect Foundation is sponsoring its "First Annual Broadband Summit" beginning at 6:00 pm, October 2nd at the Charleston Marriott (after this event), continuing on October 3rd. Get conference information at (304) 965-9010 or [www.comconnect.org](http://www.comconnect.org).

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