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Western North Carolina gets share of \$83M to expand broadband access

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RALEIGH — Gov. Bev Perdue recently announced that North Carolina has received \$83 million in five federal recovery grants to extend broadband connectivity in rural parts of North Carolina. These funds will create jobs upfront, and help spur economic development in these areas through expanded access to [high-speed Internet](#).

In Western North Carolina, Country Cablevision Inc. was awarded \$25.3 million to promote social and economic development in rural, economically distressed areas in the region by delivering critical digital services (TV, data and voice over Internet protocol). More than 33,000 people, approximately 1,900 local businesses and 120 community institutions stand to benefit from this improved service.

In July as part of round two awards, \$30 million in grants were awarded to expand broadband access in Western North Carolina.

More information about other recent North Carolina broadband grants:

Utopian Wireless Corporation

This \$460,993 award to Utopian Wireless Corporation will bring WiMax infrastructure to rural communities in and around Riegelwood, and will provide broadband access to underserved household and businesses. The Utopian Wireless Corporation's project stands to benefit approximately 3,000 people, 450 businesses and 30 other community institutions.

Atlantic Telephone Membership Corporation

Through this \$16 million award, Columbus County ACCESS will provide an all Fiber-to-the-Premises (FTTP) network for high-capacity data, voice and video services to critical community facilities and public [safety](#) entities. More than 8,700 people, approximately 270 local businesses and 35 community institutions stand to benefit from this

improved service.

Wilkes Telecommunications Inc.

This \$21.6 million award will provide last mile fiber optic high speed broadband, video and voice services to underserved rural areas in Wilkes County. Wilkes Telecommunication's project stands to benefit approximately 8,500 people, 3,300 businesses and 45 other community institutions. Wilkes Telecommunications estimates that this project will directly create at least 160 jobs upfront.

Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation

This \$19.9 million award to Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation will provide advanced broadband services via a high-speed fiber optic network to end users in service areas in southeastern North Carolina. Lumbee River Electric's project stands to benefit approximately 27,000 people, 1,600 businesses, and 100 other community institutions.

Overall, the federal Recovery Act was to [invest](#) \$7.2 billion in expanding broadband access nationwide – \$4.7 billion through the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and \$2.5 billion funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS).

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Mom Dilemma #36:
Your daughter insists on wearing her princess costume to the grocery store. Allow it or not?

YES, at least she's dressed!

NO, I have some rules!

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