



Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

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Milwaukee Receives \$2.5 Million Grant to Enhance Broadband Services
Award Focuses on Economically Vulnerable Areas of the City

MILWAUKEE – The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announced that the City of Milwaukee will receive an approximately \$2.5 million grant to improve broadband capacity and availability to the public. The funding will focus on improving broadband services in libraries, public housing sites, a senior center and areas with high poverty and unemployment rates.

Mayor Tom Barrett said he is pleased that Milwaukee received the grant and thanked all those who worked on the City’s application. “Milwaukee will gain significantly from this funding,” said Mayor Barrett. “This award will improve Internet capabilities for countless City residents, but it will also help Milwaukee attract new businesses, create jobs and foster long-term economic growth. I thank Milwaukee’s Chief Information Officer Nancy Olson and the team who worked tirelessly to ensure that Milwaukee received the full funding it requested in its application.”

This grant will increase computer work stations and broadband capability at six Milwaukee Public Library sites, increase City-wide hours of computer operation at both the library as well as the Housing Authority and will train as many as 5,000 residents in computer skills including use of the Internet. It will also support kiosks in several targeted areas that will provide job training information and employment possibilities. The Connecting Milwaukee Communities grant will also provide support for the development of a one-stop Web site to obtain information about the public computer center classes and locations and other relevant community information.

Other Wisconsin organizations receiving broadband-expansion grants include the University of Wisconsin System, College of Menominee Nations and Merit Network, Inc. The award is administered by the Departments of Commerce and Agriculture under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.