

TNBA members awarded community grant funding

The Foundation for Rural Service offers grants to help communities build and sustain a high quality of life in rural America. These grants are in partnership with local broadband providers who are members of NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association.

The following Tennessee organizations were awarded FRS grants in 2019:

- **Alexandria Senior Center (Alexandria)**
\$4,000 to offer beginner technology classes that will teach community members valuable information about technology and help them gain access to various programs and services online. Additional equipment will allow the Senior Care Center to offer a broad range of operating system experience and allow multiple users to simultaneously access the internet at the center. Sponsored by DTC Communications.
- **Cannon County High School (Woodbury)**
\$2,738.70 to integrate Texas Instruments (TI) technology into lessons, allowing students to conduct experiments and become more engaged with STEM. Students will learn basic coding, incorporating math skills, using TI. Sponsored by DTC Communications.
- **Pine Haven Elementary (Jamestown)**
\$5,000 to purchase Boxlight touch boards and materials for the creation of a STEM program and a shared STEM learning space. Sponsored by Twin Lakes.
- **East 52 Volunteer Fire Department (Celina)**
\$550 to equip the volunteer fire department with modern technology for displaying the video portion of CPR, AED and First Aid training. The technology will also be used for training within the community. Sponsored by Twin Lakes.

Grants require a 10% match from recipients and range from \$500 to \$5,000. They are awarded in four categories: Business and Economic Development, Community Development, Education and Telecommunications Applications.

For more information about applying for 2020 grants, visit www.frs.org.

TNBA member receives \$3 million grant for fiber project

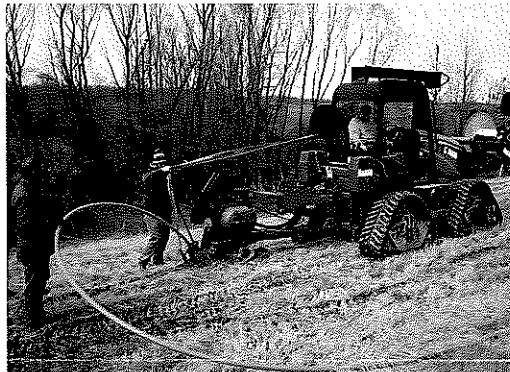
WK&T Telecommunications was recently awarded a \$3 million grant to boost broadband construction in parts of rural Tennessee.

The Community-Oriented Connectivity Broadband Grant, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service, will help WK&T build gigabit broadband service to 406 unserved homes in the Dukedom area of Weakley County. The grant will also be used to create a community center to provide residents free access to computers and Wi-Fi.

Trevor Bonnstetter, CEO of WK&T, says the expansion of broadband and related services will benefit the economy, health care, education and the overall quality of life for local residents.

For the past two years, WK&T has worked closely with the Weakley County mayor's office, as well as the communities of Martin and Dresden, to identify ways for WK&T to expand its gig fiber network into parts of Weakley County. "With this announcement, we are one step closer to having broadband access to all citizens, regardless of where they live," Weakley County Mayor Jake Bynum says. "I appreciate the leadership WK&T has brought to this process and look forward to Weakley County government's continued support and partnership in this endeavor."

For more information about WK&T and the fiber project, visit www.mywkt.net.



Who we are

The Tennessee Broadband Association is comprised of cooperative and independent providers delivering broadband, phone and related telecom services to communities across the state.

- Ardmore Telephone Company
- Ben Lomand Connect
- BTC Fiber
- Concord Telephone Exchange, Inc.
- DTC Communications
- Highland Telephone Cooperative
- Humphreys County Telephone Company
- Loretto Telecom
- North Central Telephone Cooperative
- Ritter Communications
- Scott County Telephone Cooperative
- SkyLine Membership Corporation
- TDS TELECOM - Knoxville Office
- TEC/Bradford
- TEC/Erin
- TEC/Friendship Division
- Tellico Telephone Company
- Tennessee Telephone Company
- Twin Lakes
- United Communications
- WK&T Telecommunications Cooperative



Tennessee Broadband Association

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