



e-Vermont Community Broadband Project Update to Annual Report www.e4vt.org

The e-Vermont Community Broadband Project has worked since spring of 2010 to help rural towns realize the full potential of the Internet in everything from education to government to business development to community connections. The first annual report, published in July 2011, provides a comprehensive overview of the work the e-Vermont partner organizations performed during their first year assisting e-Vermont communities.

In the months since this annual report was published, e-Vermont has continued its ambitious projects. Additional accomplishments in 2011 include:

- Full deployment of all e-Vermont partner services in 12 second round communities, bringing community work to a total of 24 rural locations. As we start 2012:
 - **Digital Wish** has distributed 1,290 Netbooks to classrooms serving 1,139 Vermont students and conducted almost 1,500 educator trainings.
 - **Vermont Small Business Development Center** has worked directly with 91 business clients and presented 35 business workshops.
 - **Snelling Center for Government** is building websites with 16 municipalities statewide, modeling best practices for e-government in rural towns.
 - **Vermont State Colleges** have offered 56 workshops on basic Internet topics and have piloted two new projects. Internet Interns places students in local libraries to provide computer assistance for patrons. Teaching Internet Basics workshops help participants gain technical and pedagogical skills for working with people new to using the Internet.
 - **Vermont Department of Libraries** is working directly with 27 public libraries to expand public Internet access and improve online services.
 - **Front Porch Forum** manages 28 forums and 6,284 subscribers in e-Vermont communities. The average subscription rate is 23% of households, with some towns reaching rates over 70%. In December, 2011, FPF launched a new online community calendar tool.

- Under the leadership of the **Vermont Council on Rural Development**, second round e-Vermont communities have also launched independently developed projects, including wireless Internet zones, online archives for local historic documents, public Internet access using mobile computer labs, a series of community presentations on online tools in the creative economy, distance learning opportunities for rescue squad volunteers, and improvements to online farmers' markets. VCRD community directors also provide follow up in first round communities to ensure the success of previously implemented projects.
- In 2012 e-Vermont will be bringing lessons learned and best practices from e-Vermont communities statewide. Tools already in place for this outreach include:
 - A regional workshop on February 16th and state conference on April 25th, organized by the Snelling Center for Government.
 - Online toolkits with step-by-step guides to topics ranging from beginner friendly website design to getting public documents online to choosing the right web designer for your small business.
 - Monthly webinar series
 - Bimonthly e-Vermont electronic newsletter
 - Collaboration with other Vermont organizations that share our goal of ensuring that rural communities can take full advantage of broadband resources as they become available.

All of the information sources listed above can be found at our website: www.e4vt.org.

To keep current with e-Vermont activities, follow us on Twitter, @eVermont, & Facebook, /e4vt.org

