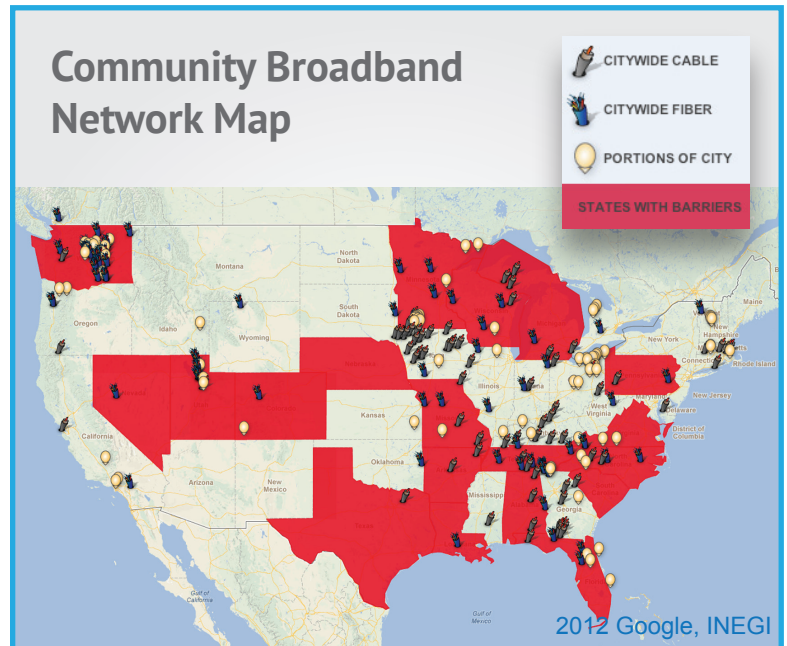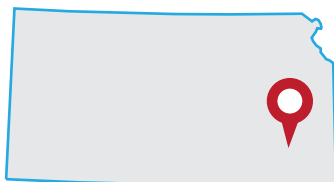# Community Broadband Creates Jobs

All businesses increasingly depend on fast, affordable, and reliable access to telecommunications. But existing cable and DSL companies are not meeting local needs -- they charge too much for networks that can be too slow or unreliable. In response, hundreds of communities have built their own networks to spur economic development.

Community-owned networks often deliver the highest capacity connections at far greater levels of reliability than cable and DSL companies -- they are focused on helping local businesses, not extracting monopoly profits.

MuniNetworks.org documents examples of economic development resulting from community-owned networks. We have published several case studies and offer new posts on a daily basis.

Community Broadband Network Map

CITYWIDE CABLE

CITYWIDE FIBER

PORTIONS OF CITY

STATES WITH BARRIERS

2012 Google, INEGI

> "In eras past, economic success depended on creating networks that could shift people, merchandise and electric power as efficiently and as widely as possible.
>
> Today's equivalent is broadband ... Easy access to cheap, fast internet services has become a facilitator of economic growth and a measure of economic performance. - **The Economist**

Chanute, Kansas (Chanute Municipal Network)

KANSAS
Chanute
a TRADITION of INNOVATION

- Spirit AeroSystems, looking for a home for its new manufacturing facility, chose Chanute in part due to its exceptional broadband infrastructure. The plant will create over 100 new jobs.

- MagnaTech, a local designer and manufacturer, was on the verge of leaving Chanute when private providers would not meet its telecom needs. But the municipal network connected them and kept 35 jobs in the community.

Case Study:
http://www.ilsr.org/chanute-rural-gigabit/

Bristol, Virginia (OptiNet)

BVU OptiNet

- CGI and Northrup Grumman created 700 jobs paying twice the average wage in the community because of connections from the publicly owned network.

- Alpha Natural Resources - The coal company was considering moving its headquarters away from the region after a merger with another coal company headquartered in Baltimore. But the BVU Authority network allowed them to stay local.

- DirecTV began using OptiNet for a virtual call center in Bristol, creating 100 new home based positions.

Case Study:
www.ilsr.org/broadband-speed-light/

Chattanooga, Tennessee (EPB Fiber)

- HomeServe moved its call center to Chattanooga, creating 140 new jobs after HomeServe's CEO learned that the **minimum** connection speed on the city-owned network was faster than the **maximum** they had available at headquarters.

- Companies in Knoxville, 100 miles away, have decided to expand in Chattanooga to take advantage of the much lower telecom costs.

- TractManager, a national company, credits the city network with some of their success: "It's a huge plus for us. It's a competitive advantage for the business."

- An academic study estimated the first 10 years of the network will yield over 3,600 new jobs directly linked to the City's triple play services.

Case Study:
www.ilsr.org/broadband-speed-light/

Tullahoma, Tennessee (LighTUBe)

- J2 Software Solutions, specializing in public safety software for dispatching, records management, and similar tasks, chose Tullahoma as its new headquarters because its network was able to offer speed and reliability, crucial for J2's business.

Springfield, Missouri (SpringNet)

- After a national carrier could not meet its needs, SpringNet stepped in to provide Expedia with the necessary connectivity to bring over 400 jobs to the community.

- SpringNet connects over 200 businesses and operates an impressive 56,000 sq ft data center 85 feet underground.

Danville, Virginia (nDanville)

- The municipal network connects most of the medical community with connections twice as fast as those previously used at 30% lower cost.

- The network also connects over 150 businesses and can offer 10Gbps connections upon request.

Additional Information:
http://www.muninetworks.org/tags-343

Lafayette, Louisiana (LUS Fiber)

- Pixel Magic created a studio in Lafayette after working there on a temporary basis for a movie shoot. The studio created 100-200 new jobs because LUS Fiber could connect it to studios and partners anywhere in the world.

- NuComm International brought a call center to Lafayette, announcing 1,000 new positions.

Case Study:
www.ilsr.org/broadband-speed-light/

Martinsville, Virginia (MiNET)

- This publicly owned network has been credited with attracting several new businesses, including SPARTA, Inc., a defense contractor.

- ICF International, a professional and technology services firm, plans on bringing 539 new jobs to Martinsville because of its fiber network.

These are just a few examples of the many ways **community-owned networks** have helped local businesses.