



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Minnesota — Rural Business & Cooperative Service

# Broadband & Continuous Business Creation

## Recovery Act Funds Eliminates Broadband Gap in Appleton

### Outline Of Need:

The city of Appleton, Minn. had a doughnut hole where homes, business and essential facilities could not access broadband services.

### How Rural Development Helped:

Rural Development awarded \$1.3 million in broadband funds to eliminate the doughnut hole and ensure that all citizens of Appleton had access to broadband services.

### The Results:

Minnesota was awarded over \$193 million through the Recovery Act to deliver broadband access to homes, businesses and essential community facilities throughout rural portions of the state.

Federated Telephone Cooperative of Appleton, Minn. was selected to receive \$1.3 million in Recovery Act funds to deliver broadband to 152 homes, seven businesses and one anchor institution. In addition to Appleton, portions of Big Stone and Chippewa Counties also benefitted from the funding.

“Access to broadband means more business opportunities, better education, and an overall increase in the rural qual-



*A broadband award through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides broadband access to 152 homes, seven businesses and one anchor institution in rural Appleton, Minn.*

ity of life,” said Colleen Landkamer, USDA Rural Development State Director. “President Obama has made it a priority to ensure access to broadband for everyone. With the help of the Recovery Act, we are making progress throughout rural Minnesota on this important issue.”

The project will help eliminate a doughnut hole in rural Appleton that currently does not have access to broadband services.

When completed, residents of rural Appleton will have access to the same level of broadband services as their friends and neighbors living in the city of Appleton.

The project will result in increased business activity, better educational opportunities and improved services and emergency response.

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## Fast Facts

**Program:** BIP

**Investment:** \$1.3 million Recovery Act Loan/Grant

**Partners:** Federated Telephone Cooperative

**Demographics:** Appleton, Minn.

**Congressional District:** MN—7

**Impact:**

- Broadband access for 152 homes, 7 businesses and one anchor institution
- Eliminates doughnut hole in broadband access
- Improve business operations