

# STATE OF COLORADO

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

136 State Capitol Building  
Denver, Colorado 80203  
(303) 866 - 2471  
(303) 866 - 2003 fax



Bill Ritter, Jr.  
Governor

March 22, 2010

The Honorable Larry Strickling  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I would like to express my support for the Colorado Community Anchors Broadband Consortium (CCABC) application for the BTOP grant. CCABC is uniquely suited to optimize grant funding and efficiently deliver broadband capacity to our state's underserved rural communities.

Colorado is currently ranked 42<sup>nd</sup> in the nation for overall broadband connectivity. Our expansive geography has left many of our rural communities disconnected and subject to technological platforms which are out-of-date and incapable of meeting current broadband needs. Should CCABC secure this grant, it would have an immediate impact on the educational standard and economic vitality of Colorado's rural and agrarian communities, positioning them to be more economically diverse and economically stable.

The public-private partnership and collaboration of the organizations which form the CCABC provide a unique spectrum of technical expertise, development capabilities and preexisting infrastructure which can be built upon. By leveraging these assets the CCABC will be able to quickly and cost-effectively implement broad band expansion across the state.

I strongly endorse the CCABC application for the BTOP grant and encourage you to support them in delivering broad band to Colorado's underserved rural communities.

Sincerely,

Bill Ritter, Jr.  
Governor

## Concerning Colorado's application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Whereas, Colorado's communities in rural and remote areas continue to lack sufficient access to and infrastructure for broadband internet services; and

Whereas, Colorado is ranked 42<sup>nd</sup> out of 50 states in broadband connectivity; and

Whereas, the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, administered by the US Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, is a grant program dedicated to implement and increase broadband access in areas that currently lack such services; and

Whereas, the state recognizes the value of supporting public, private and government collaboration; and

Whereas, the state along with local governments; leaders in the Health Care industry, K-12 community, Community Centers, Libraries, Community Colleges and Higher Education; and leading private companies in Colorado have developed an innovative application for the BTOP grant, Colorado Community Anchors Broadband Consortium (CCABC) Grant Application, to build, upgrade, extend and deliver high-speed broadband internet connectivity; and

Whereas, these entities have come together in a public/private collaboration of the Centennial Board of Cooperative Educational Services, a non-profit Colorado educational services corporation, under its Educational Access Gateway Learning Environment Network (EAGLE-NET); and

Whereas, the CCABC Grant Application will invest up to \$150,000,000 in the broadband infrastructure and access of the state of Colorado; and

Whereas, the CCABC Grant Application will also connect 178 K-12 School Districts serving over 2,000 schools and 800,000 students, 16 Community Colleges, 26 Libraries, 12 BOCES, 2 Institutions of Higher Education, Public Safety, Healthcare, Cities, and Counties, providing Internet, Internet II and Wholesale Capacity to 177 communities; and

Whereas, the CCABC Grant Application will enhance delivery of broadband internet services, such as high definition video/audio distance learning, adult education and training opportunities, health care oriented professional development, medical services from urban health care programs, and broadband services to homes and businesses by private sector partner broadband service providers; and

Whereas, the CCABC Grant Application has the support of the Colorado K-12 education community, including the Colorado Department of Education, the Colorado Association of School Executives, the Colorado Association of School Boards, the Colorado Education Association, and the Colorado BOCES Association

Be It Resolved by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Sixty-seventh General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the \_\_\_\_\_ concurring herein:

We, the members of the General Assembly of the State of Colorado, are in complete support of the Colorado Community Anchors Broadband Consortium Grant Application under consideration by U.S. Department of Commerce, National Telecommunication Information Administration through the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

Be it further resolved that we, the members of the General Assembly of the State of Colorado, lend our support to this proposal and respectfully request a favorable consideration of the funding of this application to assist in the implementation of our statewide broadband network.



## COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

201 East Colfax Avenue • Denver, Colorado 80203-1799  
303.866.6600 • www.edc.state.co.us

Dwight D. Jones  
Commissioner of Education

Robert E. Hammond  
Deputy Commissioner

March 22, 2010

The Honorable Larry Strickling  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Grant Application - March 26, 2010  
Colorado Community Anchors Broadband Consortium

Dear Mr. Strickling:

With regard to education reform, Colorado has become a state to watch as we implement several key initiatives - among them real-time assessments, the Colorado Growth Model (a longitudinal, student-data system), the implementation of an educator Identifier system and online resources for teachers and parents via SchoolView.org. Providing universal access to broadband services is critical to maintaining this forward momentum.

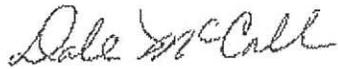
Colorado Community Anchors Broadband Consortium's proposal features a strategic plan to deliver high-speed Internet connectivity through an expansion of service capabilities to communities across the state. What's more, this strategy, which specifically targets schools and districts, has tremendous support from the governor, the state legislature, the Colorado State Board of Education and other education stakeholders, as indicated by the signatures on the following page. Even the department of transportation and private investors recognize its immense value and are providing in-kind matches valued at more than \$10 million toward achieving statewide ubiquitous broadband.

At present, however, many rural areas across Colorado have inadequate Internet service and many communities - suburban, urban and rural - lack sufficient broadband capacity to make optimal use of these resources. A Comprehensive Community Infrastructure grant will provide for the expansion of this capacity and be a great catalyst in advancing educational opportunities for all of Colorado's citizens.

Most sincerely,

Dwight D. Jones  
Commissioner of Education

The Honorable Lany Strickling  
Page 2  
March 22, 2010



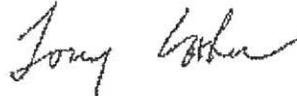
Dale McCall, Executive Director  
Colorado BOCES Association



John Hefty, Executive Director  
Colorado Association of School Executives



Ken DeLay, Executive Director  
Colorado Association of School Boards



Tony Salazar, Executive Director  
Colorado Education Association



# STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
Deputy Executive Director  
4201 E. Arkansas Avenue  
Denver, CO 80222  
(303) 757-9208  
(303) 757-9656 Fax



March 23, 2010

The Honorable Larry Strickling  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce  
Administrator  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA)  
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program  
OMB Control Number 0660-0031  
Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Grant Application – March 26, 2010  
Colorado Community Anchors Broadband Consortium

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is pleased to support the Colorado Community Anchors Broadband Consortium Grant Application, which is being submitted by the Educational Access Gateway Learning Environment Network (EAGLE-Net). EAGLE-Net is a non-profit entity, which was formed in 2007 by the Centennial Board of Cooperative Educational Services (Centennial BOCES) as an aggregator of K-12 enabling connector circuits. EAGLE-Net, for purposes of this application, has brought together a strong public/private consortium of partners including Community Colleges, Healthcare, Higher Education, K-12 Schools, Libraries, Municipalities, Public Safety, other Community Anchor Institutions and Telecommunications and Broadband Service Providers, and also has developed a plan to build, upgrade, extend, and deliver high-speed broadband Internet connectivity to these Community Anchor locations throughout Colorado.

CDOT believes this grant opportunity offers much-needed high-speed broadband services to unserved and underserved rural areas of the State of Colorado that currently have either very little or no broadband services at all. Providing these essential broadband services to Colorado's rural schools, libraries, medial and healthcare providers, community colleges and institutions of higher learning, public safety and law enforcement agencies and residents in these areas, will foster technological advances, improvements and efficiencies in telemedicine, distance learning and business and entrepreneurial opportunities resulting in economic growth and job creation.

The Honorable Larry Strickling  
March 22, 2010  
Page Two

The Department believes so strongly in the benefit and value of this project to the citizens and entities of Colorado that it is committing more than \$10 million dollars of in-kind services in the form of CDOT Rights-of-Way, environmental clearance assistance, construction management on the interstate corridors, permits, oversight as needed, and project-ready plans for two interstate corridors. CDOT believes this level of in-kind match unequivocally demonstrates the Department's level of support for this grant application and subsequent project, and requests your favorable consideration of the grant funding to assist in the implementation of much-needed broadband Internet services to Community Anchor locations throughout Colorado.

Sincerely,



Margaret Catlin, P.E.  
Deputy Executive Director  
Colorado Department of Transportation

cc: Russ George CDOT Executive Director  
Pam Hutton, CDOT Chief Engineer  
Heather Copp, CDOT OFMB Director  
Ken DePinto, CDOT ITS Branch Manager  
File

SECRETER JR  
Governor

RONALD J. MAHES  
Executive Director



## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

633 17th Street, Suite 1200  
Denver, Colorado 80202-3660

March 25, 2010

The Honorable Larry Strickling  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce  
Administrator  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA)  
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program  
OMB Control Number 0660-0031  
Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Grant Application - March 26, 2010  
Colorado Community Anchors Broadband Consortium

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am writing this letter in support of the Colorado Community Anchors Broadband Consortium Grant Application, which is comprised of Community Colleges, Healthcare, Higher Education, K-12 Schools, Libraries, Municipalities, Public Safety, and other Community Anchor Institutions. These entities have been brought together via a public-private collaboration of the Centennial Board of Cooperative Educational Services (Centennial BOCES), a non-profit Colorado educational services corporation, under its Educational Access Gateway Learning Environment Network (EAGLE-Net). These entities also include Telecommunications and Broadband Service Providers desiring to expand their service capabilities to Community Anchors, businesses, and consumers, in part through the use of NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program grant funding.

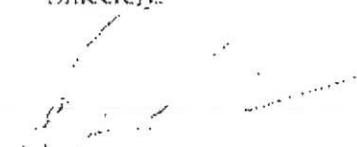
The Colorado Community Anchors Broadband Consortium (CCABC) has defined and developed a much needed plan to build, upgrade, extend, and deliver high-speed broadband Internet connectivity to Community Anchor locations throughout Colorado. The project will enable delivery of broadband Internet services such as:

- High-definition video/audio distance learning
- Adult education and training opportunities including access to information, research, and online and distance learning
- Health care oriented professional development
- Medical services from urban health care programs
- Broadband services to homes by private sector partner broadband service providers

Business broadband services by private sector partner broadband service providers

CDLE is in full support and desires to become a participant in this program. We believe that the CCABC plan and grant application has been developed in the true spirit of the requirements for funding under the BFOIP Grant program. We respectfully request your favorable consideration of the Grant funding requested to assist in the implementation of our statewide broadband Community Anchor network.

Sincerely,



Donald J. Mares  
Executive Director  
Colorado Department of Labor & Employment

**COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

201 East Colfax Avenue • Denver, Colorado 80203-1799  
303.866.6600 • [www.ode.state.co.us](http://www.ode.state.co.us)

*Dwight D. Jones*  
Commissioner of Education

*Robert K. Hammond*  
Deputy Commissioner

*Kenneth R. Turner*  
Deputy Commissioner

January 20, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

It is without hesitation and actual anticipation that I write this letter of support for the History Colorado/Colorado Historical Society proposal. Their statewide education system proposal is very much a reflection of my vision of the Social Studies education in Colorado. As the new social studies content specialist, a position that has been missing for over ten years in Colorado, this network would fill a long void within the state that would facilitate the connection of teachers, students, and resources.

I received my new position in October of 2008 and the first group to introduce themselves and want to partner with the Colorado Department of Education was the Colorado Historical Society. It seems there is a new wind blowing through our state that is focusing efforts on collaboration and partnerships.

History Colorado has demonstrated its leadership capabilities before in past partnerships. The Colorado Department of Education along with the Colorado Historical Society, Colorado Humanities, Colorado Libraries, and Colorado Arts in Education Consortium began partnership just months after I arrived in order to train teachers throughout the state on "Picturing America," a National Endowment for the Humanities initiative. The Historical Society was a leader in this effort.

The network of partners and sites in the proposal is a thrilling prospect for social studies instruction and education in Colorado. I look forward to the possibilities of such an exciting project.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brenda S. Barr, Social Studies Content Specialist  
Colorado Department of Education



**COLORADO  
DEPARTMENT  
OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

Office of the Executive Director  
700 Kipling St.  
Suite 1000  
Denver, CO 80215-5555  
(303) 239-4398  
FAX (303) 239-4670

March 22, 2010

The Honorable Larry Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

RE: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, NTIA

Dear Mr. Strickling:

The Colorado Department of Public Safety believes Colorado's broadband connectivity availability ranks well below that of most other states. The state's capacity should be expanded for the sake of better public safety and effective educational and community services.

The Colorado Information Analysis Center, the Colorado State Patrol, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation and the Colorado School Safety Resource Center, which are all part of the Department of Public Safety, play roles that are vital to a wide variety of safety services to communities throughout Colorado. Unfortunately, many of the state's rural residents, schools districts and governmental agencies do not have adequate broadband Internet access. Training and communication access, as a result, can suffer in many of our remote locations. As much as any other state agency, the Department of Public Safety relies on effective communications networks within the state.

The Department of Public Safety supports the efforts of the Colorado Community Anchors Broadband Consortium in its efforts to improve broadband access through the NTIA grant program.

CDPS is pleased to join with Governor Bill Ritter, Jr., the Colorado Department of Education and the Colorado Department of Transportation in supporting this goal.

Sincerely,

Peter A. Weir  
Executive Director

Bill Ritter, Jr.  
GOVERNOR  
  
Peter A. Weir  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
  
Colorado State  
Patrol  
  
Colorado Bureau  
of Investigation  
  
Division of  
Criminal Justice  
  
Office of Preparedness,  
Security, and Fire Safety



# Colorado

Office of Economic  
Development and  
International  
Trade

Bill Ricks, Jr, Governor  
Don Rattiner, Director

January 25, 2010

Institute of Museum and Library Services  
IMLS Review Committee - National Leadership Grant  
1800 M Street, NW, 9th Floor  
Washington, DC 20036-5802

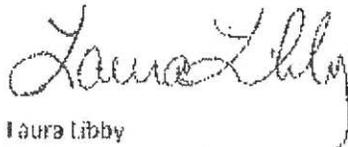
Dear IMLS Review Committee,

I am writing this letter in support of the Colorado Historical Society's grant request from the Institute of Museum and Library Services for a statewide education program. This program will provide students with a strong overview of our state's history and connect these stories with places in their communities.

The Colorado Tourism Office's Heritage Tourism Program has distributed grants to regional heritage tourism groups across the state to assist with the development and promotion of our state's historic sites. The focus of improving educational outreach by local sites responds directly to needs identified across the state through the Heritage Tourism Program's quality standards assessments. The Heritage Tourism Program has conducted these on-site assessments with historic sites and consistently we hear that historic sites would like to place a larger emphasis on educational programming with school-age students but do not have the content to conduct these programs. In partnership with the Colorado Historical Society's program we will be able to provide the tools to these sites that will increase their ability to reach this target audience. As an added benefit to being a part of the Colorado Historical Society's program, the local sites will have access to a larger network of resources that will help improve their overall interpretation and visitor experience.

Tourism has a significant impact on local economies and heritage tourism has provided opportunities for communities of all sizes to showcase their unique heritage assets to travelers. This program can flourish within the strong framework of partnerships while elevating the importance of heritage tourism and education in the cultural and economic health of the community. The Colorado Tourism Office looks forward to collaborating on this project.

Sincerely,



Laura Libby  
Heritage Tourism Program



# COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

201 East Colfax Avenue • Denver, Colorado 80203-1799  
303.866.6600 • www.cde.state.co.us

Dwight D. Jones  
Commissioner of Education

Robert K. Hammond  
Deputy Commissioner  
March 26, 2010

The Honorable Larry Strickling  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce  
Administrator  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA)  
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program  
OMB Control Number 0660-0031  
Comprehensive Community Infrastructure Grant Application – March 26, 2010  
Colorado Community Anchors Broadband Consortium

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

The **Colorado State Library** is writing this letter on behalf of the state's libraries in support of a second-round application by the public/private collaboration of the *Centennial Board of Cooperative Educational Services*, a non-profit Colorado educational services corporation for the *Educational Access Gateway Learning Environment Network (EAGLE-Net)* project.

These entities also include Telecommunications and Broadband Service Providers seeking to expand their service capabilities to Community Anchors, businesses, and consumers, in part through the use of NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program grant funding.

The Colorado Community Anchors Broadband Consortium (CCABC) has defined and developed a much needed plan to build, upgrade, extend, and deliver high-speed broadband Internet connectivity to Community Anchor locations throughout Colorado. The project will enable delivery of broadband Internet services such as:

- High-definition video/audio distance learning
- Adult education and training opportunities including access to information, research, and online and distance learning
- Health care oriented professional development
- Medical services from urban health care programs
- Broadband services to homes by private sector partner broadband service providers
- Business broadband services by private sector partner broadband service providers

The community anchor locations include **26 separate library jurisdictions** representing more than **234,500 residents** in rural areas throughout the state. These locations are typically the least able to afford efficient and cost-effective broadband service.

- 1 -

The State Library is in full support of the proposal and will provide assistance as needed to assure successful implementation of the program. We fully believe Governor Ritter, education Commissioner Jones and members of the Legislature are supportive of libraries and recognize the need for internet connectivity improvements for residents; libraries are an essential part of connectivity, especially in rural areas of the state.

We consider the EagleNet grant application to have been developed in the true spirit of the requirements for funding under the BTOP Grant program. We respectfully request a favorable consideration of the Grant funding requested to assist in the implementation of our statewide broadband Community Anchor network.

Sincerely,



.....  
Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner, Colorado State Library  
Colorado Department of Education  
P: 303-866-6733  
[hainer\\_g@cde.state.co.us](mailto:hainer_g@cde.state.co.us)  
[www.ColoradoStateLibrary.org](http://www.ColoradoStateLibrary.org)