

Women in Municipal Government Proposed Resolution Broadband Access in Unserved and Underserved Areas

To promote a focus on deployment, adoption, and usage of Broadband applications in unserved and underserved areas.

WHEREAS, broadband networks provide solutions to critical social challenges such as healthcare and energy efficiency, and will provide the elderly and disproportionately disadvantaged communities access to educational and other vital society quality of life opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides ample funding for such pro-broadband deployment programs as mapping, and creates additional demands for broadband technologies: computer labs for schools and community centers, health care information and technology and virtual medical records, and smart power grids, all critical for strengthening the American economy; and

WHEREAS, local governments seek to encourage public access to government information and decision-making and to provide their communities with the capacity for advanced communications services; and

WHEREAS, Women in Municipal Government recognizes that expanding access to advanced telecommunications technologies and services in unserved and underserved areas will spark the creation of new services such as connecting parents and teachers via internet, new innovations to include pre-wired new construction and to retrofit rehab housing, and new applications that will become more affordable to rural, poor, and small communities; and

WHEREAS, Women in Municipal Government seeks to ensure that local communities are prepared to meet the technological challenges, by supporting the development and implementation of public-private broadband deployment partnerships, regardless of geography, socio-economic status, age, and physical ability; and

Now, therefore, **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Women in Municipal Government applauds and supports President Obama, the Congress, and the National League of Cities for their efforts to recognize the importance of ensuring adoption and usage of broadband applications, products, services, particularly by the elderly and economically disadvantaged; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Women in Municipal Government believe the best way to gain the benefits of the stimulus funding is to ensure that broadband gets to unserved areas and mapping the current availability of broadband is critical to ensuring that money is used wisely and that funds and deployment are focused on those who are truly unserved where no broadband connections exist; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the critical need be supported with stimulus funds to ensure rapid and effective use of the funds to create jobs and reverse the economic slowdown; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Women in Municipal Government sends a copy of this resolution to the ITC (Information Technology and Communications) steering committee for adoption.