



## 12 communities selected to pilot e-Vermont project

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A dozen rural communities across the state will receive digital tools and in-depth training as the initial participants in the new e-Vermont Community Broadband Project. The twelve will benefit from the expertise and resources of e-Vermont's statewide partners as the local groups develop ways to take full advantage of the Internet for job creation, school innovation, providing social services, and increasing civic involvement. e-Vermont is a new, \$3.8 million initiative to help rural Vermont towns take full advantage of the Internet and advance a wide variety of local needs including economic development, school innovation, job creation, downtown marketing, community engagement, and e-commerce.

The 2010 communities (selected from over 40 applicants) are Brighton, Bristol, Canaan, Cambridge, Grand Isle County, Ludlow, Middlesex, Newport, Poultnery, Pownal, Sunderland, and West Rutland. [1]

"Vermonters have a long history of innovation and finding creative ways to meet our goals," notes Project Director Helen Jordan. "e-Vermont will continue that tradition by bringing 21st century tools to these communities and nurturing the local development of model solutions we can adapt statewide."



e-Vermont is not stringing cable or fiber, but is working to make better use of broadband where it is available. An unprecedented network of partnerships will contribute to this two-year project.

- Each community will become part of the Front Porch Forum network, helping link neighbors to each other and local services.
- Digital Wish will bring technology into the classrooms (including a limited number of Netbook computers) and provide essential training for students, teachers, and parents.
- The Vermont Department of Libraries will work with local libraries to upgrade computer equipment and enhance e-services
- Students in the Vermont State College system will offer classes and workshops in both public and home settings
- The Vermont Small Business Development Center will mentor businesses to help them increase efficiency and grow their market share through e-commerce.
- Best practices that come from these communities will be

shared through statewide symposia, on-line applications, and conferences organized by The Snelling Center for Government.

The Vermont Council on Rural Development is overseeing e-Vermont, and will bring its expertise in community organizing to help each town connect its schools, government, businesses, and nonprofit providers in new and exciting ways.

e-Vermont updates are posted at [www.vrural.org](http://www.vrural.org). Contact e-Vermont with any questions at 802-223-6091 or [eVermont@vrural.org](mailto:eVermont@vrural.org).

[1] Though some applications were submitted on behalf of adjoining towns, this list of the 2010 communities is based on the town of the lead organization.

Source: Vermont Council on Rural Development. 5.14.2010