

Charley Lanier

From: Krantz, Catherine <ckrantz@connectednation.org>
Sent: Thursday, May 5, 2022 4:45 PM
To: Charley Lanier
Subject: FW: Connected Nation Broadband (high speed internet) Assessment - Montague County

Sorry, this took so long, I had your email wrong and it bounced back! Trying again,

Hello Charley,

I have been emailing with Janis Crawley to discuss Connected Nation's Broadband (high-speed internet) Assessment for Montague County that the Priddy Foundation has funded, and I wanted to loop you in and see if you would like to get involved in the project.

The Community Engagement and Broadband Assessment is about a 6-month process where we collect community data (by a survey we send out to the community about how they use technology, what internet speeds that have, etc.), then we analyze the data, and make recommendations to improve internet connectivity: access, adoption, and use. The final product is a planning document, a Technology Action Plan that will help elected officials make better decisions about funding opportunities and long-term broadband planning. Over 20 counties in the region are undergoing this process right now and we hope it will help the entire region better understand what tools and resources are out there to address connectivity needs. It is especially relevant right now because there will soon be a lot of new funding for broadband coming to communities through the federal government and the state of Texas.

The first step in our assessment is to gather a team of community stakeholders. We try to get representatives from as many of these sectors as we can: Business (Chamber or Business owner), Agriculture (Ag Extension agent or Farm bureau), K-12 (ISD Superintendent or IT Director), Public Safety (Sheriff, Emergency Services...), Healthcare (Hospital or Clinic, or Dr.), Government (City, or County), Higher Ed, if applicable, and we usually try to get the Librarian or Library Director. We gather a team to oversee the project and then we host a kickoff event and launch the surveys. I am hoping you would like to be a part of our Community Team.

Janis mentioned that she would be out this week, but we were hoping to set up a zoom call for all of us next week, between the 9th and the 13th, if that is good for you, and if you have some folks in mind for the community team, it would be great to invite them as well. If you think that sounds do-able, what day would you have time for a 30-min. initial planning meeting next week? More than anything it would be to gauge interest and see if the community is interested and plan for when we would start the study, next month, over the summer, after school starts?

Thanks very much for your help!

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