

2009-10 Building Communities Webinar—

Broadband and E-Commerce: Putting the “E” in Community and Business Development

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The 2009-10 program format includes a 60-minute educational program delivered via web and telephone technology (from 11 a.m. to noon CT), followed by an optional 30-minute local discussion related to that day’s topic. To assist in facilitating the local discussion, the following questions are offered (feel free to use them as is, modify them, or create your own unique discussion questions):

1. What does our community’s or region’s economic development plan and strategy say about infrastructure development and utilities? More to the point, does it feature transportation access and water and energy rates, but say nothing about broadband? What would it take to make this part of the plan?
2. What do your businesses and residences want and need and what are they offered in terms of broadband services? Who are the providers, what is the quality of their services, and what percent of homes and businesses are accessing it?
3. Do your communities and existing businesses have access to educational and technical assistance providers—including private vendors—that can help them plan for and implement strategic plans to take advantage of the opportunities that broadband offers? How might this be facilitated?