

JOBS IN CALIFORNIA

Pacific Telesis understands the anxiety over job retention and growth that can arise when two major businesses merge. This merger is a job-growth agreement. To show confidence and good faith, Pacific Telesis agrees to the following:

- * The headquarters for Pacific Bell and Nevada Bell will remain in California and Nevada, respectively. In addition, a new company headquarters will be established in California that will provide integrated administrative and support services for the combined companies. Three subsidiary headquarters will also be established in California. These subsidiaries are long distance services, international operations and Internet.
- * The merged companies commit to expanding employment by at least one thousand jobs in California over what would otherwise have been the case under previous plans if this merger had not occurred. The merged companies will report their progress to the CPUC within two years.

CONSTRUCTION

Nothing in this Commitment shall be interpreted to require Pacific Bell or Pacific Telesis to give any preference or advantage based on race, creed, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, disability or any other basis in connection with employment, contracting or other activities in violation of any federal, state or local law. Nothing herein shall be construed to establish or require quotas or timetables in connection with any undertakings by Pacific Bell or Pacific Telesis to maintain a diverse workforce, contract with minority vendors, or provide services to underserved communities.

WORK ORGANIZATION

PARTNERSHIP COMMITMENT

This Commitment is a ten-year partnership and commitment to the underserved communities of California. In furtherance of this partnership, Pacific Bell is undertaking an obligation to the Community Technology Fund that may extend over a decade or more as well as a seven-year commitment to the Universal Service Task Force. The other provisions of this Commitment shall be effective from the date of execution until that date which is five years after the date of closing of the merger of Pacific Telesis and SBC.

COMMITMENTS OF THE SIGNATORIES

The parties to this Commitment believe that the benefits of this Commitment, together with other benefits of the merger as set forth in the application and the filed testimony of Pacific Telesis and SBC, fully satisfy the requirements of Section 854(b) of the Public Utilities Code, if applicable. The community and public interest groups that are parties to this Commitment will therefore support approval of this Commitment at appropriate hearings and by other means. It is understood that the obligations of Pacific Telesis and Pacific Bell under this Commitment are contingent upon the closing of the merger. In addition, Pacific Telesis and Pacific Bell shall be relieved of the obligation to make all monetary contributions set forth in this Commitment in the event the Commission determines that additional or different financial obligations are necessary to satisfy the requirements of Section 854(b).

COUNTERPARTS

This agreement may be executed in counterparts and shall be binding as to each signatory as of the date executed by such signatory.

SO AGREED:

Date: 10-14-96

PACIFIC TELESIS GROUP

By: Philip J. Quigley
Philip J. Quigley
Chairman, President and
Chief Executive Officer

FROM :

OCT-14-1996 16:04

TEL:

CONSUMER AFFAIRS GROUP

OCT 14 1996 4:28 PM P. 2

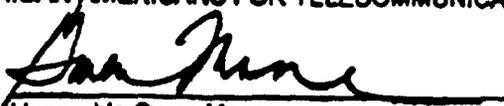
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**COUNTERPART SIGNATURE PAGE TO PACIFIC TELSIS COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP
COMMITMENT AND PROPOSAL FOR SETTLEMENT OF
PENDING SBC/PACIFIC TELSIS MERGER PROCEEDING**

SO AGREED:

Date: 10-15-96

AFRICAN AMERICANS FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUITY

By: 
The Honorable Gwen Moore
Chair

On behalf of itself and the following organizations:

Allen Temple Social Justice Institute, (Oakland) - Byron Williams, Director
Breakaway Technologies, Inc., (Los Angeles) - Joseph Loeb, President
California African American Leadership Institute, (Statewide) - Alice Huffman, Director
Community Education Organization, Inc., (Los Angeles) - Gwen Moore, President
Council of Black Administrators, (Los Angeles) - Willie Crittendon, President
Creative After School Alternatives, (Los Angeles) - Meisha Hazzard, Ph.D., Director
EAMP Renaissance, (Los Angeles) - Mark E. Whitlock, Executive Director
Sey Yee, Inc., (Los Angeles) - V. G. Guinness, Chief Executive Officer, Executive Director
The Inter-Faith Ministers Coalition, (Statewide) - Dr. Joe Hardwick, Chairman
The Urban Economic Development Corporation, (San Francisco) - Comer Marshall, Director
The Western Council on Educating the Black Child, (Western states/national) - Dr. Grace Strauther,
President; Dr. Larry Moore, Representative
The Women's Economic Agenda Project, (Oakland) - Ethel Long-Scott, Executive Director

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SO AGREED:

Date: 10/14/96

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

By: Anni Chung
Anni Chung
Chair

By: J. Craig Fong
J Craig Fong
General Counsel

On behalf of itself and the following organizations:

Asian Community Online Network-Oliver Wang, Coordinator
ASIAN, Inc-Harold Yee, President
Asian Law Caucus-Angelo Ancheta, Executive Director
Asian Pacific American Community Fund-Gail Kong, Executive Director
Asian Pacific Community Fund-Warren Furutani, Executive Director
Asian Pacific American Legal Center-Steward Kwoh, President & CEO
Asian Pacific Environmental Network-Peggy Saika, Executive Director
Asian Pacific Islander Health Forum-Tessie Guillermo, Executive Director
Chinatown Service Center-Deborah Ching, Executive Director
Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus Institute-Francey Lim Youngberg, Executive Director
Korean Youth and Community Center-Bong Hwan Kim, Consultant
Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics-J.D. Hokoyama, Executive Director
National Asian American Telecommunications Association-Deanna Borshay, Executive Director
National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium-Karen Narasaki, Executive Director
On Lok, Inc.-Jennie Chin Hanson, Executive Director
Organization of Chinese Americans-Daphne Kwok, Executive Director
Refugee Resource Center-Robert Boon Khoonsrivong, Executive Director
Sacramento Asian Pacific Islander Coalition-David Marquez, President
Self-Help for the Elderly-Anni Chung, Executive Director
Southeast Asian Community Center/Southeast Asian Chamber of Commerce-Vu-Duc Vuong, Executive Director/Chair
UCLA Asian American Studies Center-Don Nakanishi, Ph.D, Director
Union of Pan Asian Communities-Margaret Iwanaga-Penrose, President & CEO

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SO AGREED:

Date: _____

ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDERS CALIFORNIA ACTION NETWORK

By: *Tessie Guillermq*

Tessie Guillermq
Representative

[Executive Director - Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum]

On behalf of itself and the following organizations:

Association of Asian Pacific Islanders Community Health Organizations [AAPCHO/Oakland-East Bay]

Asian Pacific American Advocacy and Research Council [APARC/SF Bay]

Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum [APIAHF/national-SF] coordinating agency for APIIsCAN

Asian & Pacific Islanders for Immigrant Rights & Empowerment [APIFIRE/Los Angeles]

Asian Pacific Planning Council [APPCON/Los Angeles]

East Bay Asian Consortium [EBAC/East Bay]

Filipino American Community Action Network [FILAMCAN/San Diego/National City]

Korean American Inter-agency Council [Los Angeles Area]

National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse [NAPAFASA/Los Angeles Area]

NICOS Chinese Health Coalition [SF Bay]

Pilipino American Health & Human Services Coalition [PAHHSCO/Los Angeles Area]

Pilipino American Network & Advocacy [PANA/Los Angeles Area]

Sacramento Asian Pacific Islander Coalition [SAPIC/Sacramento]

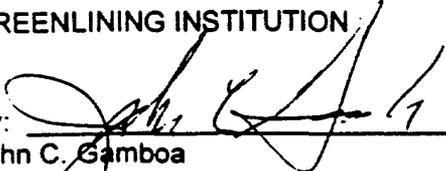
Union of Pan Asian Communities [UPAC/San Diego]

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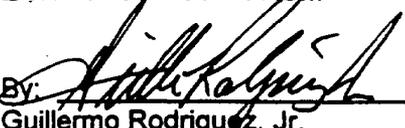
Date: 10/15/96

GREENLINING INSTITUTION

By: 
John C. Gamboa
Executive Director

By: 
Robert Gnaizda
General Counsel

LATINO ISSUES FORUM

By: 
Guillermo Rodriguez, Jr.
Executive Director

By: 
Susan E. Brown
Legal Counsel

On behalf of itself and the following organizations:

**American G.I. Forum
Asian Business Association
Asian Entrepreneur
Black Business Association
California Black Chambers of Commerce
California Coalition of Hispanic Organizations
California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce
California Rural Legal Assistance
Chinese for Affirmative Action
Council of Asian American Business Association
Filipino-American Chamber of Commerce, L.A.
Filipino-American Political Association
Hermandad Mexicana National
Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance
Japan Pacific Resources Network
Latino Issues Forum
Mexican-American Political Association
New Bayview Committee
Oakland Citizens Committee for Urban Renewal (OCCUR)
Phoenix Urban League
San Francisco Black Chamber of Commerce
San Francisco Negro Business and Professional Women Inc.
Southeast Asian Community Center
West Angeles Church of God in Christ
West Coast Black Publishers Association**

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SO AGREED:

Date: 10-14-96

HISPANIC ASSOCIATION ON CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

By: Richard A Zela
Ric Bela
President

On behalf of itself and the following organizations:

American GI Forum-Leo Avila
California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce (CHCC)-Manny Rosales, President
Federation of Employed Latin American Descendants/Image-Tranquilino Martinez
HACR California San Diego Urban Corps-Jess Haro, Chair
Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility-Ric Bela, President
Hispanics in Philanthropy Cuban American National Council-Diana Campoamor, President
Latin Business Association-Ruben Jauregui
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)-Vera Marquez, State President
MANA, A National Latina Organization-Mary Salas
Mexican American Political Association-Nellie Trujillo, Vice President
West Region Puerto Rican Council-Jesus Roman, President

**COUNTERPART SIGNATURE PAGE TO PACIFIC TELSIS COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP
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SO AGREED:

Date: 10-14-96

LOS ANGELES URBAN LEAGUE

By: René Etienne

René Etienne for John Mack

President

Los Angeles Urban League

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SO AGREED:

Date: October 14, 1996

PUBLIC ADVOCATES, INC.

By: Mark Savage
Mark Savage
Attorney

On behalf of itself and the following organizations:

**Association of Mexican-American Educators, Enrique Franco, President
California Association for Asian-Pacific Bilingual Education, Kikuko Nishi, President
California Association for Bilingual Education, Silvina Rubinstein, Executive Director
Filipino Civil Rights Advocates, Lillian Galedo, Co-Chair, Interim National Council
Filipinos for Affirmative Action, Lillian Galedo, Executive Director
Korean Community Center of the East Bay, Bobby Woo Keun Kim, Executive Director
Korean Youth and Community Center, Johng Ho Song, Executive Director
National Council of La Raza, Raul Yzaguirre, President
Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Genethia Hayes, Executive Director**

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SO AGREED:

Date: 10/15/96

UNIVERSAL SERVICE ALLIANCE

By: Jacquelyn Brand
Jacquelyn Brand
Coordinator

On behalf of itself and the following organizations and individuals:

Organizations

**Advocates for Consumer Equity
Alliance for Technology Access
California Association of Nonprofits
California Latino Civil Rights Network
California Small Business Association
The Children's Collective, Inc.
Consumers Coalition of California
Consumers First
Electronic Frontier Foundation
MAAC Project
Radio Bilingue
San Diego Urban League
Support Center for Nonprofit Management**

Individuals *

**Doug Braley, Executive Director, Horizons Foundation
Elliot Brownlee, Professor, Department of History; Former President, UC Academic
Senate; and Member, UC Board of Regents, University of California, Santa Barbara
Cheri Bryant, Director of Development, ACLU, Northern California
Matt Coles, Executive Director, ACLU Lesbian & Gay Rights Project**

* Organization listed for identification purposes only

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UNIVERSAL SERVICE ALLIANCE (CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

Individuals*

Susan Estrada, Member, Board of Trustees, The Internet Society; Member, U.S. Federal Networking Council's Advisory Committee

J. Craig Fong, Attorney at Law and Community Consultant

Dr. Marvalene Hughes, President, California State University, Stanislaus

Jackie Kimbrough, Ph.D., Executive Director, The Children's Collective, Inc.

Linda Hamilton Krieger, Professor, University of California School of Law, Boalt Hall

Michelle McGeoy, Founder, Accessible Software for All People

Ibrahim Naeem, President, Naeem and Associates

Helen Nelson, former Director, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California

Dr. Barbara O'Connor, Professor, Communications CSU Sacramento

Jenny Pizer, Managing Attorney, Western Regional Office, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund

Toby Rothschild, Executive Director, Legal Aid Foundation of Long Beach

Peggy Salka, Executive Director, Asian Pacific Environmental Network

Scott Walton, Executive Director, Digital Queers

Linda Wong, Chief Financial Officer, Rebuild LA

* Organizations listed for identification purposes only

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SO AGREED:

Date: 10-15-96

WORLD INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY

By: Betsy Bayha
Betsy Bayha
Acting Director, Technology Policy

On behalf of itself and the following organizations and individuals:

Organizations

Arkenstone- James Fruchterman, President & CEO, Member, Telecommunication Access Advisory Committee
Berkeley Center for Independent Living- Terry Herkimer, Services Manager
Berkeley Planning Associates- Ann Cupolo-Freeman
Cal-Women's International Linkage on Disability- Betty Ingram, Co-Founder
Computer Technologies Program- Berkeley, David Landes, Ph.D.
Computer Technologies Program- Joan Breves, Executive Director
D.E.A.F. Media, Inc.- Susan Rutherford, Ph.D., Executive Director
Disability Rights Advocates- Sid Wolinsky, Director of Litigation
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund- Berkeley, Mariyn Golden, Senior Attorney
Mobility International, USA- Cindy Lewis
Smith Kettlewell Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center, Eye Institute- San Francisco, John Brabyn, Ph.D., Director, Bill Crandall, Ph.D., Researcher
United Cerebral Palsy Association- San Francisco, Yvette Fang, Social Services Coordinator

Individuals

John Darby- Disability Consultant, Mill Valley
Robert Ingram- Principal, Ingram Communications, Union City



Falling Through the Net: Defining the Digital Divide

Charts and Data

Index of charts

This online index of charts contains additional charts that are not available in the printed version of the report.

Survey Instrument and Raw Data

The U.S. Census Bureau will be providing the questionnaire used and the data collected in the near future.

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GLOSSARY

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INTRODUCTION

Larry Irving

Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)
U.S. Department of Commerce

NTIA is pleased to release *Falling Through the Net: Defining the Digital Divide*. This is our third report examining which American households have access to telephones, computers, and the Internet, and which do not. The "digital divide"-- the divide between those with access to new technologies and those without -- is now one of America's leading economic and civil rights issues. This report will help clarify which Americans are falling further behind, so that we can take concrete steps to redress this gap.

Overall, we have found that the number of Americans connected to the nation's information infrastructure is soaring. Nevertheless, this year's report finds that a digital divide still exists, and, in many cases, is actually *widening* over time. Minorities, low-income persons, the less educated, and children of single-parent households, particularly when they reside in rural areas or central cities, are among the groups that lack access to information resources.

Part I of this report surveys household access to telephones, computers, and the Internet, updating the surveys in our previous two reports: *Falling Through the Net: A Survey of the "Have Nots" in Rural and Urban America* (July 1995) and *Falling Through the Net II: New Data on the Digital Divide* (July 1998). We find that, although more households are connected, certain households are gaining access to new technologies far more quickly, while others are falling further behind.

Part II provides significant new information on individual Internet usage. Among other things, we look at how people are connected to the Internet; where people access the Internet outside the home (such as at work, school, a library, or a community center); how Americans choose to spend their time online; and why some people are not connected. We find that certain people are more likely to have Internet access, especially at home or work. Some of those who lack such access, however, are using the Internet at public facilities, including schools and public libraries, and are using the Internet in ways that will help them advance economically and professionally.

Part III discusses the challenges ahead in solving the digital divide and highlights the significance of several key policies in promoting access. In the Appendix to this report, we also provide a Trendline Study depicting the trends in household telephone, computer, and Internet access at various points since 1984. This historic survey adds critical information regarding how far we have come in the last fourteen years, and how far we have yet to go in connecting Americans to critical information resources.

The report provides a wealth of information that can be used by policymakers, researchers, industry, academics, and the general public. We have tried to present much of the critical data in comprehensible charts and tables. The entire range of U.S. Department of Commerce Census Bureau data, however, is too vast to summarize within the confines of one report. Additional charts, a link to the original Census data, and the survey instrument can be obtained through NTIA's web site at www.ntia.doc.gov, or you may contact NTIA's Office of Public Affairs at (202) 482-7002 for further information.

We hope that this data will provide the basis for further discussion about ways to make information resources available to all Americans. As we enter the Information Age, access to information resources will be increasingly critical to finding a job, contacting colleagues, taking courses, researching products, or finding public information. Determining who has access to these resources is a critical first step towards closing the digital divide and ensuring that no group continues to fall through the Net.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Information tools, such as the personal computer and the Internet, are increasingly critical to economic success and personal advancement. *Falling Through the Net: Defining the Digital Divide* finds that more Americans than ever have access to telephones, computers, and the Internet. At the same time, however, NTIA has found that there is still a significant "digital divide" separating American information "haves" and "have nots." Indeed, in many instances, the digital divide has *widened* in the last year.

This report, NTIA's third in the *Falling Through the Net* series, relies on December 1998 U.S. Department of Commerce Census Bureau data to provide an updated snapshot of the digital divide. The good news is that Americans are more connected than ever before. Access to computers and the Internet has soared for people in all demographic groups and geographic locations. At the end of 1998, over 40 percent of American households owned computers, and one-quarter of all households had Internet access. Additionally, those who were less likely to have telephones (chiefly, young and minority households in rural areas) are now more likely to have phones at home. (Chart I-1)

Accompanying this good news, however, is the persistence of the digital divide between the information rich (such as Whites, Asians/Pacific Islanders, those with higher incomes, those more educated, and dual-parent households) and the information poor (such as those who are younger, those with lower incomes and education levels, certain minorities, and those in rural areas or central cities). The 1998 data reveal significant disparities, including the following:

- Households with incomes of \$75,000 and higher are more than *twenty times* more likely to have access to the Internet than those at the lowest income levels, and more than *nine times* as likely to have a computer at home. (Chart I-2)
- Whites are more likely to have access to the Internet from home than Blacks or Hispanics have from *any* location.
- Black and Hispanic households are approximately *one-third* as likely to have home Internet access as households of Asian/Pacific Islander descent, and roughly *two-fifths* as likely as White households. (Chart I-22)
- Regardless of income level, Americans living in rural areas are lagging behind in Internet access. Indeed, at the lowest income levels, those in urban areas are more than twice as likely to have Internet access than those earning the same income in rural areas.

For many groups, the digital divide has *widened* as the information "haves" outpace the "have nots" in gaining access to electronic resources. The following gaps with regard to home Internet access are representative:

- The gaps between White and Hispanic households, and between White and Black households, are now more than six percentage points larger than they were in 1994.
- The digital divides based on education and income level have also increased in the last year alone. Between 1997 and 1998, the divide between those at the highest and lowest education levels increased 25 percent, and the divide between those at the highest and lowest income levels grew 29 percent.

Nevertheless, the news is not all bleak. For Americans with incomes of \$75,000 and higher, the divide between Whites and Blacks has actually narrowed considerably in the last year. This finding suggests that the most affluent American families, irrespective of race, are connecting to the Net. If prices of computers and the Internet decline further, the divide between the information "haves" and "have nots" may continue to narrow.

Until every home can afford access to information resources, however, we will need public policies

and private initiatives to expand affordable access to those resources. The Clinton Administration is committed to connecting all Americans to the National Information Infrastructure. Pro-competition policies, to reduce the prices of basic phone and information services, and universal service policies will continue to be important parts of the solution.

Community access centers (CACs) -- such as schools, libraries, and other public access points -- will play an important role. The 1998 data demonstrate that community access centers are particularly well used by those groups who lack access at home or at work. These same groups (such as those with lower incomes and education levels, certain minorities, and the unemployed) are also using the Internet at higher rates to search for jobs or take courses. Providing public access to the Internet will help these groups advance economically, as well as provide them the technical skills to compete professionally in today's digital economy.

Establishing and supporting community access centers, among other steps, will help ensure that all Americans can access new technologies. As we enter the Information Age, access to computers and the Internet is becoming increasingly vital. It is in everyone's interest to ensure that no American is left behind.

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Internet gap widening ^{7/9/99}

Study: Revolution bypassing poor, minorities

By David Lieberman
USA TODAY

The gap between those who use the Internet and those who don't is widening and becoming "one of America's leading economic and civil rights issues," the U.S. Department of Commerce concluded Thursday in a major study of Internet use.

Its report found that the Internet revolution is largely bypassing the poor, minorities and those who live in rural communities and inner cities.

"They aren't getting connected at home or at work," said Larry Irving, assistant secretary of communications and information. As the Internet becomes a key resource in education, job training, shopping and health care, it is "rapidly becoming as important as the telephone."

The report defies expectations that the gap between the Internet's haves and have-nots would narrow significantly with falling computer prices.

It found, instead, that "the

market saturates at the high end, and low-income people still aren't able to afford services," said Tony Wilhelm, director of communications policy at the Benton Foundation.

For example, about 42% of all households have a PC. But they're in about 80% of homes in which families make \$75,000 or more a year and in less than 16% in which families make less than \$20,000.

Income isn't the only variable. The gap in Internet use between whites and blacks expanded to 20.7 percentage points last year (32.4% of white households vs. 11.7% of black) from 13.5 percentage points in 1997. The difference between white and Hispanic use in 1998 rose to 19.5 percentage points from 12.5.

Internet use also grows with age and peaks at 35% among those 45 to 54. But it plummets after that: Only 15% of people 55 and older are on line.

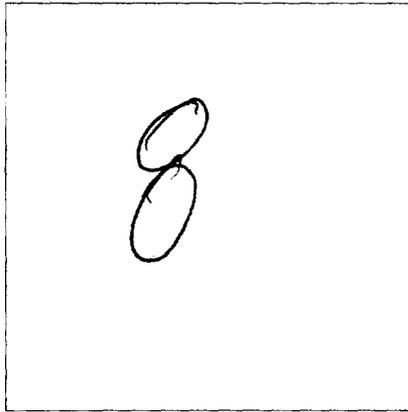
The department says its findings show that Internet have-nots do take advantage of on-

line services in public places such as schools and libraries.

Commerce's study of Internet use, its third, is one of the most reliable and one of the few that looks at Internet users and non-users alike. The data come from questions added to a Census Bureau survey in December of 48,000 households, a much larger sample than most private polls.

Some experts noted that the social divide could widen as wealthier people start to buy high-speed Internet connections. They will be able to take advantage of more sophisticated interactive services, including ones that make it far easier for people to work at home.

"Kids in affluent homes and suburban kids are going to have more familiarity with this new technology than poor kids, and kids from inner cities, rural areas and Indian reservations," Federal Communications Commission Chairman Bill Kennard said. "Not everyone is benefiting from the new economy."



8

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Application)
of the Ohio Bell Telephone Company) Case No. 93-487-TP-ALT
for Approval of an Alternative)
Form of Regulation)

**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
COMMUNITY COMPUTER CENTER COMMITMENT
IN THE
AMERITECH ALTERNATIVE REGULATION SETTLEMENT**

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- 3.....Contract
- 4.....Sample of Articles about Centers
- 5.....Evaluation Forms
- 6.....OCCCN Strategic Plan
- 7.....OCCCN By-Laws

On November 23, 1994, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio issued an Order and Entry adopting the settlement in the Ameritech Alternative Regulation case. That settlement included a commitment which allocated 2.2 million dollars to establish 14 computer centers in low income neighborhoods throughout the Ameritech service territory. It also created a committee to allocate those funds and oversee the establishment of these centers. (Attachment 1). All of the 14 centers are now operating and the allocation committee has grown into the Ohio Community Computing Center Network (OCCCN) which provides technical support to these 14 centers and 13 other centers engaged in similar work. Recently, on April 9, 1998, the PUCO adopted a stipulation in the Cincinnati Bell Alternative Regulation case which provided \$90,000 to the OCCCN for a community computing center in Cincinnati.

The centers and the Network are a true success story. During the last quarter of 1997, there were over 26,000 visits by children and adults to the 14 Ameritech funded centers, with over 6,000 using the centers for the first time during that period. Many of the centers have people waiting in line at the door when they open. Most of the centers are located in communities where, without them, there would be no access to this technology.

The success of the centers has been helped along by the OCCCN. The Network has attracted dedicated and capable board members. The board has met every month since the settlement was signed. The Network hired two part-time staff people, who have considerable expertise, to work closely with each center to ensure that it is successful.

The Allocation Process

The Ameritech settlement mandated that a committee which was representative of the

parties to the Alternative Regulation case and the cities which would receive computer centers would have sole responsibility for allocation of the computer center funds.

The committee has been composed of:

Ellis Jacobs, Chairman, Attorney for Edgemont Neighborhood Coalition.

Kerry Bruce, Counsel for the City of Toledo.

Mick Knisley, External Relations, Ameritech Ohio.

Mike McKee, City of Columbus, Dept. of Administrative and Information Services.

Mike Williams, City of Akron, Councilman.

Edna Pincham, Youngstown Board of Education member and assistant to the Mayor.

Phil Case, Marietta Councilman.

Linda Broadus, Director of the Edgemont Neighborhood Coalition.

A representative of the City of Cleveland, presently, Rod Priebe of the Mayor's office.

Dan Farslow, PUCO staff.

Peter Miller, Community Technology Center Network.

Ray Mulhern, retired Director of the Greene County Public Library.

Bernette Williams, Akron Urban League

The committee adopted the name The Ohio Community Computing Center Network and became the Board of that Network. This Board has been very active and has established a close working relationship with the Community Technology Center Network, the nationally recognized leader in bringing computer and telecommunication technology to low-income neighborhoods.

The Board began the allocation process by writing a request for proposals describing the

type of center it was seeking to fund. (Attachment 2). The request for proposals was circulated in each of the communities that were to receive centers. (Pursuant to the agreement, funding was earmarked for 3 centers in Cleveland, 3 in Columbus, 2 in Dayton, 2 in Toledo, 2 in Akron, 1 in Youngstown, and 1 in Marietta.) Proposals were submitted, evaluated by the Board, and an initial site in each city was provisionally chosen. At that point, the Network staff began working closely with the provisional site to clarify expectations and the project design. Proposal modifications were submitted memorializing any changes. The Board then voted to finally approve funding to each center. Contracts were signed with each center receiving an allocation. (Attachment 3).

Most of the centers opened soon after the awards were made. Well attended public ceremonies accompanied each opening, with PUCO and Ameritech representatives, local politicians, the news media, and representatives of the education, library, social service and non-profit communities in attendance. This allocation process was repeated for each city where there was to be more than one center. (A sample of the press coverage of the centers appears in Attachment 4).

The Centers

All of the centers are located in low income communities. Each funded center received \$40,000 startup funds, \$40,000 in operating funds for each of the first and second year and \$30,000 operating funds for the third year. Each center has at least 10-12 multi-media computer workstations with at least two Internet connections. Each offers classes in computer basics, introductions to Windows, and how to access the Internet. Most offer after-school programs, GED preparation, and job-skills workshops. All are establishing vast CD libraries of software

for all age ranges to be utilized for workshops, programs, and open access. The centers also assist participants in the process of obtaining free e-mail accounts. Each center has open access hours when community members are invited to experiment or use the computers for their own projects.

Every center reflects the uniqueness of its community. After school, hundreds of children and teens visit the centers. In the process of having fun in a safe and structured environment, they practice their math and reading skills, learn about computers, and search the web. Adults improve keyboarding and learn business applications and skills for re-entering or advancing in the job market. Participants of all ages gain confidence in their ability to use a computer, along with a basic understanding of the skills needed to work in a technical environment. Many develop an interest in technical jobs.

Below is a brief profile of each center, listed in the order in which the centers opened to the public.

1. The Marietta Area Community Computing Center is located in the Marietta City Schools Family Learning Center at 701 Wayne Street, Marietta. The computer center was awarded Ameritech funding in October, 1995 and opened its doors to the rural Marietta area community in January, 1996. The center is open 67 hours a week including 23 hours of day, evening, and weekend hours devoted to open access. The last six-month report for this center covered the time period between April 1 - September 30, 1997. During this period of time programming included six computer usage and software specific workshops, ABLE (Adult Literacy) classes, 4-H, and a summer youth education training program. Demographic indicators include a 334 unduplicated count of individuals coming to the center for the first time and a duplicated count of 1,849. The reports indicate that on average 50% of its users are within their targeted low-income range.
2. The Youngstown Community Computing Center is located in the Youngstown Main Library, 305 Wick Avenue, Youngstown. This center also began receiving its Ameritech funding through OCCCN in October, 1995. The center opened in February, 1996 and is open 72 hours per week with a schedule that includes, days, evenings, and weekends. The most recent six-month report covered April 1, September 30, 1997. During this time