

**Potential Key Stakeholders and Orsanizational Partners:** to be determined when the project is initiated, based on a better understanding of the key players on the financial side of the project.

**Board Member Roles & Obligations:**

- **Attendance:** Committee attendance and participation is always voluntary. Attendees that have committed to a particular outcome should follow-through with their deliverables as agreed for the benefit of the larger group.
- **Assessment & evaluation:** Committee meetings will be evaluated by the attendees at each meeting to provide feedback on meeting structure, function, and discussion. Appropriate meeting management of each committee meeting will be an expectation.

**Stratesic Implications:**

Network design issues are important for the State of Indiana and a host of key stakeholders that will have access to using the network's functionality. Therefore, key officials at both government and industry levels will be involved to insure design and strategy are in alignment.

**Scope:** to be determined when the group is convened.

**Key Interfaces:** State Government, Indiana Utility Commission, Healthcare industry, Telecommunications industry, private business, USDA, Indiana Rural Health Association, Indiana Department of Health, Indiana Office of Rural Affairs, or other advocacy groups that identify an interest in the project goals.

**Deliverables & Milestones:** to be determined when the group is convened.

**Benefits:** to be determined when the group is convened.

**Critical Success Factors:** to be determined when the group is convened.

**Key Review Dates:** to be determined when the group is convened.

## **Technology / Network Design Committee Charter**

**Mission Statement of Indiana Health Network:** To improve the health and well-being of Indiana residents, particularly those in rural areas, through the utilization of a dedicated broadband health network to deliver tele-health applications including but not limited to telemedicine, health information exchange, distance education and training, public health surveillance, emergency preparedness, and trauma system development.

**Purpose of the FCC Rural Health Care Pilot Program is:**

9. To provide funding to support the construction of state or regional broadband networks
10. To provide funding to support the cost of connecting the state or regional networks to Internet2
11. To construct a dedicated broadband network that connects health care providers in a state or region
12. To improve access to quality medical services in remote areas

**Core Issues of Technology Committee:**

- technology plan issues
- selection of network design consultant partner to facilitate discussions with the telecommunications industry and this committee on network design standards and technical requirements
- internet2 connection plan
- facilitate and encourage Indiana Telecommunications Association membership participation
- Network Administration issues
- Interface with Project Finance Committee and Project Applications Committee on key issues
- Communication of activity and plans
- Provide regular reports to the Indiana Health Network Advisory Board on critical success factors for this committee.

**Membership:**

Executive Sponsor (s) / Sponsoring Group:	Indiana Rural Health Association
Facilitator:	Tim McGeath, Telecommunications Attorney, Hall Render
Group Leader:	Project Coordinator

**Potential Key Stakeholders and Organizational Partners:** list includes, but not limited to the following:

- Indiana Governor's Office
- Indiana Telecommunications Association
- Indiana Rural Health Association
- Indiana Health & Hospital Association

- Indiana University Telecommunications
- Beck n' Call. LLC
- Indiana Higher Education Telecom System (IHETS)
- Indiana USDA office
- Indiana Rural Development Council
- Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor
- Indiana Chamber of Commerce
- Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs
- Indiana Office of Technology

**Board Member Roles & Obligations:**

- Attendance: Committee attendance and participation is always voluntary. Attendees that have committed to a particular outcome should follow-through with their deliverables as agreed for the benefit of the larger group.
- Assessment & evaluation: Committee meetings will be evaluated by the attendees at each meeting to provide leedback on meeting structure, function, and discussion. Appropriate meeting management of each committee meeting will be an expectation.

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Network design issues are important for the State of Indiana and a host of key stakeholders that will have access to using the network's functionality. Therefore, key officials at both government and industry levels will be involved to insure design and strategy are in alignment.

**Scope:** to be determined when the group is convened.

**Key Interfaces:** State Government, Indiana Utility Commission, Healthcare industry, Telecommunications industry, private business, USDA, Indiana Rural Health Association, Indiana Department of Health, Indiana Office of Rural Affairs, or other advocacy groups that identify an interest in the project goals.

**Deliverables & Milestones:** to be determined when the group is convened.

**Benefits:** to be determined when the group is convened.

**Critical Success Factors:** to be determined when the group is convened.

**Key Review Dates:** to be determined when the group is convened.

## **Telehealth Applications Committee Charter**

**Mission Statement of Indiana Health Network:** To improve the health and well-being of Indiana residents, particularly those in rural areas, through the utilization of a dedicated broadband health network to deliver tele-health applications including but not limited to telemedicine, health information exchange, distance education and training, public health surveillance, emergency preparedness, and trauma system development.

**Purpose of the FCC Rural Health Care Pilot Program is:**

13. To provide funding to support the construction of state or regional broadband networks
14. To provide funding to support the cost of connecting the state or regional networks to Internet2
15. To construct a dedicated broadband network that connects health care providers in a state or region
16. To improve access to quality medical services in remote areas

**Core Issues of Tele-Health Applications Committee:**

- technology plan issues for health care providers
- facilitate and encourage Indiana Rural Health and Indiana Hospital Association membership participation
- Administrator education; training and education for providers on telemedicine and potential applications
- Practical distance education applications for telemedicine in Indiana
- Interface with Project Finance Committee and Technology /Network Design Committees on key issues
- Interface with the Indiana Health and Hospital Association – Rural Health Council for input and feedback on project deliverables
- Communication of activity and plans
- How to interface this project with the Indiana Department of Health on the Indiana Trauma system development
- How to interface this project with the Indiana State Department of Health and Indiana Office of Homeland Security and emergency preparedness communications
- Provide regular reports to the Indiana Health Network Advisory Board on critical success factors for this committee.

**Membership:**

Executive Sponsor (s) / Sponsoring Group:	Indiana Rural Health Association
Facilitator:	To be determined
Group Leader:	IRHA Project Coordinator

**Potential Key Stakeholders and Organizational Partners:** list includes, but not limited to the following:

- Indiana State Department of Health
- Indiana Telecommunications Association
- Clarian Telemedicine
- Beck n' Call. LLC
- Indiana Telehealth Advisory Consortium
- Purdue University – Regenstrief
- Indiana Office of Rural Health
- Indiana Health & Hospital Association
- St. Vincent Health
- Indiana Primary Care Association
- Indiana University School of Medicine
- Indiana Health Information Exchange

**Board Member Roles & Obligations:**

- Attendance: Committee attendance and participation is always voluntary. Attendees that have committed to a particular outcome should follow-through with their deliverables as agreed for the benefit of the larger group.
- Assessment & evaluation: Committee meetings will be evaluated by the attendees at each meeting to provide feedback on meeting structure, function, and discussion. Appropriate meeting management of each committee meeting will be an expectation.

**Strategic Implications:**

Network design issues are important for the State of Indiana and a host of key stakeholders that will have access to using the network's functionality. Therefore, key officials at both government and industry levels will be involved to insure design and strategy are in alignment.

**Scope:** to be determined when the group is convened.

**Key Interfaces:** State Government, Indiana Utility Commission, Healthcare industry, Telecommunications industry, private business, USDA, Indiana Rural Health Association, Indiana Department of Health, Indiana Office of Rural Affairs, or other advocacy groups that identify an interest in the project goals.

**Deliverables & Milestones:** to be determined when the group is convened.

**Benefits:** to be determined when the group is convened.

**Critical Success Factors:** to be determined when the group is convened.

**Key Review Dates:** to be determined when the group is convened.

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1401  
April 30, 2007

Commissioner's Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
236 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Suite 110  
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Secretary:

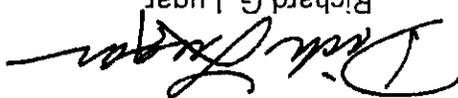
I am writing to indicate my support for the Indiana Rural Health Association's application seeking assistance from the Federal Communications Commission for the Rural Healthcare Pilot Program. The FCC Rural Healthcare Pilot Program will assist with the building of the Indiana Healthcare Network, a cooperative healthcare delivery system that will expand healthcare access across a statewide geographic service area and serve an array of telehealth applications.

This Indiana Healthcare Network holds great promise for the development and practical application of advanced communications technology for rural residents in Indiana. Improved access to the major urban healthcare assets of the state is both a service and quality of life issue and I believe that advanced technology can assist in addressing the gaps in service that exist for rural Indiana residents.

I am pleased to see the collaborative efforts the Indiana Rural Health Association and their colleagues have demonstrated in the preparation of this proposal. The planned Indiana Healthcare Network is an important strategy to advance health care delivery utilizing the strength of telecommunications technology.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on this application for federal assistance.

Sincerely,



Richard G. Lugar  
United States Senator

RGL/lar  
cc: Shawna Girgis, Executive Director, Indiana Rural Health Association



STATE OF INDIANA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
State House, Second Floor  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.  
Governor

May 2, 2007

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Suite 110  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Secretary Dortch,

I am pleased to support the Indiana Rural Health Association and the multiple organizations from across the State of Indiana that have partnered to develop an application for funding under the Federal Communications Commission's Rural Health Care Pilot Program.

In March 2006, I signed into law an innovative first of its kind telecommunications reform package that moved Indiana into a leadership position among states and opened up an era of new telecommunications investments across the state. Indiana's telecom reforms were hailed by industry experts and other governors as the best such bill in America.

As a direct result of these sweeping reforms, Indiana has experienced a boom in telecommunications investments statewide including the "High Speed to the Heartland" initiative that will bring new broadband service to 33 rural communities across the state. While such investments represent a major step toward delivering broadband technologies to communities across to Indiana, much more needs to be done to ensure that all underserved areas both urban and rural enjoy the economic benefits of high speed Internet access. In particular, it is important that public and non-profit health care providers, including rural critical access hospitals, have access to the advanced telecommunications and information services needed to deliver the highest quality health care through telehealth and telemedicine applications.

The *Indiana Health Network* would provide an innovative approach to addressing the needs of Indiana's health care providers and ultimately the patients that they serve, as well as providing a means for all of Indiana's health care providers to share vital information. In addition, funding through the Federal Communications Commission's Rural Health Care Pilot Program also promises to bring high speed connectivity to many of Indiana's rural communities that currently have little or no access to this resource.

In addition to my full endorsement of this application, the State of Indiana is committed to working with the Indiana Rural Health Association and other grant partners to secure the 15 percent match requirement as established by the FCC for the Rural Health Care Pilot Program. Among the possible sources of funds that may be pursued to fulfill the match requirement are:

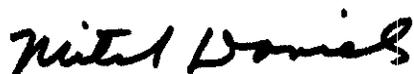
- Existing state general fund revenue
- Other federal grant funding; received by state agencies including but not limited to the Indiana State Department of Health, Family and Social Services Administration, and the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs
- Private telecommunications firms that compete for and win contracts under this pilot program
- Health care providers that receive broadband services as a result of the grant
- Foundations or philanthropic organizations
- Local governments

To ensure this initiative is sustainable and that all partners are invested in and dedicated to its success, I believe it is important that the match requirement be shared appropriately among the grant's public, private, and non-profit beneficiaries.

If you should have any questions regarding this matter please contact Paul J. Mitchell, Policy Director for Economic & Workforce Development, at (317) 232-4566 or via email at [pmitchell@gov.in.gov](mailto:pmitchell@gov.in.gov)

Thank you for your careful consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mitchell Daniels". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mitchell E. Daniels Jr.  
Governor



## State of Indiana

## Senate

Senator David C. Ford  
210 West Main Street  
Hartford City, Indiana 47348-9752  
(765) 348-2228

Committees:  
Economic Development & Technology, Chair  
Education and Career Development  
Tax & Fiscal Policy  
Judiciary

May 3, 2007

Marlene H. Dortch, **Secretary**  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Suite 110  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear **Secretary** Dortch,

We are the respective sponsors of Senate Bill **489**, the bill supporting the application for funding under the Federal Communications Commission's **Rural Health Care Pilot Program**. The bill passed both **Houses** unanimously and was signed by Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels on **May 2**.

We feel that this grant and the effort it supports are critical to Indiana for a number of reasons.

Indiana has a number of rural areas that are underserved. The hospitals in the state are trying hard to reduce overhead costs by consolidation and cooperation. A first class high-speed broadband system is absolutely essential to this endeavor. Our Family and Social Services Administration has recently promulgated a rule to allow funding for certain telemedicine procedures. While this regulation is modest, it is the first step in recognizing the enormous financial savings that may accrue by reducing the cost of patient and provider transportation. Telemedicine has already shown us that it can save money, increase the productivity and availability of health care providers, and reduce barriers to patients.

For a number of reasons, many of which are mentioned in the application, we are convinced that Indiana is uniquely situated to lead the telemedicine revolution. Our great universities, an outstanding medical center, our private sector leaders, and our demographic situation, make this state a great laboratory for the development of all of the new technologies that fall under the umbrella of telemedicine.

The two of us have spent considerable effort in an attempt to bring 21<sup>st</sup> century medicine to Indiana and would be more than happy to discuss our application with any of your staff if you please. If you should have any questions regarding this matter please feel free to contact us at:

Sen. David Ford, 317-232-9807, [DF19@IN.gov](mailto:DF19@IN.gov)  
Rep. Peggy Welch, 317-234-3101, [HW60@IN.gov](mailto:HW60@IN.gov)

Sincerely,

  
David Ford  
(R-Hartford City)

  
Peggy Welch  
(D-Bloomington)



**INDIANA TELECOMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

54 MONUMENT CIRCLE • SUITE 200 • INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204 • (317) 6357272 • FAX (317) 635-0285 • www.ifainfo.org

April 27, 2007

Marlene H. Dortch, Commission Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, Room TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Secretary Dortch:

The Indiana Telecommunications Association is pleased to support the Indiana Rural Health Association (IRHA) and the multiple organizations from across the State of Indiana that have partnered to develop an application for funding under the Federal Communications Commission Rural Health Care Pilot Program.

The Indiana Telecommunications Association is the largest business trade association representing 41 incumbent telecommunications companies in the state and is committed to improving the health and well-being of residents of Indiana through telemedicine solutions. **Our** members provide essential telecom services to metropolitan areas, small towns and rural areas throughout Indiana and are partnering with **our** Critical Access Hospitals, through the IRHA, and other medical professionals to bring a high level of care to individuals in locations all across the state. Given these factors, I am confident that the *Indiana Health Network* will prove beneficial to Indiana's rural health care providers and ultimately patients through improved access to broadband that will enable increased utilization of telemedicine applications.

The *Indiana Health Network* would provide an innovative approach to address the needs of patients in Indiana's rural areas. Further, the connectivity provided by the program will allow all of Indiana's health care providers to share vital patient information. In addition, funding through the Federal Communications Commission's Rural Health Care Pilot Program also promises to bring high speed connectivity to many of Indiana's rural communities that currently have little **or** no access to this resource. These new broadband connections will give Indiana's small towns and rural areas much needed opportunities for economic development helping to sustain the network for years to come.

Indiana's telecom providers recognize the wonderful potential of this project and that is why we enthusiastically support it and ask your sincere consideration regarding funding the plan. If you have any questions regarding this matter please feel free to contact me at (317) 635-1272 **or** via e-mail at john@itainfo.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John E. Koppin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

John E. Koppin, CAE  
President

May 2, 2007



Marlene H. Dortch, **Secretary**  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Suite 110  
Washington, DC 20002

~~Dear~~ Secretary,

On behalf of Clarian Health in Indianapolis, Indiana, I would like to enthusiastically endorse **the** Indiana Health Network Grant submitted by the Indiana Rural Health Association as the **lead** applicant and multiple other organizations that **are** partnering to develop the FCC Rural Health Pilot **Program** grant to fund activities of the Indiana Health Network.

Since **2004** Clarian Health **has** worked to develop the largest, most comprehensive telemedicine program in the **state of** Indiana. While we have physicians and medical providers interested in providing health care services to **rural Indiana** communities via telemedicine there **are** many **obstacles** to overcome to enable rural communities in Indiana to receive sub-specialty healthcare utilizing current technology. The Indiana Health Network could alleviate many of these obstacles making it easy **for** urban clinicians to virtually care **for** Indiana's rural communities.

Clarian Health has been an active supporter of IRHA since their inception because of their **role of** advancing access **and** **quality** to rural healthcare. Clarian **is** represented **on** the IRHA Board, is **a sponsor** of their annual meeting and provides speakers and in-kind services to achieve the organization's goals and initiatives.

If Indiana receives **funding for the** Indiana Health Network Clarian telemedicine staff will be actively involved in the work plan as a member **of** the advisory board and designated working committees. **We are** committed to the proposed work plan role **out** and intend to participate at the highest level of support to lend our expertise as appropriate.

If you have any questions **or** would like additional information please do not hesitate to contact me at **317-962-2188** or via e-mail at [jbaron@clarian.org](mailto:jbaron@clarian.org).

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Baron", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Baron  
Telemedicine **Program** Director  
Clarian Health  
1633 N. Capitol Avenue, Suite 102  
Indianapolis, IN. 46237

1-65 at 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 1367  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
46206-1367  
[www.clarian.org](http://www.clarian.org)

317-962-2000



1.265.2121  
1.265.2161  
9@att.com

April 26, 2007

Commission's Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Suite 110  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Secretary,

On behalf of AT&T Indiana, I am writing to notify you of our support for the application submitted by the Indiana Rural Health Association and its partners requesting funding through the Commission's Rural Health Care Pilot Program.

As the leading broadband provider in Indiana, AT&T appreciates the power that broadband access has to improve health, education and quality of life initiatives in communities of all sizes. We have made broadband available to 80 percent of the customers in our service territory. But, we don't serve the entire state. We believe everyone deserves access and we think the Indiana Health Network shows tremendous promise for improving health care through expanded broadband availability.

The Indiana Health Network would allow for information sharing between providers and a new approach toward improving services to patients. And expanded connectivity would also provide ancillary benefits across the state.

We respectfully encourage you to give strong consideration to the Indiana Rural Health Association's request for funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George S. Alletwood".

800 333-3333

May 2, 2007 11:30AM INDIANA FIBER NETWORK

No. 4666 P. 2

5520 W. 76<sup>th</sup> St  
Indianapolis, IN 46268  
317.280.4636  
Fax: 317.471.8108



May 1, 2007

Martene H. Dorch, Secretary  
Office of the Secretary

Federal Communications Commission  
236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Suite 110  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Ms. Dorch,

I am writing this letter today in support of the application for funding under the Federal Communications Commission's Rural Health Care Pilot Program that is being submitted by the Indiana Rural Health Association as lead applicant and multiple other organizations that are working in conjunction with them in development of this application.

As president of Indiana Fiber Network, LLC, and a former resident of rural southwestern Indiana, I know first hand the struggles small rural communities have in regards to quality health care and economic development. We are owned by twenty rural Indiana independent telephone companies, many of whom have small medical facilities in or near their service territory. We provide the type of services proposed in this application and know that there are many areas of our state where getting adequate services to provide for the high band width needs of the medical establishment is either too costly or just not possible. I am confident that the *Indiana Health Network* as proposed in the application will prove beneficial to Indiana's health care providers and ultimately to the patients they serve through improved broadband connectivity that will increase the utilization of telemedicine applications and research.

The *Indiana Health Network* not only would accomplish the fore mentioned outcomes; it would also serve as an economic development opportunity as well. Not only is having high quality health care in these rural areas a necessity for economic development but building out these rural communities with fiber to serve the medical facility could also bring higher quality, lower priced broadband services to the communities they reside in.

May. 2. 2007 11:30AM

INDIANA FIBER NETWORK

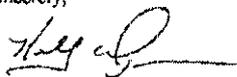
No. 4666 P. 3

In recognition of the potential positive impact this project could have on the rural areas of Indiana, like the one I lived in for forty-four years of my life, I sincerely hope you will give strong consideration to funding this project.

I am committed to this project and would offer to continue to participate on any committee or advisory board that is implemented by the *Indiana Health Network* should you decide to fund this project.

If you have questions regarding this please contact me at (317) 280-4636 or email me at [kdyer@indianafiber.net](mailto:kdyer@indianafiber.net).

Sincerely,



Kelly C. Dyer

**Mr. Kelly C. Dyer**  
President  
Indiana Fiber Network, LLC  
(317) 280-4636  
[kdyer@indianafiber.net](mailto:kdyer@indianafiber.net)



April 26, 2007

Commission's Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communication Commission  
236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Suite 110  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Secretary,

I am writing you today in support of the grant application for the Indiana Health Network. The Indiana Rural Health Association is the lead applicant, and our company along with our colleagues in the Indiana Telecommunications Association has partnered to develop a plan for the FCC Rural Healthcare Pilot Program. The application would go toward the funding of the Indiana Health Network.

With a number of Indiana counties at or near poverty level, it is crucial for us as telecom providers to partner with the Indiana Rural Health Association to provide connectivity. The Indiana Health Network would allow patients who live in our communities to stay closer to home by traveling only a short distance to a rural hospital and yet receive medical care available only in urban areas via telemedicine. By using a vibrant fiber optic network provided by local telecom providers, the Indiana Health Network can save patients a great deal of their hard earned money by cutting back on car travel to see a specialist. This is vital as energy prices continue to rise and some of our neighbors' income remains fixed.

Currently, Smithville Digital provides fiber optic connectivity to Bloomington Hospital and Healthcare System. Our connections include Radiation/Oncology, Southern Indiana Radiological Associates and Bloomington Hospital of Orange County. Many of the customers in Bloomington Hospital's Sewing area live in high poverty areas and have very limited incomes that restrict travel in terms of fuel cost and time away from work for a specialist visit.

If approved, Smithville Digital stands ready to move forward in connecting neighboring Critical Access Hospitals in very rural areas. These hospitals will receive World-class fiber optic connectivity. As President of the company, I am willing to serve in an advisory or board capacity to help insure that the projects of the Indiana Health Network are achieved within their timelines.

I strongly support the initiatives of the Indiana Health Network not only for my business but also as a consumer. The time has come for the Indiana Health Network.

I am always pleased to answer any questions that may come along pertaining to Smithville Digital's involvement in this project. I can be reached by phone at 812-876-7830 or [cullen@smithville.net](mailto:cullen@smithville.net)

Thank you for your consideration of this application.

Smith Digital, LLC  
1600 West Temperance  
PO Box 271  
Ellettsville, IN 47429  
812-876-2211  
Fax: 8124764180  
[www.smithuittedigital.net](http://www.smithuittedigital.net)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cullen H. McCarty', is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Cullen H. McCarty  
President

05/02/07 WED 07:52 FAX 317 263 8831

IHETS

002

Indiana Higher Education Telecommunication System

ihets.

May 1, 2007

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Suite 110  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Secretary Dortch:

The Indiana Higher Education Telecommunication System (IHETS) is pleased to support the application proposal which Indiana Rural Health Association and the multiple organizations from across the State of Indiana that have partnered to develop for funding under the Federal Communications Commissions' Rural Health Care Pilot Program.

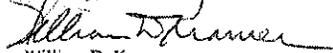
IHETS is a consortium of 70 colleges and universities in the State of Indiana that is committed to improving the health and well-being of residents of Indiana. IHETS currently provides video conferencing, web conferencing and video streaming services for its members and affiliate members. IHETS is committed to help deliver services that result in better service, both in education and telehealth to the rural citizens of Indiana. I am confident that the *Indiana Health Network* will prove beneficial to health care providers and patients. By making high speed bandwidth available to rural areas, improved usage of telehealth applications will occur.

The *Indiana Health Network* would help to bring Indiana into the twenty-first century in relation to connecting patients, health care providers and educational institutions. This, in turn, should result not only in better communications, but also, better health care services for rural Indiana. Rural towns and communities that have little or no access would be connected as part of the FCC's Rural Health Care Pilot Program. This grant would serve as a model for extending connectivity statewide.

Given the immediate and future impact of this pilot program to the rural towns and communities, your consideration of funding for Indiana's proposal is greatly appreciated.

If you should have any questions regarding this matter please feel free to contact me at 317.263.8920 or via e-mail at [bkramer@ihets.org](mailto:bkramer@ihets.org).

Sincerely,



William D. Kramer  
Interim Director  
Indiana Higher Education Telecommunication System

714 North Senate Avenue  
Indianapolis IN 46202-3112  
317.263.8900  
Fax 317.263.8831  
[www.ihets.org](http://www.ihets.org)



Indiana Hospital & Health Association

May 3, 2007

1 American Square • Suite 1900  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46282-0001  
317/633-4870 • 317/633-4676 fax

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Suite 110  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Secretary Dortch,

The Indiana Hospital & Health Association represents all of the hospitals in Indiana, whether large or small, rural or urban, general acute or specialty. We were one of the founding forces in establishing the Indiana Rural Health Association for better advocacy, education, access, and quality of rural health care providers and residents. We have also provided assistance to the Lt. Governor's Office of Rural Affairs as it plans for rejuvenation of our rural communities. One of the major findings we see in all three of these relationships is the lack of adequate access to sufficient broadband connectivity. We are thus, very excited to join with a number of organizations from Indiana in a partnership to develop an application for funding under the Federal Communications Commission's Rural Health Care Pilot Program.

The Indiana Hospital & Health Association is committed to be an effective partner in developing the Indiana Health Network. Our mission "is to provide leadership, representation, and services in the common best interests of its members as they promote the improvement of community health status." The ability to connect our members and their communities through the *Indiana Health Network* will prove beneficial to Indiana's health care providers and ultimately patients through improved access to broadband that will enable increased utilization of telehealth applications. I will personally be involved in network planning, video conferencing and continuing education with the rural hospitals and their communities.

The proposed funding through the Federal Communications Commission's Rural Health Care Pilot Program promises to bring high speed connectivity to many of Indiana's rural communities that currently have little or no access to this resource, which would promote the economic development of these Indiana small towns and rural communities.

From a health view, increasing bandwidth will significantly reduce the time it takes to send MRI images of the brain of stroke victims and allow neurologists much more time to

administer medications through the rural emergency department physician. This is a major issue in stroke care outside of metro areas.

This is a big project for the Indiana Rural Health Association and its partners. It would be the first FCC grant in Indiana for this purpose. We all realize the potential impact of this project and will work hard to make it a sustainable success.

I appreciate your sincere consideration.

Sincerely,



Spencer L. Grover, FACHE  
Vice President



Indiana Health information Exchange

April 30, 2007

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Suite 110  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Secretary Dortch,

Indiana Health Information Exchange (IHIE) is pleased to support the Indiana Rural Health Association and the multiple organizations from across the State of Indiana that has partnered to develop an application for funding under the Federal Communications Commissions' Rural Health Care Pilot Program.

IHIE is very excited about this initiative and supports it fully. We also view it as an important step in IHIE's ability to connect to the rest of Indiana. While we move forward with our efforts in larger demographic areas, the ability to "connect" into the rural areas will become more important.

We are committed to helping this effort move forward in any way reasonably possible and support the funding of this initiative.

If you have any questions or would like to talk further about IHIE's support, please feel free to call me at (317-644-1720) or email me at [tom.penno@ihie.com](mailto:tom.penno@ihie.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "TP", is written over the word "Sincerely".

Thomas P. Penno  
Chief Operating Officer



May 1, 2007

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
 Office of the Secretary  
 Federal Communications Commission  
 236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Suite 110  
 Washington, DC 20002

Dear Secretary Dortch,

The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs is pleased to support the Indiana Rural Health Association and the multiple organizations from across the State of Indiana that have partnered to develop an application for funding under the Federal Communications Commissions' Rural Health Care Pilot Program.

Our agency's mission is to assist rural communities in building their own capacity to achieve their own economic development vision. We have become a national model for addressing rural issues both from a policy perspective, and from a programmatic perspective. We build partnerships with NGO entities such as IRHA, and with Federal and State agencies to move our rural priorities forward.

We have developed a strategic plan through a priority-setting process called the Rural Indiana Strategy for Excellence. This was a process that involved representation from over 150 organizations. Two of the top five priorities were to improve the health care delivery capacity in rural Indiana, and to improve broadband capacity in rural Indiana. The innovative approaches being offered in the *Indiana Health Network* proposal will help us to address these needs.

The *Indiana Health Network* would provide an innovative approach to address the needs of Indiana's health care providers and ultimately the patients that they serve, as well as providing a means for all of Indiana's health care providers to share vital information. In addition, funding through the Federal Communications Commissions' Rural Health Care Pilot Program also promises to bring high speed connectivity to many of Indiana's rural communities that currently have little or no access to this resource, which would promote the economic development of these Indiana small towns and rural communities.

Realizing the potential impact of this project, Indiana would appreciate your sincere consideration.

If you should have any questions please feel free to contact me at [dtterrell@ocra.in.gov](mailto:dtterrell@ocra.in.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D. Terrell", is written over a horizontal line.

David R. Terrell  
 Executive Director

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One North Capitol, Suite 600 \* Indianapolis, IN 46204 , 800.824.2476 \* 317.233.3597 (fax)  
[www.ocra.IN.gov](http://www.ocra.IN.gov)



## INDIANA RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

664.0 Intech Boulevard, Suite 150 • Indianapolis, Indiana 46278  
Telephone: 317.275.2245 • Fax: 317.275.2246  
www.ruralindiana.org

April 27, 2007

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
236 Massachusetts Ave. NE, Suite 110  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Secretary Dortch:

The Indiana Rural Development Council (IRDC:) wants to express its support for the *Indiana Health Network* grant submitted by the Indiana Rural Health Association to the FCC's Rural Health Care Pilot Program.

Over the last two years, hundreds of individuals, organizations, and community leaders have been creating the Rural Indiana Strategy for Excellence — RISE2020. The strategy is built upon the premise that communities and people plan in industry sectors, but live multi-dimensionally. The *Indiana Health Network* project fits well within the needs identified by many of our work groups, especially Health and Human Services. Health care facilities and service providers touch communities in many overlooked ways – key rural employers, civic leadership, careers, social and intellectual capital, community infrastructure, quality-of-life, and health care. That is why this project can meet your objectives and those of communities throughout Indiana.

The IRDC is very committed to the Indiana Rural Health Association and its partners in this endeavor. We consider IRHA to be one of our most important and trusted partner groups. This grant will enable citizens in underserved areas to gain access to critical services and improve the exchange of information. This program can also bring high speed broadband access to rural communities once again demonstrating the leading role that health services plays in rural development.

In today's world it is not enough for a community to connect to its neighboring towns by roads and highways. They must connect to others in a region, across the nation, and to the global marketplace through the Internet. This grant will spur innovation in many sectors and communities and improve lives at the same time. We hope you will select this application for your program.

If you have any questions about RISE 2020 or this grant and our support, please contact me at 317.275.2245 or [panderson@ruralindiana.org](mailto:panderson@ruralindiana.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phillip G. Anderson".

Phillip G. Anderson  
Executive Director



Indiana State  
Department of Health  
*An Equal Opportunity Employer*

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.  
Governor

Judith A. Monroe, M.D.  
State Health Commissioner

April 27, 2007

Marlene H. Dortch, J.D., A.B., Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Suite 110  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Secretary Dortch:

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) welcomes the opportunity to endorse the grant application for the Indiana Health Network Grant submitted by the Indiana Rural Health Association (IRHA). The grant award is needed in Indiana to help build telemedicine partnerships with critical access hospitals and other necessary partners. This project will allow Indiana's rural health community meet one of the objectives that it has tasked the Indiana State Office of Rural Health (SORH) to achieve. The objective is to complete an assessment of Indiana's current telehealth programs and propose potential network opportunities by October 2007.

ISDH SORH funded two statewide assessments focusing on telemedicine resources in critical access hospitals and current technology infrastructure used in the state for telemedicine. It also funds a tele-mental health project with the Richard G. Lugar Center for Rural Health, one of its strongest partners.

The IRHA and ISDH have participated in many partnerships since the origination of IRHA in 1997. ISDH is committed to providing support for this project through SORH and is very interested in the project outcomes as they impact future initiatives and expansions.

If I can provide further information or be of assistance, please contact me through Sarah Renner, Director of Partner Relations at (317) 233-7679 or [srenner@isdh.in.gov](mailto:srenner@isdh.in.gov). The Partner Relations Division oversees the State Office of Rural Health.

For a Healthier Tomorrow,

JUDITH A. MONROE, M.D.  
STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

INDIANA UNIVERSITY



OFFICE OF THE  
VICE PRESIDENT  
FOR INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY  
AND CHIEF  
INFORMATION OFFICER

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April 27, 2007

Commission's Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Suite 110  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Secretary,

Indiana University is strongly engaged in the provision of medical services, medical teaching and learning, and research beyond the perimeter of its eight campuses. Through community outreach, and its strategic plan to promote life sciences research and enterprise, the university plans to further engage with outlying Indiana communities to advance the economy and overall health of Hoosiers. One step to help improve the health of Hoosiers is improving access to health care in rural communities.

A look inside many rural hospitals, whether here or across the nation—would reveal a gap in specialty physicians and services. Through providing medical consultation via telemedicine resources, Indiana University can bring world-class expertise to health practitioners that need them. In the health industry, telemedicine is highly regarded as a mechanism to bridge the gap of underserved populations, and provides further insight to the practitioner while providing convenient, cost-effective health care to the patient.

Connecting our rural communities is an endeavor to which we will gladly lend that expertise. Indiana University is highly capable and prepared to share its advanced computing resources and telecommunications through our Global Research Network Operations Center (GlobalNOC). The GlobalNOC offers support, IT-security, management, and engineering for several national and international high-speed networks for research and education, including Internet2 and I-Light—Indiana's statewide higher education network. Not only will funding from the FCC Rural Health Care Pilot Program facilitate easier access to medical treatment to Indiana's rural citizens, an Indiana Health Network will serve to bring high speed broadband connectivity into communities that currently do not have access to such a service.

For these reasons, we join with, and voice our enthusiastic support for, the Indiana Rural Health Association and other partners in seeking a grant under the FCC Rural Health Care Pilot Program

If you have any questions about our involvement on behalf of Indiana University, please contact me at hwhecle@u.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brad Wheeler".

Brad Wheeler  
IU Chief Information Officer & IUB Dean of Information Technology

REGENSTRIEF CENTER

DISCOVERY PARK

April 24, 2007

Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Suite 110  
Washington, DC 20002

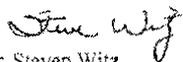
Dear Secretary Dortch

The Indiana Rural Health Association (IRHA) is leading an effort in response to your Rural Health Pilot Program to support the development of the Indiana Health Network. This effort represents an unprecedented collaboration between a large number of Indiana healthcare providers, telecommunication providers, and other stakeholders to address a clear Indiana need. Indiana, as you may know, lags behind most other states in our development of key infrastructure components necessary for ensuring quality healthcare delivery to our large rural population.

The Regenstrief Center for Healthcare Engineering (RCHE) at Purdue University would like to express strong support for this proposal. We share your goal for improving healthcare delivery to rural communities, and we believe the IRHA's proposal represents a much-needed framework for meeting the healthcare needs of many Indiana citizens. In support of this effort, RCHE is committed to extending its expertise to support this effort through participation on an executive advisory board and any other way deemed useful to this critical initiative. RCHE is unique in that it promotes a systems engineering approach to improving the healthcare delivery process and is dedicated to connecting Purdue research faculty with the most pressing healthcare delivery needs of the state. RCHE is supported through funding from Purdue University, the Regenstrief Foundation, and gifts from key strategic healthcare providers in the state, including St. Vincent Health and Community Health Network, two of the largest healthcare networks in the state of Indiana.

We urge you to strongly consider IRHA's application for these much needed funds. We are convinced of the merit of this application and hope to be able to collaborate with IRHA with the development of the Indiana Health Network.

Sincerely,



Dr. Steven Witz  
St. Vincent Health Chair of Healthcare Engineering  
Director, Regenstrief Center for Healthcare Engineering

PURDUE

Regenstrief Center for Healthcare Engineering  
Gerald D. and Edna E. Mann Hall, Suite 225 ■ 203 W. Intramural Drive ■ West Lafayette, IN 47907-1971  
(765) 494-9828 ■ Fax: (765)393-3023 ■ [www.purdue.edu/che](http://www.purdue.edu/che)



United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development • Indiana State Office

May 1, 2007

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Suite 110  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Secretary Dortch;

This letter is to convey to you the support of USDA Rural Development for the grant request being submitted to you for funding through the FCC's Rural Health Care Pilot Program by the Indiana Rural Health Association and other partners from Indiana. The grant request is for funding to support an important initiative which will clearly improve the availability and quality of health care in rural Indiana using modern communications.

USDA Rural Development delivers funding programs to rural America in the areas of single and multifamily housing, business development and expansion, community facilities, and infrastructure. In fact, we too administer a funding program that promotes the use of modern communications technology to bring the advantages of professional healthcare to rural areas. It has been our experience that this access to modern communications technology is a key to the sustainability and growth of rural America whether it is in the field of business, education, government, or healthcare. We believe that the future of rural America will depend largely on the degree that rural residents share the same access to modern communications technology as their urban counterparts just as in the last century rural residents needed electrical and telephone service to survive and prosper.

The Indiana Health **Network** initiative supported by this grant request would significantly improve the availability and quality of health care in rural Indiana by enabling health care providers to share critical health care information through modern communications. We certainly support this request and appreciate your consideration of it.

If you have any questions about why USDA Rural Development wholeheartedly supports this endeavor I hope you will contact me at 317-290-3100, extension 400.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "KELLY M. BARMAN". The signature is written in a cursive style with some capital letters.

FOR  
ROBERT WHITE  
State Director

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