Mission

Promote programs and policies that enable schools, libraries, health care providers and other anchor institutions to obtain open, affordable, high-speed broadband connections to the Internet, so they may serve the needs of their communities.
Advocacy

• BTOP and BIP Programs
• National Broadband Plan
• FCC’s 2010 E-rate Reform
• FCC’s Connect America Fund
• FCC’s Rural Healthcare Connect Fund
• U.S. Ignite
• Digital Literacy
• FCC’s 2013 E-rate Reform/ConnectED
Critical Advocacy Points - 1

• Anchor institutions need high-capacity broadband for a healthy community.
  – Anchors are the “third leg of the stool”.

• The “market” will not solve the broadband deployment in rural areas.
  – Deployment costs are too high
  – Density of users is too low
Critical Advocacy Points - 2

• Trends Show Broadband Needs are GROWING:
  – MOOCs, Job Training, Telemedicine, etc.
  – Schools: Common Core testing, one-to-one laptops, tablets, personalized learning all require more bandwidth.
  – Video traffic will occupy 69% of all Internet traffic by 2017.
Critical Advocacy Point – 3

• Rural areas need broadband INVESTMENT.
  – Investing in high-capacity broadband generates positive economic returns in 3-5 years;
  – Fixed (fiber) and mobile (cellular and white spaces) will both be needed;
  – Grants, not loans.