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Overview of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's Broadband Provisions

Broadband Stimulus Funding

- Total of \$7.2 billion for broadband activity
 - \$4.7 billion for NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP):
 1. \$350 million for support of the State Broadband Data & Development Grant Program (P.L. 110-385) and a national broadband inventory map
 2. At least \$250 million competitive grants for innovative programs to encourage sustainable adoption of broadband service
 3. At least \$200 million for competitive grants for expanding public computer center capacity, including at community colleges and public libraries
 4. \$3.9 billion for 2 and 3 above and for infrastructure
 - \$2.5 billion for USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Distance Learning, Telemedicine and Broadband Grant Program
 1. Broadband loans and loan guarantees, as authorized by the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 901 et seq.)
 2. Used to support broadband infrastructure in predominantly rural areas.

Five Broad Purposes of the BTOP Program

- Provide access to broadband service to consumers residing in unserved areas of the U.S.
- Improved access to broadband service to consumers residing in underserved areas of the U.S.
- Provide broadband education, awareness, training, access, equipment, and support to—
 - (A) schools, libraries, medical and healthcare providers, community colleges and other institutions of higher education, and other community support organizations and entities to facilitate greater use of broadband service by or through these organizations
 - (B) organizations and agencies that provide outreach, access, equipment, and support services to facilitate greater use of broadband service by low-income, unemployed, aged, and otherwise vulnerable populations
 - (C) job-creating strategic facilities located within a State-designated economic zone, Economic Development District designated by the Department of Commerce, Renewal Community or Empowerment Zone designated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, or Enterprise Community designated by the Department of Agriculture
- Improve access to, and use of, broadband service by public safety agencies
- Stimulate the demand for broadband, economic growth, and job creation

Purposes of the RUS Broadband Program

- Seventy-five percent (75%) of the area to be served by a project receiving funds from such grants, loans or loan guarantees shall be in a rural area without sufficient access to high speed broadband service to facilitate rural economic development, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture
- Funds shall be given to project applications for broadband systems that will deliver end users a choice of more than one service provider
- Funds shall be given to projects that provide service to the highest proportion of rural residents that do not have access to broadband service
- Priority shall be given for project applications from borrowers or former borrowers under title II of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 and for project applications that include such borrowers or former borrowers
- Priority for awarding such funds shall be given to project applications that demonstrate that, if the application is approved, all project elements will be fully funded

NTIA/RUS ARRA Funding Process (to date)

- February 24, 2009 – NTIA published a Notice in the Federal Register announcing its intention to begin holding meetings and take written comments in connection with the broadband grant programs.
- March 16, 19, 23 and 24 - Public meetings take place in Washington, D.C., Las Vegas, NV and Flagstaff, AZ.
- Joint Agency Notice sought input on a series of questions regarding a number of issues including:
 - the appropriate allocation of funds among the five purposes of the NTIA funding
 - potential additional factors that should be considered by the agencies in making funding awards
 - the role of the states in selecting projects
 - how to define or determine areas that are “unserved” or “underserved”
- April 13, 2009 – Comment deadline (over 1600 comments submitted)
- May 18, 2009 – BTOP Quarterly Program Status Report

NTIA ARRA Funding Timeframe (projected but not final)

- Agencies are ramping up staff and contemplating outsourcing of some administrative aspects of the grant process in order to expedite the award of grants while maximizing efficiency.
- NTIA currently is preparing a Request for Proposal for outsourcing the processing of funding applications.
- Early Summer 2009 – Expected Issuance of Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA)
- Summer 2009 - Outreach and Grant Guidance Workshops
- July 2009 – September 2009 - Submission of First Set of Grant Applications
- Fourth Quarter 2009 - Initial Grant Awards
- 2010 - Second and Third Notices of Funds Availability

WICHE's Technology & Innovation Roles

- WICHE's Technology & Innovation office focuses on access to advanced broadband networks in education and health care.
- Organized the first summit on broadband access for minority-serving institutions in the West . Published *"Can You Hear Us Now"* which suggested new directions for federal and foundation funding agencies. (www.wiche.edu/resources/papers/)
- Contributed to white paper, *"Unleashing Waves of Innovation: Transformative Broadband for America's Future"* (www.wiche.edu)
- Serving as leading member of higher education coalition providing comments to federal funding agencies on stimulus funding for broadband.
- Working closely with Internet2 to extend broadband to the broadest education community – K12, higher education, science & cultural organizations, libraries, etc.

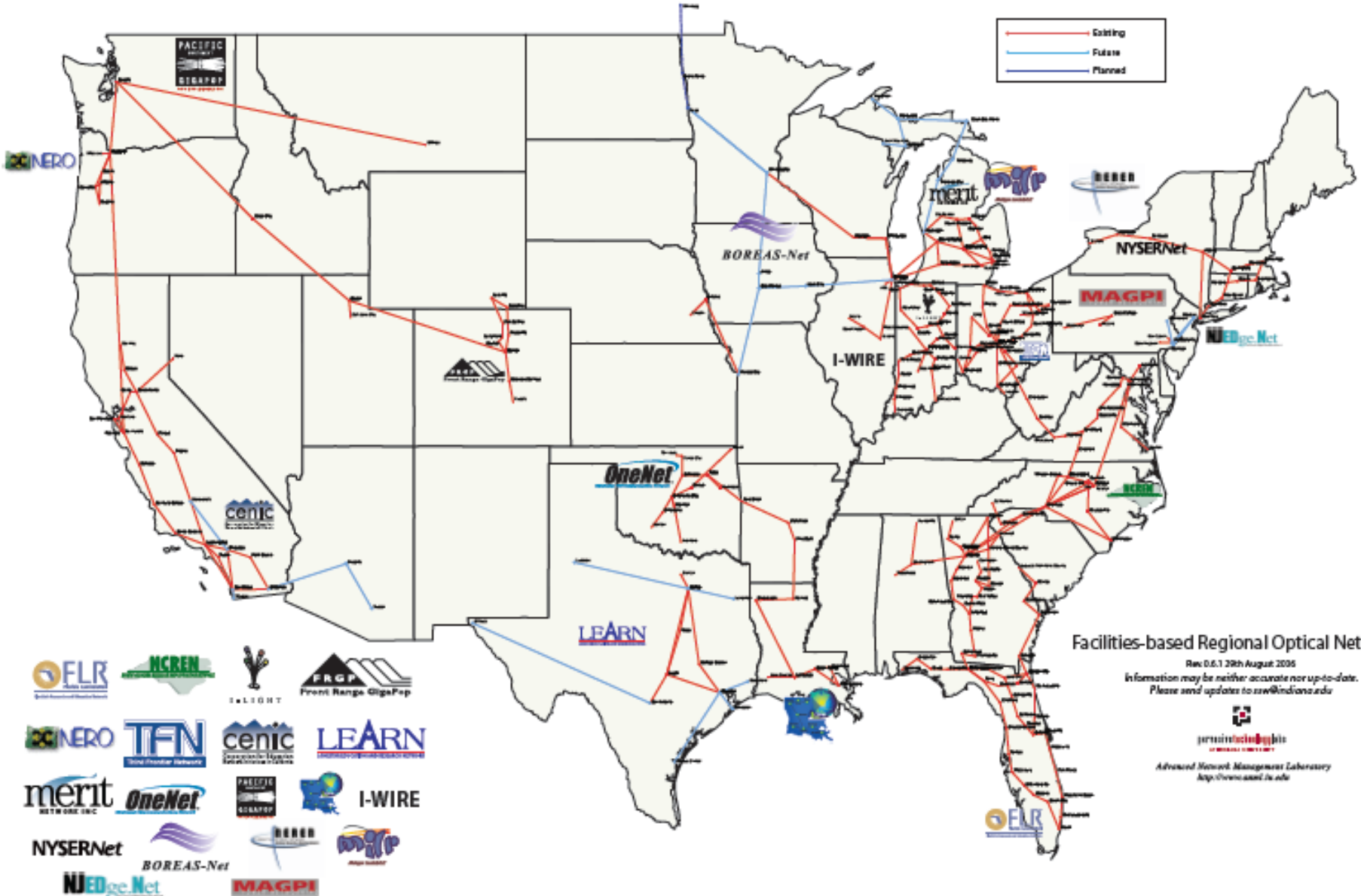
WICHE's Technology & Innovation Roles (cont.)

- Briefings to Western Governors' Association.
- Strategizing with regional higher education networks on pilots to reach un-served and underserved institutions and regions in the West.
- Currently working with regional aggregators for research and education broadband in the West to develop proposals for ARRA broadband funding.

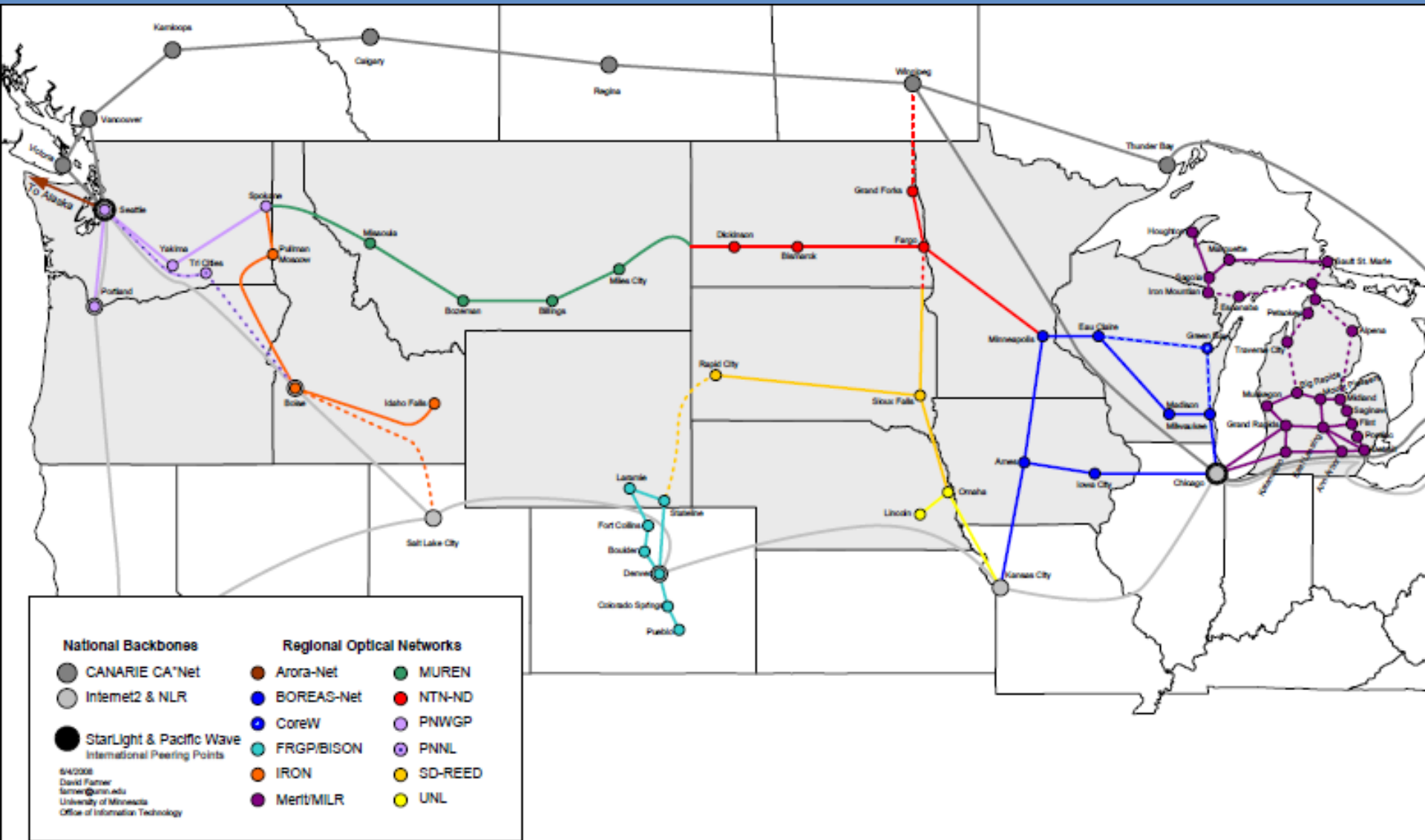
Leading Research & Education Networks in the WICHE Region

- Albuquerque Gigapop (ABQG)
- Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC)
- Front Range Gigapop (FRGP)
- Idaho Regional Optical Network (IRON)
- Northern Tier Network Consortium (NTNC)
- Oregon Gigapop
- Pacific Northwest Gigapop (PNWGP)
- Utah Education Network (UEN)

Facilities-based Regional Optical Networks



Northern Tier Network Consortium & Other Regional Optical Networks



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