

Jackson Co earns internet expansion funds

(KAIR)--Seven internet service providers are awarded \$15.7 million that will bring high-speed broadband service to what a release from Kansas Governor Laura Kelly calls “underserved, economically distressed, and low population areas of the state.”

The release explains that the funds are the first of three rounds of awards from the Kansas Capital Project Funds Broadband Grant Program.

The first phase of funding, the release notes, “will connect more than 1,900 homes, businesses, schools, healthcare facilities, and other public institutions to fast, reliable internet in the next 24 months.”

Among the seven receiving the first round funds are Giant Communications, in Jackson County. The release says the service provider will receive \$895,295 to connect 163 premises in Jackson County with high-speed broadband service.

According to the release, the funding aims to solve what the release calls the “last mile” of broadband needed in critical areas.

The service providers selected to deliver the last-mile connections will provide partial matching dollars, bringing the total project amount for the first round to \$19,700,991. All 141 applications remain eligible for the next two rounds of funding.

Many Signals Communications