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Clarendon Enrolls in Connect South Carolina's Connected Program

Kickoff Meeting Focused on Access, Adoption, and Use of High-Speed Internet in Clarendon County

Manning, SC – Clarendon community leaders have enrolled their community in the innovative [Connected](#) program that seeks to boost the local economy and quality of life for residents through increased access, adoption, and use of high-speed Internet.

Connect South Carolina Community Technology Advisor Lindsay Conrad, along with representatives from the Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce and Clarendon County Adult Education, hosted the Clarendon kickoff on August 15 at the Central Carolina Technical College F.E. Dubose campus in Manning to discuss ideas and challenges of bringing high-speed Internet to the area.

Attendees including leaders representing Clarendon school districts, library, adult education, Clarendon County government, Chamber of Commerce, Southeastern Technology Specialists, Clarendon Memorial Hospital, Clarendon County Development Board, and Farmers Telephone Cooperative were given the opportunity to discuss the Connected engagement goals and objectives for their community.

“Bringing broadband Internet to our community is vital,” said Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Dawn Griffith. “Technology will pave the way to a more robust job market and a brighter future for our region.”

Attendees discussed the community's broadband inventory to date including: public computer centers, digital literacy training programs, vulnerable population technology programs, and broadband applications in the fields of healthcare, government, economic opportunity, and education.

The Connected Community Engagement Program involves building a comprehensive action plan for developing a technology-ready community by reviewing the technology landscape, developing regional partnerships, establishing local teams, and conducting a thorough community assessment. The gathered information from the meeting on August 15 will be used to help create the Technology Action Plan for the Clarendon community.

The Connected program is part of the Connect South Carolina initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce NTIA State Broadband Initiative program.

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Connected Nation developed the *Connected* Community Engagement Program to help guide a community through an assessment of its overall broadband and technology status.



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Community Engagement Program

Connected Certified Communities have measurably demonstrated their proficiency for effective Access, Adoption, and Use of broadband supported technologies. Connected Nation through its partners provides a national platform for recognizing those communities that excel across these important benchmarks. Funded by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), this effort is part of the State Broadband Initiative. <http://www.connectednation.org/get-connected>

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About Connect South Carolina: As the State Broadband Initiative, Connect South Carolina is leading the effort to increase high-speed Internet access, adoption and use to ensure South Carolina's competitiveness in the connected global economy of the twenty-first century. Connect South Carolina is a public-private partnership designated by the state to work with all broadband providers to create South Carolina's first interactive map of broadband coverage. This work serves as a foundation for addressing remaining service gaps while also engaging state, regional and local leaders in workforce development activities designed to bridge South Carolina's digital divide. For maps, research or to get involved with efforts in your community please visit: www.ConnectSC.org.

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