



News from

# Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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## Reedsburg Utility Commission Receives \$5.2 Million in Recovery Act funds for Broadband

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI), joined by Rural Utility Service Administrator, Jonathan Adelstein, announced today that the Reedsburg Utility Commission has received a Broadband Initiative Program Grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, totaling \$5,239,168 for expansion and upgrades to the Broadband services available in the Reedsburg area.

“I am pleased to see Recovery Act funds working for our communities,” said Rep. Kind. “This award will make a significant impact on the Reedsburg area. Not only will it provide for economic development and create local jobs, but it will help foster new opportunities in education and business, allowing this community to actively participate in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century global economy.”

The \$5.2 million grant combined with \$2.3 million in outside capital will extend an existing municipal FTTP network to the surrounding rural areas to provide affordable advanced broadband service to residents and businesses currently confined to traditional dial-up, unreliable wireless, and costly satellite services. Over 6,000 people stand to benefit from this grant, along with 144 businesses and 12 community institutions, including schools and libraries. The grant is expected to create or retain 45 local jobs.

“We are thrilled to death to be able to provide true high speed internet to the rural areas of Sauk County,” said Dave Mikonowicz, General Manager of Reedsburg Utility Commission. “Without the grant, it would not be economically feasible to provide this type of service. This grant will be invaluable to the local community.”

The Reedsburg award is one of 66 new Recovery Act broadband projects nationwide that, according to the grantees, will directly create approximately 5,000 jobs up front, and also help spur economic development in some of the nation’s hardest-hit communities, helping create jobs for years to come. In total, tens of millions of Americans and over 685,000 businesses, 900 healthcare facilities and 2,400 schools in all 50 states stand to benefit from the awards. The \$795 million in grants and loans through the Departments of Commerce and Agriculture have been matched by over \$200 million in outside investment, for a total public-private investment of more than \$1 billion in bringing broadband service to these communities.