



## **COUNTY OF LAKE**

### **MARKETING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

255 North Forbes Street  
Lakeport, California 95453-5406  
707-263-2580 FAX 707-263-1012

[www.lakecounty.com](http://www.lakecounty.com)

**CONTACTS:** Terre Logsdon, (707) 263-2580  
Debra Sommerfield, (707) 263-2580

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 5, 2009**

#### **HIGH-SPEED INTERNET USAGE SURVEY TO BE CONDUCTED BY CENTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**LAKE COUNTY, CA** – Starting in late May 2009, the Center for Economic Development (CED), California State University, Chico Research Foundation, will be conducting a telephone survey to households and businesses in Colusa, Glenn, Lake, Sutter, and Yuba counties.

The survey will be utilized to identify areas throughout the region that are served, underserved, or unserved by high-speed Internet service. Economic development and education administrators, internet service providers (ISPs), local government leaders, and other business professionals will be able to utilize the information to make decisions about the services they provide to those in the Upstate region of California. High-speed Internet is a critical component of economic, education, and business development.

This project is funded by the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF), which was established and funded by the SBC-AT&T and Verizon-MCI merger agreements approved by the California Public Utilities Commission in November 2005. The fund focuses on “achieving ever-present access to broadband and advanced services in California, particularly in underserved communities through the use of existing and emerging technologies.”

In April 2008, the County of Lake received a \$10,000 planning grant from the CETF to lead the development of a regional project to aggregate the demand for high-speed broadband access across Colusa, Glenn, Lake, Sutter, and Yuba counties.

The five-county regional project – dubbed Upstate California Connect – is one of seven rural, multi-county regions that are working toward the goal of ubiquitous high-speed broadband throughout California. Last fall, Upstate California Connect partnered with the CED at California State University, Chico, which prepared and submitted the region’s proposed work plan, which has since been approved by CETF. CED is now facilitating participation in the project by gathering input across the region.

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**PRESS RELEASE: High-Speed Internet Usage Survey**

RELEASE DATE: May 5 2009

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On April 24, 2009, CED held a public meeting in Lakeport to elicit feedback on the draft survey tool that they will utilize, and to update the community on the project.

CED has contracted with the Program for Applied Research and Evaluation at the CSU Chico Research Foundation to conduct the telephone survey. All individual answers will be kept strictly confidential.

The survey will continue through the summer with the goal of obtaining complete surveys for 1,200 households and 400 businesses.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Don Krysakowski, Assistant Director at the CED, [dkrysakowski@csuchico.edu](mailto:dkrysakowski@csuchico.edu) or (530) 898-4598. If you have questions about Lake County's participation in the Upstate California Connect broadband project, please contact the Lake County Administration Office at (707) 263-2580.

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