



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Broadband Advisory Group Releases Survey Results

The Switzerland County Broadband Advisory Group has released the results of a recent survey conducted to measure internet usage in Switzerland County. The survey is part of the group's effort to assess the demand for high-speed internet service in the county, particularly in areas where service is currently not available. Two surveys were conducted, one for residential use and one for business use.

Both the residential and business surveys showed a strong demand for improved internet services in Switzerland County. 90 percent of those responding to the residential survey stated that they own a computer and 66 percent replied that they would use a high-speed internet service if one were available at a reasonable price. The response from county businesses was even stronger. Of the businesses that responded, 85 percent stated that they used a computer in their business while 82 percent replied that they would use a high-speed internet service if available.

The next step for the Broadband Advisory Group will be to take the information from the survey and share it with area internet providers, encouraging them to extend services to parts of Switzerland County not currently served. "Delivering high-speed internet to a rural area can be expensive", said Jon Bond of the Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation. "We want to show providers that they will have customers if they make the investment."

The Switzerland County Broadband Advisory Group was created by the Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation in May 2005. Switzerland County's Economic Development Strategy, completed in 2004, listed improved access to modern internet service as one of the county's most important infrastructure needs.

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