

## From the desk of Rouzbeh



Dr. Rouzbeh Yassini

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**Hello,**

Myth or Reality of Municipal Broadband Network!

There has been more discussion of the validity, or lack thereof, of municipalities building broadband networks by our communities across the USA. More towns and local governments appear to be studying such endeavors as they see the economic and social value that is supported by more ubiquitous and affordable Internet access.

But it is not easy and there is no cookie cutter approach that guarantees success. There’s a lot to consider and UNH BCoE addresses the facts on all sides of the evaluation process in our recently completed [BRIEF](#).

Separately in this newsletter, we look at an FCC effort at getting capital into the rural broadband marketplace via a plan to be executed next year. Separately, there is some movement on Capitol Hill focusing on TV White Space as a viable broadband provider. TVWS has been an area of high interest for entire USA ubiquitous connectivity, as outlined in our [AUGUST 2017](#) newsletter.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or suggested additions or further areas of research.

### **Community Driven Broadband**

BCoE has concluded that munis can be successful: “With proper planning community broadband networks are a viable means to get on the right side of the digital divide, when other paths have proven elusive.” But, it’s no walk in the park. The paper notes that there are many issues to investigate, not the least of which is why the incumbent broadband provider chose not to invest more in their infrastructure.

Then there is the question of at what point do the costs of building an affordable, ubiquitous, high performance and reliable municipal broadband outweigh the social benefits that a community would accrue. There are between 500 and 600 communities that have worked through this process with varying degrees of success and the paper links to a site that shows who they are and what they have built or plan to build.

### **Nearly \$2 Billion for Rural Broadband**

Beginning next year, the FCC will target nearly \$2 billion at helping to get broadband into areas lacking service, including rural towns and cities, according to [TELEPROMPTER](#) in an article published last month. The funds will be paid out over 10 years and will come from the Connect America Fund (CAF) via reverse auction. Areas eligible for the CAF auction [INCLUDE RURAL AREAS](#) where one of the nation’s largest price cap carriers is the incumbent telecom services provider and where that carrier [DECLINED](#) to provide broadband service at the level of support offered by the FCC.

Additional info on the plan is [AVAILABLE](#).



### **TVWS Gains Congressional Support**

There is a bipartisan movement in Congress urging the FCC to include TV White Space as a viable mechanism to deliver broadband services, according to an article last month in "[TVTECHNOLOGY](#)." Forty plus congressmen sent a letter to the Commission saying they should preserve 3 TVWS channels in all local markets for possibly serving as broadband connections to the Internet.

In the FCC's 2016 Broadband Progress Report, it was noted that about 24 million of the total 34 million Americans who lack access to broadband internet live in rural communities which do not have the networks to support reliable broadband.

Thanks for your interest in our endeavors.

**Rouzbeh**