

FirstMile.US Frequently Asked Questions

May 2005

What is the mission of FirstMile.US?

The FirstMile mission is to educate, advocate and focus the debate on the power and promise of big broadband in the United States.

What is the vision of FirstMile.US?

The FirstMile vision is that every member of the American public has access to big broadband, the 21st century pathway to a better overall quality of life.

What is big broadband?

When we talk about big broadband, we are referring to a variety of broadband connection characteristics that allow great strides in the types of applications used. These include the size of the bandwidth, latency (bottlenecks) as well synchronicity. Most experts agree that we need at least 100 megabits of broadband bandwidth to support the kind of applications we expect in the next five years. Some have even suggested that one gigabit of bandwidth is essential by 2010.

What is FirstMile.US going to do?

FirstMile will help build the supply chain and help build demand for big broadband. We will initially spotlight the following activities:

- Build a state-by-state compendium of big broadband activities
- Show the potential of big broadband applications – healthcare, business, entertainment, education
- Compile an annual state ranking in big broadband deployment and demand
- Build state and local templates for success – create formulas on how to plan to succeed
- Provide quarterly briefings for policymakers
- Catalyze face-to-face meetings in states and communities
- Honor broadband innovators at an annual awards banquet
- Host spring and fall conferences plus seminars and workshops
- Host e-mail discussion lists and blogs

Where does FirstMile.US get its funding?

FirstMile bases its funding on the following principles for individuals and organizations:

- building on a wide base of donors
- creating long-term relationships with donors
- giving donors choice in how they contribute

How can I participate in FirstMile.US?

Make a personal and corporate donation to help us in this startup phase. Every donor who donates \$100 or more before our official launch will be noted in our Founding Donor honor roll. We are also developing a variety of volunteer opportunities. Please visit www.firstmile.us for the most current information.

Who can I contact for more information?

For more information, contact Susan Estrada at susan@firstmile.us or at 760-510-8406 x1#.

What is the legal status of FirstMile.US?

FirstMile.US is a public benefit corporation, incorporated in California. We are currently in the process of filing the legal documents that will give us non-profit status.

Big broadband—it's not more than you need, it's more than you know.