

Co-op Connection

Hamilton County Telephone Co-op

November 2020

USDA Awards Reconnect 2 Grant/Loan

On October 14th, the USDA awarded Hamilton County Telephone with a \$20 million dollar grant and a \$20 million dollar loan through the Reconnect 2 program. Unlike our USDA grant received in February from Reconnect 1, this coverage area is for serving areas outside of Hamilton County. USDA requirements for their grant/loan applications require that locations must not have access to 10/1 Mbps internet speeds. In the majority of our Co-op, not only can we provide 10/1 Mbps, but typically much faster. We applied for the few remaining areas that meet these requirements within the Co-op through Reconnect 1. As with any governmental process, this process also takes time. Just a few weeks ago we were able to finalize the paperwork and get the engineering team to start designing the path to reach the areas in the Reconnect 1 award. Although only a handful of Co-op areas qualified for this grant, the grant does cover the infrastructure buildout to these specific areas which includes approximately 100 miles of fiber cable distribution in our Co-op. In the long run, we will be able to serve many customers along this path, even though they were not included in the covered served areas.

I know some of you have contacted us wanting more service in the Co-op, and I want to assure you that every step we take is to make sure that we can continue to provide and improve the services within the Co-op. You may remember, about five years ago, the Co-op was set to receive funding that would have allowed us to complete fiber deployment to every Co-op customer. At the last moment, a fixed wireless competitor claimed that they could provide 10/1 service to 85% of our Co-op area. We fought this claim with independent engineers (who proved their claim false) and lawyers, but still the FCC took their word on it and we lost out on \$27 million. At that time we also lost out on the legacy funds for that 85% (funding received every year to help with maintenance and overhead), drastically diminishing our ability to expand. This forced us to completely change gears to make sure our Co-op could be self-sufficient within ten years, at which time we would expect to lose all remaining funding from government assistance. So, Futiva was created to grow our company's footprint, lowering our cost per customer but yet gain enough cash revenue to serve and improve our infrastructure in the Co-op.

So far, all of the USDA grants/loans we have applied for have had qualifying bandwidth limitations of 10/1 Mbps. In 2021, the State of Illinois will be releasing an application for funds with the qualifying bandwidth limitation of 25/3 Mbps. There will be some areas of our Co-op that will qualify for this grant and we do intend to apply. Please know that everything we are doing now is with the Co-op in mind. We are here to serve you!

Pay your bill by phone:
1-855-386-9912

New Directory Listings:

Shane Ping 728-4560

WELCOME TO HAMILTON
COUNTY TELEPHONE CO-OP!

Calendar of Events:

- Nov 1 - Daylight Savings Time Ends
- Nov 3 - Election Day
- Nov 11 - Veteran's Day
Office is **CLOSED**
- Nov 26 - Thanksgiving - **CLOSED**
- Nov 27 - Office is Open



President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November to be "a national day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent father who dwelleth in the heavens." Sometimes it's hard to recognize all the good in life, which is why Thanksgiving serves as a reminder to all of us to be grateful for the wonderful people and things in our lives. We want to say THANKS to each and every one of you for your continued membership and commitment to our community. That loyalty is what allows us to continue bringing next generation services to our rural area, provides local jobs, and contributes to our local economy.

*Thank you &
Happy Thanksgiving!*

P.O. Box 40 • Dahlgren, IL 62828
www.hamiltoncom.net
support1@hamiltoncom.net

H Hamilton County
Telephone Co-op

618-736-2211
Fax: 618-736-2616
Mon - Fri / 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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Congrats to these 155 members! A \$10 bill credit was applied to your account for Co-op Appreciation Month.

- Oct 1 - Joseph Coy, Rick Parker, Robert & Pauline Wellen, Skillet Fork Farm, Zeppelin Wade
Oct 2 - Dwight Catron, Melvin & Cathy Webb, Nicholas & Ashley Wellen, Pat & Judith Harvey, Pearl Carlton
Oct 3 - Albert & Ruth Ann Wuebbels, Ashley White, Bill & Paula Hutchinson, Marcus Lenard, Mark & Robin Becker
Oct 4 - Brian Hutchcraft, Brian Lueke, Cory Murphy, Gary Burzynski, Kenneth Carlton
Oct 5 - Danny Langa, Douglas & Terri Jones, James & Debra Lutz, Jessica Pilson, Jessica Metcalf
Oct 6 - Clint & Rachel Bowman, David & Chrystal Gage, Jesse & Emily Vineyard, Marc & Katie Folden, Robert & Barbara Heck
Oct 7 - Randall Ratliff, Richard Parker, Ricky & Pat Vickers, Scott Smith, Wade Wheeler
Oct 8 - Laurie Duncan, Michael & Ruby Maurer, Robert & Faye Sefried, Timothy McGehee, Wm Basil Whittington
Oct 9 - Adrian Rose Norris, Donald & Becky Hutchcraft, Donald Lueke, Gayle Hefner, Tyler & Becky Sidwell
Oct 10 - Almo Farm Austalt, Bennie & Kathy Holmes, Brent & Sheila Johnson, James Marshall Parker, Yvonne Webb
Oct 11 - Aaron & Jamie Weaver, Aaron Wilkerson, Bill & Karen Horton, Brady Neal, John & Theresa Degenhart
Oct 12 - Allan & Margaret Vines, Charles & Kay Kaufman, Jeremy & Rebecca Farny, Vernon & Nellie Scrivner
Oct 13 - Brian & Connie Magsig, Dean & Amy Kelly, Ellen Bayler, Margaret Bowers, Mary Rawls
Oct 14 - Alan & Susan Hamson, Herschel & Phyllis Baldwin, Jimmie & Connie Bonner, Mallory Anderson, Ross & Judith Horton
Oct 15 - Aaron Trotter, Andy Rubenacker, James L & Carolyn Thomas, Paul & Lisa Rapp, Terra Towell
Oct 16 - Chester Yoder, Deon & Kim Lindsay, Katherine Whipple, Samuel & Linda Halligan, Thomas & Vera Smith, Verna Blackburn
Oct 17 - Levi & Sarah Draper, Monna Soloman, Quentin Vickers, Ron Hamson, May Lou Garner
Oct 18 - David & Sharon Knight, Greg & Samantha Anselment, Harold & Sharon Noles, Jay & Emily Lentz, Kevin Richards
Oct 19 - David & Kathy Clark, Ernest & Norma Mings, Harl & Mona Weaver, Larry & Rosanna Nice, Larry & Tina Hybbert
Oct 20 - Cathy Bennett, Dan & Karen Thierry, Fred Gholson, Kelly Stich, Timothy Britton
Oct 21 - Christine Fenton, Fenton Cross, Geraldine Moore, Lon & Barbara Burke, Robert Joe & Sharon Wilson
Oct 22 - Jeff Thomas, John & Rebecca Kinder, Karla Elliston, Randy & Melanie Burton, Rodney L Trotter
Oct 23 - Calvin & Dorris Hayes, Edna Pfaff, Frank & Catherine Ferrari, Marty & Alicia Webb, William & Sandra Rost
Oct 24 - Dorothy Crabb, Janet Johnson, Michael C & Karen Karcher, Russell & Joyce Pedersen, Stephen Mast
Oct 25 - Blair & Amanda Currie, Dalton & Margaret Knight, Dan Davis, Joe & Carollyn Kay Kimmel Jr., Wuebbels Repair
Oct 26 - Anthony & Lawanda Huggins, Cynthia Organ, Darin & Alberta Brown, James & Betty Woods, Rita Tracy
Oct 27 - Dylan Bowling, Gary & Debra Stratton, Howard & Kathryn Irvin, James Frey, Travis Johnson
Oct 28 - Bruce & Mary Adkisson, Jerry & Mary Marie Barr, John Fyie, Kevin & Mary Jo Vaughn
Oct 29 - Betty Thomas, Donald & Ladonna Randolph, John & Betty Anselment Jr., Nathan Karcher, Richard & Matilda Miller
Oct 30 - Brenda Smith, Donald & Rebecca Williamson, Gary Erwin, JC & Carolyn Pool, Rhonda Riley
Oct 31 - Harry & Mona Buchanan, Jonathan & Kayla Hamson, Mike T & Karen Karcher, Norman Miller, Susan Johnson

Congrats!

Win \$15 Off Your Bill

Complete the following questionnaire and mail or email the completed form by November 10, 2020. Your name will be placed in a drawing for \$15 off your telephone bill with HCTC. There will be three winners in November.

1. What dates will our office be closed this month? _____
2. What date does Daylight Savings Time End? _____
3. How many people received Co-op Appreciation credits this month? _____
4. What number can you call to pay your bill over the phone? _____

Name: _____

Telephone #: _____

Check out our website at www.hamiltoncom.net

for more information about the Co-op.