

~~(3) rates for the intrastate inter LATA telephone communications needed for effective integration of telecommunication and computer resources are prohibitive for many smaller governments, agencies, and [institutions] OTHER PERSONS;~~

~~(4) there is a need to improve access, especially in rural areas, to efficient telecommunication and computer network connections;~~

~~(5) IMPROVED ACCESS TO HIGH SPEED TELECOMMUNICATION AND COMPUTER NETWORKING CONNECTIONS IN DESIGNATED GROWTH AREAS, PARTICULARLY IN UNSERVED AND UNDERSERVED PARTS OF THE STATE, WILL FOSTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN APPROPRIATE AREAS, FURTHERING THE GOAL OF EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE STATE BY:~~

~~(i) PROMOTING LOW IMPACT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THAT WILL REQUIRE LITTLE ADDITIONAL TRADITIONAL CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONSUMPTION OF LAND; AND~~

~~(ii) ASSISTING COMMUNITY LEGACY AND REVITALIZATION EFFORTS IN CURRENT POPULATION CENTERS OF UNSERVED AND UNDERSERVED AREAS THROUGH PROMOTING REINVESTMENT IN THESE COMMUNITIES, FACILITATING THE REUSE OF EXISTING BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES IN THESE COMMUNITIES, AND DRAWING EMPLOYEES FROM THE COMMUNITIES AND THEIR ENVIRONS;~~

~~(6) improvement of telecommunication and computer networking [for State and local governments and educational institutions] UNDER THIS SECTION promotes economic development, educational resource use and development, and efficiency in State and local administration; and~~

~~[(6)] (7) the use of improved State telecommunication and computer networking under this section is intended not to compete with commercial access to advanced network technology, but rather to COMPLEMENT IT WHERE IT EXISTS, TO PROVIDE ACCESS WHERE COMMERCIAL ACCESS IS LACKING, AND TO foster fundamental efficiencies in government and education for the public good.~~

~~(b) (1) The Department shall establish a telecommunication and computer network in the State.~~

~~(2) The network shall consist of:~~

~~(i) one or more connection facilities for telecommunication and computer connection in each LATA in the State, SITED TO PROVIDE SUITABLE ACCESS FOR RURAL AS WELL AS URBAN AND SUBURBAN AREAS;~~

~~(ii) a backbone comprising one or more inter LATA fiber optic links between each telecommunication facility, using a failure resistant architecture, and adhering to [the DS3 standard or better] CURRENT COMMERCIAL BROADBAND STANDARDS, to allow SUFFICIENT communication rates [of at least 45 megabits per second,] and multiplexing for transmission of video, voice, and data;~~