

Jan Walsh inquired whether K-20 would be applying for broadband stimulus funding and received a reply from Ron Johnson.

[July 23, 2009]

Hi Jan,

We are planning to do proposals with both libraries and health care (and some other anchor tenants) and doing that in partnership with a couple other players -- but do note that it is not a proposal we are doing *within* "k20" or as a "k20" proposal. We are also likely to do a proposal that also extends k20 itself a bit, but that is separate.

For libraries, health care and other non-'.edu' things we are pursuing independent add-on's to the underlying infrastructure that k20 itself uses but which are independent of "k20". This keeps the new things out of the k20 governance twilight zone and the related confusions and political (and technical) problems that have limited growth in capacity and extension of reach. We are using the same approach to hospitals/clinics. The hope is we get all the benefits of k20 with fewer of the problems. Plus we are hoping to get much more capacity (e.g., 100mbs or even 1gbs) for libraries and hospitals for no more money than it presently costs within k20.

That said, these new efforts are designed to fully, seamlessly and transparently interoperate with the existing k20 system as if they were all one big happy family network.

We were planning on bringing you up to speed on this early next week after we finalized the teaming agreements among the infrastructure providers who are necessary to making progress here.

best,
ron