

U.S. UCAN Affiliate Pilot Program Call for Participation

The **United States Unified Community Anchor Network (U.S. UCAN)** is launching an affiliate program to facilitate advanced and innovative applications for community anchor institutions delivered over broadband networks. This is a call for participation in the pilot program.

The recent U.S. UCAN task force report (<http://www.usucan.org/about/task-force.cfm>) recommends an affiliate program in which each state that participates would have a designated affiliate organization for U.S. UCAN. U.S. UCAN will select approximately five pilot affiliates to work with and to expand the program over the course of 6-12 months. Interested affiliates should notify Interim Executive Director Mark Johnson (mj@internet2.edu) of an intent to respond by December 30, 2011. Final responses should be submitted to Mark Johnson by January 13, 2012. Selections will be made by January 31, 2012.

The pilot affiliates are expected to be the primary contact point for local Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs). The U.S. UCAN National Program Office and the Pilot Affiliates will work together to define and provide appropriate support, guidance, direction, and services that can be offered to CAIs. Current **Internet2** program fees will cover affiliate program participation during the pilot period.

Interested entities that wish to work intensively with the U.S. UCAN National Program Office to define the innovative applications, programs, services, associated agreements and responsibilities at the state level should respond with a short paper (maximum of 5 pages) describing how they envision contributing to the development of the affiliate program.

Please consider the following questions as you prepare your response:

- Please provide a short statement explaining why mission and goals of your organization are a good match to the planned activities of the U.S. UCAN national program as described above.
- Are you currently partnering with other organizations within your state?
 - Describe innovations (applications or processes) they may be using or considering.
 - Describe the organizations, the reason for the partnership, and how the partnership works.
- Briefly describe your existing relationship with each of the following CAI sectors and identify where advanced applications or processes supported by your organization and U.S. UCAN will be meaningful.
 - Public Safety
 - Libraries
 - K-12 School
 - Museums
 - Government
 - Health Services
 - Public Media and Performing Arts
 - Community Colleges
 - Universities

- Are you willing to contribute to a repository of information on advanced applications, resources, processes, and reporting being developed by U.S. UCAN?
- Describe the mechanisms you are using or will use to identify eligible CAIs, assist them in eliminating the network as a barrier, driving advanced applications and to integrate them into a community-driven, participatory networking model.
- Describe the value that U.S. UCAN can bring to your state.
- Describe how you anticipate interacting with U.S. UCAN.
- Are there metrics that you are currently using to track CAI participation? Are there additional metrics you will track to demonstrate value added by U.S. UCAN?
- Describe how your organization is able to serve as the primary organization in the state for this program.
 - Letters of support from related organizations may be included as demonstration of this.

A U.S. UCAN staff member will contact each applicant organization for follow up discussions.

Background:

U.S. UCAN is a new national project, whose mission is to identify, nurture, and implement national advanced network and application programs to enable Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs), including public libraries, schools, community colleges, research parks, public safety, health care institutions and other community institutions to benefit from being on the leading edge of advanced broadband Internet services. It is a community-driven program to focus on expanding access to advanced broadband services for anchor institutions.

Internet2, the founding organization for U.S.UCAN, has provided program support for activities of CAIs that are not Internet2 members through SEGP and the K20 initiative, humanities and cultural initiatives, and the Health Care Initiative within Internet2. These activities are being transitioned to U.S. UCAN for continued support and enhancement.

U.S. UCAN is building on the goals of the National Broadband Plan and the Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program (BTOP). The FCC recommends in the National Broadband Plan that a non-profit institution with the mission and capability to focus on serving the broadband needs of public institutions be created. BTOP distributed \$4.2B dollars to stimulate broadband delivery, much of this targeted towards middle-mile and serving community anchor institutions. Over the past 25 years, the nation's research and education networks have accumulated considerable experience in creating advanced Internet capability for university campuses and related research, education and other public institutions. U.S. UCAN aims to collaborate with the existing research and education networks, emerging networks created through BTOP, and other programs to extend the model pioneered by the research end education networks to other community institutions.