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**News Release**

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**FAIRPOINT COMMUNICATIONS APPLIES FOR FEDERAL BROADBAND  
EXPANSION GRANTS**

**Grant proposal would allow some Missourians to get online for the  
first time**

**CHARLOTTE, N.C. (August 20, 2009)** -- The ability to get online for the first time may be getting closer for some residents of Missouri today as FairPoint Communications submitted an application for more than \$900,000 under round one of three of the \$7.4 billion Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP) and Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP). If the funds are awarded, it means more broadband to more people in more communities. For some areas, it means faster connection speeds for existing and new customers in Missouri.

"The people and businesses in the unserved and underserved areas of Missouri have been waiting long enough for an affordable, high-speed Internet connection. These grants would allow us to serve areas left behind for too long," says Jim Cook, chief operating officer of FairPoint Communications -- Telecom Group. "With these funds, we would be able to extend high-speed Internet to more than 500 additional households."

The Missouri application for broadband infrastructure is for more than \$900,000. The proposed broadband projects would serve portions of Cass and Bates counties, principally benefitting the towns of Drexel, Garden City and Gunn City.

FairPoint Communications is also applying for grants to expand broadband into communities in Florida, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. Following a rigorous review and a highly competitive process, the grant awards are scheduled to be announced during the fourth quarter of 2009. Broadband delivery to rural America has been a core business strategy for FairPoint Communications for more than 15 years.

**About FairPoint**

FairPoint Communications, Inc. is an industry leading provider of communications services to communities across the country. Today, FairPoint owns and operates local exchange companies in 18 states offering advanced communications with a personal touch, including local and long distance voice, data, Internet, television and broadband services. FairPoint is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbols FRP and FRP.BC. Learn more at [www.fairpoint.com](http://www.fairpoint.com).

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