

Ellis County a Leader in Broadband Technology

Access to reliable, affordable broadband Internet is vital for businesses. Fiber is the top-rated broadband technology, but is currently only available to one-fifth of homes and businesses in the nation. Ellis County is fortunate to be one of the few counties in the nation offering fiber services. Every city in Ellis County, and the majority of rural areas, has access to fiber, ranking Ellis County's broadband infrastructure among the top in the nation. In 2013, Hays, KS was awarded the honor of "Smart Rural Community." Smart Rural Community recognizes towns with strong broadband networks and their initiatives to promote the broadband networks to foster innovative economic development and commerce, blue-ribbon education, first-rate health care, cutting-edge government services, robust security and more efficient energy distribution and use. In 2014, Hays, KS was named a gig-community: internet providers in Hays can deliver 1 gigabit internet speeds to residential customers and 10+ gigabit internet speeds to commercial customers.

Fiber delivers the fastest Internet upload and download speeds, with speeds available up to one gig. A fiber Internet connection increases workplace productivity and allows businesses to be globally competitive with the fastest Internet downloads, instant email delivery and real-time video conferencing. Fiber also provides opportunities for cloud-based business applications, remote data backup, work location flexibility, and e-commerce around the nation or world

Reliability is an additional benefit of fiber. Fiber has a longer life span than copper because it does not corrode, is not affected by water or lightning and does not generate heat. Additionally, toll fiber in many areas of Ellis County is protected with ring technology between nodes helping to ensure an Internet connection even if a line is cut.

Fiber is also a very affordable technology, delivering higher bandwidth and faster connection speeds at the lowest average cost per Mbps.¹ Four communications providers are available in Ellis County offering telephone, Internet and video services: AT&T, Eagle Communications, Golden Belt Telephone and Nex-Tech. Fiber is often labeled "future safe"² due to its ability to keep up with new trends in technology. With its tremendous broadband speeds, reliability and affordability, fiber is the ideal solution to meet the communication needs of every business, large or small.

Facts about Fiber:

- Fiber is the only technology guaranteed to meet increasing broadband demand in the next decade and beyond.¹
- Fiber is the only type of communication line immune to communication interference and wiretapping.³
- Fiber Internet users report the highest satisfaction rate among all Internet platforms.¹

¹Michael Render, "2011 Broadband Consumer Research," June 2011, <http://www.ftthcouncil.org/p/do/sd/topic=60&sid=444>

²Tim Crosby, "How Fiber-to-the-home Broadband Works," <http://www.howstuffworks.com/fiber-to-the-home1.htm>, accessed on December 12, 2012.

³Michael Hintz, "Comparing DSL, Cable & Fiber Optic Internet," April 16, 2012, http://www.ehow.com/facts_6304971_comparing-cable-fiber-optic-internet.html

