

Cutler-Orosi shares \$2.5 million online-enhancement program with 3 other California communities

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The twin north Tulare communities of Cutler and Orosi will be one of four California communities to receive part of a \$2.5 million online-enhancement program sponsored by AT&T, organizers announced Friday.

Cutler, beneficiary of a new apartment complex built by Visalia-based Self-Help Enterprises, and Orosi, which through the Cutler-Orosi Joint Unified School District has constructed major new additions to Cutler Elementary and Orosi High, will be providing 15 youth “digital installers” to establish a Wi-Fi wireless cell for at least 1,000 online computer users, said Esmerelda Santos, housing specialist for Self-Help and lead writer of the application that was submitted in May.

The Cutler-Orosi application was among “hundreds” submitted for the highly competitive grant, said Alan Greenlee, vice president of Washington D.C.-based One Economy, which helped set up the program through arrangements with AT&T.

The other three California communities chosen were the Vernon-Central area of Los Angeles, East Oakland and the Mission District of San Francisco.

Actual online-enhancement installations will begin in early 2009, Santos said.