

Telecommunications in Rural Economic Development: Issues for Latinos and Other Communities

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ABSTRACT

A debate is taking place in the country about the universal service provision of modern telecommunications services. The debate revolves around two questions. First, if many communities, and significant segments of the population, are not able to participate fully in the modern Information Age will it result in their impoverishment? Second, if there is too great a policy and regulatory intrusion in the market place will that cause significant misallocation of resources causing the entire society to be impoverished? It is a debate with a mixture of facts and some conjecture. The purpose here is to bring forth the basic telecommunication facts, as we currently know them, relative to rural and Latino communities.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Stenberg is an economist at the Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Prior to joining ERS, he was a faculty member at the University of Minnesota and Hamline University. He conducted research with respect to North American, African, and Eastern European economies covering topics in economic development policy and human and physical infrastructure. He has written articles on telecommunications, economic impact of universities, science and technology policy, defense restructuring, high tech industry, and other economic development subjects. He received his Ph.D. in applied economics from the University of Minnesota.