**What is US Ignite?**

On January 19, 2011, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy hosted a roundtable discussion focused on how best to advance applications and services for next- generation networks across America. From that discussion, the National Science Foundation, partner organizations, selected cities and private sector sponsors formed the U.S. Ignite effort.

US Ignite is fostering the development of next-generation applications that provide transformative public benefit using new technologies like software defined networks, cloud computing and gigabit to end-users. By engaging with diverse public and private leaders, the intent is to “ignite” the development and deployment of new apps with a profound impact on the way  Americans work, live, learn and play.

Application development that takes advantage of gigabit capability is the primary focus of U.S. Ignite. New application development centers on six specific areas of national priority that will transform the way Americans receive everything from healthcare, energy, education, transportation, public safety and advanced manufacturing.

US Ignite is not building a broadband network or creating new infrastructure; rather, it is leveraging existing infrastructure and giving it new capabilities. Burlington is fortunate to have a telecom network, Burlington Telecom (BT), that exceeds the capacity required to participate in this project.

US Ignite is partnering with commercial providers, communities, and research and education networks (RENs) that can offer 100MB+ broadband networks and encouraging them to create next-generation technology test beds within their service areas.

This is an excellent opportunity for the City of Burlington to showcase the outstanding capacity of BT’s fiber network, provide a high-visibility market place for our local application developers, and bring attention to and brand our City as a national leader in gigabit service. U.S. Ignite could be transformative in our efforts to grow our tech-centric, creative economy.

For additional information on U.S. Ignite visit: us-ignite.org.