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**US IGNITE TO LAUNCH NATIONWIDE NETWORK OF ULTRA-HIGH SPEED BROADBAND
“LIVING LABS”**

\$6 Million in funding from National Science Foundation Project to jumpstart a critical mass of smart city gigabit applications in 15 communities

September 14, 2015 (Washington, DC) -- Today, US Ignite is excited to announce that it has been awarded a \$6 million dollar grant from the National Science Foundation to build a living lab of testbeds for smart gigabit applications in 15 communities throughout the country. This announcement was made as part of a White House event, at which the Obama Administration made several commitments to support “Smart Cities.” The end result of the grant will be a growing number of communities nationwide participating in a “smart city app store” for interoperable and interconnected smart gigabit community applications addressing national priorities.

The three year, public-private project will knit together researchers, citizens, community organizations, technology companies, entrepreneurs, academics and federal, state and local governments to begin to build the next generation of the Internet in the United States. Participating communities include: Burlington, VT; Chattanooga, TN; Cleveland, OH; Flint, MI; Kansas City, KS & MO; Madison, WI; the North Carolina Next Generation Network (NCNGN); Richardson, TX; Utah Wasatch Front cities including Salt Lake City and Provo, UT; Lafayette, LA; Urbana-Champaign, IL; and Austin, TX.

William Wallace, Executive Director of US Ignite noted, “By accelerating the development of next-generation applications, we are working to ignite innovation and new approaches to solving some of society’s most vexing problems and, in the process, enriching our communities and our economy. Building a critical mass of communities with next-generation Internet capabilities will have ripple effects: if networks are fast, reliable and widely available, companies produce more capable applications to run on those networks, which in turn brings new users online and increases use among those who already subscribe to broadband services.” US Ignite Principal Investigator Glenn Ricart adds that “many smart city applications are enabled by the kinds of advanced technology and civic partnerships that this grant will build in US Ignite Smart Gigabit Communities.”

The award announced today will continue and expand the activities of US Ignite which has organized local communities and assisted in building over 100 next-generation applications over

the past 3 years. Each of these US Ignite communities will receive access to a low-latency and ultra-fast network with locavore (local cloud) computing and storage capabilities that will support highly interactive and visually immersive experiences not possible on today's commercial Internet. Communities will also receive technical assistance from US Ignite staff and partners in designing and developing applications to take advantage of the new network connections including access to fund accelerators and technical staff.

As part of their participation, cities will fund and build two next-generation applications that will be shared among the larger, nationwide ecosystem of gigabit cities. The awards were granted to communities with strong support from local government, colleges and universities, non-profits, internet service providers and community anchor institutions.

For more information about US Ignite, visit: www.us-ignite.org

About US Ignite

US Ignite, a public-private non-profit organization, fosters the creation of next-generation Internet applications that provide transformative public benefit. By engaging diverse public and private leaders we "ignite" the development and deployment of new apps with profound impact on how Americans work, live, learn and play. To learn more visit www.us-ignite.org.