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Feds award \$82M in rural Internet grants

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) – The federal government has approved nearly \$82 million to expand high-speed Internet access in rural Missouri.

The Missouri money is part of \$1.2 billion of Internet grants announced Wednesday by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Missouri's Internet projects include \$24 million each for Socket Telecom in central Missouri and Big River Broadband in southeast Missouri. About \$21 million will go to Grand River Mutual Telephone Corp. for projects in northern Missouri.

Windstream Corp. will get more than \$10 million to expand Internet service.

Grants of less than \$1 million each will go to three smaller Internet service providers.

County:
Audrain