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For Immediate Release

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Broadband Survey to Help Direct County's Future

Lancaster, Ohio – Fairfield County and the 33 Development Alliance are asking residents, businesses and students to help map its future by completing a Community Technology Assessment. The survey is available at <http://connectmycommunity.org/fairfield-county/> and will provide information critical to schools and businesses in identifying technology needs of its students and workforce. Survey results will be compiled to aide in attracting businesses to the county and securing technology grants.

“Our future economy and our future development rely on our ability to utilize technology throughout our county,” said Rick Szabrak, Director of Economic Development for Fairfield County. “An important part of that is our children’s ability to play a role in an increasingly technological world. We want as many students to have access to high speed internet so they have equal opportunity to succeed.”

Fairfield County was one of five communities in Ohio selected to receive the study from Connect Ohio, a nonprofit organization. The study will uncover:

1. High speed internet availability and gaps in coverage
2. Broadband affordability and an education campaign on where the community can access the internet for free
3. The availability and use of high speed internet connections to the private sector and a plan to get fiber cable to a site that could be the home of a new business

The survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. Residents, agriculture producers, businesses, schools, and libraries are all encouraged to participate. The survey had more than 150 responses in its first four days and the goal is to reach 1,500 responses within 60 days. “This is an opportunity for people throughout the county to have a voice about their technology needs,” Szabrak said. “We’re off to a great start. People in Fairfield County understand the value of investing 10 minutes of their time to help us plan the next 10 years.” Some simple ways you can help include:

- Post the link to your social media accounts
- Share the survey with your e-mail chains and colleagues
- Text the link to friends who may not have internet access at home
- Talk to your children about which of their friends might not have the internet at home and let them come over to take the survey

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