

Statewide Universal Broadband Access Fact Sheet



Strategic Goal:

To provide universal broadband access to every New Yorker, encourage the use of broadband related services, encourage e-government programs and telemedicine initiatives, and provide digital literacy programs to foster sustained use of the internet to enhance quality of life.

Background:

Increased access to affordable high-speed Internet service impacts economic competitiveness, homeland security, health care access, educational, social opportunity and equity.

Broadband Action Teams have been formed to address specific strategic areas, comprised of public and private sector members. The Teams are: Digital Literacy and Community Outreach, E-Government Applications for Low-Income Households, Economic Development and IT Workforce Development, and the joint Broadband Network Infrastructure Access and Governmental Initiatives team.

2008 Major Accomplishments:

- Released the MyBenefits web portal to increase access to government services such as food stamps and HEAP. Also, the Digital Literacy and Community Outreach Action Team developed a digital literacy standard.
- Governor David A. Paterson announced Round 1 of the broadband grants.

2009 Major Actions:

- Collaborating with New York State Public Service Commission and New York State Foundation for Science, Technology and Innovation on the New York State Broadband Stimulus Project. This project is in connection with the broadband grant program in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The American Recovery & Reinvestment Act provides large-scale federal funding for broadband infrastructure and deployment. The infusion of funds represents the most significant one-time investment to date in broadband. There is \$7.2 billion for investing in broadband, which is allocated between two programs. 2009 major actions include:
 - Attend Senate Broadband Stimulus Town Hall meetings throughout New York State to educate potential grant recipients on broadband provisions in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.
 - Hosted two Recovery Broadband Stimulus Information Sessions for the technology sector. Communities, libraries, schools, not-for-profits, and businesses were in attendance to learn how the federal economic stimulus funds may be used to achieve Governor David A. Paterson's broadband goal.
 - Organizing statewide broadband related projects. Projects may be submitted through Governor David A. Paterson's Economic Recovery website <http://www.recovery.ny.gov/index.htm>
 - New York State submitted comment to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) request for information. Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, NTIA sought comments from states on how to administer the broadband grants, including definitions and suggestions for selection criteria. The Council for Universal Broadband will continue to make recommendations in alignment with the goals and principals outlined in the New York State Universal Broadband Strategy and stimulus bill requirements.
- Implement New York State Broadband Mapping Initiative to prepare a statewide map of existing wired broadband availability.

- Issue broadband grants in accordance with annual appropriations while encouraging public/private partnerships at local community levels to close digital divide gaps and increase digital literacy.
 - Continue efforts to map the state to determine broadband gaps.
 - Monitor and track household broadband penetration, geographic coverage, and digital literacy.
 - Continue to increase the number of eGovernment state services available on the Internet (Food Stamps, HEAP, etc.).
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Critical Success Factors:

- Availability of ongoing funding
 - Forge effective public/private partnerships at the local and regional levels with matching funds to leverage state dollars
 - Achieve cooperation among broadband providers for broadband asset information to complete state mapping initiative
 - Propose legislation to drive policies which accelerate and incent provider participation and keep young professionals in Upstate New York
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Implementation Timetable:

- On-going until gaps are closed
 - Grants: \$5 million in grants have been awarded, \$7.5 million in grants will be awarded in 2009
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