



NYS Broadband Flash Bulletin

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DANC Seeks Partnerships to Expand Broadband Network

The Development Authority of the North Country (DANC) announced it is preparing to expand its network by partnering with local governments interested in connecting to the fiber-optic line. The Plan allows the authority to form partnerships with surrounding counties to seek funding for their broadband projects. In particular, the goal will be to extend the network to provide rural communities south of the network with high-speed Internet access.

To do so, counties will have to join with DANC to submit a consolidated funding application to the North Country Regional Economic Development Council detailing their project plans.

James Wright, DANC's CEO, said "the authority is involved in discussions with four counties that might connect to the network: Herkimer and Hamilton to the east and Warren and Washington to the southeast."

According to Wright, "Projects will be required to meet the following criteria: "One, we're invited to participate; two, there's a benefit to the north country, and three, there's no expenses."

Mr. Wright further said, "broadening the network to under-served areas should bolster the north country's economy by establishing more Internet providers to sell their services to residents. When that happens, it creates a ripple effect for the economy."

DANC was awarded \$250,000 during the first round of Regional Economic Development funding (REDC) announced by Governor Cuomo in December 2011 and was one of the first NYS projects to be awarded federal broadband funding as part of the ARRA of 2009. Applications for Round 2 of the REDC funding are due July 16.



A map shows DANC's existing and proposed fiber optic lines

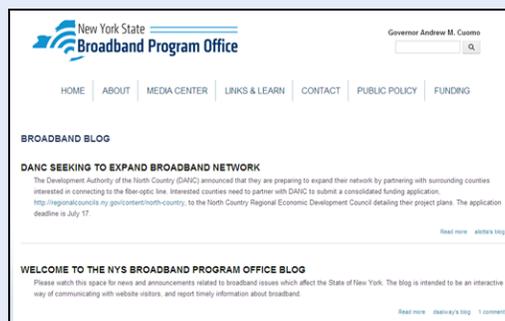
"The State's commitment to providing access to rural areas like the north country was the driving force that made the project a reality and the project would have never happened without state and federal subsidies," said Mr. Wright.

To read the full article visit <http://watertowndailytimes.com/article/20120703/NEWS03/707039819/0/news05>.

NYS Broadband Office Introduces New Broadband Blog

The New York State Broadband Program Office now has its own blog! Introduced on our recently enhanced website, the goal of the blog is to provide visitors with timely information, news and announcements related to broadband issues which affect the State of New York. The blog is intended to be an interactive way of communicating with website visitors, so feel free to engage us by leaving comments and we will chime in.

We hope you enjoy the new broadband blog <http://www.nysbroadband.ny.gov/node/34>. Be sure to bookmark it!



Stakeholders Comment on Connect America Fund

As broadband has become a necessity for full participation in our economy and society, the FCC has adopted comprehensive reforms of its Universal Service Fund (USF) and Intercarrier Compensation (ICC) systems to accelerate broadband build-out to the 18 million Americans living in rural areas who currently have no access to robust broadband infrastructure. This reform will expand the benefits of high-speed Internet to millions of consumers in every part of the country by transforming the existing USF into a new Connect America Fund (CAF) focused on broadband.



Earlier this year, the FCC presented stakeholders with the opportunity to respond to the question of **how should the money be collected from the telecom industry to fund a sustainable CAF program?**

Among those commenting were the American Cable Association, Comptel, the Independent Telephone & Telecommunications Alliance, and USTelecom. In addition, several rural telecom carrier groups – including the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association, the Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies and the Western Telecommunications Alliance – filed comments jointly.

Contributions to today's Universal Service Fund are assessed as a percentage of service providers' voice revenues. Suggestions to how the money should be collected under the CAF included:

- Basing contributions on broadband revenues
- Developing a "hybrid" approach that would assess a flat monthly fee for each working residential and business number and a tiered flat monthly charge for each connection to all other assessable services
- Including enterprise broadband revenues in the revenue base used for calculating contributions
- A broader re-thinking of how one portion of the Universal Service program is funded including enacting legislation that would use general revenues to fund USF programs that target low-income household.

At the time the FCC requested comment on the Connect America Fund contribution side, FCC Commissioner, Robert McDowell, said "the commission hoped to resolve the issue by this fall."

To read the complete article visit <http://www.telecompetitor.com/stakeholders-seeks-diverse-options-funding-broadband/>.

To learn more about the Connect America Fund visit <http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/connecting-america>.

Frontier Communications to Extend Broadband to Rural America

Frontier Communications' acceptance of \$71.9 million from the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Connect America Fund (CAF) will enable the company to deploy and enhance broadband services in underserved or unserved areas of rural America.

The FCC established the CAF to accelerate broadband build-out to the 18 million Americans living in rural areas who currently have no access to robust broadband infrastructure. By accepting this funding, Frontier has pledged to provide broadband service to more than 92,000 households covering more than half of the 27 states it serves, ensuring rural customers in states such as Michigan, Oregon, Washington and West Virginia have access to broadband connectivity.

"The FCC's Connect America Fund offers Frontier additional resources to drive broadband penetration to rural markets that are hungry for access," said Kathleen Quinn Abernathy, Executive Vice President of External Affairs for Frontier Communications.

"The announcement by Frontier Communications represents the beginning of new deployment: approximately 200,000 unserved rural Americans will get broadband for the first time. In today's economy, access to broadband means access to jobs and economic opportunity, in addition to better education and healthcare. I applaud Frontier Communications for stepping up to the plate with its commitment to accelerate broadband build-out by increasing private investment in rural communities, in partnership with the Connect America Fund," said FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski.

To view the press release visit <http://www.marketwatch.com/story/frontier-communications-to-extend-broadband-deployment-to-rural-america-with-fccs-connect-america-fund-2012-07-09>.