



NYS Broadband Flash Bulletin

Volume 4, Issue 9

www.nysbroadband.ny.gov

Governor Cuomo Announces Applications Open for Connect NY Broadband Grants

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced that the state has started accepting applications for the \$25 million "Connect NY" program to promote and expand broadband Internet access. The program, along with the more than \$2 million awarded through the Regional Council initiative, represents the single largest direct investment of state funding into expanding broadband access in the United States.

Grants are made available through the Regional Economic Development Councils and Empire State Development and will help expand high speed Internet access in unserved and underserved rural upstate and urban areas of New York.

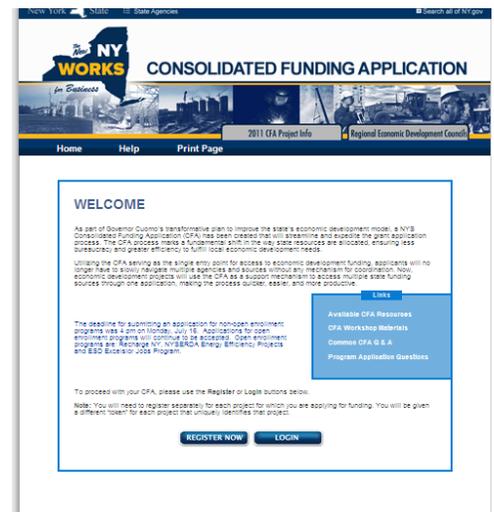
"This investment in high-speed Internet access will ensure that the information superhighway will be open to all New York businesses," Governor Cuomo said. "By expanding the availability of high-quality broadband services, Connect NY makes our state a national leader in the digital economy and gives our businesses the tools they need to compete and prosper in the global economy."

With over 700,000 New Yorkers unable to access broadband, and another six million citizens facing significant obstacles to Internet connectivity, expanding high-speed Internet was identified last year by the Regional Councils as a key priority to stimulate local business growth. Broadband Internet grants, such as Connect NY, both spur investment by service providers in communities and help boost economic development in each region by expanding the ability of local businesses to reach consumers globally.

The grants will be awarded in the regions to Internet service companies and in partnership with local governments and economic development organizations. The "Connect NY" Broadband Applications will be accepted through October 5, 2012 and can be accessed by visiting <http://www.nysbroadband.ny.gov/ConnectNY2012>.

Once submitted, the applications will be reviewed and scored by the Regional Councils and Empire State Development based on the following metrics:

- **Priority Areas and Demonstrated Need:** Providing new service to areas with little or no Internet service. Additional weight will be given for plans that provide more Internet access to the local public through libraries, parks, and other community areas, help local health centers provide new online access to health records and services, and expand Internet service in economically distressed areas.
- **Impact and Adoption:** Creating a plan for educating local businesses and residents on how to use broadband to increase economic development and enhance quality of life.
- **Leveraging Existing Infrastructure and Funding Sources:** Building off existing Internet networks to more efficiently increase high speed Internet service in communities that have broadband in only some areas but not throughout the area.
- **Regional Economic Development Council Endorsement:** The integration of broadband into regional economic development strategies is a critical success factor for the sustainability and enhancement of New York's Digital



(Continued on page 2)

Economy. Up to 20% of the evaluation criteria will be based on the degree to which the project meets and advances the goals and objectives stated in the Regional Council Strategic Plan.

- **Collaboration and Community Support:** A critical success factor for broadband deployment projects is strong community support for the project and a community vested in the successful outcome of the project. Additional weight will be given for projects that demonstrate a commitment from local governments or broadband service providers, including public/private partnerships.

"Broadband is a powerful tool for economic development that will make our businesses stronger and New York more competitive in the national and international markets," said Empire State Development President, CEO & Commissioner Kenneth Adams. "Expanding broadband will result in more economic opportunity for business and more jobs for New Yorkers."

New York State has been working to further expand broadband access, adoption and use throughout New York's borders by identify unserved and underserved areas of New York State.

In 2010, New York introduced a comprehensive broadband mapping initiative to identify areas of the State where broadband is not available. Many of New York's gaps in broadband service exist because of the high costs of building networks in areas where population is sparse. With the data gathered, New York is analyzing broadband availability gaps to address challenges and ensure all communities are connected.

In May 2011, New York Published the State's first and only examination of New Yorker's use of high-speed Internet services. New York's first state broadband adoption study indicates that the State broadband adoption rate is approximately 70%, slightly above the national average of 65%, but substantial disparities exist for economically and socially disadvantaged New Yorkers. Approximately 6.4 million New Yorkers are unable to subscribe to broadband because they cannot afford it or do not see the value in using broadband to access the Internet.

This investment in New York will fund projects to expand last-mile services to unserved and underserved areas using existing networks and deploying new infrastructure. In addition, it will encourage programs to increase broadband adoption rates.

To read Governor Cuomo's press release visit <http://www.governor.ny.gov/press/082272012broadbandgrants>.

Why Farmers Need Broadband

As more and more of New York's farmers compete in a global digital economy, broadband will help empower their businesses with applications that include everything from marketing to Crop Analysis. Yet farming most often occurs in New York's most remote and least populated regions where access to high-speed Internet is frequently not available.

Like New York, much of the entire agriculture industry faces the same challenges. Recently, Government Technology magazine met with members of the Federal, State, Local, and Private Sector Interest Consortium in Fresno, California to discuss what broadband brings to the table.

To view the video visit <http://www.govtech.com/e-government/Why-Farms-Need-Wireless-Broadband-VIDEO.html>.



Mailing Address:

Empire State Development
625 Broadway, 8th Floor
Albany, NY 12245

Contact:

David Salway, Program Director
Phone: (866) 322-5787
Email: NysBroadband@esd.ny.gov

Angela Liotta, Broadband Outreach Director
Phone: 518-292-5109
Email: aliotta@esd.ny.gov