

NYS Broadband Flash Bulletin

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FCC Release New Data on Internet Access Services & Local Telephone Competition

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released its latest reports on Internet access service connections and telephone subscribership in the U.S.

Titled *Internet Access Services* and *Local Telephone Competition*, the two reports are based on data submitted by carriers every six months on FCC Form 477. The reports track changes at the state and national level in the number of subscribers to Internet access service in 72 different combinations of speed tiers, and the number of wireline, mobile, and interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) telephone subscribers.

Both reports include data collected by the FCC through June 30, 2010.

Highlights from the *Internet Access Services* report include the following:

- 60% of connections were slower than the



benchmark 4 megabits per second (Mbps) download speed identified by the FCC as the minimum bandwidth generally required to accommodate today's uses: high-quality voice, data, graphics, and video.

- Growth of fixed broadband service ap-

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Ultra high-speed broadband is coming to Kansas City, Kansas

Google has selected Kansas City, Kansas to be the first site where they will build their "ultra high-speed network." The search engine company said it signed an agreement with the city and expects to start offering service in 2012.

Google said that over 1,100 cities across the country vied for the



"Fiber for Communities" program. "We were thrilled by the enthusiasm we saw across the country for better and faster web connections," Google said on their blog. "In

selecting a city, our goal was to find a location where we could build efficiently, make an impact on the community and develop relationships with local government and

community organizations."

Google vice-president for access services Milo Medin said, "We want to be able to build strong relationships and partnerships with local government and communities so that we can work together to use technology in a new way to make a city a better place to live in, a better place to work in, a better place to learn in."

The network is expected to be capable of delivering (Continued on page 2)



Quick Quote:

"...When cities and local governments are prohibited from investing directly in their own broadband networks, citizens may be denied the opportunity to connect with their nation and improve their lives. Local economies will suffer as a result, and the communities' ability to effectively address education, health, public safety, and other social issues will be severely hampered."

—FCC Commissioner
Mignon L. Clyburn

RESOURCES:

U.S. Economic Recovery
www.recovery.gov

www.BroadbandUSA.gov

NYSBroadband.ny.gov

NYS Broadband Development and Deployment Council
www.cio.ny.gov/OFT/UniversalBroadband/overview.htm

Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
www.fcc.gov/Broadband.gov

National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA)
www.ntia.doc.gov

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
www.usda.gov

FCC Releases New Reports

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pears to have flattened at 1% in the first half of 2010, to 82 million connections.

Highlights from the *Local Telephone Competition* report including the following:

- Interconnected VoIP grew by 21% between June 2009 and June 2010.
- Conventional switched access lines (i.e., traditional wireline telephone lines) decreased by 8% between June 2009 and June 2010.
- 28% of all residential wireline connections were interconnected VoIP as of June 2010.
- An estimated 77% of interconnected VoIP subscribers received service through a cable provider.
- The number of subscriptions to wireless phone service grew by 5% in the year.

The FCC in February began considering reforms to its Form 477 program, including procedural improvements to reduce the lag between data collection and publication. The public can comment on these matters at <http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/ecfs/>, using WC Docket No. 11-10. Initial comments are due on or before March 30. Reply comments are due on or before April 14.

Both reports can be downloaded at www.fcc.gov/wcb/stats.



USDA to Hold Workshop On Broadband Loan and Grant Programs

The USDA Rural Development is holding a Broadband Workshop for those interested in applying for the Rural Broadband Access Loan Program and the Community Connect Grant Program. The informational workshop will take place April 20-21 at the Sheraton Downtown Hotel in Denver, Colorado. It is free and open to the public, but prior registration is required. Rural Development Broadband Division staff will offer a workshop for prospective applicants for both programs. The workshop will be recorded and available on the USDA website at a later date.

On March 14, Rural Development published its new Broadband loan program regulations and a Notice of Solicitation of Applications (NOSA - available at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/utp_farmbill.html). Rural Development



also recently announced a NOSA for the Community Connect Grant Program (available at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/utp_commconnect.html).

Information on how to register can be found at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/RUSTelecomPrograms.html>

For additional information, contact Jenifer Stevenson at Jenifer.stevenson@wdc.usda.gov or 202-205-9386. Information about the Broadband Loan Program can be found at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/utp_farmbill.html. Information about the Community Connect Grant Program can be found at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/utp_commconnect.html

Kansas City, KA First to Get Google's Ultra High-Speed Broadband

(Continued from page 1) which are considered vital Internet speeds of 1GBPS, in the global economy. which is more than 100 “We can’t wait to see other cities across the times faster than the cur- what new products and country. rently available broad- services will emerge as Kansas City moves from U.S. They expect that this traditional broadband to “gigabit broadband” can ultra high-speed fiber be leveraged for eco- optic connections,” the nomic development and Google blog said. Google educational gain, both of is also planning to look at

ways it can bring the ultra high-speed Internet to other cities across the country.