

NYS Broadband Flash Bulletin

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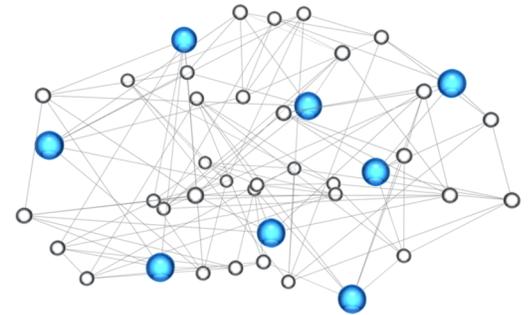
www.nysbroadband.ny.gov

Does Your Community Anchor Institution Have Sufficient Broadband Availability?

New York State is participating in a national program, administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), **to map the availability of broadband service within Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs)**. Community Anchor Institutions are schools, libraries, medical and healthcare facilities, public safety entities, colleges and other institutions of higher education, and other community support organizations and entities. These institutions are essential for delivering important services to communities throughout New York State. Many times, these institutions will have broadband access and may provide access to the public.

Through this mapping initiative, New York State is gathering data about broadband services at CAIs. If you represent a CAI, your participation is essential and your support will ensure your facility's broadband information is fully considered. The brief on-line survey should only take a few moments to complete and asks for the following information:

- Name of your Institution and Address—*You will need to complete a separate survey for each institution you are responsible for*
- Contact information: name, email and phone number
- Current broadband provider
- Current download and upload speeds



Understanding the level of broadband service available at your institution will help us create a comprehensive map depicting locations where high-speed Internet services are currently available, and where they are not. This map will also help New York define our current inventory and will assist in determining the need for future broadband projects.

To take the survey, go to <http://www.nyspeedtest.org/cai>. Once at the survey link, you will be asked to identify your type of CAI from the drop down menu and then you can select your institutions name from the menu to proceed with the survey. If you do not see your institution on the list, click on the text "Add your institution" to add your CAI.

For more information about this project, please visit <http://www.ctg.albany.edu/projects/broadband> .

Like Us on Facebook

This week, the New York State Broadband Program Office launched a Facebook page to help expand the Program Office's ability to quickly share information with social media users and encourage citizen involvement.



By launching a Facebook page, we are expanding our efforts to include an even more personalized and interactive means of reaching as many of our citizens and broadband stakeholders as possible. The Broadband Program Office will use the page to share updates about how New York State is working to ensure all New Yorkers have access to affordable high-speed Internet services.

To "Like" us visit <http://www.facebook.com/NewYorkStateBroadband>.



Southwest Chelsea to Become First WiFi Neighborhood in Manhattan

Thousands of New York City residents and visitors are about to become a little more connected. Google and the Chelsea Improvement Company, a nonprofit neighborhood redevelopment corporation, announced they have partnered to provide free public WiFi Internet access in southwest Chelsea, which will provide free Internet access to hundreds of thousands of people each year. It will become the first wired neighborhood in Manhattan and the largest contiguous WiFi network in New York City.

Free WiFi is now available outdoors, roughly between Gansevoort St. and 19 St. from 8th Ave to the West Side Highway, as well as the neighborhood's public spaces, including the Chelsea Triangle, 14th Street Park, and Gansevoort Plaza. The Chelsea WiFi Network was designed and installed by Sky-Packets.

The Mayor's office and the City of New York's Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications worked with Google and Chelsea Improvement Company to transform the two companies' aspirations into a reality, advising them on installation.

"New York is determined to become the world's leading digital city, and universal access to high-speed Internet is one the core building blocks of that vision," said Mayor Bloomberg. "Thanks to Google, free WiFi across this part of Chelsea takes us another step closer to that goal."



The network will cover all of the outdoor areas of the Fulton Houses, a property owned and managed by the New York City Housing Authority, as well as several of the local public schools. According to Google, the network will be a resources for more than 2,000 residents of the Fulton Houses, serve more than 5,000 students and hundreds of workers, retail customers and tourists.

Three-Year Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Update

On January 16, Governance Studies at Brookings provided an update on the BTOP program three years after Vice President Joe Biden announced the first round of BTOP awards at a factory in Dawsonville, GA. The event featured keynote remarks by NTIA Administrator Lawrence Strickling, followed by a panel of officials from BTOP projects that provided firsthand accounts from around the country.



The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 included \$7.2 billion to expand access to high-speed Internet services to close the digital divide, drive economic growth, and build the technology infrastructure and skills that America needs to compete in the 21st century. Roughly \$4 billion of that total supports the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, or BTOP. The program, which is administered by the Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), is investing in roughly 230 projects to increase broadband access and adoption around the country.

To watch the presentation visit <http://www.brookings.edu/events/2013/01/16-broadband-technology-opportunities>.

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