

Connected Nation Applauds Diligence of NTIA's Broadband Stimulus Review Process



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Connected Nation Provides Feedback to the NTIA on Broadband Mapping Plans

Washington, DC – Today, Connected Nation participated in a call with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to discuss Connected Nation's broadband mapping applications for the State Broadband Data and Development (SBDD) Grant Program. Connected Nation is proud to be working with 13 states and territories in the national broadband mapping effort, which represents approximately 40 percent of the country's landmass and encompasses approximately 39.5 million total households.

As the organization that produced the nation's first accurate statewide broadband availability map in 2005, Connected Nation is a prominent voice for the nation's need for better broadband data. Connected Nation has worked closely with national leaders and provided numerous [filings](#) in support of a process for broadband data collection at the national level.

"We applaud the NTIA for working diligently and deliberately to ensure the nation's broadband mapping program is held to the highest standard. We have taken this approach in our previous state projects and we intend to continue in our new programs," said Brian R. Mefford, Connected Nation's chief executive officer. "In the spirit of openness and collaboration, we welcome any opportunity to share the lessons we have learned and the improvements we have made."

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has also weighed in on the need for improved broadband mapping measures. On October 9, 2009, GAO issued a [report](#), "Telecommunications: Current Broadband Measures Have Limitations and New Measures Are Promising but Need Improvement." Connected Nation was one of the stakeholders invited to contribute to the report.

Currently, more than \$4 billion is available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 for broadband projects nationwide. This includes \$440 million for projects encompassing mapping, local planning, computer distributions

and programs that expand broadband and computer use, particularly in communities where broadband is unavailable or underutilized. So far, the NTIA has announced four awards for the SBDD program. The remaining 52 awards are expected to be announced in the next few weeks.

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Related Links:

The Blog: [Connected Nation Provides FCC with Teleworking Research](#)

The Blog: [Connected Nation and ESRI's partnership to benefit state-based broadband initiatives](#)

Press Release: [Connected Nation Develops Maps of Rural and Remote Areas to Help States Maximize Broadband Stimulus](#)

Press Release: [Connected Nation Develops New Data Tools for Tapping Broadband Stimulus Dollars](#)

Press Release: [Connected Nation Hosts More Than 300 State Leaders for Broadband Stimulus Webinar](#)

Watch Video: [Connecting Tennessee: One Community at a Time](#)

About Connected Nation: Connected Nation is a national nonprofit 501(c)3 organization that expands access to and use of broadband Internet and the related technologies that are enabled when individuals and communities have the opportunity and desire to connect. Connected Nation effectively raises the awareness of the value of broadband and related technologies by developing coalitions of influencers and enablers for improving technology availability and use. Connected Nation works with consumers, community leaders, states, technology providers and foundations, including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, to develop and implement technology expansion programs with core competencies centered around a mission to improve digital inclusion for people and places previously underserved or overlooked.
www.connectednation.org.