

In Michigan, Connected Nation Receives \$1.8 Million for Broadband Mapping and Planning

The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announced that it has awarded 15 grants to fund broadband mapping and planning activities in Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, **Michigan**, Minnesota, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Tennessee under NTIA's State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program. The program, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, will increase broadband access and adoption through better data collection and broadband planning. The data will be displayed in NTIA's national broadband map, a tool that will inform policymakers' efforts and provide consumers with improved information on the broadband Internet services available to them.

NTIA received applications representing all 50 states, 5 territories, and the District of Columbia to participate in the program, meaning that all governments that were eligible to apply for grants did so, whether directly or through a designated entity. Twenty-one grants have previously been announced under this program and the agency expects to continue announcing awards over the coming weeks.

- **Arizona:** NTIA has awarded the Arizona Government Information Technology Agency (GITA) approximately \$1.8 million for broadband data collection and mapping activities over a two-year period and nearly \$500,000 for broadband planning activities over a three-year period in Arizona, bringing the total grant award to approximately \$2.3 million. GITA is the designated entity for the state of Arizona.
- **Florida:** NTIA has awarded the Florida Department of Management Services approximately \$2 million for broadband data collection and mapping activities over a two-year period and \$500,000 for broadband planning activities over a five-year period in Florida, bringing the total grant award to approximately \$2.5 million. The Florida Department of Management Services is the designated entity for the state of Florida.
- **Georgia:** NTIA has awarded the Georgia Technology Authority approximately \$1.7 million for broadband data collection and mapping activities over a two-year period and nearly \$500,000 for broadband planning activities over a two-year period in Georgia, bringing the total grant award to approximately \$2.2 million. The Georgia Technology Authority is the designated entity for the state of Georgia.
- **Illinois:** NTIA has awarded the Partnership for a Connected Illinois approximately \$1.3 million for broadband data collection and mapping activities over a two-year period and approximately \$500,000 for broadband planning activities over a five-year period in Illinois, bringing the total grant award to approximately \$1.8 million. The Partnership for a Connected Illinois is the designated entity for the state of Illinois.
- **Michigan:** NTIA has awarded Connected Nation approximately \$1.3 million for broadband data collection and mapping activities over a two-year period and almost \$500,000 for broadband planning activities over a five-year period in Michigan, bringing the total grant award to approximately \$1.8 million. Connected Nation is the designated entity for the state of Michigan.
- **Minnesota:** NTIA has awarded Connected Nation approximately \$1.2 million for broadband data collection and mapping activities over a two-year period and almost \$500,000 for broadband planning activities over a five-year period in Minnesota, bringing the total grant award to approximately \$1.7 million. Connected Nation is the designated entity for the state of Minnesota.
- **Nevada:** NTIA has awarded Connected Nation approximately \$930,000 for broadband data collection and mapping activities over a two-year period and almost \$500,000 for broadband planning activities over a five-year period in Nevada, bringing the total grant award to approximately \$1.4 million. Connected Nation is the designated entity for the state of Nevada.
- **North Dakota:** NTIA has awarded the North Dakota Information Technology Department (ITD) approximately \$1.3 million for broadband data collection and mapping activities over a two-year period and almost \$300,000 for broadband planning activities over a five-year period in North Dakota, bringing the total grant award to approximately \$1.6 million. ITD is the designated entity for the state of North Dakota.
- **Ohio:** NTIA has awarded the Ohio Office of Information Technology approximately \$1.3 million for broadband data collection and mapping activities over a two-year period and almost \$500,000 for broadband planning activities over a five-year period in Ohio, bringing the total grant award to approximately \$1.8 million. The Ohio Office of Information Technology is the designated entity for the state of Ohio.
- **Oregon:** NTIA has awarded the Oregon Public Utilities Commission approximately \$1.6 million for broadband data collection and mapping activities over a two-year period and almost \$500,000 for broadband planning activities over a five-year period in Oregon, bringing the total grant award to approximately \$2.1 million. The Oregon Public Utilities Commission is the designated entity for the state of Oregon.
- **Puerto Rico:** NTIA has awarded the Puerto Rico Office of the Chief Information Officer approximately \$925,000 for broadband data collection and mapping activities over a two-year period and almost \$500,000 for broadband planning activities over a five-year period in Puerto Rico, bringing the total grant award to approximately \$1.4 million. The Puerto Rico Office of the Chief Information Officer is the designated entity for the territory of Puerto Rico.

- Rhode Island: NTIA has awarded the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation (RIEDC) approximately \$1 million for broadband data collection and mapping activities over a two-year period and almost \$500,000 for broadband planning activities over a five-year period in Rhode Island, bringing the total grant award to approximately \$1.5 million. RIEDC is the designated entity for the state of Rhode Island.
- South Carolina: NTIA has awarded Connected Nation approximately \$1.2 million for broadband data collection and mapping activities over a two-year period and almost \$500,000 for broadband planning activities over a five-year period in South Carolina, bringing the total grant award to approximately \$1.7 million. Connected Nation is the designated entity for the state of South Carolina.
- South Dakota: NTIA has awarded the South Dakota Bureau of Information and Telecommunications approximately \$1.4 million for broadband data collection and mapping activities over a two-year period and \$500,000 for broadband planning activities over a five-year period in South Dakota, bringing the total grant award to approximately \$1.9 million. The South Dakota Bureau of Information and Telecommunications is the designated entity for the state of South Dakota.
- Tennessee: NTIA has awarded Connected Tennessee approximately \$1.3 million for broadband data collection and mapping activities over a two-year period and almost \$500,000 for broadband planning activities over a five-year period in Tennessee, bringing the total grant award to approximately \$1.8 million. Connected Tennessee is the designated entity for the state of Tennessee.

NTIA carefully evaluates each application to determine whether the applicant directly represents the interests of the state. This state-applicant connection is especially critical in the context of the broadband planning activities that NTIA considers the responsibility of the state. The States of Illinois, **Michigan**, Minnesota, Nevada, South Carolina and Tennessee are providing direction and supervision to the planning activities that will be undertaken by their designated entity, which is a non-state government entity, to ensure that planning funds are used to address the specific needs of the state.

Awardees will collect and verify the availability, speed, and location of broadband across the state. This activity is to be conducted on a semi-annual basis between 2009 and 2011, with the data to be presented in a clear and accessible format to the public, government, and the research community.

The State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program is a matching grant program that implements the joint purposes of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the Broadband Data Improvement Act (BDIA). The program will provide grants to assist states or their designees in gathering and verifying state-specific data on the availability, speed, location, and technology type of broadband services. The data they collect and compile will also be used to develop publicly available state-wide broadband maps and to inform the comprehensive, interactive, and searchable national broadband map that NTIA is required by the Recovery Act to create and make publicly available by February 17, 2011.

The national broadband map will publicly display the geographic areas where broadband service is available; the technology used to provide the service; the speeds of the service; and broadband service availability at public schools, libraries, hospitals, colleges, universities, and public buildings. The national map will also be searchable by address and show the broadband providers offering service in the corresponding census block or street segment.

Awardees are required to contribute at least 20 percent non-federal matching funds toward project costs. In addition, while the BDIA mandates that each state may designate only one eligible entity to receive funds under the program, each state's applicant will be carefully evaluated and must meet the standards described in NTIA's Notice of Funds Availability for this program in order to receive funding.

U.S. Department of Commerce's NTIA serves as the executive branch agency principally responsible for advising the President on communications and information policy. For more information about the NTIA, visit www.ntia.doc.gov.