

New York State Participation in the NTIA Broadband Data and Development Program

Governor David A. Paterson designated the Office of Cyber Security & Critical Infrastructure Coordination (CSCIC) as the New York entity eligible to apply for a broadband mapping grant from the NTIA. CSCIC applied for \$2,048,101 for broadband mapping over the first two years of the program as well as \$500,000 for broadband planning activities over five years. CSCIC is the lead agency in New York for statewide coordination of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) resources as well as mapping of critical infrastructure for public safety purposes.

CSCIC will work with broadband providers to aggregate the data on broadband availability to the nearly 300,000 Census Blocks in the state. In addition, CSCIC will work with broadband providers to map the “backbone” infrastructure connection points. In preparation for this project, CSCIC has engaged in a series of candid discussions with key representatives from the broadband provider community.

CSCIC has crafted several options for provider participation in the program, with options varying in the level of assistance from CSCIC in processing their data. Automated tools for aggregating street addresses of provider customer data to Census Blocks will be built as web services so that they may be used remotely over the internet by provider companies without CSCIC possessing their confidential information. Separate data sources, including predicted broadband availability mapping prepared earlier by CSCIC, will be used to validate data supplied by broadband providers. Validation methods will include contracting with a firm to design and conduct telephone and internet-based surveys to gather data on broadband characteristics from the public. CSCIC will hire additional staff and perform mapping and GIS analysis activities primarily with in-house resources. Contractual services will be used to quickly configure a suite of highly efficient tools for processing the high volume of data anticipated in New York.

CSCIC will be working closely with the New York State Broadband Development and Deployment Council, established by Governor Paterson’s Executive Order #22, on the broadband planning elements of the NTIA grant. Several activities will be supported, including additional mapping required by the Executive Order; program support for the Broadband Stimulus Program Office; a study on the barriers to broadband adoption; and a study on the requirements for industrial level broadband connections (100 mb/s and greater) to support businesses in New York.

Funding from the Broadband Data and Development Grant Program will enable CSCIC to fulfill the NTIA requirements for New York’s portion of the national broadband map as well as support important broadband policy work within New York State.