

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE BROADBAND DATA AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM**  
**PROJECT SUMMARY**  
January, 2010

The New Hampshire Broadband Mapping Program (NHBMP) is a coordinated, multi-agency initiative to inventory and map current and planned broadband coverage available to the state's businesses, educators, and citizens. The program, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), is part of a national effort to expand broadband access and adoption through improved data collection and broadband planning. It is being managed by the University of New Hampshire's GRANIT (Geographically Referenced Analysis and Information Transfer) System, which is hosted at the Complex Systems Research Center and serves as the NH statewide GIS clearinghouse. New Hampshire's nine Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) will collaborate with GRANIT on data collection and verification activities, as well as conduct regional broadband planning activities. The project partners will work in close cooperation with the Director of Broadband Technology at the NH Department of Resources and Economic Development. Additional support will be provided by a variety of state agencies, including the Office of Energy and Planning, and the Public Utilities Commission.

The project comprises two components: a two-year broadband availability inventory and mapping effort, and a five-year planning initiative. The inventory will rely on service area data collected from the 60-plus public and commercial entities, both landline and wireless (fixed and cellular), that provide broadband services in New Hampshire. This intensive effort will assemble and analyze data on service availability by type and technology from each service provider. Data will also be collected on broadband availability at individual community anchor institutions, including schools, libraries, medical/healthcare locations, public safety offices, and state/county/municipal buildings.

The service data will be processed in concert with street address range information and other available data sets to develop state-level broadband availability maps, identifying areas in the state that are well-served by current technologies as well as those that are unserved or underserved. These data will provide an important baseline assessment for New Hampshire, will facilitate effective dialog in the state regarding use and demand for broadband services, and will assist the state as it seeks to prioritize infrastructure projects and to build a sustainable broadband framework for the future. In addition, data collected through the mapping project, and not restricted by a non-disclosure agreement, will be provided to the NTIA and the Federal Communications Commission to assist in the development and maintenance of a national broadband availability map.

The planning component of the NHBMP will incorporate the information collected and the momentum generated by the mapping activities into regional broadband plans throughout New Hampshire. This component will utilize tools, procedures, and capabilities housed at each of the RPCs to facilitate and manage the development of broadband stakeholder groups within each region of the state. The stakeholder groups will conduct activities that include identifying and mitigating barriers to broadband services, promoting collaboration with service providers to facilitate deployment and use, collecting and analyzing information on the use and demand for broadband services, and facilitating information sharing between the public and private sectors regarding use of and demand for broadband services.

The New Hampshire Broadband Mapping Program comes at a time of many challenges in our state and in our communities. It is an important initiative that provides the state with a significant opportunity to address the infrastructure needs of a vibrant economy so vital to maintaining the quality of life of the residents of New Hampshire.