

# MONADNOCK BROADBAND GROUP

*The Monadnock Broadband Group (MBG) is an informal coalition of municipal officials, practitioners and other stakeholders with interest in understanding and coordinating relative to broadband issues in Southwest NH. The MBG serves as an important regional forum for education and peer-learning on broadband-related legislation, funding opportunities, implementation models, and more.*

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February 14, 2023 (10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)

[swrpc.org/broadbandgroup](https://swrpc.org/broadbandgroup)

Zoom

Henry Underwood, SWRPC

Keene Library

[hunderwood@swrpc.org](mailto:hunderwood@swrpc.org) or 603-357-0557

Ruth Huntress Auditorium

60 Winter Street

Keene, NH 03431



# ZOOM TIPS

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- *This session is recorded as a resource to those that are not able to attend.*
- *Please check that your name appears correctly in the participants list and update as needed.*
- *Please say hello via the chat (consider sharing your contact information).*
- *Mute your microphone when you are not speaking.*
- *If attending by phone, use \*6 to mute and unmute and \*9 to raise and lower your hand*

# LAST TIME: OCTOBER 24, 2022

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## FCC'S AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

*The Federal Communications Commission's Affordable Connectivity program ([www.fcc.gov/acp](http://www.fcc.gov/acp)) was launched in May of 2022 and offers support for families and households that may not otherwise be able to subscribe to the Internet or have access to an Internet-capable device. Chantal Virgile, Consumer Education and Outreach Specialist at the FCC provided an overview of the program, answered questions and assisted the MBG membership in promoting the opportunity with their residents, clients or customers.*

## NH DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

*The NH Department of Business of Economic Affairs (BEA) has enhanced its capacity relative to broadband in the State through the creation of the Office of Broadband Initiatives. Since the last meeting of MBG, the State has issued a number of requests for proposals for broadband mapping as well as infrastructure improvements. Mark Laliberte, Broadband Project Manager will provide a summary of these activities.*



# TODAY'S AGENDA

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- I. Welcome*
- II. Digital Literacy and Access Needs Assessment (5 minutes)*
- III. Internet for All and National Telecommunications and Information Administration (30 minutes)*
- IV. Current Broadband Mapping Initiatives (15 minutes)*
- V. NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs Update (10 minutes)*
- VI. Legislative Update (10 minutes)*
- VII. Advocacy Opportunities (10 minutes)*
- VIII. Member Updates (10 minutes)*
- IX. Next Steps*
- X. Adjourn*

# DIGITAL LITERACY AND ACCESS NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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*In addition to issues related to access, SWRPC recently explored topics related to digital literacy as part of [a needs assessment sponsored by the Monadnock United Way and Keene Senior Center](#). SWRPC staff will provide an overview of the findings of the final report as well as lead a brief discussion meant to inform whether the subject matter is appropriate for future agendas.*

# Monadnock Digital Literacy and Access Needs Assessment



[www.swrpc.org/digital](http://www.swrpc.org/digital)



SWRPC

Southwest Region  
Planning Commission

# Broadband Portfolio






  
NEW HAMPSHIRE  
**broadband**  
MAPPING & PLANNING  
PROGRAM  
Understanding today for a more connected tomorrow.  
SWRPC



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Southwest New Hampshire  
Broadband Plan  
Adopted January 13, 2015


*Prepared by the Southwest Region Planning Commission with assistance  
from the Southwest Broadband Stakeholders Group.*

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  Support for this report was provided by the US Dept. of Commerce, under grant #33-50-M09048 to the University of New Hampshire.

Monadnock Broadband  
Implementation Guide




Southwest Region Planning Commission  
October 2020



Monadnock Region Digital  
Literacy and Access Needs  
Assessment

FINAL REPORT  
October 2022

 SWRPC | Southwest Region  
Planning Commission

# Defining Digital Literacy & Access

The **National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)** defines digital inclusion as individual- and community-level access to robust broadband connections; Internet-enabled devices that meet their needs; and the skills to explore, create and collaborate in the digital world. BroadbandUSA, a program of NTIA, evaluates digital inclusion through *access*, *digital literacy*, *meaningful use*, and *institutionalization*.

- *Access* considers the availability of high-speed, reliable Internet and related equipment, including having Internet connections and technology at home or in community institutions (e.g., free public Wi-Fi, public computer centers).
- *Digital Literacy* measures an individual's ability to use the Internet and modern technologies, such as computers and smart phones.
- *Meaningful Use* refers to how an individual uses their digital literacy skills to enhance educational and employment opportunities.
- *Institutionalization* assesses a community's efforts to incorporate digital skills and opportunity in its workforce development, economic development, or community planning strategies.

Source: <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/about-us/frequently-asked-questions/what-does-digital-inclusion-mean>



# Contents

- Review of best practices to improve digital literacy.
- Information about broadband access and adoption.
- Individual questionnaire results and findings.
- Organizational questionnaire results and findings.
- Digital literacy training programs and resources.
- List of gaps and assets.
- Recommended strategies.

# INTERNET FOR ALL AND NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

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*Clay Purvis has been recently appointed to his new position at the [NTIA](#) focused on Vermont and New Hampshire's unprecedented federal broadband funding through the federal [Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment \(BEAD\)](#), [Digital Equity](#), and other programs. Mr. Purvis will update attendees on program activities and timelines.*

# CURRENT BROADBAND MAPPING INITIATIVES

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*This fall, the Federal Communications Commission's National Broadband Map received a major overhaul and now features address-level information, challenge process and outreach toolkit. More recently, the University of New Hampshire (UNH) received support from the State to undertake additional mapping activities, including a speed test. David Justice from UNH will update the group on their activities.*

# NH DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

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*The Department's Office of Broadband Initiatives has issued a number of requests for proposals for broadband mapping as well as infrastructure improvements. Matt Conserva will provide a summary of these activities.*

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

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*Proposed legislation appears from both the House and Senate as [HB 257](#), [HB 298](#), [SB 16](#), and [SB 222](#). NH BEA also proposed a new rule to a House and Senate committee regarding the Broadband Matching Grant Initiative. SWRPC staff will provide an overview.*

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

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## HB 257

- *This bill allows for an incumbent telephone utility to be relieved of its carrier of last resort obligations.*
- *Executive Session by Science, Technology and Energy Committee on 2/16/23 at 1:00 p.m. (LOB 206-208)*

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

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## HB 298

- *This bill allows state and local authorities additional authority in the review of applications for personal wireless service facilities.*
- *Public Hearing by Science, Technology and Energy Committee on 2/7/23.*

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

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## SB 16

- *This bill establishes a stakeholder's group to address utility poles and attachments in the state, under the direction of the director of the division of enforcement in the department of energy.*
- *Referred to Energy and Natural Resources Committee.*



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

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## SB 222

- *This bill eliminates broadband municipal bonding restrictions to unserved areas only.*
- *Public Hearing by Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee on 2/14/23 at 9:00 a.m.*

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

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## *Office of Legislative Services Administrative Rules*

### *Bea 400 Interim Rule 2022-6*

- *Title: Broadband Matching Grant Initiative (BMGI)*
- *JLCAR Review: 11/17/22*
- *Effective Date: 1/5/23*
- *Expiration Date: 7/4/23*

# ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES

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“Hancock hopes funding will  
lead to high-speed internet”

Scott Merrill

Monadnock Ledger Transcript

December 7, 2022

2/14/23



Members of the Broadband Now group that has pushed for bringing high-speed internet to underserved towns throughout the state at the hearing room following the state Fiscal Committee's approval of \$40 million in federal money to build out high-speed internet. Hancock Broadband Committee Chair Mollie Miller is kneeling in the front row.

# MEMBER UPDATES

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*A chance to learn about what others are doing. Attendees are encouraged to describe activities related to addressing broadband and telecommunications challenges and opportunities.*

# NEXT STEPS

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*An open forum on strategies for moving forward, coordination, collaboration, etc.*

# RAPID FEEDBACK FORM

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[www.surveymonkey.com/r/5VRG3CT](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5VRG3CT)

