

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.

November 17, 2023 (1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)

swrpc.org/broadbandgroup

Zoom

Henry Underwood, SWRPC

Delegation Room

Historic Cheshire County Courthouse

hunderwood@swrpc.org or 603-357-0557

12 Court Street

Keene, NH 03431



ZOOM TIPS

- *This session is recorded as a resource to those that are not able to attend. You can find a link at swrpc.org/broadbandgroup.*
- *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.*

LAST TIME: FEBRUARY 14, 2023

DIGITAL EQUITY AND ACCESS NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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.

INTERNET FOR ALL AND NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

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.



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CURRENT BROADBAND MAPPING INITIATIVES

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

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.



TODAY'S AGENDA

- I. Welcome and Introductions*
- II. Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Draft Plans and Proposals (60 minutes)*
- III. Draft Digital Equity Plan (20 minutes)*
- IV. Member Updates (10 minutes)*
- V. Next Steps*
- VI. Adjourn*

BROADBAND EQUITY, ACCESS, AND DEPLOYMENT DRAFT PLANS AND PROPOSALS

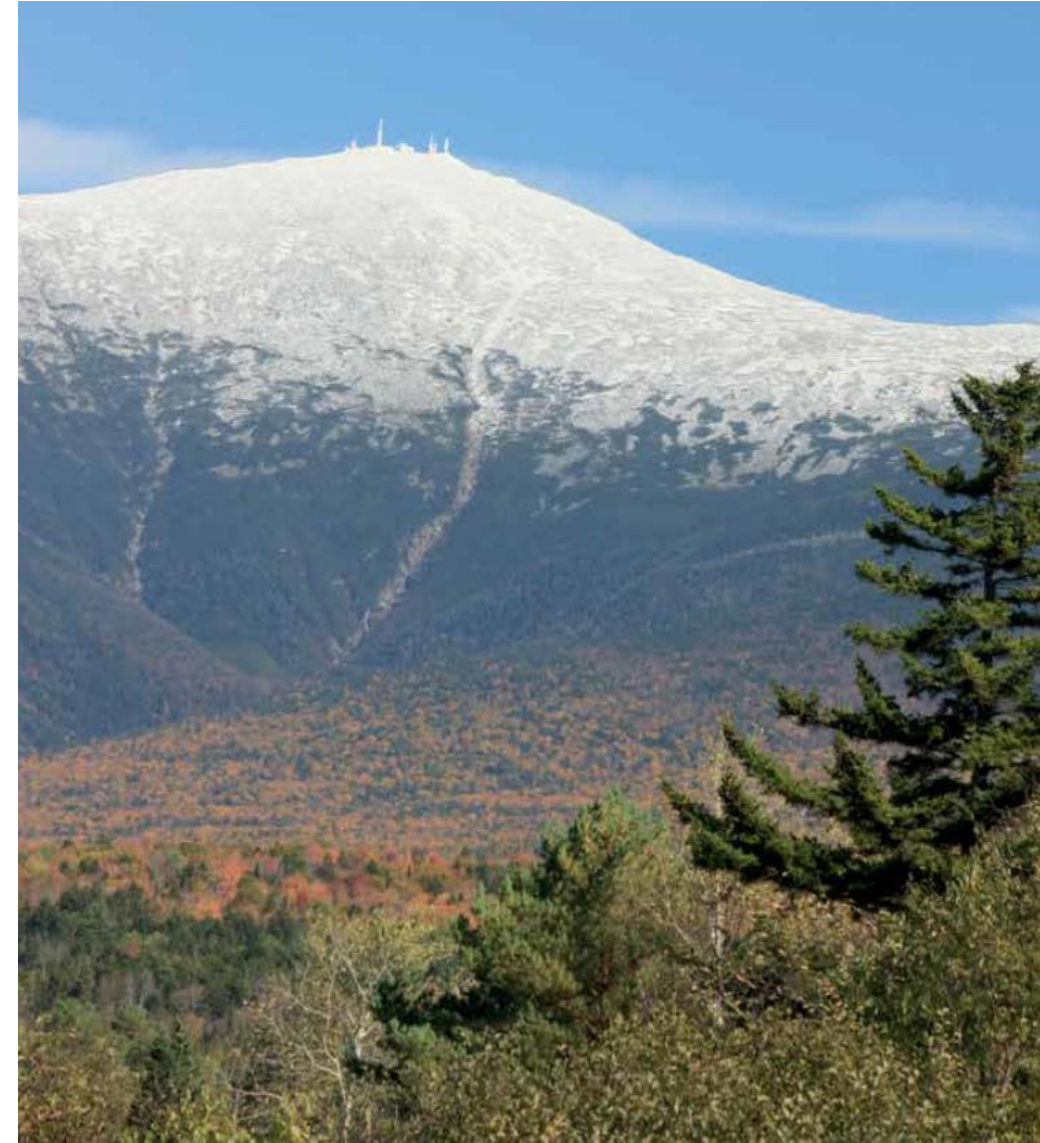
The National Telecommunications and Information Administration's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, provides \$196.6 million to expand high-speed internet access in New Hampshire. The State's Office of Broadband Initiatives and Mission Broadband (the State's contractor) recently announced public review and comment periods for their Initial Proposal document, Volume I and Volume II tied to this funding. Staff from Mission Broadband will provide an overview of the different BEAD-related documents, accept input from attendees, and answer questions.

New Hampshire
Broadband Equity, Access, & Deployment

BEAD

New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs (BEA) is the Administering Entity for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program Grant.

This grant is provided by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), U.S. Department of Commerce.



- What does this mean for New Hampshire?

NH is allotted \$196.56M when approved by NTIA

The BEAD funding will be used to deploy or upgrade High-Speed broadband networks for residents and business, to ensure that everyone has access to reliable, affordable, high-speed Internet service.

Project Scope of Work

- Develop 5-Year Action Plan
- Develop Initial Proposal
 - Volume I
 - Volume II
- Develop Final Proposal

All documents will be posted for public comment; <https://www.nheconomy.com/office-of-broadband-initiatives> and we request your input.

You may also receive an e-mail as a reminder to review and comment on these documents.
broadband@livefree.nh.gov.

DRAFT DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN

In tandem with the development of documents related to BEAD, the State's Office of Broadband Initiatives has overseen the development of the first ever Digital Equity Plan by the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension (UNHCE) and the National Collaborative for Digital Equity (NCDE). Project partners established a website for the initiative (nhdigitalequity.org) and conducted various surveys and discussions over the course of the development of the Plan. Following the [November 13th Digital Equity Summit](#), staff from UNHCE and NCDE will provide an overview of New Hampshire's 4-year plan for digital equity in support of economic, educational and other opportunities.

MEMBER UPDATES

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

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

RAPID FEEDBACK FORM

www.surveymonkey.com/r/5VRG3CT

3 questions / 30 seconds

