



State of Connecticut Broadband Stimulus Project

Mapping Data, Maps, & Strategic Plan
2010 – 2014

Connecticut Broadband Strategic Plan

- The State Broadband Data Program is a competitive, merit-based matching grant program that effects the joint purposes of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the Broadband Data Improvement Act.

Connecticut Broadband Strategic Plan

- The federal grants fund state efforts to :
 - collect comprehensive and accurate state-level broadband mapping data,
 - develop state-level broadband maps,
 - aid in the development and maintenance of a national broadband map, and
 - fund statewide initiatives directed at broadband planning.

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- Connecticut has received \$1.8 million from the first round of grants, and has applied for an additional \$2 million in a Supplemental Grant.
- A decision on that Supplemental Grant application is due from the NTIA by September 30, 2010.

Connecticut Broadband Strategic Plan

- **Three goals are to be accomplished by the funding.**
- 1- Broadband Mapping Data Project;
- 2- Connecticut Strategic Planning Project
- 3- Establish office of Broadband Policy and Programs Coordinator

Connecticut Broadband Strategic Plan

- **Broadband Mapping Data Project**
- The state of Connecticut has received \$1.3 million for the purpose of collecting data for use in a state and federal mapping project to determine the current extent of broadband availability across the state, and ultimately across the US.
- The state has applied for a Supplemental Grant for an additional \$ 1.5 million to extend the mapping effort for a full five-year period.

Connecticut Broadband Strategic Plan

- **Connecticut Strategic Planning Project**
- The state has received approximately \$500,000 for the purpose of developing a Strategic Plan to identify what public policy goals the state needs to support in order to successfully mirror the federal Plan's goal of universal connectivity to high speed broadband for all citizens and communities.

Connecticut Broadband Strategic Plan

- **Broadband Policy and Programs Coordinator, State ARRA Broadband Stimulus Office**
- CT has applied for a Supplemental Grant for about \$370,000 to partially fund a single staff position to provide the state with a single point of contact for broadband issues.

Connecticut Broadband Strategic Plan

- **Purpose of the Broadband Policy and Programs Coordinator :**
- to interact with state agencies, industry providers, non-profits, and municipal local groups to enhance communication and activities among all entities involved with broadband services in order to accomplish the state's public policy goals.

Connecticut Broadband Strategic Plan

- William Vallée, Principal Attorney, CT Office of Consumer Counsel is the Broadband Policy and Programs Coordinator of the State ARRA Broadband Stimulus Office, in association with the Office of the Governor and the Department of Public Utility Control.
- The Coordinator will serve as Program Manager of the Connecticut Strategic Planning Project.

Connecticut Broadband Strategic Plan

- **Scope of the Connecticut Strategic Planning Project**
- Once the state has developed public policy goals, recognized and researched the issues hindering universal broadband access, and identified techniques designed to address them, a realistic strategy to gather the proper parties and funding for implementing this Strategic Plan will be needed.

Connecticut Broadband Strategic Plan

- **Long-Term Sustainability Of The Expanded Broadband Access**
- The Strategic Plan should provide for a flexible process for keeping abreast of the changing environment for broadband accessibility into the future.
- The Strategic Plan must address the long-term sustainability of the expanded broadband access, recognizing that budgets rise and fall over time, and that technology always presents a moving target, changing the players as well as the basic methods of broadband delivery and accessibility.

Connecticut Broadband Strategic Plan

- **The State Must Leverage Its Existing Resources**
- The state's Strategic Plan must emphasize utilizing existing state agency functions and personnel, tapping into data and expertise contained in those agencies.
- Existing state funding should be adequate to begin to implement structural changes in broadband use by state agencies.

Connecticut Broadband Strategic Plan

- **Broadband Enhances Productivity.**
- Expanded use of broadband can effectively lower the costs and increase productivity of providing governmental services to clients through automated functions and reductions in paper and postage.
- Utilizing broadband for government interactions, among municipalities and the state, will increase communication, cost reductions, and efficiencies throughout government.

Connecticut Broadband Strategic Plan

- **National Broadband Plan And Other Federal Opportunities**
- While the state certainly shares many of the issues presented on the federal level, there are many that have no bearing on state action, e.g., spectrum allocation, Universal Service Fund.
- The state's Strategic Plan should be designed to complement the federal efforts in order to specifically address the needs of Connecticut.

Connecticut Broadband Strategic Plan

- **Federal funding and grant opportunities -**
- There will also be various funding and grant opportunities presented as the federal National Broadband Strategic Plan is implemented over the next few years.
- It will obviously be critical that Connecticut avail itself of these opportunities in order to best leverage its own assets.

Connecticut Broadband Strategic Plan

- **Developing Public/Private Partnerships**
- The state's financial situation precludes much or even any direct financial investment by the state itself in expanding broadband infrastructure, PC centers, or sustainability projects.


Connecticut Broadband Strategic Plan

- Therefore, the state's broadband Strategic Plan will focus on developing public/private partnerships in order to maximize the benefit of competition and private investment in supporting the public policy goals identified as critical by the state in the Strategic Plan.

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- The state should coordinate with the CT-BICC to thoroughly analyze the great number of worthy applications denied federal funding in the BTOP funding to develop support for these ideas by both the public and private sectors.

Connecticut Broadband Strategic Plan

- Construction Of A Central State Broadband Information Website located in  CT.gov
- An umbrella broadband website will gather and centralize information and data to promote the expansion of broadband accessibility.
- This will allow for web-based surveys to gather information on barriers and best deploy opportunities to expand uptake.

Connecticut Broadband Strategic Plan

- A general state broadband website will include the Mapping Project and the Plan.
- The Strategic Plan webpages must coordinate with the mapping project, which will feature development of sets of webpages, including consumer surveys, speed tests, and the data maps which will later link to the national mapping project.

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- **The state's broadband website** must provide web based opportunities for companies, nonprofits, state and local governments, and "expert" individuals interested in teaming together to apply for federal stimulus money or otherwise complete projects.

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- This will be similar to the new federal “BroadbandMatch” site, an online service to help applicants denied Recovery Act broadband grants to team with potential public/private partners to locate funding and support.
- The BICC and DECD, for instance, could help coordinate the partnering issues and locate funding and other resources to jump start good ideas.

Connecticut Broadband Strategic Plan

- **Strategic Plan Project Management Team and Process**
- The state has engaged the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE) to identify and study the issues and technological questions related to broadband services in Connecticut.

Connecticut Broadband Strategic Plan

- **CASE's principal goal**
- will be to provide guidance – input and suggestions, and foundation research- on various issues and questions raised by the state to use in its formulation of the Strategic Plan .

Connecticut Broadband Strategic Plan

- **CASE's Executive Director,** Richard Strauss, will handle the day-to-day management of the activities of CASE and CERC, and will coordinate the consulting activities with the Broadband Policy and Programs Coordinator regarding progress on the tasks assigned to CASE.

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- **CASE Project Committee**
- The CASE Project Committee, composed of experts in various fields, will provide guidance and suggestions and shepherd the process – providing a check on the practical work being done, as well as offering input and resources.
- The Project Committee will meet periodically throughout the project period to guide the efforts of the Project Consultant.

Connecticut Broadband Strategic Plan

- **Connecticut Economic Resource Center, Inc. (CERC)** is the Project Consultant to CASE.
- CERC will conduct interviews, research, and other project tasks, as necessary for each project Task.

Connecticut Broadband Strategic Plan

- **Tasks to be accomplished in developing the state broadband strategic plan –**
- Visioning workshops & stakeholder interviews and surveys;
- Research & Strategy Development;
- Website Development and Maintenance;
- Deliver findings and recommendations to the Program Manager to provide academic and survey foundation data for the Program Manager to draft the "*Strategic Plan.*"

Connecticut Broadband Strategic Plan

- **Implementation of the Strategic Plan**
- Once the Strategic Plan has been finalized and the state's public policy goals are identified, the next phase will be to begin implementation of procedures to expand the availability and use of broadband by all residents and businesses in Connecticut.



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