

**STATE: NEW YORK**

**Date of Report:** December 14, 2007

**Nature of report (preliminary, final, advisory, executive/legislative):** Executive; Working Draft

**Key recommendations:**

Create, via a competitive grant process, integrated and inclusive public/private partnerships to rapidly deploy affordable broadband services to:

1. Support the “I Live New York” initiative to attract and retain New York’s next generation by ensuring every New Yorker has access to high-speed, affordable broadband.
2. Provide all New Yorkers with access to high-speed, affordable broadband Internet access for citizens, businesses and visitors from anywhere, at anytime, by anyone. Achieve median statewide Internet speeds, which are at least 10 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream. Achieve national lowest price affordability for eligible rural and low-income households.
3. Close the digital divide and increase digital literacy levels in unserved and underserved urban and rural communities.
4. Foster economic development and build stronger public/private partnerships.
5. Accelerate the use of state e-government services offered through the Internet for citizens, businesses and visitors.
6. Create jobs through innovative, community based, digital literacy and technology training programs, including household technology adoption and support

**Key programs initiated:**

The state fiscal year 2007-2008 budget appropriates \$5,000,000 divided evenly (\$2,500,000 each) between the following two purposes. Grants made from these appropriations will be distributed under a competitive process.

1. Services and expenses related to local, regional and state activities to facilitate increased physical access to broadband Internet services statewide. Such services may include research, design, implementation, operations, management and administration of programs related to infrastructure initiatives to facilitate physical access to communities and entities that lack access.

2. Services and expenses related to local, regional and state activities to provide equal and universal access to broadband Internet services for underserved rural and urban areas, including schools and libraries. Such activities may include research, design, implementation, operation, management and administration of program to foster coordinated or cooperative service delivery initiatives among public, private, and/or not-for-profit organizations, and shared use of infrastructure or other resources.

**Appropriation:** \$5 million

**Web link to agency or task force:**

<http://www.oft.state.ny.us/oft/UniversalBroadband/overview.htm>

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**Statement of Values:** The universal broadband strategy will adhere to a set of guiding principles to guide decision making and ensure the strategy is effectively implemented to achieve the desired outcomes. These principles include:

- Increasing the level of digital literacy for low-income households by providing training and educational opportunities to enable them to effectively use technology in ways that will enhance their quality of life.
- Enhancing citizen access to affordable technology solutions for their homes and businesses.
- Implementing strategies to stem the tide of the brain drain in upstate New York in support of the "I Live New York" initiative.
- Reducing costs of providing state services by leveraging online applications over the Internet.
- Establishing a residential personal computer refresh/recycle program where organizations or individuals may donate existing, fully functional computers to be refurbished and recycled to eligible low-income households as an entry level PC rather than ending up in a landfill.
- Providing incentives for private companies to partner with local government entities to build, deploy, and manage broadband infrastructure and programs to increase the level of digital literacy, close the digital divide gaps and provide broadband services to every household.
- Ensuring Minority and Women Owned Business Entities (MWBE) are full participants in state procurements of goods and services related to the universal broadband access initiative.
- Leveraging previous investments in the existing community broadband infrastructure and related resources.
- Promoting information sharing among government entities by deploying applications, such as e-food stamps or the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) applications from such agencies as the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) that enable interdepartmental and intergovernmental collaboration throughout a region.

- Driving economic development by designing broadband infrastructures that distinguish communities, create competitive advantage and encourage innovation, entrepreneurship and business growth for communities.
- Fostering research and development of new technology applications through collaborative efforts of private and public organizations by leveraging a broadband network.
- Encouraging local municipalities to adopt broadband strategies necessary to make high-speed Internet access affordable and competitive by providing a clear mandate that permits local leadership and encourages competition from all providers -- private and public -- to participate in broadband solutions.
- Identifying and recommending incentives that would expand access to affordable broadband services.
- Increasing availability of computers in homes, schools, community based computer training centers and libraries.
- Measuring performance and impact of the universal broadband access strategy and policy implementation.
- Generating sustainable economic development, job growth and productivity.
- Transforming the delivery of public services around the needs of citizens, while increasing the efficiency of public services.
- Enhancing democracy through improved citizen engagement and civic participation in the democratic process through the expanded use of Internet solutions.
- Increasing broadband access and household Internet penetration levels through legal, regulatory, or fiscal policies.
- Reviewing public service law related to regulations to determine whether any provisions may impede private or public broadband expansion or can accelerate expansion of broadband networks.

**Where we've been:** Not addressed.

**Where we are today:**

- Two-thirds of those living in New York City do not have affordable high-speed Internet access.
- 4.1 million of the 7 million residential households (58.3%) in New York State currently subscribe to high-speed Internet service.
- Broadband is currently available to another 40% of households or 98.3% total in New York State. However, 40% have not yet chosen to subscribe.
- High-speed Internet use in New York State grew 55% between December 2005 and December 2006.
- Within New York State, digital subscriber line (DSL) service is available to 78% of the state's residential households, just below the national average of 79%.
- DSL technology serves 1.1 million of the 5.6 million total residential and commercial broadband customers in the State of New York.
- High-speed cable modem broadband Internet is available to about 96% of residential households in New York State. Cable modem broadband service accounts for 2.9

million of 5.6 million total residential and commercial broadband customers in the state.

- New York is ranked 4th in median broadband Internet access speed, preceded by Rhode Island (1st), Kansas (2nd), and New Jersey (3rd).

#### **Where we want to be:**

- Attract the greatest investment levels within the participating communities
- Encourage service providers to expand their infrastructure to penetrate deeper into the unserved and underserved communities.
- Prompt the greatest geographic coverage areas by leveraging public and private infrastructure assets.
- Foster more competition.
- Encourage broader community participation through collaborative partnerships that address, among other things, educational/digital divide initiatives, research and development projects, health and human service issues, public emergency communications capabilities and community programming and technical training.
- Ensure higher service levels for state services and productivity through expanded use of the state's current or emerging e-Government applications.

#### **How are we going to get there?**

- The Office of the New York State Chief Information Officer and Office for Technology (CIO/OFT) has primary responsibility for developing and implementing the statewide universal broadband access strategy. This will be done in collaboration with state agency partners, local governments and other private and not-for-profit partners, such as commercial broadband providers, subject matters experts, community organizations and other key stakeholder groups. Stakeholder groups will be represented on the New York State Council for Universal Broadband. The Council will provide strategic guidance for successfully implementing the broadband strategy.
- At least five (5) action Teams under the direction of the Council will be created that consist of public and private stakeholders and subject matter experts, who will work collaboratively to develop innovative strategies to deploy broadband, and increase the level of digital literacy throughout the state. The five (5) action teams are:
  - Broadband Network Infrastructure Access Action Team
  - Personal Computing, Community Outreach, Communications, Consumer Education, Technology Procurement Action Team
  - E-Government Applications for Low-Income Households Team
  - Economic Development and IT Workforce Development Team
  - Governmental Initiatives Team
- Council will launch a discussion series for broadband providers and experts to assist the state in mobilizing private, academic and public resources to design and deploy innovative solutions to achieve the goals of the broadband strategy. The discussion

series will be undertaken to foster an open dialogue with broadband providers on how to successfully implement the statewide broadband strategy.

- The Universal Broadband Program Management Office (PMO) will be established within NYS CIO/OFT to provide technical programming, program management, project management, grant administration and governance support. The PMO will be tasked with developing and implementing the overall project plan, action plans and results-oriented timelines agreed to by the NYS Council for Universal Broadband for soliciting public/private partnerships via broadband grant RFPs, reviewing grant award recommendations to the Council, and evaluating and measuring the impact of the awards on local communities.
- Provide training and educational opportunities for New Yorkers, enabling people to effectively use technology in ways that will enhance their quality of life.
- Execute the broadband access grant program to:
  - Provide universal broadband infrastructure coverage through state, local or federal matching investments to increase the penetration of broadband accessibility in unserved and underserved communities.
  - Increase New York's level of digital literacy, computer ownership and broadband affordability through stronger connected communities, both for the tech-related firms (e.g., risk-taking entrepreneurs, companies graduating from incubators) and for the tech-related labor force and recent college graduates.
  - Enhance New York's competitiveness by building a stronger tech-related labor force for tech-related firms and building stronger, connected communities to attract and retain tech companies to the state.

#### **Broadband functionality (tiers of service) -**

- Achieve median statewide internet speeds of 10 Mbps downstream/1Mbps upstream.
- Demarcates a "Digital Corridor" consisting of Greater New York City.
- By the year 2010, achieve a statewide average network connectivity speed of at least 1 megabit per second in each direction. In the Digital Corridor, the goal by 2010 is to be at least 20 megabits per second in each direction.
- By 2015 achieve an average network connectivity speed of at least 20 megabits per second in each direction, and 100 megabits per second in each direction within the Digital Corridor.