

Commonwealth of Kentucky

Office of Broadband Outreach & Development



**Technology-enabled
Communications for the 21st
Century**



Promoting affordable access to our technology-based future

Who are we?

Governor Beshear established the Commonwealth Office of Broadband Outreach & Development in October of 2010. This Office continues work to identify areas un-served and under-served, by affordable broadband, throughout the state, and to facilitate greater understanding and partnerships which work toward providing all Kentuckians with these critical capabilities into the future.

We obtained federal funding for our broadband coverage (and gaps) mapping efforts early. This was followed by another (supplemental) round of funding which is enabling us to expand our research, educational, and facilitative work.



How can we help?

Infrastructure today includes that of the digital realm, every bit as much as highways and bridges, traditional utilities and the other elements which typically go unseen beneath our streets.

We “travel” digitally for work, meetings, play, education, and entertainment. The term mailbox today has a dual meaning.

Our businesses expand their reach far from our local community to regional, national, or even a worldwide presence; and they do so with minimal cost and with considerable speed to market thanks to this new infrastructure.

Our future, in every walk of life, will depend on this infrastructure. Whether available down the hall or down the street, we must all, sooner or later, embrace it, just as we have electricity and our roads.

Those who embrace it faster have an advantage, personally and economically. Understanding the issues and assisting our businesses and citizens in catching this wave as early as possible is our mission.

Our mapping efforts identify which providers and technologies “reach” into your area. They also clearly show areas of concern. Our role in reviewing and supporting grant requests of other Kentucky entities to expand their reach has aided in the ability for new and less costly infrastructure to be deployed in many areas.

Our work to bring together various parties in communities throughout the state helps to inform and educate citizens, businesses and providers alike on the economic potential just over the horizon.

With both business and technology backgrounds, we also work to assist people in understanding the technology, its personal benefits and the new business methods and expectations which it enables.

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Fiber Optics, Cable, DSL, Wireless (Satellite, Microwave, Cellular 4G, etc.)...

All methods to bring larger “pipelines” (more bandwidth) to our homes and business, even to our vehicles and field/mobile operations.

“Pipelines” which carry various forms of data (Internet access and search engines, telephone service, online television and video services, connectivity to work computers, and access to computer-based applications we use throughout our daily lives for health, government, banking, public safety, and other business activities).

“Pipelines” which enable us personally, and which enable our business efforts.

Extending our Reach

Increasing our access to, and our understanding and adoption of, broadband services, will build economic capital, strengthen public safety resources, improve living standards, expand educational and healthcare opportunities, and raise the levels of civic engagement and governmental transparency for Kentucky citizens and business.

One of Kentucky’s key challenges is our rural “last mile”. We need to better identify and understand the true economic impact (the “opportunity cost”) of not having far reaching and affordable, often mobile, computing and communications access — only then will we truly appreciate the value this new and technology-based future affords.



Helpful Links

Kentucky's Broadband Mapping Initiative
<http://technology.ky.gov/oet/Pages/Broadband.aspx>

Kentucky's Broadband Mapping Viewer
<http://www.bakerbb.com/kybroadbandmapping/>

Kentucky @ Work Broadband Page
<http://kentuckyatwork.ky.gov/Pages/Broadband.aspx>

The US Broadband Plan
<http://www.broadband.gov/>

Broadband Mapping & Community Search Tool
<http://broadbandsearch.sc.egov.usda.gov/DefaultARRA.aspx?program=ARRA>

US FCC Broadband Opportunities Page
http://wireless.fcc.gov/outreach/index.htm?job=broadband_home

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