

Connected Nation Develops New Data Tools for Tapping Broadband Stimulus Dollars



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Connect Ohio and Connected Tennessee's New Interactive Mapping Tool and Downloadable Census Block Data Will Help Applicants Compete for Stimulus Funds.

Washington, DC: Connected Nation, with the help of ArcGIS technology from ESRI, has developed a new interactive on-line mapping tool to equip states with Census Block level broadband data and arm applicants with required data for broadband infrastructure funds now available through the U.S. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

This new interactive tool will launch at 4 p.m. EST through the Connected Tennessee and Connect Ohio on-line broadband map sites and will allow the general public to click on any Census Block within those states to obtain the number of households served and unserved by a broadband provider within that Census Block.

In addition, Connected Nation has posted on-line the downloadable datasets of broadband availability information by Census Block.

Such accurate, granular broadband availability information is required to complete the RUS and NTIA broadband infrastructure grant applications. The data tools will provide state leaders, community advocates and providers in Ohio and Tennessee with public access to this timely information, offering applicants in these states a comprehensive, Census Block level dataset of broadband availability.

Currently, approximately \$7 billion in stimulus funds through the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) have been designated to help expand broadband access to unserved and underserved communities across the United States.

These funds are available through the NTIA's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) and the RUS's Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP).

"Connected Nation's interactive mapping tool and Census Block data sets will give applicants the building blocks for a strong federal proposal to expand broadband access," said Connected Nation's chief analyst Laura Taylor. "States with Census Block level broadband data will be better positioned to take advantage of stimulus funds."

To learn more about the interactive tool and data sets visit www.connectedtennessee.org, www.connectohio.org or www.connectednation.org.

To learn more about how Connected Nation can help states visit www.connectednation.org/policy or e-mail at broadbandstimulus@connectednation.org.

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About Connected Nation: Connected Nation is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that expands access to and use of broadband Internet and the related technologies that are enabled when individuals and communities have the opportunity and desire to connect. Connected Nation effectively raises the awareness of the value of broadband and related technologies by developing coalitions of influencers and enablers for technology deployment and adoption. Connected Nation works with community stakeholders, states and technology providers to develop and implement technology expansion programs with core competencies centered around a mission to improve digital inclusion for people and places previously underserved or overlooked. For more information about Connected Nation, Inc., visit www.connectednation.org.