BTOP's CONNECTING AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES MAP
A Map Depicting Impacts and Investments

About the Program

Funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) is one of America's largest federally funded investments in the expansion of the nation's broadband infrastructure. BTOP is helping to close the digital divide across 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. Through more than 200 projects that are building broadband infrastructure, expanding public computer centers, and increasing adoption of broadband services, the program is paving the way for job creation and opportunity – putting people to work, spurring private investment, and advancing the U.S. digital economy.

About the Map

The BTOP Map provides a visual depiction of BTOP grant recipient activities in each state. The Map focuses on how these projects impact:

Communities: BTOP is constructing and upgrading tens of thousands of miles of broadband infrastructure, helping communities compete in the 21st century economy and laying the groundwork for private sector investments in "last-mile" broadband service to homes and businesses.

Institutions: BTOP is bringing new and improved broadband capabilities to thousands of schools, libraries, healthcare providers, and public safety entities. With greater network capacity, institutions can offer online courses, use cutting-edge telemedicine tools to better serve patients, and improve dispatch and communication among first responders.

People: BTOP is bringing more Americans online via publicly accessible computer centers and training programs to help them succeed in the digital economy.

A summary-level dashboard in the Map shows the total number of communities and institutions to be connected, as well as data on total computer centers and programs pertaining to BTOP-funded projects in a particular state. Other metrics include state and national broadband adoption rates.

NTIA validated the data plotted on the Map in March 2012. The data are based on the 2011 progress reports submitted by BTOP recipients, reflecting progress reported as of December 31, 2011. The data will be updated annually based on recipients' future progress reports.

To view BTOP's Connecting America's Communities Map, visit www2.ntia.doc.gov/BTOPmap.

For More Information

Responses to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are provided under the Get Started tab in the Map. For more information about the Map, please contact BTOP by emailing btop@ntia.doc.gov.

Key Features

The Map enables the public to learn more about the current and future impact of the Recovery Act broadband investments made through BTOP. The Map is a visual representation of key data that BTOP recipients submit in their progress reports, helping the public to see what improvements are being made in their states, districts, or communities.

Key features of the Map include:

- **State/ZIP Code Zooming**: Selecting a state or ZIP code allows users to zoom to local BTOP activities.

- **Data Filters:** The Map provides information according to each focus area (i.e., Communities, Institutions, and People), and subsets of the data can be displayed or removed from the Map for easier viewing of key information given a user's preferences.

- **Data Set Downloads:** Excel-based source files share data which can be used to compare BTOP data with other relevant sources of information. These files can be found under the "Get Started" tab on the Map.

- **Population Density:** Selecting population density will allow users to compare the general location of projects against information from the 2010 U.S. Census. The Map includes this information as one example of how BTOP information could be seen with data from another source.

- **Congressional Districts:** Congressional districts for each state can be displayed to help policymakers and other users find BTOP-related activities that are impacting their communities.

- **Rollover Boxes:** Specific information regarding each project can be found by rolling over a point on the Map. Some of the rollover boxes will display the name and/or location of the facility where the public can receive access to broadband Internet services or related subscriber programs.

Who will use the Map?

Policymakers can access the Map to find BTOP investments in their districts.

Researchers can use the Map as a source of data for analyzing the impact of BTOP investments to support future broadband policy and investment recommendations.

Private Industry can find BTOP-funded providers and connected institutions in their area for partnering on construction projects or obtaining new services.

Community Anchor Institutions can find BTOP-funded providers for partnering on new projects or obtaining new services.

Federal Agencies partnering with NTIA can search data and compare it with data from their own programs to understand the total impact of Federal programs and anticipate future needs.

State / Local / Tribal Governments can monitor BTOP investments in their communities and find opportunities for broadband access or training.

Public can locate BTOP-funded public computer centers and training programs in their communities to get access to high-speed Internet, increase their digital literacy, find careers online, and participate in other programs.

Other Relevant Sites

The following websites can provide additional background on the Program and other related broadband activities:

- BTOP Homepage – www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandusa
- Grants Awarded – www2.ntia.doc.gov/GrantsAwarded
- National Broadband Map – www.broadbandmap.gov
- Recovery Act Homepage – www.recovery.gov
- BIP Homepage – www.rurdev.usda.gov/utp_bip.html
- National Broadband Plan – www.broadband.gov/plan