

# NEXT CENTURY

CITIES

FEBRUARY 2023

## STAYING INVOLVED WITH BROADBAND MAPPING

**INSIDE**

Promoting Local Leadership in Universal Broadband Strategies

Improving Health Outcomes for Chattanooga's Orchard Knob Neighborhood

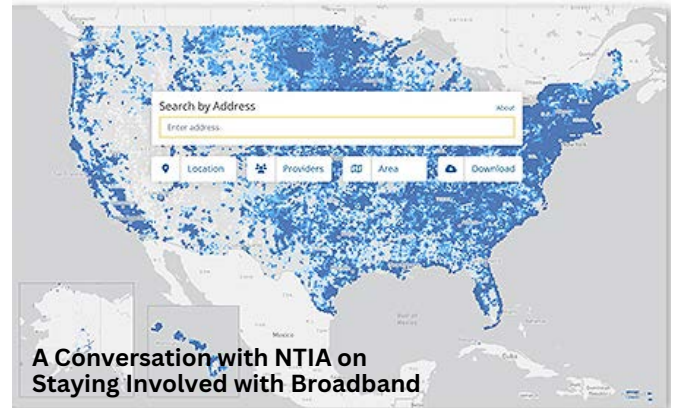
Minority Serving Institutions, State Broadband and Digital Equity Plans and Initiatives

Chattanooga, TN

— *February 2023*

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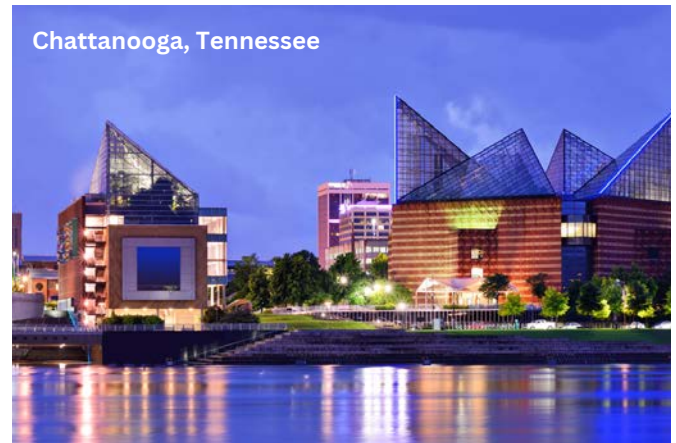


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# Why Communities Should Stay Involved with Broadband Mapping, Even After the January 2023 Deadline

By Ryan Johnston and Brian Donoghue

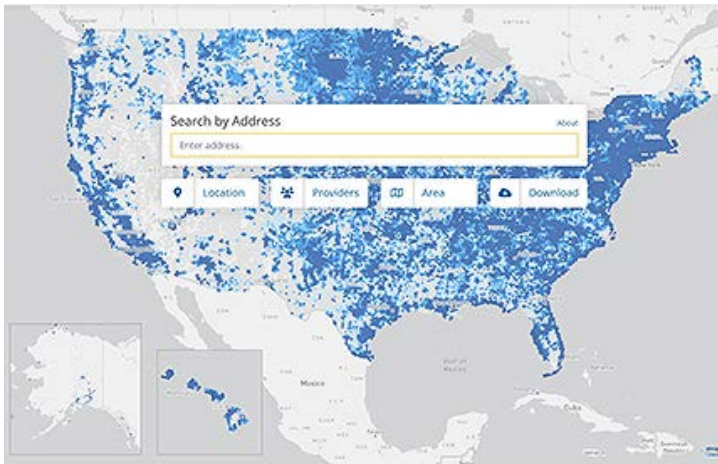
In a recent blog post, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (“NTIA”) confirmed the target date for the BEAD Program funding allocation would remain June 30, 2023. The agency’s decision does not mean the importance of submitting mapping data ended on January 13th.

To shed more light on where the BEAD and mapping processes are, Senior Policy Counsel Ryan Johnston hosted a [fireside chat](#) with Senior Advisor for the Office of the Assistant Secretary at NTIA, Sarah Morris.



**Ryan Johnston**  
Senior Policy Counsel  
Next Century Cities

**Sarah Morris**  
Senior Advisor  
NTIA



**"It is critically important for local officials to continue participating in the FCC's Challenge Process. Local feedback remains the only way to ensure that federal mapping is accurate."**

The conversation started with an overview that the BEAD program is now in the implementation phase. NTIA is preparing to receive plans from across the nation detailing how each state intends to spend its portion of the 42.5 billion dollar fund. When asked about the significance of the January 13th deadline that passed last month, Morris noted that this date was chosen in consultation with the FCC to ensure that challenges could be resolved before the NTIA made its allocation. Morris noted that January 13th is not a hard deadline but more so a demarcation on the calendar. She urged communities and community members to continue to file challenges.

**Fireside Chat with NCC's Ryan Johnston and NTIA's Sarah Morris**

The National Broadband Resource Hub is a partnership with

**National Broadband Resource Hub**



NCC on the Ground



U.S. Senator Michael Bennet



Francella Ochillo and Andrew Schwartzman

## Next Century Cities Highlights the Importance of Promoting Local Leadership In Universal Broadband Strategies

Next Century Cities has been a long-time ideation partner with local and state officials working to improve broadband throughout Colorado. Our member municipalities include Centennial, Cortez, Firestone, Breckenridge, Fort Collins, Grand Junction, Montrose, Mountain Village, Larimer County, and Longmont.

[Silicon Flatirons](#) is the University of Colorado's Law School flagship technology policy conference. Every year, whether in person or online, it attracts as many policy experts as it does students. A range of speakers from academia, government, civil society, and industry gather in the City of Boulder to discuss issues ranging from broadband deployment to digital inequality to misinformation online. Importantly, the 2023 agenda showcased various ways in which broadband has become the cornerstone of nearly every aspect of digital society.

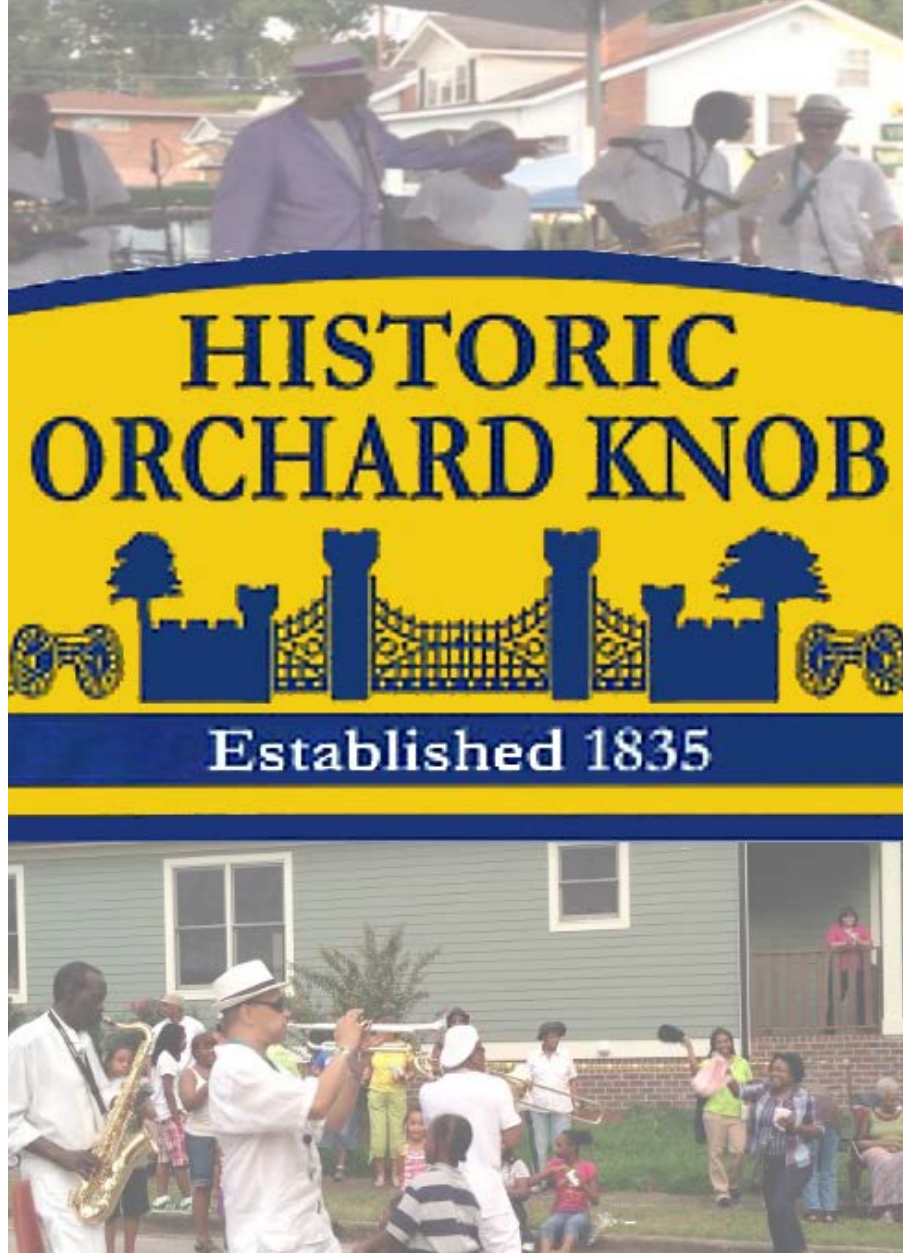
NCC's Executive Director, Francella Ochillo, spoke on the February 6th panel discussion called "[The Aches And Pains Of Broadband Deployment And Adoption.](#)"

Learn more about the conversation and panelist perspectives [here](#).

# What do a hospital, a nonprofit organization, and a local government have in common?

*They're working together to improve health outcomes for residents in Chattanooga's Orchard Knob neighborhood.*

**By Corian Zacher**



Graphic Courtesy of the [Orchard Knob Neighborhood Association](#)

Chattanooga, Tennessee, has made headlines throughout the last decade for the City's efforts to connect residents with reliable, high-quality broadband access and the devices and skills necessary to get online. Now, those experiences are helping to inform efforts to improve health outcomes.

With funding from a Tennessee Valley Authority grant, Parkridge Hospital, Habitat for Humanity, and Greenspaces partnered with the City of Chattanooga to improve residents' quality of life. The Orchard Knob Collaborative includes infrastructure upgrades along with devices, technology training, home access, and no-cost telehealth appointments. It builds upon past efforts in the Orchard Knob neighborhood, where residents have poor health outcomes.

Broadband is a critical tool for powering initiatives that address high asthma, diabetes, heart disease, and stroke rates in a community. In Chattanooga, efforts to expand high-speed connectivity coupled with installing air quality sensors, providing roof improvements, and updating heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems are just a few ways the program is improving social determinants of health.

Continue reading about Chattanooga [here](#).

*Conversation Starters for  
— Community Leaders to Engage with  
Local, State, and Federal Officials.*

# Let's Talk About Broadband



The most effective broadband programs are developed in collaboration with residents and community leaders. Your insights are critical for identifying current and future connectivity needs.

Here are some ways to start the conversation with local, state, and federal government officials. Participating in broadband planning and implementation efforts can help improve digital outcomes in your neighborhood.

[Review the Talking Points Here.](#)



# Internet for All: How Minority Serving Institutions Can Help Shape State Broadband and Digital Equity Plans and Initiatives



**Morgan State University**  
Baltimore, MD

## How Can Your Community Support HBCUs and Other MSIs?

On January 19, 2023, the NTIA Office of Minority Broadband Initiatives (OMBI) hosted an informative webinar detailing ways that leaders could partner with Historically Black Colleges (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and other Minority Serving Institutions to help address persisting digital divides and increase digital equity in their respective communities. The full webinar can be viewed [here](#).

## Minority Serving Institutions Impact Residents in Your Community

More than 5 million post-secondary students nationwide benefit from a [Minority Serving Institution](#) (MSI) of Higher Education.

Taking into account their roles as community anchor institutions, these schools touch millions of residents outside of enrolled students. Because of their reach, it is critical that these schools receive the necessary resources to provide broadband access and digital skills to their students and surrounding neighborhoods.



**Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute**  
Albuquerque, NM

# NCC HIGHLIGHTS COMMUNITY-LEVEL PERSPECTIVES IN THE FCC'S DIGITAL DISCRIMINATION PROCEEDING



Next Century Cities filed digital discrimination comments in partnership with Consumer Reports, Access Humboldt, The Center for Rural Strategies, and the National Consumer Law Center's low-income clients. The comments highlighted community-level perspectives from local governments and community leaders in **Chicago, Illinois; Fairfax County, Virginia; Los Angeles, California; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Somerset County, Maine.**

**"Local and state officials live and breathe the stories of their communities. They understand how potential policies will affect their residents and what solutions may be better than others. Instead of providing model codes and best practices for states and localities, the Commission should work to develop these tools with states and localities."**

**Read the February 21st FCC filing [here](#).**





# In Case You Missed It

## **The FCC Seeks Nominations for the Intergovernmental Advisory Committee**

The Intergovernmental Advisory Committee is the only advisory committee at the FCC to be made up solely of state, local, and Tribal leaders. The Public Notice is available [here](#), and an explainer of the process by Cheryl Leanza for Best, Best, and Krieger can be found [here](#).



## **The United States Treasury Releases State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Database Showing Funded Broadband Projects in Each State**

Access the data sets [here](#) and read the full summary blog [here](#).

## **Free Press is Hiring a Policy Counsel**

The [role](#) will primarily focus on FCC and other telecommunications-related issues.



## **ARISE Seeks Program Director and Several Program Officers**

Connect Humanity is partnering with the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) to support and prepare 50 un- and underserved Appalachian communities to apply for BEAD and DEA state and federal funding opportunities. Learn more about the [Director](#) and [Officer](#) roles via their respective hyperlinks.

## **Missing Pieces: How the FCC's Broadband Map Misrepresents Public Libraries**

This paper by Colin Rhinesmith, Ph.D., presents findings from a study of 200 public libraries in 20 states across the U.S. to gain a better understanding of the following: (1) whether public libraries are classified as “broadband serviceable” or not; (2) whether public library buildings are classified as “residential” or not; and (3) the level of service that public library buildings receive in individual locations.

## **Colorado Broadband Deployment Board 2023 Program Timeline Now Available**

A timeline is now available for the Broadband Deployment Board’s (BDB) 2023 Winter & Summer Grant Cycles.