



KentuckyWired is a public-private partnership that operates a statewide open access fiber network. It also maintains a public broadband availability map showing the backbone, lateral, anchor institutions, and nodes.

The Commission found that 4.2 of 4.5 million Kentucky residents (94.3%) had access to a fixed broadband connection at 25/3 Mbps speeds. In rural areas, it evaluated 1.8 million people and found that 1.6 million (86.7%) have fixed broadband access. The FCC found that 99.6% of 2.6 million urban residents had access to fixed broadband connections.

In NCC member Letcher County, the Commission evaluated approximately 22,000 residents and found that 89.7% of the population had access to a fixed broadband connection at minimum speeds. Notably, it found that 86.3% of the population had access to a mobile connection at minimum speeds of 5/1 Mbps, one of few instances where the FCC found a community had greater access to a fixed connection than to a wireless one.

The State of Kentucky offers [broadband maps from April 2020](#) that show infrastructure partnerships, construction progress, wired huts, and fiber locations. In 2012, the Commonwealth Office of Broadband Outreach and Development and the Kentucky Council of Area Development [conducted a community survey of broadband availability](#) that closed in April 2012. Once again, Kentucky is surveying residents, and Lieutenant Governor Jacqueline Coleman encouraged Kentucky residents to take a speed test and report unserved households from public WiFi locations. [Governor Andy Beshear said:](#)

*We need as many Kentuckians as possible to take this Internet speed test to get an accurate picture of who has adequate Internet access across the state. The more speed tests taken, the better understanding we will have of our state's Internet capabilities, and the better prepared we will be to repair and expand it.*

KentuckyWired is a public-private partnership that seeks to connect Kentucky with a statewide open access fiber network and offers a [public map](#) showing the backbone, lateral, anchor institutions, and nodes. An open access network is one that provides fiber backhaul that providers can pay to use, but while the state owns the fiber, it does not directly provide service to consumers. Instead, open access networks offer a connection point for Internet service providers and install connections between the open access fiber network and the customer's home. The providers then contract with customers for billing and set terms and conditions of service. Open access networks are an alternative to the traditional structure, where the Internet service provider builds their own fiber backhaul, and this different structure enables competition among last-mile service providers, who all pay comparable rates to connect to the open access network.

BroadbandNow shows that [81.8% of the state](#) has terrestrial broadband coverage while only 39.9% of residents have access to a \$60 per month or cheaper plan. Microsoft data from September 2019 show that around 3.1 million people in Kentucky do not use the Internet at broadband speeds.

**Additional Resources:**

- [Kentucky Farm Bureau Offers Nearly 200 Free Wi-Fi Locations Across the State](#)
- [County pushes Internet speed tests to expand service](#)
- [Kentucky's digital divide is a challenge for kids trying to learn in cities, rural towns](#)
- [Kentucky launches free Statewide speed test to give Kentuckians better internet access](#)