New Hampshire is an adventurous state that draws to mind rolling hills, lush forests, and a scenic seacoast. Its venturesome spirit does not end at its beautiful landscape. At the start of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the State of New Hampshire received national recognition for its transition online. That shift necessitated increased funding for broadband access, leading the state to devote $50 million and issue a request for proposals in June 2020 for the Connecting NH Broadband Expansion Program.

Discussing the initiative, Education Commissioner Frank Edelblut said

> While New Hampshire schools have gained nationwide recognition for their switch to remote learning this spring, connectivity remains a challenge, particularly for students in rural New Hampshire communities.

The FCC evaluated 1.3 million people in New Hampshire and found that 1.3 million people (96.8%) had fixed broadband access at the 25/3 Mbps benchmark. It concluded that 509,000 of 542,000 rural residents (94%) have access to a fixed broadband connection at minimum speeds. In urban New Hampshire, the agency found that 807,000 of 818,000 people (98.6%) had fixed broadband access.

In 2017 and 2018, the University of New Hampshire Survey Center collected broadband data for businesses through a survey. 83% of respondents were small businesses with fewer than 50 employees, and the survey found that only about 55% of respondents said that their broadband speeds were sufficient to meet their business needs. The full results are no longer available because the website has been decommissioned due to lack of funding. In June 2020, New Hampshire was added to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s National Broadband Availability Map Program.

**Additional Resources:**
- New Hampshire added to National Broadband Availability Map
- NH Delegation Applauds National Broadband Availability Map Program’s Expansion to Include New Hampshire