Mapping the Road to Sustainable Economic Growth:
Colorado's Broadband Data and Development Program
Colorado Governor's Office of Information Technology
State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program: 0660-ZA29

The Governor's Office of Information Technology (OIT) has requested funding assistance under the State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) to continue and refine its ongoing assessment and geographic inventory of broadband deployment in the state. The inventory will identify available broadband speeds and technology platforms and identify demand for broadband service. The funds will also support planning activities.

The State has recently completed a broadband mapping project that began before the NOFA was released. However, the deliverables do not exactly match those required by the NTIA. The proposed project will utilize data delivered to the State through the current project as a starting point for data collection under the NTIA-funded project and as a basis for validating the data collected in this project.

OIT's NTIA-funded project will be accomplished through soliciting external expertise. The State will engage a contractor to collect broadband availability data and develop address data for priority portions of the state. Additional staff hired into OIT for the term of the grant will perform validation and verification of the broadband data, project management, and planning and outreach activities.

OIT will request the finest level of resolution of data that can be transferred to the state as the basis for developing the broadband availability data required by the NTIA. Areas of non-facility based service (wireless) will be requested from the service providers, and if not available from them, the State's contractor will pursue propagation models to estimate these areas. OIT will leverage existing efforts in the state to map locations of community anchor institutions in developing the broadband data relevant for them.

All of these data will be validated independently by knowledgeable staff hired by OIT through surveys and on-line data collection. OIT has identified four positions with varying roles to perform the data validation tasks as well as project management and planning tasks.

This project also contains a planning portion that will help identify priority areas for activities to promote the deployment and use of broadband service. The planning activities will focus on first creating and then facilitating local technology planning teams through which other planning objectives, such as assessing broadband demand, computer use, and barriers to adoption of broadband service, will be accomplished. Specifically, in the first two years, OIT will work closely with four pilot areas of the state to define practices, methods, and tools to create local technology planning teams successfully and then based on results and lessons learned provide guidance on the development and implementation of local technology planning teams to other regions of the state in successive years.