

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Broadband: Got Service? Mapping Washington's Future

Why is broadband so important to the state of Washington?

- Washington State Employment Security Department data estimates 1.16 million jobs (roughly 40% of the state's total employment) were created by technology-based industries. Annual salaries in technology averaged \$117,691, compared to a state average of \$54,097.
- As broadband-dependent jobs continue to be created, communities with access, education, and training in the skills required can benefit substantially. Studies show that technology based businesses support job growth, and that the deployment of broadband to communities in rural areas is vital to creating sustainable jobs, and for the state's overall economic health.

Today, there is an imbalance in Washington between those who have access to broadband service and those who do not, and the knowledge to use it effectively in an increasingly online-centric society. Broadband mapping will determine the availability and adoption levels of broadband service, and thus provide information that allows targeted federal and state investment into areas where both, infrastructure and programs are needed to enable the use and access to broadband, and provide the necessary education, skills and training.

Washington is proceeding immediately with the development of a comprehensive and accurate statewide broadband map, consistent with the requirements of the Federal State Broadband and Development Program.

Washington's technology agency

House Bill 1701 (HB 1701) specifies the Department of Information Services (DIS) as the designated entity to develop the state's broadband map. DIS provides information technology leadership, policy and service choices for use by state and local agencies, the education sector, tribal governments, and qualifying non-profit groups.

Consistent with HB 1701, DIS has selected an apparently successful vendor (ASV) to build the broadband map. The map will provide information including technology type and speed, which will both support Washington's ongoing efforts to improve broadband mapping and meet the federal government's desire for more detailed tracking of broadband availability.

DIS has developed two outreach programs that work hand-in-hand with the state's broadband map. The first validates broadband data in partnership with the public and private sector. The second, develops a broadband plan based upon data published on the broadband map. DIS is committed to the goal of effectively and efficiently extending broadband to residents who currently have little or no access, in ways that stimulate our economy and create sustainable jobs.

Learn more, by visiting the Washington State Broadband website: <http://broadband.dis.wa.gov/>.
