State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program (SBDDGP)

District of Columbia

On July 30, 2009, Mayor Adrian M. Fenty issued Mayor's Order 2009-132 designating the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) as the District of Columbia's "eligible entity" to apply for and receive funding from the SBDDGP. OCTO, in partnership with the District of Columbia Public Service Commission (PSC) and other District agencies, applied for $993,286 in mapping funds for the first two years of the program and $500,000 in planning funds.

The District of Columbia is a densely developed urban area with substantial broadband availability. District residents and businesses can choose among multiple broadband providers. Yet even in a city that is extremely fortunate to be the Capital of the United States, many Americans are missing opportunities to learn, interact, and transact because they are not online or are using outmoded technology.

The District's policy goal is to enable all residents and businesses to access and adopt broadband services. Specifically, the District's goal for SBDDGP-related funds is to establish and sustain a common source of data, allowing all stakeholders (federal, District, commercial, and nonprofit) to effectively improve access to and adoption of broadband.

In its grant application, the District proposes to:

- Meet all deliverables and schedules established by NTIA, thereby fully contributing to the national broadband map.
- Form lasting partnerships with private sector providers and nongovernmental organizations so that data is collected efficiently and distributed in an equitable manner.
- Go beyond NTIA deliverable requirements and develop detailed geographic and demographic data on the adoption of broadband.
- Disseminate the data to NTIA and to the public via online mapping and data feeds, as appropriate.
- Establish processes for repeated data updates.
- Employ planning funds to inform residents not already using broadband about the many benefits of the technology and how to access and use it.