

Governor's Office of Information Technology
2009 Legislative Session

FACT SHEET: Broadband Inventory Clarification Bill

Background Information:

- The General Assembly passed Senate Bill 08-215 during the last legislative session, which directs the Office of Information Technology (OIT), working in consultation with the Governor's Innovation Council, to identify broadband service areas within the State and to produce a geographically-based statewide inventory of broadband availability. The map is intended to both spur the extension of broadband service to currently unserved areas and enable the State to plan effectively on how to address the areas that are currently unserved.
 - SB 215 did not appropriate any General Fund dollars but rather allowed for the collection of private gifts, grants, and donations to fund the project. It also authorized OIT to request up to \$100,000, as a last resort, from the Colorado High Cost Support Mechanism to help fill any funding gaps.
 - OIT and the Innovation Council developed project requirements, published an RFP, and embarked on a fundraising campaign. Both private-sector (telecommunications companies) and public-sector (DOLA & PUC) grants and donations were committed. However, SB 215 restricts OIT from receiving public grants.
 - OIT has secured 100% of the funding needed to successfully complete the project but needs the authority to collect both private and public gifts, grants, and donations.
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Overview of 2009 Bill:

- Authorizes OIT to accept public gifts, grants, and donations to support the broadband mapping project.
 - Extends the broadband inventory completion date to November 1, 2009, and the self-repeal date to January 1, 2010.
 - Appropriates \$351,537 to develop the statewide inventory of broadband service areas, which reflects the actual cost of the broadband mapping effort. This amount includes a \$100,000 Energy & Mineral Impact Grant awarded by the Dept. of Local Affairs for the project.
 - No General Fund dollars are appropriated for the project.
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Importance of Bill:

- Broadband is a critical infrastructure for economic and business development, the delivery of health care and education, civic engagement, and a host of other important areas. Broadband infrastructure investments have shown to stimulate the economy and lead to job growth.
 - The State of Colorado does not have a comprehensive inventory of broadband services areas, which is needed to guide policymaking around broadband. The project would address this need and provide the information necessary to make informed decisions around broadband deployment.
 - Broadband mapping is the critical first step to greater broadband deployment and adoption. First, we need to determine which communities lack access; then, we can develop effective deployment strategies.
 - The bill does not prescribe how broadband should be deployed but rather gathers the information necessary for policymakers to make those decisions.
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