

Why high speed internet is needed in Chenango County

1. Broadband is responsible for 43% of new jobs created by business since 2013. We are struggling to attract small business (many of whom need reliable high-speed internet, where one can work from their home or a small business space (requiring no tax breaks in order to locate to Chenango County). A major concern of Senator Akshar, is large companies demanding 10-30 year tax breaks to locate and when the tax breaks are used up, they leave the area (i.e., Penguin Books, Kirkwood).
2. Our schools: Chenango County schools have been upgraded to 1 Gigabit of internet speed, through the Broome-Tioga BOCES Technology Department, fulfilling New York State's mandate to have all state tests be given over the internet by 2020.
3. Safety issues for senior citizens and the homebound; doctor contacts with medical records online; (Melissa Stagnaro of UHS);
4. Day to day household business: online banking; preparing and mailing income taxes; researching just about anything; and contacts with family and friends.

The Plan: The New NY Broadband Program Phase 3

The \$500 million dollar program, funded through capital resources from bank settlements, is to incentivize the private sector (i.e. companies) to expand high-speed broadband access in under-served and unserved areas. NYS Broadband Program will contribute, on average, 80% of the capital needed (Ana Rua, NYS Broadband Chair).

Each Regional Economic Development Council will identify these underserved areas, combine the data, and detail the most cost effective means to provide universal access.