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GOVERNOR ANDREW M. CUOMO

## GOVERNOR CUOMO ANNOUNCES NEXT STEP IN IMPLEMENTATION OF \$500 MILLION NEW NY BROADBAND PROGRAM

### *State Seeking Stakeholder Feedback Ahead of Launching Nation's Largest and Most Ambitious Investment in Broadband Availability*

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced the release of a Request for Information to help finalize guidelines for the New NY Broadband Program, which has undertaken the ambitious goal of substantially expanding high-speed broadband service in New York State by the end of 2018. Earlier this year, Governor Cuomo made the Nation's largest and most aggressive state investment in broadband with the commitment of \$500 million in capital for the Program.

"High speed internet access has become an essential ingredient of any strong economy and New York is leading the nation to close the broadband gap," **Governor Cuomo said.** "With this action, we are engaging providers, municipal leaders and other stakeholders to help ensure the New NY Broadband Program leverages the State's investment in the best way and fulfills its goal of providing access to high speed Internet to every New Yorker in every corner of this state."

The Request for Information is one of the final steps in determining the program's guidelines. It presents interested parties and stakeholders with an opportunity to contribute their ideas and recommendations for designing the Program, leveraging partnerships and identifying barriers and challenges to meeting broadband access demands.

The Request for Information was made available on the New York State Broadband Program Office's [website](#) on Thursday, September 24, 2015 with responses due Friday, October 30, 2015. Respondents may download the Request for Information at [nysbroadband.ny.gov/new-ny-rfi](http://nysbroadband.ny.gov/new-ny-rfi) and email their responses to [NYSBroadband@esd.ny.gov](mailto:NYSBroadband@esd.ny.gov).

**Empire State Development President and CEO Howard Zemsky said,** "Access to high-speed Internet is vital to ensuring that all New Yorkers can reach their full potential in today's technology-driven world. Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, the New NY Broadband Program will lay the foundation for a stronger and more competitive New York for years to come. We look forward to reviewing ideas from local and community stakeholders on how to meet the diverse broadband needs across the Empire State."

Broadband is an essential component for creating and sustaining economic opportunity

throughout New York State by connecting businesses and consumers with markets around the globe. While New York's broadband landscape has seen substantial improvements over the past four years, many households are still unable to fully access it. A map of New York State demonstrating the vast number of areas without high-speed broadband access can be viewed [here](#). A regional breakdown of current broadband accessibility is also available [here](#).

The New NY Broadband Program is designed to correct this problem by ensuring that every New Yorker has access to high-speed Internet by 2018. Key elements of the Program include:

- Access to broadband at speeds of at least 100 Mbps in most places, and 25 Mbps in the most remote underserved and unserved parts of the State
- Public/private sector partnerships and a required private sector co-investment
- Regional, ground-up deployment planning with the help of New York State's ten Regional Economic Development Councils
- Leveraging of State-owned fiber and other assets
- The goal of bringing high-speed Internet access to unserved areas of the State, public libraries, and educational opportunity centers
- Promoting affordable broadband access to both commercial and residential users

### **About Empire State Development**

Empire State Development is New York's chief economic development agency ([www.esd.ny.gov](http://www.esd.ny.gov)). Its mission is to promote a vigorous and growing economy, encourage the creation of new job and economic opportunities, increase revenues to the State and its municipalities, and achieve stable and diversified local economies. Through the use of loans, grants, tax credits and other forms of financial assistance, Empire State Development strives to enhance private business investment and growth to spur job creation and support prosperous communities across New York State. Empire State Development is also the primary administrative agency overseeing Governor Cuomo's Regional Economic Development Councils and the marketing of "I Love NY," the State's iconic tourism brand. For more information on Regional Councils and Empire State Development, visit [www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov](http://www.regionalcouncils.ny.gov) and [www.esd.ny.gov](http://www.esd.ny.gov).

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