

July 20, 2023

OFFICE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADBAND

NOTICE OF CONNECTICUT BROADBAND STAKEHOLDER ROUNDTABLES

High-speed internet has become an indispensable tool for participation in the economy, education, healthcare, and social relationships. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's ("DEEP") Office of Telecommunications and Broadband is focused on developing equitable policies and programs to bring the economic and social benefits of broadband access to the residents and businesses of Connecticut. This mission includes the equitable deployment of broadband infrastructure and removal of barriers to adoption for all Connecticut's residents. DEEP will be administering two broadband infrastructure grant programs funded by the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund ("CPF") and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment ("BEAD") Program to further these goals.

Input from stakeholders in public service, the private sector, and community organizations is vital to the equitable deployment of broadband infrastructure throughout the State and DEEP values these perspectives on how best to fulfill the State's deployment and digital equity objectives. As such, DEEP is engaging in quarterly discussions tailored to each of these stakeholder groups. These roundtable opportunities allow DEEP to share program updates and engage in a discussion on the opportunities and obstacles to universal, affordable, and reliable high-speed internet.

DEEP will hold the roundtable discussions virtually via ZOOM on the following dates to provide State program updates followed by an opportunity for public comment and Q&A. Future roundtable discussions may be held fully virtually, in hybrid sessions, and/or at field locations throughout the state:

Telecommunications and Broadband Service Provider Roundtable

August 8, 2023 at 2:00 PM

You may register for and access the meeting at the following link:

<https://ctdeep.zoom.us/j/81527678453>

State and Local Government Roundtable on High-Speed Internet

August 9, 2023 at 2:00 PM

You may register for and access the meeting at the following link:

<https://ctdeep.zoom.us/j/84918027991>

Community Roundtable on High-Speed Internet

August 10, 2023 at 2:00 PM

You may register for and access the meeting at the following link:

<https://ctdeep.zoom.us/j/84062115308>

Any questions regarding this meeting may be directed to Nadya Hoolahan, DEEP Bureau of Energy and Technology Policy, at DEEP.Broadband@ct.gov.

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact Nadya Hoolahan at DEEP.Broadband@ct.gov if you are seeking a communication aid or service, have limited proficiency in English, or require some other accommodation. If you wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint, you may submit your complaint to DEEP Office of Diversity and Equity at (860) 418-5910 or via email at deep.accommodations@ct.gov. In order to facilitate efforts to provide an accommodation, please request all accommodations as soon as possible following notice of any agency hearing, meeting, program or event.