

December 5, 2024

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
OFFICE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADBAND

NOTICE OF Q4 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 is 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 hosting quarterly discussions tailored to service providers; state, local and tribal governments; and community organization stakeholder groups. These roundtable discussions provide opportunities for program updates, collective input and engagement on the opportunities and obstacles to universal, affordable, and reliable high-speed internet in Connecticut. In order to more broadly benefit stakeholders relative to all active broadband programs in the state, DEEP will be joined by the Department of Administrative Service (DAS)'s Commission for Educational Technology and the Connecticut Education Network (CEN) who will cover digital equity initiatives and broadband grant funding opportunities respectively in an effort to address both broadband access and adoption.

The roundtable discussions will be held 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:

Connecticut Broadband Roundtable: Internet Service Providers

December 9, 2024, at 2:00 PM

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

<https://ctdeep.zoom.us/j/89913629123>

Connecticut Broadband Roundtable: State, Tribal, and Municipal Governments

December 11, 2024, at 2:00 PM

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

<https://ctdeep.zoom.us/j/83994792708>

Connecticut Broadband Roundtable: Community Organizations

December 12, 2024, at 2:00 PM

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

<https://ctdeep.zoom.us/j/86981461307>

Any questions regarding these meetings may be directed to Jillian Kara, DEEP Office of Telecommunications and Broadband, at DEEP.Broadband@ct.gov.

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