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Partnership aims to extend broadband service statewide

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Associated Press

Columbus- Gov. Ted Strickland has announced a state partnership with online service providers to work on making high-speed Internet access available throughout Ohio.

At a news conference Monday, Strickland said the Connect Ohio initiative will identify areas of the state without broadband connections. It also will set up committees in each county to determine how much unmet demand there is locally for high-speed service.

In July, Strickland ordered that broadband be extended to all 88 Ohio counties, saying it's vital to the state's ability to compete in a high-speed, high-tech global marketplace.

State officials Monday approved \$2.9 million to pay for the project through mid-2010. Strickland proposes spending \$3.9 million after that.

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