

Partnership to develop Ohio's broadband access

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COLUMBUS – The state will spend \$6.8 million over the next four years to develop broadband services across Ohio through a public-private partnership called Connect Ohio.

Gov. Ted Strickland said the initial effort will be to map Ohio to see where gaps in access to service remain. He wants to use state funds to leverage federal money for that.

“The digital divide in Ohio takes many forms – from lack of access to computers and broadband services to a lack of technological skills necessary for the jobs of the future,” he said.

The model is based on community-specific needs involving individuals, health services, local government, businesses and education. Connect Ohio will be a non-profit, with an executive director who hires regional program managers to build teams and help with planning.

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