



State of Arizona

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## Governor Jan Brewer Announces Stimulus Broadband Mapping Award

*State of Arizona awarded \$2.3 million in federal grants from the  
U.S. National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
for broadband planning and mapping*

PHOENIX – Governor Jan Brewer announced today that the State of Arizona has been awarded \$2.3 million through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) in order to map and plan expansion of broadband access. The funding comes in two grants, which will be managed by Arizona's Government Information Technology Agency (GITA). The intent is to identify availability and speed of broadband throughout the state and where future improvements will be prudent.

"Quality internet access is vital to educating our youth, providing a foundation for economic development, promoting public safety, extending healthcare, and providing quality of life for Arizonans," said Governor Brewer. "These two grants are the first steps in expanding web access to more Arizonans – especially in rural Arizona and tribal lands."

GITA will work closely with the Arizona State Land Department and the state cartographer in developing the Arizona broadband map. This project is part of a national effort called the State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program, which provides up to approximately \$240 million in federal grants to assist states in developing state-specific broadband maps that will contribute to an overall national broadband map.

“These two federal broadband mapping and planning grants are bold steps for Arizona,” said GITA Director and State CIO Chad Kirkpatrick. “They will help create the blueprint for broadband and will fulfill the information needs of the state. Many areas enjoy quality access to broadband, but some rural and remote areas are in need of quality connections to bring additional access.”

The first grant is for approximately \$1.8 million over a two-year period for broadband data collection and mapping activities. The second grant is for approximately \$500,000 over a three-year period for the purpose of broadband planning and determining future broadband needs.

The broadband mapping project will collect and verify the availability, speed and location of broadband across Arizona. This information will be publicly available; updated on a semi-annual basis through 2011. Citizens, local governments, and related research organizations will enjoy a direct benefit from access to this new and additional information.

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