BroadbandOhio
Community Accelerator

Broadband plays an essential role in the growth of Ohio's people and communities. Businesses need it to connect to customers, students need it to participate fully in their education, and we all need it to access information and resources impacting our everyday life.

To help Ohio's least-served communities better leverage funding for broadband expansion, BroadbandOhio, in conjunction with The Ohio State University Extension, invites communities to apply to an intensive educational program called the BroadbandOhio Community Accelerator.

Launch: Orientation Session

April 18, 2024 (9 a.m.-11 a.m. EST), Virtual: Selected teams will gather to discuss each community's current situation, assets and barriers, possible community roles and hear from instructional staff on broadband technology basics. This informal virtual meeting will be an opportunity for teams to understand what to anticipate from the program and address any pending questions.

Phase 1: Introductions to Broadband & Leadership Education

Community teams will complete a broadband development curriculum to gain a better understanding of planning processes, technology options, and business and financial models that support successful community broadband development programs. Broadband funding programs will also be highlighted.

Phase 2: Information Gathering & Strategic Planning

With assistance from instructional staff, each cohort will review existing broadband maps and interview existing and prospective internet service providers (ISPs) to fully understand existing and planned broadband services.

Teams will be equipped with tools to conduct surveys of residents, businesses, and key anchor institutions like schools and health care providers. Instructional staff will provide the survey instrument and participation link. Communities will have full access to all the survey data.

Program Closeout: Report to the Community

Each cohort will present their findings, strategies, and next steps to the other participating cohorts for peer review and comment.

Application and Program Timeline:

March 1:
Application Period Opens

March 15:
Public Q&A Session

April 1:
Applications Due

April 5:
OSU Extension + BroadbandOhio will select and notify up to six teams

April 18:
Orientation Session

April 25 — June 27:
Accelerator Program

BroadbandOhio

Ohio **Department of Development**

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Applications are due April 1, 2024

Applications should be submitted, in PDF format, to BroadbandOhio Project Manager Mark Schade, at Mark.Schade@development.ohio.gov.

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Application

Team Manager Contact Information

Name:	
Title:	
Organization:	
Phone Number:	
Email Address:	

Team Members

Please list your team members and identify their area affiliations/roles. Please understand the weekly time commitment when organizing your community's cohort. Teams larger than eight individuals are appropriate, however we ask that you limit your team size to 12 people or less.

Name:	Title:	Organization:
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
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10.		
11.		
12.		

Application Questions (maximum of 4 pages):

1. Please briefly describe the composition of your team members and each individuals' experience with community development and broadband expansion.

2. Please describe any previous broadband planning efforts in your municipality or county. Was your team directly involved in these efforts?

3. In your community's experience, how has a lack of broadband infrastructure impacted your area? How is broadband a priority for the community?

4. If selected, what benefit do you believe this instructional program will have on your community at large?

5. How many unserved and underserved homes are represented in your community?

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