

Connecting the Nation

<http://www.dailywireless.org/2007/08/13/connecting-the-nation/>

August 13, 2007

Thanks to the [ConnectKentucky](#) program, 94 percent of Kentucky households can now get broadband, compared to only 60 percent in 2001. [GovTech Magazine](#) reports Kentucky will be [the only state in the nation to have full broadband coverage](#) by the end of the year — meaning every citizen in the state will be able to subscribe to some form of high-speed Internet.

The United States Congress hopes to replicate Kentucky's success.

[Kentucky's private-public partnership has invested some \\$650 million](#). In fact, it was a key element of an FCC decision on the rules for the spectrum auction, [says e-Week](#). A bipartisan [Connect the Nation Act of 2007](#) (pdf) has been filed by [Senator Dick Durbin](#) (D-Illinois) to encourage the rapid deployment of affordable broadband Internet service throughout the nation, particularly in rural areas.

[The legislation supports a grant program, similar to ConnectKentucky, that encourages public-private partnerships](#) to accelerate broadband availability and technology literacy throughout the commonwealth.

Local "[eCommunity Leadership Teams](#)" in Kentucky create local technology strategies across multiple sectors including: local government, business and industry, education, healthcare, agriculture, tourism, libraries, and community-based organizations. The local teams generate and aggregate demand by identifying ways to better leverage technology in local communities.

ConnectKentucky has formed a national umbrella organization called [Connected Nation](#). Connected Nation assists with statewide comprehensive technology expansion efforts to improve economic development, healthcare, education and public safety, in addition to providing a better way of life for Americans.

###