

Connected Nation Submits No Bid Response for Kentucky Broadband Mapping RFP



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In light of unrealistic timeline outlined in the RFP, Connected Nation will not be submitting a bid for Kentucky's broadband mapping service request for proposal

Frankfort, KY: Today, Connected Nation, a national nonprofit and parent company of ConnectKentucky, submitted a no bid response to the Kentucky Commonwealth Office of Technology's request for proposal (RFP) for broadband mapping due to the impracticable timeline set forward in the RFP. The KY RFP for broadband mapping calls for the submission of a substantially complete dataset by November 1, 2009, a full three months earlier than the timeline laid out in the federal guidelines in the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program.

ConnectKentucky has a long-standing history of broadband mapping and working with state agencies, communities, citizens and broadband providers across Kentucky to expand broadband availability. Numerous letters of support for ConnectKentucky's programs can be viewed on the ConnectKentucky Web site. ConnectKentucky will continue to maintain and foster these relationships, while working closely with partners to increase technology availability across the state.

"Connected Nation through ConnectKentucky remains committed to working with partners and communities across Kentucky to expand technology availability to the people and places that need it most," said Brian R. Mefford, Connected Nation's chairman and CEO. "We wish the Commonwealth well and hope for its success in meeting its goals as solicited in the broadband mapping RFP."

The Broadband Mapping Service RFP (RFP 758 1000000051) outlines a two-month timeframe for data collection and map creation, requesting a substantially complete dataset by November 1, 2009. Allowing for the RFP decision making process and award, this timeline leaves less than sixty days to collect data and produce a map. Connected Nation has completed more broadband maps than any group in the country and deems this timeframe unrealistic.

Connected Nation is currently working in twelve states and one U.S. territory to map broadband availability and develop strategies to increase the availability and use of broadband services. For more information about ConnectKentucky's successes in the Commonwealth, visit www.connectkentucky.org. To learn more about Connected Nation's work across the country, please visit www.connectednation.org.

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About Connected Nation: Connected Nation is a national nonprofit 501(c)3 organization that expands access to and use of broadband Internet and the related technologies that are enabled when individuals and communities have the opportunity and desire to connect. Connected Nation effectively raises the awareness of the value of broadband and related technologies by developing coalitions of influencers and enablers for improving technology availability and use. Connected Nation works with consumers, community leaders, states, technology providers and foundations, including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, to develop and implement technology expansion programs with core competencies centered around a mission to improve digital inclusion for people and places previously underserved or overlooked.

Connected Nation is currently implementing or has completed a wide range of initiatives in the following states: Alaska, Arkansas, California, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. For more information about Connected Nation, visit www.connectednation.org.