

## **WYMT TV Channel 57 Mountain News**

### **Program Looking To Expand Broadband [Internet](#) Across East Kentucky**

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Connect [Kentucky](#) is a state wide program designed to spread broadband internet access to the entire state. Now some areas of Eastern Kentucky are working to increase internet access.

While broadband internet access is growing, officials say 8% of the state lacks broadband access and they say most of that is in rural areas.

"We are going to have these \$99 routers put up throughout the city and people will be able to access the WiFi through their WiFi enabled devices," said Brent Graden, Director of Economic Development.

Next Friday, people will be able to go anywhere in downtown Prestonsburg and log onto the internet. Officials say they hope to eventually spread wireless internet to the entire county, but they say in the mean time it means [economic growth](#) for downtown.

"Really why we're doing it is progress not profit and the reason why I say that I can announce that three new businesses are coming to downtown," Graden said.

But the all too familiar sound of dial up is still all some people in Eastern Kentucky have to depend on. In Leslie County, officials are working to move away from the phone lines for internet access and on to broadband.

"Now we're in the process of getting towers put up, a 300 foot tower to start with, which will have broadband," said Jimmy Sizemore, Leslie County Judge Executive.

Leslie County officials say smaller towers will eventually be added to spread broadband access to the entire county.

"With progressive efforts like this, we can really take advantage of our resources and really show the people of the world what we can off them as well," Graden said.

So hopefully soon all areas of Eastern Kentucky will have broadband internet access.

For more information on the Connect Kentucky program, log onto <http://www.connectkentucky.org>.

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