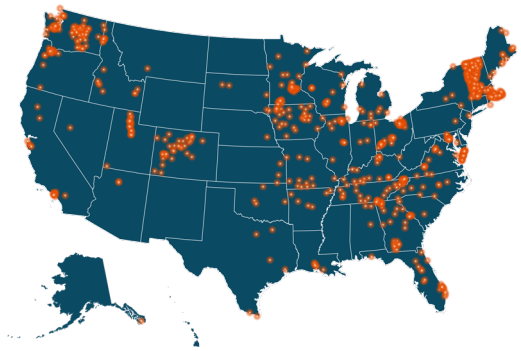
Rising Tide of Municipal Broadband Networks

A growing number of U.S. communities are taking control of their own digital futures.

Over the last three years, there has been a dramatic surge in the number of communities across the nation building publicly-owned, locally controlled high-speed Internet infrastructure. **Since January 1, 2021, at least 47 new municipal networks have come online** with dozens of other projects in the planning or pre-construction phase – **up from the 2021 tally of 400 municipal broadband networks serving some 600 communities.**



Snapshots of New Municipal Broadband Networks Lit Up for Service Over the Last 3 years:

SHERBURNE, NY (SHERBURNE CONNECT)

- In Sherburne, the village's municipal utility, Sherburne Electric, worked with the New York Power Authority (NYPA) to extend NYPA's existing middle mile fiber network to bring last-mile fiber service to the village's 1,800 homes and businesses
- The open access network, known as **Sherburne Connect**, offers residents **two different ISPs from which to choose**: Fybercom and FiberSpark. Both offer a symmetrical 100 Megabits per second (Mbps) service for $10/month or symmetrical gig speed service for between $30 and $45/month.

CENTRAL VERMONT COMMUNICATION UNION DISTRICT (CV FIBER)

- One of the **state's 10 Communication Union Districts** established to build broadband networks to most towns across the Granite State, the Central Vermont CUD **connected its first fiber-to-the-home subscriber in October 2023** in the town of Calais. **Construction crews continue to expand** into the other 18 towns in CVFiber's service area.
- CVFiber offers subscribers symmetrical 100 Mbps service for $79 a month; symmetrical 500 Mbps service for $99 a month; symmetrical gigabit service for $129 a month; and symmetrical 2 Gbps service for $199 a month.

KNOXVILLE UTILITIES BOARD (KUB FIBER)

- Knoxville, Tennessee's Knoxville Utility Board (KUB) **completed the first phase** of its ambitious broadband deployment in 2023, bringing affordable fiber access to more than 50,000 premises in this city of 192,000
- KUB was driven to expand access after more than a decade of local frustration at the slow speeds, high prices, and spotty coverage caused by a notable lack of competition between regional telecom monopolies, AT&T and Comcast (Xfinity).
- Subscribers have the **option of three tiers of service**: symmetrical gigabit per second (Gbps) service for $65 a month; symmetrical 2.5 Gbps service for $150 a month; and symmetrical 10 Gbps service for $300 a month.

WATERLOO, IOWA (WATERLOO FIBER)

- Construction of the **Waterloo Fiber** network in the summer of 2023 with a **groundbreaking ceremony** hosted by Waterloo Mayor Quentin Hart.
- **Waterloo officials recently launched** their first limited fiber trial. With plans to connect its first commercial customers in February 2024, the project is on target to deploy affordable fiber service at speeds of up to 10 gigabit per second (Gbps) citywide by 2026
- Competing against the likes of CenturyLink and MediaCom, Waterloo Fiber is **offering residential subscribers** symmetrical 100 Mbps service for $30/month up to symmetrical 1 Gbps service for $70/month.

Municipal broadband networks across the country are routinely recognized as among the **fastest in the nation** with **high subscriber satisfaction rates**, which includes the likes of "America's first gig city," the municipal network in Chattanooga, EPB Fiber; and NextLight, the municipal fiber network in Longmont, Colo. Municipal networks have also garnered praise for turning cities into the **best work-from-home locations** in the country.

Visit **communitynets.org** – the nation's largest storehouse of information on community broadband – to follow the latest community broadband developments. Also be sure to visit our **Start A Community Network** page and our **Educate Your Local Community** page for those interested in learning more about community broadband networks.