



News from Livingston County, N.Y.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ian M. Coyle, Livingston County Administrator

Phone: 585.243.7040

Email: icoyle@co.livingston.ny.us

Livingston County Provides Update on Light Up Livingston Project

County-led broadband plan enters Phase 2 of construction, unveils new informational tool for residents

GENESEO, N.Y., June 2, 2022 — Livingston County continues to make progress with its Light Up Livingston initiative, which aims to offer high-speed, fiber-optic internet access to every address in the County.

The County is currently working on Phase II of the project, made possible in part through an \$11.3 million grant from Round 2 of the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Broadband ReConnect program. The program offers loans and grants to facilitate broadband deployment in areas of rural America that do not have sufficient access to broadband.

Project officials recently unveiled a Light Up Livingston geographic information system (GIS) portal created through this federal grant funding. The GIS portal lets users view broadband funding status for areas throughout the County. County residents can enter their address information and see if they're location is part of the grant, whether a grant for their area has been awarded yet, and general info on the project as it continues to move forward.

"With the changing nature of work, we recognize that high-speed internet is a must-have to remain competitive in today's workforce," said Livingston County Administrator Ian M. Coyle. "I'm happy to report our forward-thinking Light Up Livingston initiative is making great progress toward that end. I'd like our residents to know that we're invested in achieving County-wide broadband and bringing it to all our residents as soon as possible."

Livingston County has taken a phased approach to its broadband development, first identifying and focusing on unserved areas with no options for home internet access, then on addresses with speeds below 100/20 Mbps, and lastly, those addresses with existing internet below 1 Gbps or whose choice of providers is limited to one. This approach allows a more efficient roll out of the initiative and lets project officials commit to more defined time frames when announcing service start dates.

The County established a public-private partnership with Empire Access, a local internet service provider, at the beginning of the grant application process to jointly apply for ReConnect funding and assist in realizing the initiative's goals. Empire Access CEO Jim Baase said the project is moving on schedule.

"We're very proud to be partnering with Livingston County on the USDA ReConnect grant project bringing high-speed, affordable internet to homes throughout the County," said Jim Baase, Chief Operating Officer of Empire Access. "The project is now underway and I'm happy to report that everything is moving along smoothly and on schedule."

For more information on Light Up Livingston, please call 585-243-7040 or visit <https://www.livingstoncounty.us/1175/Light-Up-Livingston>.

About Livingston County:

Founded in 1821, Livingston County, N.Y., is comprised of more than 61,000 residents in 17 towns located across 631 square miles of the Finger Lakes region.



###