

# Maine Broadband

## News You Can Use

*Keeping you up to speed with Maine's bits and bytes*

### News and Resources

**Gov. Mills announces \$30M Broadband Bond proposal as a part of new "Back To Work" Initiative.**

02.23.21

The Maine Broadband Coalition (MBC) commends Governor Janet Mills after she announced a new "Back to Work" bond proposal in the 2021 State of the State address. The proposal, anchored by investments in broadband, innovation, and workforce development recognizes the important role state leadership plays in closing the digital divide in Maine.

[Office of Gov. Janet Mills](#)

**States couldn't afford to wait for the FCC's broadband maps to improve. So they didn't**

02.23.21 by Shara Tibken

Georgia, Maine, Pennsylvania and others took mapping into their own hands, building their own granular data to pinpoint gaps in internet coverage and apply for federal funding.

[CNET](#)

**Maine still has much work to do to improve broadband availability, report says**

02.22.21 by Peggy Schaffer

Peggy Schaffer, executive director of ConnectMaine, discusses the importance of accurate broadband data collection, how current federal data falls short, and what states are doing to give power back to communities through crowdsourced speed testing.

[techdirt](#)

**Maine can't afford a fractured approach to expanding internet access**

02.21.21 by The BDN Editorial Board

Internet connectivity has come to be a requirement in so many aspects of life: in business, in education, in health care, in growing the economy. While some Maine communities are well-served or are making strides to improve internet access, other parts of our rural state are being left behind.

[Bangor Daily News](#)

**Maine Voices: Internet connectivity that just works will help Maine thrive**

02.14.21 by Susan Woods

One key step is to chart internet quality. The ISPs won't tell us the truth – the Maine Broadband Coalition needs to hear from you.

[Portland Press Herald](#)

**Pandemic is stressing Maine's internet speeds**

02.08.21 by Lori Valigra

Mainers returning to the state to work and live are finding it a challenge with the slower internet. Faster and more reliable technologies might not be available in certain areas or are not affordable.

[Bangor Daily News](#)

## **Silver Linings: Broadening Broadband in Rural Maine**

02.07.21 by Karen Kreworuka

Sen. Rick Bennett of Oxford County sponsors bill to help expand broadband in rural Maine, improving access to telehealth, education, and social interaction: “Democracy itself is enhanced by high-speed internet,” he says. AARP Maine, a member of Maine Broadband Coalition, voices their support.

[Lewiston Sun Journal](#)

## **Upcoming Events**

### **ConnectMaine Public Meeting**

Thursday, February 25th, 2021 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM EST

Tune in for the next ConnectMaine public meeting. Important for communities thinking about applying to the ConnectMaine infrastructure grant.

[Click here to join](#)

# CONNECTMAINE

# Digital Frontiers

Telehealth



March 4, 2021  
12pm - 1pm

## Featuring:



Reid Plimpton  
Project Manager



Jasmine Bishop  
Director of Telehealth



Yvonne Jonk  
Deputy Director



Peggy Pinkham  
Executive Director



Mike Charley  
Executive Vice  
President



MaineHealth



Maine  
Rural Health  
Research Center



§ Sencio Systems  
See what's ahead

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## Digital Frontiers: Telehealth

Thursday, March 4, 2021 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM EST

Join us for the second installment of Digital Frontiers, a webinar series aimed at highlighting innovation around the future of broadband and digital infrastructure in Maine. The topic for March is Telehealth, featuring representatives from MaineHealth, Northeast Telehealth Resource Center, Sencio Systems, the Maine Rural Health Research Center, and the Maine Rural Health Collaborative LLC.

[Click here to register](#)

## In Case You Missed It

### Digital Frontiers: Data & Mapping

Thursday, February 4, 2021 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM EST

[Click here to watch a recording](#)



# DIGITAL FRONTIERS

DATA & MAPPING

FEBRUARY 4, 2021  
12:00-1:00 PM

FEATURING



NETWORKMAINE



GPCOG



**National Digital Equity Center to offer free tablets to Maine residents**

Good News Highlight



The National Digital Equity Center will now be able to offer free tablets to eligible Maine residents thanks to support from the Maine Office of Community Development, a program of the Maine Department of Economic & Community Development. These tablets will allow users to connect to the internet and other resources, helping to close the digital divide experienced by many Mainers across the state. Click [here](#) to learn more about the program.



## Tell us how your broadband is faring during the pandemic

### Request for Action

A message from *Bangor Daily News*:

We want to hear about your experience with broadband and whether it was enough for your work, learning and play. Join the conversation by answering our survey.

Click [here](#) to take the survey today.

GET UP TO SPEED!

This summer you voted for better internet.

**Now it's time to take the speed test!**

We're mapping Maine's internet speed and need your help.

What's your speed?

Get Up to Speed here: [www.mainebroadbandcoalition.org](http://www.mainebroadbandcoalition.org)

The banner has a dark blue background with a white speedometer icon at the top. The text is in white and orange. There are abstract light blue shapes on the left side.

[Click here to take the test](#)



**We want to hear from you!**

Email us at:

[connect@mainebroadbandcoalition.org](mailto:connect@mainebroadbandcoalition.org)

Share Via:

[Get Up To Speed - keep testing](#)