Connect Puerto Rico Releases New Broadband Availability Figures in Support of GIS Day

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Availability of fixed terrestrial broadband service of at least 6 Mbps download/1.5 Mbps upload increased in Puerto Rico by over 20 percentage points since April

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San Juan, PR – Today in support of GIS Day 2013, Connect Puerto Rico is releasing its new broadband availability data. While approximately 146,000 households still remain unserved by fixed broadband service, there have been significant increases since April. The research shows that the number of households in Puerto Rico with access to fixed terrestrial broadband service of at least 6 Mbps download/1.5 Mbps upload has increased by over 20 percentage points (excluding mobile and satellite).

GIS Day celebrates the use of geographic information systems (GIS) to analyze diverse topics in local, state, federal, and international applications. GIS is used daily as an essential part of Connect Puerto Rico's mission to inform and advance the understanding and utilization of broadband services. Connect Puerto Rico collects and processes broadband coverage information from Internet service providers and then aggregates that coverage to create a comprehensive display of where broadband is and is not available. The resulting analyses of maximum download speed, density of unserved households, and others are created using GIS to enable decision makers.

"We are pleased to see a significant increase in the broadband access numbers in Puerto Rico," said Chris Pedersen, director of program outreach for Connect Puerto Rico. "We are continuing to work with providers and key broadband stakeholders across the island to identify the availability gaps and barriers to broadband adoption."

Nonprofit Connect Puerto Rico has been working since 2009 to evaluate broadband access, adoption, and use in Puerto Rico and promote the economic, educational, health, safety, and quality of life benefits derived from this increasingly needed technology. Connect Puerto Rico released the first statewide broadband inventory in 2010 and this marks the eighth comprehensive broadband data refresh since the start of the State Broadband Initiative program.

Among the key findings in this report:

- 89.13% of households have access to fixed broadband speeds of 3 Mbps download/768 Kbps upload or higher, the relevant metric the FCC uses to determine eligibility for Connect America Fund subsidies.
- 77.34% of Puerto Rico's households now have access to broadband service of at least 6 Mbps download/1.5 Mbps upload; this is an increase of 20.92 percentage points from April 2013 (excluding mobile wireless and satellite services).
- 77.06% of Puerto Rico's households now have access to broadband service of at least 10 Mbps download/1.5 Mbps upload; this is an increase of 28.02 percentage points from April 2013 (excluding mobile wireless and satellite services).
- 77.06% of Puerto Rico's households now have access to broadband service of at least 25 Mbps download/1.5 Mbps upload; this is an increase of 28.02 percentage points from April 2013 (excluding mobile wireless and satellite services).
- Cable broadband availability at 768 Kbps download/200 Kbps upload increased from 78.87% in October 2011 to 87.18% in October 2013, an increase of 8.31 percentage points.
- Fixed wireless broadband availability at 768 Kbps download/200 Kbps upload increased from 40.12% in October 2011 to 55.64% in October 2013, an increase of 15.52 percentage points.

Last month, the Federal Communications Commission approved $31.6 million from the Connect America Fund to connect underserved homes and businesses in Puerto Rico. The funds are being granted to Puerto Rico Telephone Company and are expected to bring broadband to 40,736 homes and businesses across Puerto Rico. The FCC determined eligible areas in Puerto Rico for these funds based on data from the National Broadband Map, which was provided by Connect Puerto Rico via this mapping initiative.

Connect Puerto Rico's research was conducted as part of the State Broadband Initiative grant program, funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). The data were gathered in accordance with the requirements of the Notice of Funds Availability and subsequent clarifications set forth by the NTIA. The process begins by contacting all known providers in Puerto Rico and providing information about the broadband mapping project. Information on broadband service areas is collected from each provider through voluntary participation and is subject to confidentiality protections. The data is then independently verified through engineering studies, site visits, propagation models, and consumer feedback. This data is critical for effective federal, state, and local planning

initiatives to ultimately advance the universal use of broadband. More information about the broadband mapping process is provided in the [Broadband Mapping FAQ](#).

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About Connect Puerto Rico: Connect Puerto Rico was commissioned by the Puerto Rico Office of the Chief Information Officer to work with each of the commonwealth's broadband providers to create detailed maps of broadband coverage and to assess the current state of broadband adoption, community-by-community, across Puerto Rico. Connect Puerto Rico will continue to develop and update the broadband data over time, ensuring that territory policymakers and citizens alike are equipped with this important information. Connect Puerto Rico's efforts are funded by the United State Department of Commerce's State Broadband Initiative grant program through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

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