

## **State Gets \$45.4M For Broadband Access Expansion**

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By Brandon Butler

Thanks to \$45.4 million in federal stimulus funding, plus a matching \$26.2 million contribution from the state, a total of \$71.6 million will be invested to expand broadband access to Western and North Central Massachusetts communities.

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute, a Westborough-based organization within the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, received the grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

The Mass Broadband Institute plans to install more than 1,100 miles of fiber-optic cable in an effort to connect 123 unserved or underserved communities in Western and North Central Massachusetts with high-speed Internet.