Expanding Wireless Broadband Hubs in Unserved Communities

Massachusetts and KCST Offering New Wifi Hotspots to Assist COVID-19 Response

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Massachusetts Broadband Institute at MassTech and KCST have worked with local internet service providers (ISPs) to offer new Wifi hotspots to unserved municipalities that lack broadband access.

- These new access points build off of the Commonwealth-owned *MassBroadband* 123 fiber-optic network. Each hotspot has been established at one of the community anchor institutions (CAIs) connected to the 1,200 mile fiber network in 2014.
- Each of the remaining unserved communities has been offered a temporary **250 Megabit per second (Mbps) wireless hotspot**, which will allow them to increase wireless broadband access for residents and students impacted by COVID-19 restrictions.
- ISPs that participate in this program **must offer the service free of any monthly charge to an eligible community**, which will be offered until September 1, 2020.

With the support of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute at MassTech, KCST reached out to local ISPs to offer the temporary wireless hotspot services in the unserved communities that do not yet have a completed Last Mile broadband network.

- 25 active wifi sites have been established through this program – full list below.
- Our thanks to town leaders and the ISPs – Access Plus, Crocker, Westfield Gas+Electric – for their help launching these sites.
- Several ISPs and communities also launched hotspots that are not part of this program but are included on the list, marked with an asterisk**(*)**. Communities with independently established hotspots are still eligible to receive a hotspot under this program.

MBI expects that each community will provide residents with instructions on how to access the hotspots.

PLEASE NOTE: It is critical that citizens who use these hotspots follow social distancing protocols in accordance with the guidance issued by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-updates-and-information).

ACTIVE Wifi Hotspot Locations

Town	Location	ADDRESS	PROVIDER
Ashfield	Belding Memorial Library	344 Main Street	WG+E
Becket	Town Hall	557 Main Street	WG+E
Blandford	Town Hall	1 Russell Stage Road	WG+E
Charlemont	Hawlemont Regional School	10 School Street	WG+E
Chesterfield	Town Offices	422 Main Road	WG+E
Colrain	Library	12 Main Road	WG+E
Cummington	Town Hall	33 Main Street	Crocker
Egremont*	Town Hall	171 Egremont Plain Rd	Fiber Connect
Florida	Senior Center	367 Mohawk Trail	Access Plus
Goshen	Town Office	40 Main Street	WG+E
Hawley	Town Offices	8 Pudding Hollow Road	Access Plus
Hawley*	Highway Department	247 West Hawley Road	WiValley

Town	Location	ADDRESS	PROVIDER
Heath	Former Heath Elementary School	18 Jacobs Road	WG+E
Leyden	School/Town Office	7 Brattleboro Road	WG+E
Monroe	Town Offices	3C School Street	Access Plus
Monterey*	Fire Station	411 Main Rd	Fiber Connect
New Braintree	Leroy Pollard Memorial Library	45 Memorial Drive	Crocker
New Marlborough (1/3)	Library	1 Mill River-Gt. Barrington Road	Crocker
New Marlborough (2/3)*	Town Hall	807 Mill River Southfield Road	Crocker
New Marlborough (3/3)*	Fire Station	205 Norfolk Road	Crocker
New Salem	Swift River School	201 Wendell Road	WG+E
Petersham	Town Offices	3 South Main Street	Crocker
Sandisfield	Town Hall	66 Sandisfield Road	Crocker
Savoy	Town Hall	720 Main Road	Access Plus
Tolland	Town Hall	241 W Granville Rd	Crocker
Warwick	Warwick Community School	41 Winchester Road	Access Plus
Washington	Town Hall	8 Summit Hill Road	WG+E
Wendell	Town Offices	9 Morse Village Road	WG+E
Windsor	Town Hall	1890 Route 9 (Berkshire Trail)	WG+E
Worthington	R.H. Conwell Elementary	147 Huntington Road	Crocker

Any questions about the program should be directed to KCST (sales@kcstusa.com (mailto:sales@kcstusa.com), 413-223-6016).

Progress continues on the Last Mile projects in unserved communities in Western and Central Massachusetts, which have been supported by over $41 million in direct grants from the Commonwealth's Last Mile program. Seventeen of the 53 communities in the program have completed projects, connectivity which has delivered broadband access to an estimated 16,000 citizens. Broadband construction projects are nearing completion in another 12 communities and service will continue to be rolled out to more residents and businesses in these communities over the coming months.