



P.O. Box 471  
39 Elm Street  
Delhi, NY 13753  
Phone (607) 746-2341  
Fax (607) 746-7548

Press Release

Contact: Mark Schneider, CEO/General Manager	FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DELHI, NY, January 18, 2016:

Delaware County Broadband Initiative (DCBI) was awarded \$2.9 million in 2014 by the Southern Tier Economic Development Council. DCBI has been a joint collaboration between Margaretville Telephone Company (MTC), Delhi Telephone Company (DTC) and Delaware County Electric Cooperative (DCEC). DCBI will extend broadband service to approximately 1,800 un-served and underserved DCEC members and their neighbors located in the Townships of Andes, Colchester, Hamden, Hardenburgh, Harpersfield, Jefferson, Kortright, and Meredith.

The total DCBI project is estimated at over \$6,700,000 including \$3.7 million in private investment, \$2.9 million in NYS grant funding, \$25,000 from the Catskill Watershed Corporation, and funding from the Town of Hardenburgh Rising Community Program.

Ideally additional funding maybe allocated from Governor Andrew Cuomo’s \$500 million New NY Broadband Program. This program is designed to establish broadband service to underserved and un-served regions of the state by the end of 2018. The New NY Broadband Grant Program Request for Proposal Guidelines have been released and are available to the public on their website, <http://www.ny.gov/programs/broadband-all>. The guidelines indicate that Phase One applications will be accepted by March 1<sup>st</sup> of 2016 and funding will be distributed based on the following criteria:

- Underserved areas that include commercial properties, governmental buildings, healthcare facilities, K-12 schools, libraries, institutions of higher education, and other community institutions.
- Ability to supply broadband speeds of at least 100 Mbps; 25 Mbps in remote regions of the state.
- A 50 percent match in investment funds must be provided by the private sector for the duration of the program.
- Selections will be made using a “reverse-auction” process allocating capital to applicants needing the least amount of funds from the state.

Additionally, the recent merger of Time Warner and Charter Communications will now make any municipalities that hold a franchise agreement with Time Warner or have a Verizon phone exchange ineligible for Phase One. Under the conditions of the merger Time Warner will have to expand their service territory to cover 145,000 unserved homes within their franchise areas. This expansion must be

self-funded based on the terms of their merger. However, Verizon exchange areas will be eligible to apply for the Connect America program due to be launched at the end of this month. The outcome of Time Warner expansion and the action that Verizon takes will affect the decisions of the New York State Broadband office. The Broadband office will not accept grant applications for areas that hold a franchise agreement with Time Warner or a Verizon phone exchange until April of 2016. Based on the posted guidelines and recent developments with the merger of Time Warner and Charter Communications, DCBI may not meet all the criteria for securing funds allocated for Phase One. However, the guidelines for Phase Two funding appear favorable for the DCBI team. Applications for Phase Two are expected to be accepted in June of 2016. The partnership of DCBI does it's best to keep information accurate and up to date. The DCBI is seizing every opportunity to secure funds for this technological prospect.

Additional information concerning the DCBI project including fiber maps, updates on progress, and town-wide information meetings schedules are posted on DCEC website [www.dce.coop](http://www.dce.coop).

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