

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Connect Arkansas Releases Interactive and Third Generation Broadband Coverage Maps**

**LITTLE ROCK, Ark.** - Connect Arkansas President C. Sam Walls today announced the completion and release of the organization's interactive broadband map – the first of its kind in the state of Arkansas – as well as completion of Connect's third generation of state and county level broadband maps.

Walls encouraged all Arkansans to test drive the interactive map by logging on to [www.connect-arkansas.org](http://www.connect-arkansas.org). Once there, Arkansans will see the red “Interactive Broadband Maps” button on the upper right hand side of the page.

“These maps are critical to assisting Arkansans realize the full potential of Internet access and utilization,” he said, adding that the interactive map is the only map of its kind showing broadband availability in the state. The map was designed specifically with people who do not currently have broadband access in mind, making it easy for Arkansans on slower internet connections to enjoy full use of the map.

Walls also asked that consumers share their broadband experiences with the Connect Arkansas by clicking on the either the “Tell Us Your Broadband Story” or if they do not have broadband access to click the “Broadband Not Available Yet” button and submit the form.

Connect Arkansas released its second generation map set in May of this year; those maps identified 63 broadband providers in the state. This map set shows 73 broadband providers in the state, but that number does not include resellers, Walls said.

Other key statistics from this map set include:

- Identification of 91 Internet Service Providers with this map set; 86 were identified on the May 2010 maps.



- In 2009, 50 percent of all providers in Arkansas gave Connect Arkansas data; 86 percent provided data for this map set.

To create these detailed maps, Connect GIS analysts worked closely with broadband service providers to obtain the necessary data for such robust and detailed maps, as required by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

“We appreciate the superb cooperation from the internet service provider community in supplying data for the new maps,” Walls said. “Without their collaboration, we could not have completed the map with such a high degree of accuracy or completeness.”

The new maps are available for downloading from the Connect Arkansas website at <http://connect-arkansas.org/find-my-county/> by clicking on your respective county. There Arkansasans will find county-specific maps, as well as maps statewide broadband maps.

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*Connect Arkansas is a 501(c)(3) organization created by the Arkansas Legislature in 2007. It is charged with working with the public and private sectors to help Arkansasans secure the economic, educational, health, social, and other benefits of high-speed Internet.*