

# Utah Broadband Advisory Council Report

## Executive Summary



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The Utah Broadband Advisory Council was formed in June 2011 and convenes monthly to discuss the status of broadband adoption and deployment in the State of Utah. Council members represent a diverse group of interests including economic development, State and local government, broadband providers, legislators, technology-related businesses, health care, education, libraries, public safety, and tribal entities.

The Utah Broadband Advisory Council Report, released June 19, 2012, summarizes the discussions, findings, and accomplishments of the Council during its first year and intends to provide Governor Gary R. Herbert, the Utah State Legislature, and other interested parties an overview of the Council's recommendations and policy guidance. The Report details the programs and organizations that have made Utah a leader in broadband adoption and deployment and highlights the recommendations made by the Council to continue coordinating efforts to expand broadband access and use. *The following is a summary of the recommendations of the Report, organized into specific categories affected by broadband policies:*

### Education

- Support UEN efforts and promote the continued aggregation of discounted funding for broadband services to schools, libraries and State offices, which is vital for connectivity in rural and low-income communities.
- Complete broadband service to all K-12 public and charter schools.



### Libraries

- Educate librarians about the benefits of using broadband technologies.
- The State Library should work with libraries to address local needs for broadband access, technology planning, and computer usage.



### Economic Development

- Meet with local economic developers to collaborate on strategies to improve local broadband planning efforts.
- Improve outreach to small businesses, particularly in rural areas, to promote broadband use and digital literacy.



### Public Safety

- Advise and coordinate State involvement in the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) and FirstNet.
- Support a transition from the current voice-based 9-1-1 system to a standardized IP-based system.



### Health Care

- Encourage FCC adoption of permanent rules and funding based on the success of the pilot program.
- Collaborate as health care delivery expands to non-traditional places such as homes, schools, and the workplace.



### Transportation

- Support and promote the continuation of the UDOT fiber partnership and trade model.
- Improve coordination with cities/counties and encourage them to lay conduit during road construction projects.



### Rural Broadband Access

- Encourage a technology-neutral approach to telecommunications legislation and support uniform urban and rural speed goals for broadband availability.
- Make recommendations for changes to the State USF fund to support broadband deployment.



### Tribal Broadband Access

- Increase coordination and collaboration by encouraging tribal representatives to participate in the Council.
- Work with tribal representatives to develop strategies to improve broadband access and availability.

