



# City of Lakeland, Connected Tennessee Partnering to Examine, Improve Broadband Availability

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## **City leaders asking for support of residents, business owners to provide feedback on access to broadband across the city**

**LAKELAND, TN** – Lakeland is launching a campaign to collect information on the demand for broadband in the community. In cooperation with Connected Tennessee, the city is working to encourage broadband Internet providers to expand high-speed Internet services to unserved parts of the city.

The results of a [recent business survey](#) conducted by Connected Tennessee shows that an estimated \$30 billion in online sales are earned annually by Tennessee businesses. This number alone illustrates how the adoption of broadband can change the framework of business, leading to a boost in the quality of life in communities around the state.

“Local leaders are realizing the importance of technology for quality of life, local entrepreneurship, and economic and business development,” said Deanna Ward, Connected Tennessee East Tennessee state operations manager. “We at Connected Tennessee are excited to be working with the city of Lakeland and are asking for the support of the community’s residents and business owners to visit the Connected Tennessee website and fill out our broadband inquiry so that we are able to identify where service is lacking.”

To take part in the survey, please visit <http://www.connectedtn.org/broadband->

[inquiry](#). You are not obligated to sign up for any service, nor is there any guarantee that broadband service will be expanded in all parts of the City of Lakeland in the near future.

Broadband inquiries are able to identify: 1) residents or businesses who do not currently have access to broadband but want it; 2) residents or businesses who have access to broadband but desire different or additional service options; 3) those who do not currently have access to broadband service at their location and would like to report that information to help improve the broadband inventory maps for the city.

If you would like to assist in this effort or have questions, please contact Ward at 731-699-0234, or [dward@connectedtn.org](mailto:dward@connectedtn.org); or Thad Jablonski, executive coordinator, Lakeland City Hall at 901-867-5402 or [tjablonski@lakelandtn.org](mailto:tjablonski@lakelandtn.org).

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**About Connected Tennessee:** As a public-private partnership, Connected Tennessee joins with technology-minded businesses, government entities, universities and non-profit organizations to improve economic development and enhance quality of life by accelerating Tennessee's technology landscape. For maps, research or more information about what Connected Tennessee is doing to expand broadband access, adoption, and use, please visit [www.ConnectedTN.org](http://www.ConnectedTN.org).

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