

Introduction

The National Broadband Map (NBM) Application Program Interfaces (or APIs) are designed to provide information from NBM data through any web browser. All the user must do is type in a web address (URL) to specify the information of interest and then interpret the results. The following sections provide instructions on how to determine if at least 50% of the housing units in a county have access to broadband of at least 3 Mbps download speed. The user can specify the county by providing either the name of the county or its FIPS code. These examples are based on the most recent NBM data, December 2013, but the user may specify other available datasets (e.g., jun2013 in place of dec2013).

Using the County Name

The only part of the basic URL that the user will need to modify is the county name, shown below in brackets. The user will need to include at least the first letter of the county name; however, including more letters will make it easier to find your county in the search results. If the county has two words in its name, then include the space or only search on the first word.

Basic URL

<http://www.broadbandmap.gov/broadbandmap/county-availability/dec2013/county/{countyName}?format=json>

For full API documentation, refer to

<http://www.broadbandmap.gov/developer/api/county-broadband-availability-api-search-by-county-name>.

Example 1

Determine whether Converse County, Wyoming meets the 50% threshold.

Step 1 – Change the {countyName} to Converse

It does not matter whether or not the county name is capitalized, as the returned results will be the same.

<http://www.broadbandmap.gov/broadbandmap/county-availability/dec2013/county/converse?format=json>

Step 2 – Enter the URL into a browser

If the URL is properly constructed, the text below will appear in the main page of the browser. Note that if more than one county meets the search criteria (e.g., if only the first two letters of “converse” were entered), multiple search results will be returned.

```
{ "status": "OK", "responseTime": 1, "message": [], "Results": [ { "stateName": "Wyoming", "countyName": "Converse", "availabilityGt50PercentFlag": true, "countyId": "56009", "stateId": "56" } ] }
```

Step 3 – Look at availability result

We are looking to find out whether Converse County has broadband availability greater than 50%, so within the results we want to look at the following:

```
{ "status": "OK", "responseTime": 1, "message": [], "Results": [ { "stateName": "Wyoming", "countyName": "Converse", "availabilityGt50PercentFlag": true, "countyId": "56009", "stateId": "56" } ] }
```

From this, we can determine that at least 50% of the housing units in Converse County have access to broadband with download speeds of 3 Mbps.

Example 2

Determine whether Jefferson Davis Parish, Louisiana meets the 50% threshold.

Step 1 – Change the {countyName} to Jefferson Davis

It does not matter whether or not the county name is capitalized, as the returned results will be the same. Any spaces need to be replaced with %20 (the URL encoding for a space).

```
http://www.broadbandmap.gov/broadbandmap/county-availability/dec2013/county/jefferson%20davis?format=json
```

Step 2 – Enter the URL into a browser

If the URL is properly constructed, the text below will appear in the main page of the browser.

```
{ "status": "OK", "responseTime": 17, "message": [], "Results":
  [ { "stateName": "Louisiana", "countyName": "Jefferson
  Davis", "availabilityGt50PercentFlag": true, "countyId": "22053", "stateId": "22" },
  { "stateName": "Mississippi", "countyName": "Jefferson
  Davis", "availabilityGt50PercentFlag": false, "countyId": "28065", "stateId": "28" } ] }
```

Step 3 – Look at availability result

We are looking to find out whether Jefferson Davis Parish has broadband availability greater than 50%. Unlike the result in the first example, there are two results for Jefferson Davis (one in Louisiana and one in Mississippi), so within the results we want to look at the following:

```
{ "status": "OK", "responseTime": 17, "message": [], "Results":
  [ { "stateName": "Louisiana", "countyName": "Jefferson
  Davis", "availabilityGt50PercentFlag": true, "countyId": "22053", "stateId": "22" },
  { "stateName": "Mississippi", "countyName": "Jefferson
  Davis", "availabilityGt50PercentFlag": false, "countyId": "28065", "stateId": "28" } ] }
```

From this, we can determine that at least 50% of the housing units in Jefferson Davis Parish have access to broadband with download speeds of 3 Mbps.

Tip: If an error like the one below is received, be sure to check that any spaces were indicated with %20, that the county name is spelled correctly, and that the word “county” was not included in the URL.

```
{ "status": "OK", "responseTime": 17, "message": ["No results found with the geography name
  like: jeffersondavis"] }
```

Using the County FIPS Code

The only part of the basic URL that the user will need to modify is the FIPS code shown in brackets below. A FIPS code is a five-digit code that is unique to every county in the country. The first two digits are the state code (e.g., Georgia's state code is 13) and the remaining three digits identify the county. The county FIPS codes for each state can be found at <https://www.census.gov/geo/reference/codes/cou.html>.

Basic URL

<http://www.broadbandmap.gov/broadbandmap/county-availability/dec2013/countyids/{countyids}?format=json>

For full API documentation, refer to

<http://www.broadbandmap.gov/developer/api/county-broadband-availability-api-search-by-county-fips-code>.

If the user wants to search for multiple counties, a comma-separated list can be included in the {countyids} field.

Example

Determine whether Pembina County, North Dakota meets the 50% threshold.

Step 1 – Change the {countyids}

The state FIPS code for North Dakota is 38 and the county FIPS code for Pembina County is 067, so we will enter 38067 for {countyids}.

<http://www.broadbandmap.gov/broadbandmap/county-availability/dec2013/countyids/38067?format=json>

Step 2 – Enter the URL into a browser

If the URL is properly constructed, the text below will appear in the main page of the browser.

```
{ "status": "OK", "responseTime": 2, "message": [], "Results": [ { "stateName": "North Dakota", "countyName": "Pembina", "availabilityGt50PercentFlag": true, "countyId": "38067", "stateId": "38" } ] }
```

Step 3 – Look at availability result

We are looking to find out whether Pembina County has broadband availability greater than 50%, so within the results we want to look at the following:

```
{ "status": "OK", "responseTime": 2, "message": [], "Results": [ { "stateName": "North Dakota", "countyName": "Pembina", "availabilityGt50PercentFlag": true, "countyId": "38067", "stateId": "38" } ] }
```

From this, we can determine that at least 50% of the housing units in Pembina County have access to broadband with download speeds of 3 Mbps.

Tip: If an error like the one below is received double check the county FIPS code. The codes must be five-digits in length. States like Alabama and Alaska must have a leading zero (e.g., Henry County has a FIPS code of 01067).

```
{ "status": "Bad Request", "responseTime": 5, "message": ["Geography ids not valid: 1067"] }
```