

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

## *Schumer Study: Most Rural Counties Have Fewer than Three High-Speed Internet Providers – Expanding Wi-Fi Key to Upstate New York’s Internet Future*

In light of the rapid growth of wireless internet access in major cities across the country, U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer announced a new plan to bring wireless, including “Wi-Fi” (wireless fidelity), high speed internet access to homes, businesses, and communities across upstate New York. New York State currently ranks 31<sup>st</sup> among all 50 states in percentage of households with an internet connection. Right now, there are **797** wireless high-speed internet “hot spots” in upstate New York. Wi-Fi “hot spots” are any public place (typically restaurants, cafés, airports, and hotels) that provide high-speed wireless internet usually for free.

According to Federal Communications Commission data, urban and densely populated have far more high-speed internet providers with the vast majority of rural counties having less than three providers.

There are **121** wireless high-speed internet “hot spots” currently active in the **Capital Region**. The counties with urban centers typically have **9** high-speed internet providers and the more rural counties have **3 or less**.

County	Number of High-Speed Wireless Hotspots	High-Speed Internet Providers	Some Communities With or Planning Wireless High-Speed Internet Networks
<b>Albany</b>	71	9	<b>Albany, Schenectady, Saratoga</b> are some of the communities and local governments planning to deploy Wi-Fi networks in public areas and business districts.
<b>Fulton</b>	2	5	
<b>Montgomery</b>	3	3 or less	
<b>Rensselaer</b>	8	5	
<b>Saratoga</b>	24	5	
<b>Schenectady</b>	9	9	
<b>Schoharie</b>	3	3 or less	
<b>Washington</b>	1	3 or less	
<b>Capital Region Total</b>	<b>121</b>		

There are **93** wireless high-speed internet “hot spots” currently active in **Central New York**. The counties with urban centers typically have **7** high-speed internet providers and the more rural counties have **4 or less**.

County	Number of High-Speed Wireless Hotspots	High-Speed Internet Providers	Some Communities With or Planning Wireless High-Speed Internet Networks
<b>Onondaga</b>	60	7	Colgate University and Cayuga Community College libraries both offer free <b>Wi-Fi</b> service, as do several branches of the Northern Onondaga Public Library.
<b>Oswego</b>	6	3 or less	
<b>Cortland</b>	3	4	
<b>Madison</b>	5	5	
<b>Oneida</b>	19	6	
<b>Central New York Total</b>	<b>93</b>		

There are **148** wireless high-speed internet “hot spots” currently active in **the Rochester-Finger Lakes Region**. The counties with urban centers typically have **8** high-speed internet providers and the more rural counties have **3 or less**.

County	Number of High-Speed Wireless Hotspots	High-Speed Internet Providers	Some Communities With or Planning Wireless High-Speed Internet Networks
<b>Monroe</b>	68	8	<b>Canandaigua</b> has already deployed a Wi-Fi network along a half-mile stretch of main street that covers 180 businesses and 70 apartments. <b>Rochester</b> is also planning to deploy a Wi-Fi network.
<b>Cayuga</b>	7	5	
<b>Livingston</b>	0	6	
<b>Ontario</b>	6	6	
<b>Schuyler</b>	0	3 or less	
<b>Seneca</b>	4	5	
<b>Tompkins</b>	53	12	
<b>Wayne</b>	8	4	
<b>Yates</b>	2	3 or less	
<b>Rochester - Finger Lakes Total</b>	<b>148</b>		

There are **188** wireless high-speed internet “hot spots” currently active in the **Hudson Valley**. The counties with urban centers typically have **7** high-speed internet providers and the more rural counties have **3 or less**.

County	Number of High-Speed Wireless Hotspots	High-Speed Internet Providers	Some Communities With or Planning Wireless High-Speed Internet Networks
Westchester	82	11	New Rochelle was the first city in the Lower Hudson Valley to build a free wireless network. Kingston and the village of Tivoli have both taken steps to create universal Wi-Fi access.
Orange	20	7	
Columbia	3	4	
Dutchess	27	6	
Greene	3	3 or less	
Putnam	6	9	
Rockland	23	7	
Sullivan	5	3 or less	
Ulster	24	4	
Hudson Valley Total	<b>188</b>		

There are **58** wireless high-speed internet “hot spots” currently active in the **North Country**. These rural counties typically only have **3 or less** high-speed internet providers.

County	Number of High-Speed Wireless Hotspots	High-Speed Internet Providers	Some Communities With or Planning Wireless High-Speed Internet Networks
Clinton	7	3 or less	In Warren County, Glens Falls has contracted with a private company, Glens Falls Technology Group, to bring Wi-Fi to the central business district.
St. Lawrence	4	3 or less	
Warren	31	3 or less	
Essex	7	3 or less	
Franklin	1	3 or less	
Hamilton	0	3 or less	
Herkimer	3	5	
Jefferson	5	4	
Lewis	0	3 or less	
North Country Total	<b>58</b>		

There are **37** wireless high-speed internet “hot spots” currently active in the **Southern Tier**. The counties with urban centers typically have **5** high-speed internet providers and the more rural counties have **3 or less**.

County	Number of High-Speed Wireless Hotspots	High-Speed Internet Providers	Some Communities With or Planning Wireless High-Speed Internet Networks
Broome	13	5	Oneonta is planning a Wi-Fi high speed internet network. The Interstate 81 corridor can now has wireless broadband internet service in Binghamton area.
Allegany	6	3 or less	
Chemung	4	3 or less	
Chenango	0	3 or less	
Delaware	1	3 or less	
Otsego	5	3 or less	
Steuben	7	3 or less	
Tioga	1	5	
<b>Southern Tier Total</b>	<b>37</b>		

There are **152** wireless high-speed internet “hot spots” currently active in the **Western New York**. The counties with urban centers typically have **11** high-speed internet providers and the more rural counties have **4 or less**.

County	Number of High-Speed Wireless Hotspots	High-Speed Internet Providers	Some Communities With or Planning Wireless High-Speed Internet Networks
Erie	121	11	There are now more than 40 Wi-Fi hotspots in the Buffalo area set up by a local not-for-profit, BuffaloNiagaraWifi.org, which is made up for more than 20 local and private entities.
Genesee	5	5	
Niagara	14	6	
Orleans	0	3 or less	
Wyoming	1	4	
Cattaraugus	3	3 or less	
Chautauqua	8	4	
<b>Western NY Total</b>	<b>152</b>		

\*\*\* Data produced by Federal Communications Commission Database was used to determine the number of internet providers per county and the CNET HotSpot Zone Database was used to determine the number of hotspots\*\*\*

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