



Citizen of the Year

Peter Voderberg and the BroadbandOhio Team

BroadbandOhio Chief Peter Voderberg and his team have been incredibly accessible, open, and receptive to input from public libraries and the OLC about Ohio's broadband needs. Their work has led to significant investments in Ohio's broadband infrastructure, bringing reliable high-speed internet service to thousands of households across the state.



Voderberg is acutely aware of how public libraries champion digital opportunities at the local level. Most recently, Voderberg and his team have incorporated Ohio's public libraries in a number of critical broadband projects, including:

- Holding the state's BroadbandOhio Digital Opportunity Summit at a public library.
- Naming a public library as one of Broadband Ohio's Regional Digital Inclusion Alliance Partners (RDIAs)
- Utilizing public libraries as sites for their "Listening Tour" to update the state's Digital Equity Plan.
- Involving public libraries and the OLC in the Ohio Department of Education's RemotEDx conversations as well as the national Heartland Forward Project.
- Partnering with public libraries on statewide awareness campaigns for the Emergency Connectivity Fund and the Affordable Connectivity Program (formerly the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program).
- Expanding digital literacy opportunities for public libraries and their patrons.

Voderberg has been instrumental in identifying opportunities to engage public libraries. He played a major role in bringing together Ohio's Connectivity Champions and public libraries to offer free digital literacy training and support to library patrons across the state. This partnership assists Ohioans with their connectivity needs, builds trust in their

own digital competence, and encompasses a wide range of skills — all of which are necessary to succeed in today's world. Voderberg is a constant advocate who has a keen understanding of the essential role libraries play in people's lives.

For these reasons and more, Peter Voderberg and the BroadbandOhio Team are the recipients of this year's Citizen of the Year Award.