

What is an “anchor institution?”

It is a term developed as a part of the BTOP program. It has also been referred to as a community anchor institution and a critical institution. Anchor institutions are a critical part of any community, providing key public services. They include schools, medical service providers, public safety providers, and other government offices. They are also likely to be some of the larger users of broadband services in a community, especially a small community. In this regard, they may serve a role like an anchor store in a shopping mall—providing enough regular broadband traffic so that the service provider can afford to make broadband services available to everyone in a community.