

**Budget Questions and Requests for Information**  
**2013-14 Recommended Budget**  
**QUESTION 18**

**QUESTION:** What is Carrboro's contribution to GIG-U?

**RESPONDENT:** John Bjurman, Chief Information Officer

**RESPONSE:** The Town of Chapel Hill and the Town of Carrboro are both a part of a national effort to bring high speed broadband in the form of gigabit/second speeds to the home. This effort, called GIG-U, was initiated by universities across the country working with their respective local jurisdictions to attract vendors to provide gigabit speed service. In North Carolina, the Town of Chapel Hill, Town of Carrboro, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, City of Durham, Duke University, Raleigh, NC State, Town of Cary, City of Winston-Salem, and Wake Forest University jointly formed a group called North Carolina Next Generation Networks (NCNGN).

Since the cities and towns of North Carolina are currently prevented from providing service directly to residents by state law, the cities, towns and universities mentioned above joined forces to find an outside vendor(s) to provide high speed broadband service. The group has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Internet Service Providers to respond with intent to provide high speed (gigabit/sec) service, and NCNGN is currently in the process of evaluating those responses. Since each town or city may have a different focus, the RFP contained a section dedicated to each specific town or city involved in the process to outline specific needs. Chapel Hill and Carrboro jointly developed the section dedicated to local requirements because we are similarly situated with regard to location and existing infrastructure. We both place a high priority on reducing the digital divide. Both are part of the NCNGN group and hope to attract a suitable provider of high speed internet service to the home. Based on the project timetable and contingent on successful negotiation with a vendor, implementation of a system could start in spring of 2014 at the earliest.