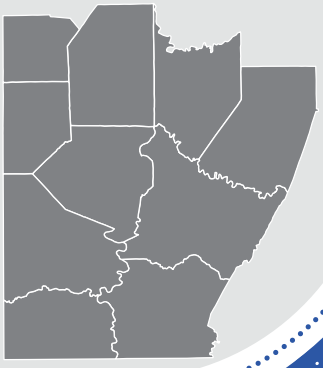
Appendix E

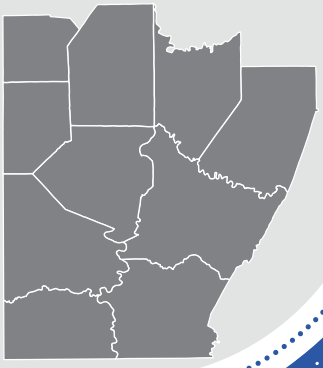
Glossary



GLOSSARY

Common Terms

Bandwidth	The volume of information that can be sent over a connection in a measured amount of time.
Broadband	The term broadband commonly refers to high-speed internet access that is always on and faster than traditional DSL or dial-up access. Broadband is delivered through multiple technologies, like fiber optic cables, fixed antenna, satellite, mobile, and cable modem.
Connectivity	The ability to link to and communicate with other computer systems, electronic devices, software, or the internet.
Connectivity Opportunity Areas	Locations that are unserved and underserved with poor mobile and fixed broadband service speeds.
Dark Fiber	Unused optical fiber that has been laid or strung but is not currently being used in fiber-optic communications. Dark fiber represents additional capacity for bandwidth to be made available. Typically the customer, not the service provider, maintains and operates equipment to use the dark fiber when they lease it.
Digital Equity	A goal to ensure that everyone has equal access to technology tools, computers, and the internet and has the knowledge and skills to use them effectively.
Digital Navigator	Digital navigators are trained staff who work with residents on digital literacy including home connectivity and how to search for or apply for jobs and critical services.
Download Speed	The rate that data or information can be received by a user's computer or device from the internet.
Hotspot	A hotspot is a physical location where people may obtain internet access, typically using Wi-Fi technology. Public hotspots may be created by a business for use by customers, such as coffee shops or hotels. Personal or mobile hotspots let users connect their smartphones to other devices for internet access.



GLOSSARY

Mbps	Megabits per second are units of measurement that generally refers to upload and download speeds to measure the file size of data transferred per second over a channel and are used to show how fast a network or internet connection is.
Mesh Network	Technology to provide seamless wireless via multiple mesh nodes, or Wi-Fi extenders, that work together to route data to and from users.
Network	A system that connects two or more computing devices for transmitting or sharing information.
Served	Locations that have access to high-speed internet as it is currently defined by the FCC is 25 Mbps download/3 Mbps upload.
Small Cell Technology	Wireless transmitters and receivers (pizza-box sized) designed to provide network coverage to smaller areas. It strengthens coverage and data transfer speeds where devices might otherwise compete for bandwidth. 5G is built on small cell technology.
Underserved	Locations where internet service is at or above the FCC threshold but with no access to broadband service at speeds 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload.
Wi-Fi	Wi-Fi (short for Wireless Fidelity) is the radio signal sent from a wireless router to a nearby device, which translates the signal into data you can see and use. The device transmits a radio signal back to the router, which connects to the internet by wire or cable.

GLOSSARY

Acronyms

ACP	Affordable Connectivity Program (formerly the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program)
ARPA	American Rescue Plan Act
BEAD	Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment Program
CIP	Capital Improvement Projects
CARES Act	Coronavirus Aid, Relief, & Economic Security Act
CFA	Commonwealth Financing Authority
CMU	Carnegie Mellon University
COA	Connectivity Opportunity Areas
CRF	Coronavirus Relief Fund
DCED	Department of Community and Economic Development
ELL	English Language Learning
ESL	English as a Second Language
FCC	Federal Communications Commission
IIJA	Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (of 2021)
ISP	Internet Service Provider
KINBER	Keystone Initiative for Network Based Education and Research
LDD	Local Development District
LEP	Limited English Proficiency
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization
NTIA	National Telecommunications and Information Administration
P3	Public-Private Partnerships
PBDA	Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority
RCO	Registered Community Organizations
RDOF	Rural Digital Opportunity Fund
RPO	Rural Planning Organization
SAP&DC	Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission
SLFRF	Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
SPC	Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
SWPA	Southwestern Pennsylvania
UTOPIA	Utah Telecommunication Open Infrastructure Agency
WISP	Wireless internet service providers