Regional Broadband & Connectivity Summit
Opening Remarks

Leslie Osche
Chairman, Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
Chairman, Butler County Board of Commissioners

Regional Broadband & Connectivity Summit
State of the Region

Andy Waple, Deputy Executive Director of Programs, SPC

Regional Perspective

Lance Grable, Director, Beaver County Office of Planning & Redevelopment

Planning/Surveys

Heidi Norman, Director, Department of Innovation & Performance City of Pittsburgh

Access & Equity

Mike Belding, Chairman, Greene County Board of Commissioners
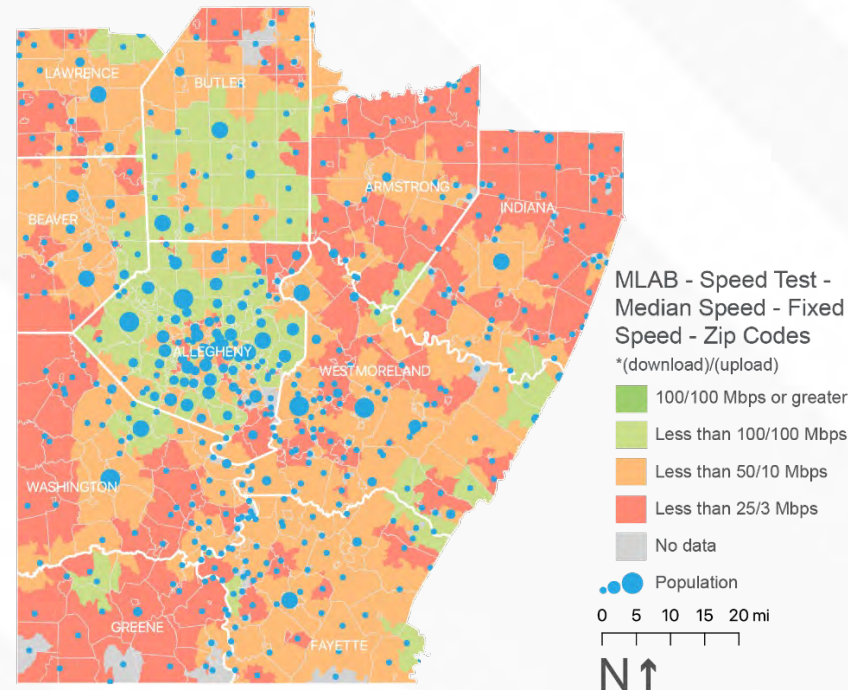
Implementation

Moderated by **Amy McKinney**
Director of Planning & Community Development
Lawrence County

SPC
SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION

Southwestern Pennsylvania
Connected
Equitable Broadband Access

Current Status of Region

Most of the region has download speeds less than 50 Mbps (underserved) or less than 25 Mbps (unserved).

- To correct for the overstated conditions found in the Form 477 data, the actual measured speeds were mapped for the 10-county region.

- The areas of the region that have access to speeds meeting the 100 Mbps download/100 Mbps upload threshold are too small to be visible on the map.

- Download speeds between 50 and 99 Mbps are more common in Allegheny and Butler counties but are found only in small areas throughout the remaining eight counties.

MLAB - Speed Test - Median Speed - Fixed Speed - Zip Codes
*(download)/(upload)

- 100/100 Mbps or greater
- Less than 100/100 Mbps
- Less than 50/10 Mbps
- Less than 25/3 Mbps
- No data
- Population

0 5 10 15 20 mi

N ↑

Southwestern Pennsylvania
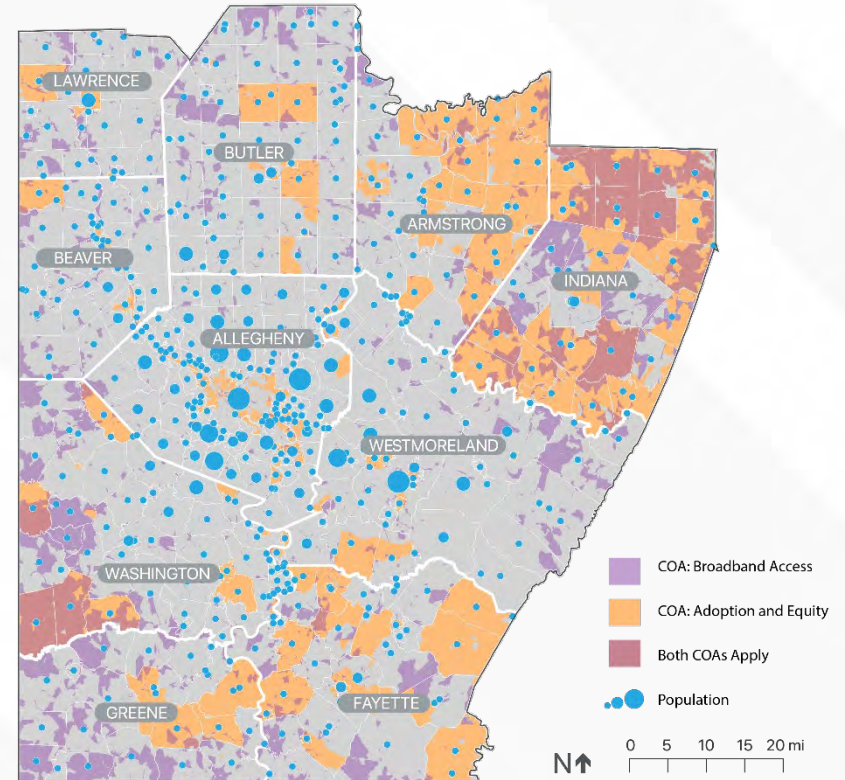**Connected**
Equitable Broadband Access

Current Status of Region

- These areas are primarily rural and reveal a large divide in digital access between urban centers and rural towns.

- At least 5% of locations are served by only one provider, which limits options, services, and affordability.

- Additional broadband buildout is occurring in rural areas and mapping will need to be regularly updated to reflect these actions.

5
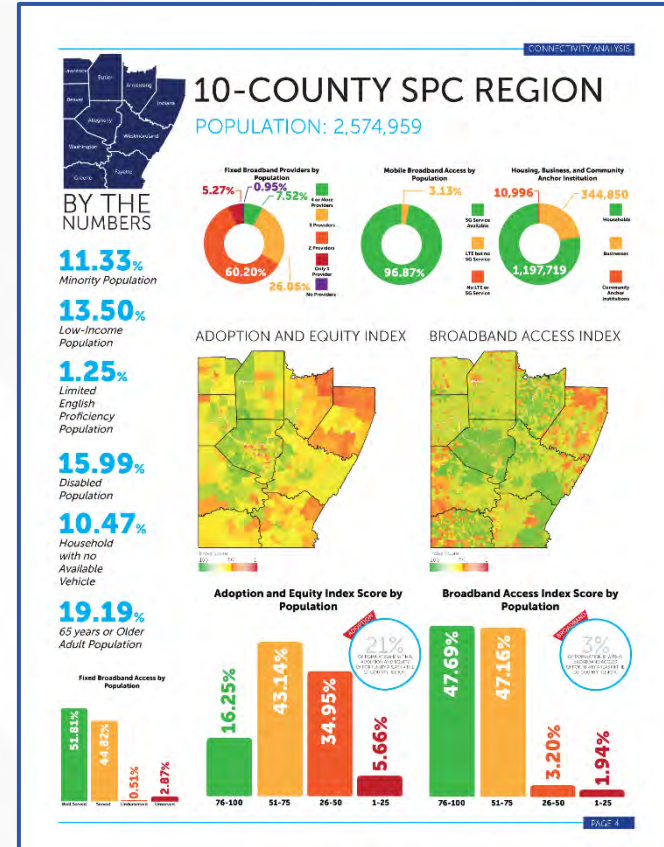
Our Approach

- The Connectivity Roadmap conducted an existing conditions analysis, developed two indices to measure existing coverage through the lenses of access and equity, and then identified areas of greatest need and opportunity.

  - The Broadband Access Index
  - The Adoption and Equity Index

- Through identifying and evaluating access based on coverage, speed, and affordability available to rural, suburban, and urban populations in comparison to demographic and socioeconomic conditions, several key areas were identified.

Public Engagement & Feedback

- The overarching themes of the community feedback were:
  - The internet helps people to connect and learn
  - Connectivity is expensive and unreliable for many residents
  - Many people connect to the internet via a mobile device
  - Rural communities feel left behind
  - Connectivity impacts the local economy
  - People connect to the internet where they can and when they can
- Rural vs. Urban (Access vs. Affordability)
- Digital Literacy – The Realm of the Possible

3,445+
Survey Respondents

5
Workshops

17
Community Conversations

25+
Interviews

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Equitable Broadband Access

SPC Regional Broadband Summit

State of the Region: Access & Equity

Heidi Norman, CIO & Director
Dept. of Innovation & Performance
City of Pittsburgh
February 16, 2023

Digital Access in the Urban Environment

According to the latest available release of American Community Survey data:
- **86.5% of households in Pittsburgh have a broadband subscription;**
  - 2020 Census Pittsburgh population = 303,000
  - **41,000 city residents do not have broadband subscriptions**
  - 2020 Census shows 17 PA counties have total populations less than 41k, but the bulk of the funding is for locations with no access at all, thus excluding urban centers due to "overbuild" restrictions. *Why is that a problem?*

The FCO̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶across Pittsburgh, however:
- It is ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ed and oper̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ket.
- This ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶e access at affo̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶
- Ther̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶e-market syste̶m, do not exist. *This is the futu̶re ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶ ̶g changes.*

How can we work together to support economic opportunities for residents, local companies and the workforce by going beyond mere access and toward choice in the ISP market?

Digital Equity Everywhere

Digital equity goes beyond immediate access to broadband internet to identify and address significant gaps in:

1. Information for residents to know what ISP services are available and guidance on how to secure ISP services at a price point they can afford;
2. Digital skills to safely and securely use the internet for residents' needs;
3. Access to a computing device that meets the needs of the end-users;
4. Accessible technical support when technology breaks.

Cit... ...ns
to ...ing
on

How can we fundamentally change the equation to _close_ these gaps in digital equity once and for all and sustain the most effective programs for current and future generations?

Recommendation for Municipal Broadband

Don't count out local government and cooperatives in Pennsylvania.

- Last fall the NTIA clarified that states will need to certify whether they are waiving their anti-muni laws which effectively prevent local governments and cooperatives from providing ISP services in their communities.

- [Broadband Now published a report](#) in October 2022 which shows that every state surrounding PA has eliminated any legal restrictions they may have had to munic̶i̶p̶a̶l̶ WV, MD, NJ, DE, NY.

- Penns̶ for reside

  > **How can we catapult Pennsylvania to be the *most* competitive state in the region for economic opportunities related to Broadband expansion?**

- The fe̶ ween ISPs and municipal networks are not going competitive in the long run.

Sustainable Broadband for PA

Core principles for planning sustainable broadband infrastructure:

1. **Collaboration**: funded IT infrastructure plans should share resources such as rights of way and conduit across networks to serve more people cost-effectively.

2. **Fr**~~~~ competitors in all markets to en~~~~

3. **O**~~~~ require pu~~~~

4. **Ba**~~~~ity re~~~~s or ability to pay

5. **Self-Sustaining**: funded IT infrastructure pr~~~~ness model which ensures networks are maintained and updated to future proof the initial capital investment over decades.

Together, we can innovate to answer these key questions and deliver broadband and economic opportunities for all Pennsylvanians.

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Equitable Broadband Access

Greene County Commissioners Broadband Initiatives

Feasibility Study – Dedicated team, Jan 2020
- Subject matter experts inventory of industry assets and capabilities
- Gain access to proprietary information through NDAs
- Recommendations for appropriate technology, speeds, and priorities
- Residents participation in speed surveys
- Request for proposal (RFP) recommendations
- Grant writing, implementation and close-out team
- Industry partners we value and trust
  - Non-disclosure Agreements
- All installation solutions resolved to gig speed fiber-optic cable

CARES Act funding, December 2020
- Request For Proposals (RFP) completed
- 5 Providers in Greene County. 3 Inquired, 1 Responded
- $1.2 million CARES Act Funding
- $1.6 million industry partner
- 220 + miles of fiber-optic cable deployed
- 8,300 homes and businesses with gig capability completed

Every day we are striving to make Greene County a better place to live, learn, work and play!

Greene County Commissioners Broadband Initiatives

Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Grant, Sept 2021
- $2.5 million grant
- $2.7 million industry partner
- Nearly 1,000 homes and businesses
- 92 + miles of fiber-optic cable to be installed
- Engineering and environmental are being finalized
  - Federal regulations expand implementation timeline

CNX Foundation Donation, June 2022
- $1 million foundation grant
- $ 192,436 industry partner
- 103 homes and businesses
- 31 + miles of fiber-optic cable to be installed
- Targeted Gray, Morris, Richhill Townships addresses that are not covered by any other program
- Ryerson Station State Park
- Engineering and environmental are being finalized
- November 2024 completion date

Every day we are striving to make Greene County a better place to live, learn, work and play!

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Regional Broadband & Connectivity Summit
Legislative Panel

Representative Nick Pisciottano, 38th District, PA House of Representatives

Todd Eachus, President, Broadband Cable Association of Pennsylvania

Melissa Gates, Government Relations Manager, County Commissioners
Association of Pennsylvania

Moderated by **Jim Penna**, Regional Director External Affairs, AT&T

Regional Broadband & Connectivity Summit
Internet for All Funding Panel

Brandon Carson, Executive Director, PA Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED), Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority (PBDA)

Robert Fry, General Field Representative for the Rural Utility Service, Telecom Division, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Curtis Hansen, Broadband Program Manager, Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)

Nicole Ugarte, Federal Program Officer, Pennsylvania, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)

Moderated by **John Timney,**
Executive Director, Washington County Authority

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SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION

Southwestern Pennsylvania
Connected
Equitable Broadband Access

Regional Broadband and Connectivity Summit

Internet for All Funding Panel

10 project areas designed and estimated to be 700 miles of new fiber construction

7 different companies submitted broadband proposals

47 proposals submitted including partial projects and super-projects

6,000 residences, small businesses, and schools to be primary focus within Phase III

$278M value of all of the submitted proposals with no distinction on prioritization or project winners

Proposed Timeline: The **47** submitted broadband proposals will be reviewed and scored in **Q1-2023** with intentions of projects to be awarded **Q2-2023**.

Washington County Authority
PENNSYLVANIA

Regional Broadband & Connectivity Summit
Keynote Address

Anna Read

Senior Officer, Broadband Access Initiative, Pew Charitable Trust

Introduced by **Alexandra Taylor**, *Program Officer, Hillman Family Foundation*

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission Regional Broadband and Connectivity Summit

Lunch Keynote   February 16, 2023

Pew

About Pew

Established in 1948, The Pew Charitable Trusts is a global nongovernmental organization that seeks to improve public policy, inform the public, and invigorate civic life.

The Pew Charitable Trusts' broadband access initiative works with state and federal lawmakers, researchers, and other partners to accelerate the nation's progress to universal, affordable high-speed internet service.

Pew

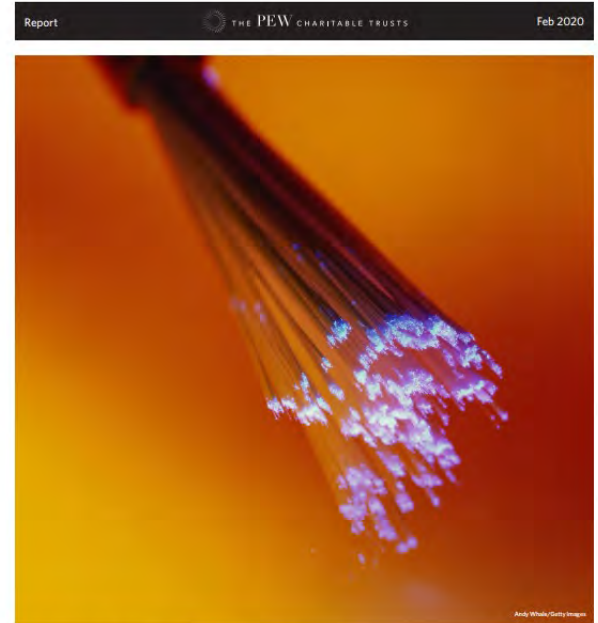# Pew Publications

FACT SHEET   July 7, 2022

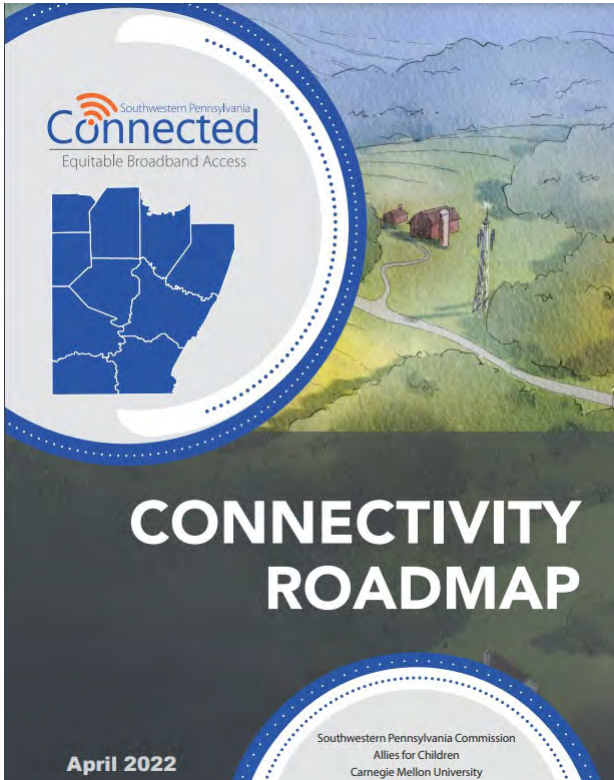What Are the Key Elements of Broadband Policy?

ARTICLE   April 29, 2022

How Can the United States Address Broadband Affordability?

Report   THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS   Feb 2020

Andy Whale/Getty Images

How States Are Expanding Broadband Access

New research identifies tactics for connecting unserved communities

Pew

"Broadband is the gateway that allows communities and individuals across the region to access information that is essential to everyday life. Without broadband, it is difficult to participate in society, creating negative impacts on individuals and communities. Rather than viewing high-speed internet as a luxury, it is becoming increasingly clear that broadband needs to be viewed as a necessity, like electricity or water."

-Connectivity Roadmap

Pew

"For Pennsylvania to succeed, we must close the digital divide, ensuring that every citizen and business has the access to connect to the ever-expanding digital world in which we live and work."

-Statewide Broadband Plan

Pew
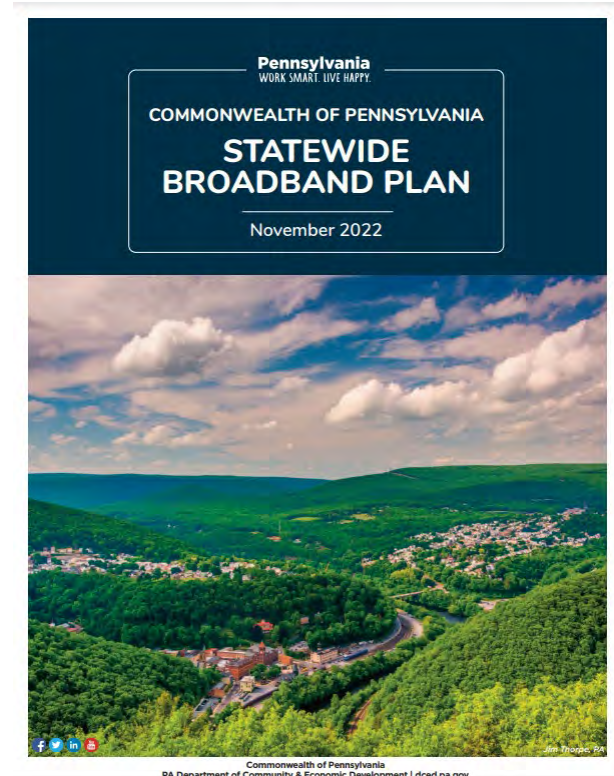
Infrastructure Access

According to the latest data from the Federal Communications Commission's broadband availability map, an [estimated](#) **7.8 million** locations nationwide are unserved and an additional **5 million** locations are underserved.

Pew

Affordability

Nearly half of households with annual incomes below $50,000 are "subscription vulnerable" – meaning it is very difficult for them to afford maintaining broadband service – according to a survey by *Everyone On*.

Affordability

43% of adults in households with incomes below $30,000 per year lack a home broadband connection.

### Those With Higher Household Income Are Most Likely to Have Broadband at Home

Internet adoption by income level

	Less than $30,000	$30,000-$49,999	$50,000-$74,999	$75,000+
% of U.S. adults who say they use the internet	86%	91%	98%	99%
% of U.S. adults who say they have a broadband connection at home	57%	74%	87%	92%

Source: The Pew Research Center, "Internet/Broadband Fact Sheet," April 7, 2021, https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/fact-sheet/internet-broadband

Pew

What is affordable for households in the SPC Region?

Pennsylvania FCC 2% Affordability Benchmark
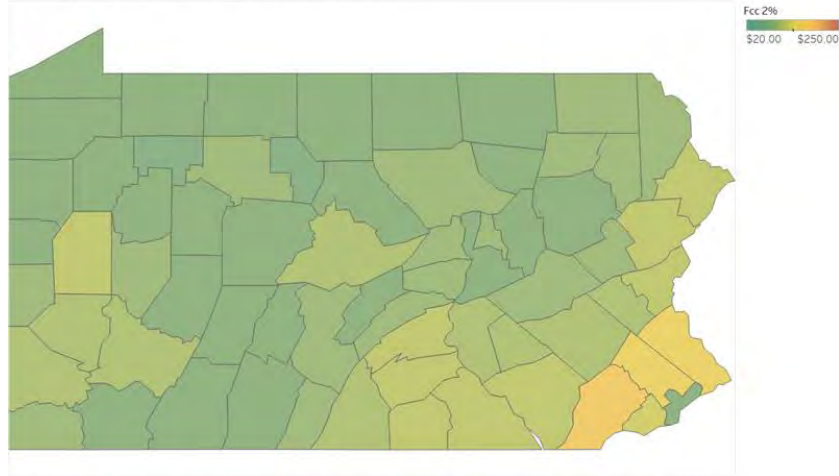
Fcc 2%
$20.00 $250.00

Map based on Longitude (generated) and Latitude (generated). Color shows sum of Fcc 2%. Details are shown for State and County. The view is filtered on Latitude (generated), Longitude (generated) and State. The Latitude (generated) filter keeps non-Null values only. The Longitude (generated) filter keeps non-Null values only. The State filter keeps Pennsylvania.

County	
Allegheny	$103.87
Armstrong	$89.24
Beaver	$98.36
Butler	$121.07
Fayette	$81.79
Green	$93.32
Indiana	$82.12
Lawrence	$83.47
Washington	$109.13
Westmoreland	$102.33

Pew

Digital Skills

According to the National Skills Coalition, **almost a third** of workers have few or no digital skills but 38% or more of those workers are in jobs that require moderate to advanced computer usage.

Federal Broadband Funding

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Programs

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program: A **$42.45 billion** program created by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to support broadband planning, network deployment, and adoption efforts. The funding will be allocated to states based on the number of unserved locations, with each state receiving a minimum of $100 million (Territories will receive a minimum of $25 million).
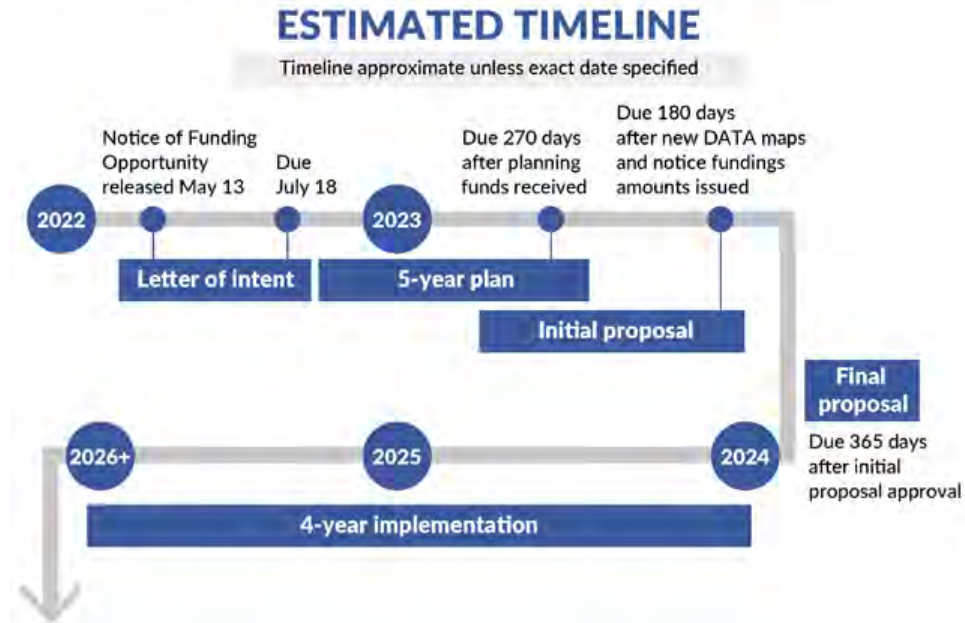
Digital Equity Act Programs: The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act allocated **$2.75 billion** to three digital equity programs: the $60 million State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program, the $1.44 billion State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program, and the $1.25 billion Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program.

Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program: A **$1 billion** program established by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to fund the buildout of middle mile, to reduce the cost of delivering broadband to unserved and underserved communities. Eligible applicants, which include government entities, Tribal governments, and telecommunications providers, can receive awards between $5 million to $100 million under the grant program.

Pew

Figure 2

NTIA Expects BEAD Implementation to Take Roughly 4 Years
Estimated timeline for proposal development and funding allocations

ESTIMATED TIMELINE

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified

Notice of Funding Opportunity released May 13

Due July 18

Due 270 days after planning funds received

Due 180 days after new DATA maps and notice fundings amounts issued

2022

2023

Letter of intent

5-year plan

Initial proposal

Final proposal

Due 365 days after initial proposal approval

2026+

2025

2024

4-year implementation

Pew

American Rescue Plan Act Programs

Capital Projects Fund: A **$10 billion** fund created by the American Rescue Plan Act, which provides formula funding to states, territories, and Tribal governments to invest in capital projects, with a priority on broadband.

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund: This **$350 billion** fund created by the American Rescue Plan Act provides funding to state, local, and Tribal governments to address the impacts of the pandemic and "build a strong, resilient, and equitable recovery by making investments that support long-term growth and opportunity." Investment in broadband infrastructure is an eligible use of funds.
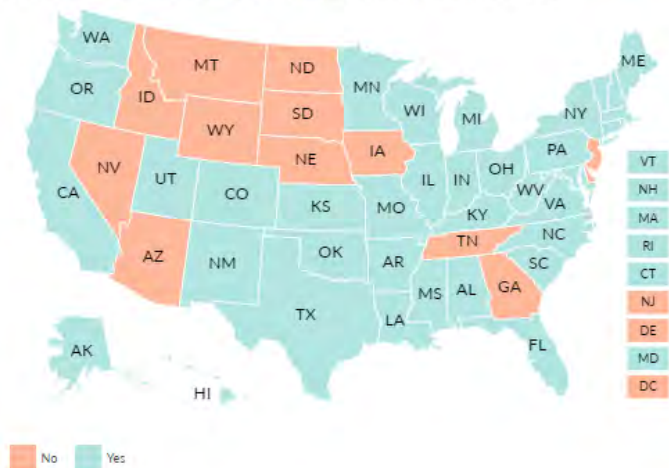
 Pew

Innovative Practices in States

State Broadband Programs

Pew

New Forms of Partnerships

Virginia Taps Electric Companies to Help Expand Rural Broadband Access

How the state is leveraging electric infrastructure to support key network connections

ISSUE BRIEF | October 11, 2022 | Read time: 10 min

Projects: Broadband Access

TABLE OF CONTENTS ⌄   Read Mode ⬤

Vermont Takes a Regional Approach to Rural Broadband Expansion

State leaders promote utility districts to bring high-speed internet to unserved areas

ISSUE BRIEF | January 5, 2023 | Read time: 9 min

Projects: Broadband Access

TABLE OF CONTENTS ⌄   Read Mode ⬤

Pew

Addressing Specific Challenges

Line Extension Programs: Sometimes referred to as the "last" last mile, line extensions connect unserved homes and businesses to existing broadband infrastructure nearby. States have started supporting line extension programs to extend broadband service to households who would not otherwise be able to afford the necessary infrastructure.

Minnesota Low-Density Pilot Program: Provides up to 75% of the total costs of broadband projects in low-density areas (which are predominantly rural) that would otherwise be exceptionally expensive for internet service providers to serve. Projects must be capable of supporting at least 100/100 Mbps speeds.

Connecting MDUs: Many households living in federally subsidized multifamily housing remain un- or under-connected to broadband service. Several states have allotted portions of their federal pandemic-relief funding available from the CARES Act and ARPA to supporting broadband access in public and multifamily housing.

Pew

Supporting Community Efforts

Community Capacity Building: A few states have initiated local efforts to facilitate broadband deployment for residents. Maine's Connect the Ready program and California's Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortia Grant Account support broadband infrastructure partnerships by providing grants for such projects. West Virginia's GigReady Incentive Program supports collaborative broadband efforts in two phases: giving technical assistance to program applicants and making grant awards for projects.

Broadband Ready Communities: Next Century Cities highlights several strategies for communities looking to expand broadband access in its Broadband Ready Toolkit. Broadband Ready Community programs enable state policymakers to engage with city and county governments and provide local leaders with a framework to expand broadband.

Pew

NEIGHBORHOOD **ALLIES**

Our North Star goal is to move 100,000 low-income Pittsburghers up the socio-economic ladder by 2033

Digital Inclusion

Centralized Real Estate Accelerator

Social Impact Design

Economic Opportunity

Small Business Development

Black Mental Health

HOW WE HELP:

Digital Inclusion & Innovation

INVESTMENT IN DIGITAL TOOLS & SKILLS

- Beyond the Laptops
- LevelUp412 Program
(volunteers needed!)

DIGITAL INCLUSION CENTERS

- Verizon Community Forward Centers
  - Homewood YMCA
  - Homewood CCAC

COALITION PARTNERSHIPS

- Greater Pittsburgh Digital Inclusion Alliance (GPDIA)

- Pittsburgh Digital Equity Coalition (PDEC)

ACP OUTREACH

- Community Partners
(volunteers needed!)
- Comcast Partnership

NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIES

Greater Pittsburgh Digital Inclusion Alliance (GPDIA)

WORKGROUPS:
DIGITAL SKILLS
DEVICE ACCESS
AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

- Achieva, Inc.
- Age-Friendly Greater Pittsburgh
- AgeWell at the JCC
- Allegheny County Housing Authority
- Allegheny County Library Association
- Allies for Children
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Coalition of Black Trade Unionists

- Community College of Allegheny County
- Community Internet Solutions
- Computer Reach
- Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh
- Jewish Family & Community Services
- Latino Community Center
- Literacy Pittsburgh

- Neighborhood Allies
- Partner4Work
- Pitt Information Technology
- Pittsburgh Technology Council
- Southwestern Veterans Center
- STEM Coding Lab
- The Education Partnership
- United Way of Southwestern PA

Contact Jen Blatz for more info: jennifermblatz@gmail.com

NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIES

What is the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)?

The ACP is a federally-funded program that helps connect families and households struggling to afford internet service.

Eligible households can receive:

- Up to $30/month discount for broadband service;
- Up to $75/month discount for households on qualifying Tribal lands; and
- A one-time discount of up to $100 for a device (laptop, desktop, tablet, etc.) from a participating provider (household must contribute between $10-$50 towards the price)

NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIES

Who is eligible for the ACP?

A household is eligible if the household income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines

# People in Household	Monthly Income	Annual Income
1	$2,430	$29,160
2	$3,287	$39,440
3	$4,143	$49,720
4	$5,000	$60,000
5	$5,857	$70,280
6	$6,713	$80,560
7	$7,570	$90,840
8	$8,427	$101,120

*Add $5,140 for each person in a household over 8 persons

NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIES

Who is eligible for the ACP?

A household is eligible if the household income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, OR if at least one member of the household participates in one of the following programs:

- Federal Pell Grant recipient (in current award year)
- SNAP
- Medicaid
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
  WIC
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Veterans Pension or Survivor Benefits
- Free or Reduced School Lunch
- Lifeline Benefit

NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIES

ACP Enrollment and Outreach

- **2-Step Enrollment Process**
  - Registering on National Verifier
  - Applying approved application ID to internet account

- **Outreach and Enrollment events:**
  - Pitt Help Desk
  - Pitt CECs
  - Homewood YMCA
  - United Way Free Tax Prep Sites

Check out these quick FAQs on the ACP program at: beyondthelaptops.org

*Add $5,140 for each person in a household over 8 persons

NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIES

Thank you!

Itha Cao: *itha@neighborhoodallies.org*

Beyondthelaptops.org

Neighborhoodallies.org

Regional Broadband & Connectivity Summit
Getting Connected:
Digital Equity & Affordability

Itha Cao, Director of Digital Inclusion and Innovation, Neighborhood Allies

Lyle Ishida, Chief, Consumer Affairs and Outreach Division, Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

Alka Patel, Vice President, Government and External Affairs, Comcast Keystone Region

Moderated by **Kirsten Compitello,**

National Broadband Digital Equity Director,

Michael Baker International

"

Advancing digital equity has been core to our company's DNA for more than a decade, and it's an issue we've recommitted to during this critical time. Our mission is to create a more connected and equitable society. That begins with ensuring that every student—and adult— has access to the training and education resources they need to build a brighter future.

—**BRIAN L. ROBERTS**

Our Impact Over More than a Decade

10M

Low-income Americans connected to Internet Essentials cumulatively since the launch of the program in 2011

80%

Of Internet Essential customers did not have broadband Internet prior to signing up for the program

41%

Of Internet Essentials customers say that without Internet Essentials they would only have an Internet connection over their mobile phone and…

23%

Say they wouldn't have Internet at all

200k
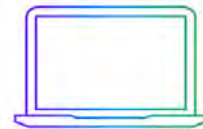
Devices subsidized or donated since 2011, including…

35k Laptops Donated

During the pandemic alone

How the Digital Navigator has Helped

Overcame adoption barriers

66% now have an internet connection or a computer or tablet at home
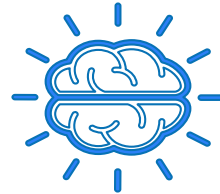
Strengthened digital skills

86% have used more technology, including for jobs, health care, and benefits

Improved digital comfort

80% feel more confident or safer using technology

COMCAST NBCUNIVERSAL

Regional Broadband & Connectivity Summit

Getting Connected:
Digital Equity & Affordability

Itha Cao, Director of Digital Inclusion and Innovation, Neighborhood Allies

Lyle Ishida, Chief, Consumer Affairs and Outreach Division, Federal
Communications Commission (FCC)

Alka Patel, Vice President, Government and External Affairs, Comcast
Keystone Region

Moderated by **Kirstin Compitello**,

National Broadband Digital Equity Director,

Michael Baker International

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Equitable Broadband Access

Regional Broadband & Connectivity Summit
Pennsylvania Statewide Implementation Plan and Summary of Regional Efforts

Brandon Carson, Executive Director, PA Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED), Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority (PBDA)

Dr. Kyle Kopko, Executive Director, Center for Rural Pennsylvania

Moderated by **Byron Stauffer**, Executive Director, Indiana County Office of Planning & Development

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SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION

Southwestern Pennsylvania
Connected
Equitable Broadband Access

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission Broadband Summit

February 16, 2023
Dr. Kyle C. Kopko, Executive Director
Center for Rural Pennsylvania
www.rural.pa.gov

Legislative research agency of the Pennsylvania General Assembly
(Act 16, 1987 & Act 12, 2009)

Center for
Rural Pennsylvania

<u>Mandates</u>
- Administer grants to conduct research on rural conditions.
- Maintain a database on rural conditions and needs.

<u>Recent Legislative Hearings:</u>
Youth Mental Health, Broadband Access, Opioid Addiction and Overdose, Rural Health Redesign Center, Utility-Scale Solar Development

Current & Forthcoming Center Reports

Currently on Website

- Social Determinants of Health in the Age of COVID: Effects of Social Isolation Among Adults 62+ in Rural Pennsylvania
- Assessment and Analysis of Housing Quality and Policies in Rural Pennsylvania
- Measuring the Effectiveness of Municipal Land Use Tools
- Effects of COVID and Education Equity
- Access to Rural Mental Health Services
- Coroner/Medical Examiner Services in Pennsylvania

Spring/Summer 2023

- Population projections to 2050
- Reversing population decline in rural Pennsylvania.
- Community college "Promise" programs and alternative tuition strategies

Pennsylvania Rural and Urban Counties, 2020
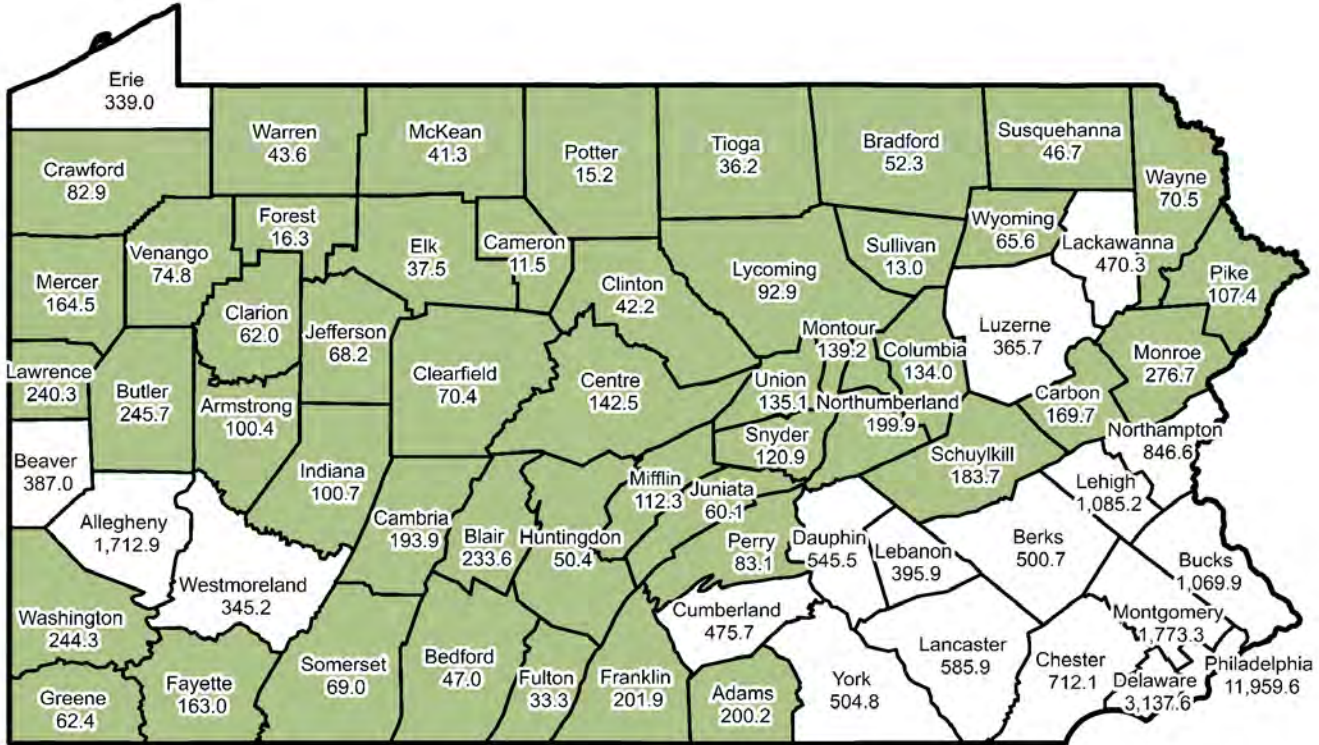
Statewide Population Density = 291 Persons per Square Land Mile, 2020   Data source: U.S. Census Bureau.

☐ 19 Urban Counties - Population Density At or Above Statewide Rate

▨ 48 Rural Counties - Population Density Below Statewide Rate

Rural and Urban Pennsylvania Population, 1920 to 2020

(Population in Millions, Current Rural/Urban Definition)

Y-axis: *Population in Millions*

Urban values: 5.89, 6.71, 6.87, 7.47, 8.27, 8.74, 8.59, 8.63, 8.89, 9.23, 9.62

Rural values: 2.83, 2.92, 3.03, 3.03, 3.05, 3.06, 3.28, 3.25, 3.39, 3.47, 3.38

Years: 1920, 1930, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020

Legend: Rural, Urban
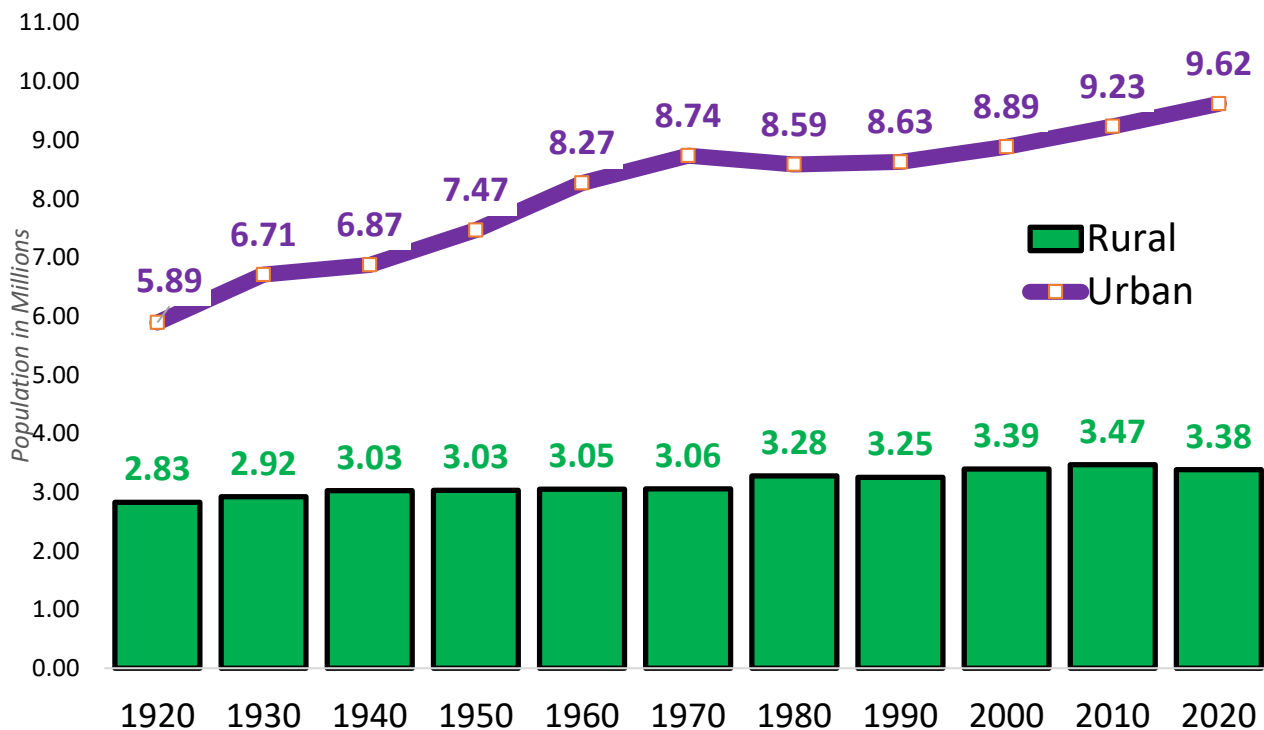
Data sources: Decennial Censuses, U.S. Census Bureau.

Pennsylvania's Population Growth is Happening Mostly in the Southeast Region

% Change in County Population, 2010-2020

Erie -3.5%
Warren -7.7%
McKean -6.9%
Potter -6.1%
Tioga -2.2%
Bradford -4.2%
Susquehanna -11.4%
Wayne -3.2%
Crawford -5.4%
Forest -9.6%
Elk -3.0%
Cameron -10.6%
Clinton -4.6%
Lycoming -1.7%
Wyoming -7.8%
Lackawanna 0.7%
Pike 2.0%
Venango -8.2%
Clarion -6.9%
Jefferson -1.6%
Montour -0.7%
Columbia -3.8%
Luzerne 1.5%
Monroe -0.9%
Mercer -5.1%
Clearfield -1.3%
Centre 2.7%
Union -5.0%
Northumberland -3.0%
Carbon -0.8%
Northampton 5.1%
Lawrence -5.5%
Butler 5.4%
Armstrong -4.9%
Snyder 0.1%
Schuylkill -3.5%
Lehigh 7.2%
Beaver -1.4%
Indiana -6.3%
Mifflin -1.2%
Juniata -4.6%
Allegheny 2.2%
Cambria -7.1%
Blair -3.4%
Huntingdon -4.0%
Perry -0.3%
Dauphin 6.8%
Lebanon 7.3%
Berks 4.2%
Bucks 3.4%
Westmoreland -2.9%
Cumberland 10.2%
Lancaster 6.5%
Montgomery 7.1%
Washington 0.7%
Somerset -4.6%
Bedford -4.4%
Fulton -1.9%
Franklin 4.2%
Adams 2.4%
York 4.9%
Chester 7.1%
Delaware 3.2%
Philadelphia 5.1%
Greene -7.1%
Fayette -5.7%

Statewide Population Change, 2010 to 2020 = 2.4%

Data sources: 2010 and 2020 Censuses, U.S. Census Bureau.

- Population Decrease or No Change
- Population Increase
- Southeastern Region

Per Capita Income in Rural and Urban Pennsylvania, 1970 to 2020
(Adjusted for Inflation)

Urban 2020 $65,656

Rural 2020 $50,615

Urban 1970 $29,138

Rural 1970 $23,148

Legend: Rural, Urban
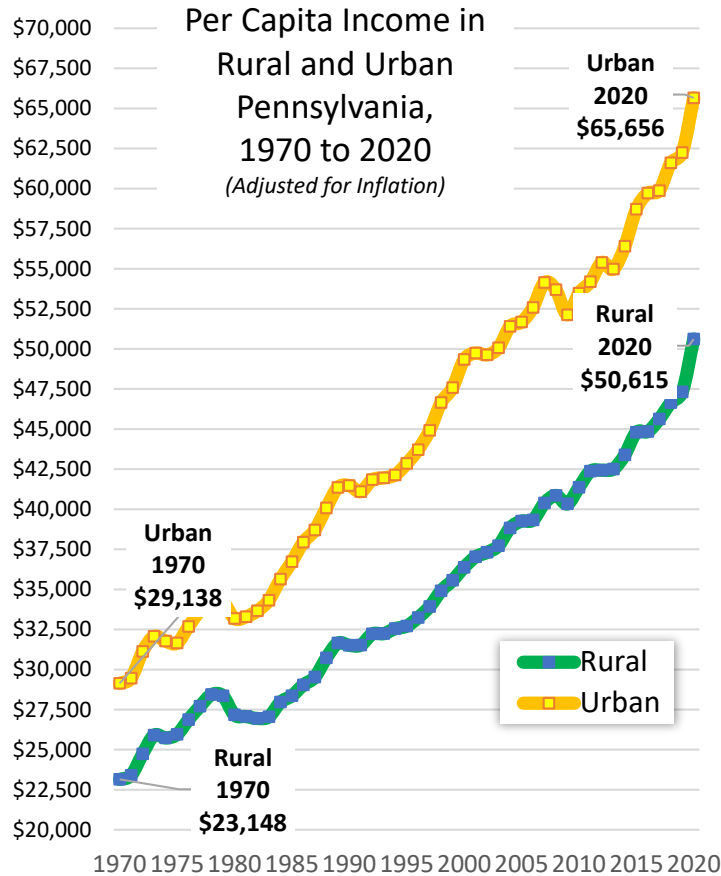
Income in Rural and Urban Pennsylvania

- From 1970 to 2020, the per capita income gap between rural and urban has more than doubled.

- In 2020, 54 percent of rural income came from earned sources (wages and salaries) and 46 percent came from unearned sources (investments, Social Security, pensions, etc.)

Financial data adjusted for inflation using the CPI-U with 2020=100.
Data source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

FCC Broadband Map 25/3 Mbps
Wired & Licensed Fixed Wireless (Feb. 2023)

FCC Broadband Map 100/20 Mbps
Wired & Licensed Fixed Wireless (Feb. 2023)

Percent of Residential Units with 25/3 Mbps Available

Data source: FCC National Broadband Map Public Data for all wired and licensed fixed wireless technology. Updated February 1, 2023.

Map of Pennsylvania counties showing percent of residential units with 25/3 Mbps available:

- Erie 91.1%
- Crawford 81.2%
- Warren 70.4%
- McKean 82.3%
- Potter 90.5%
- Tioga 74.2%
- Bradford 63.9%
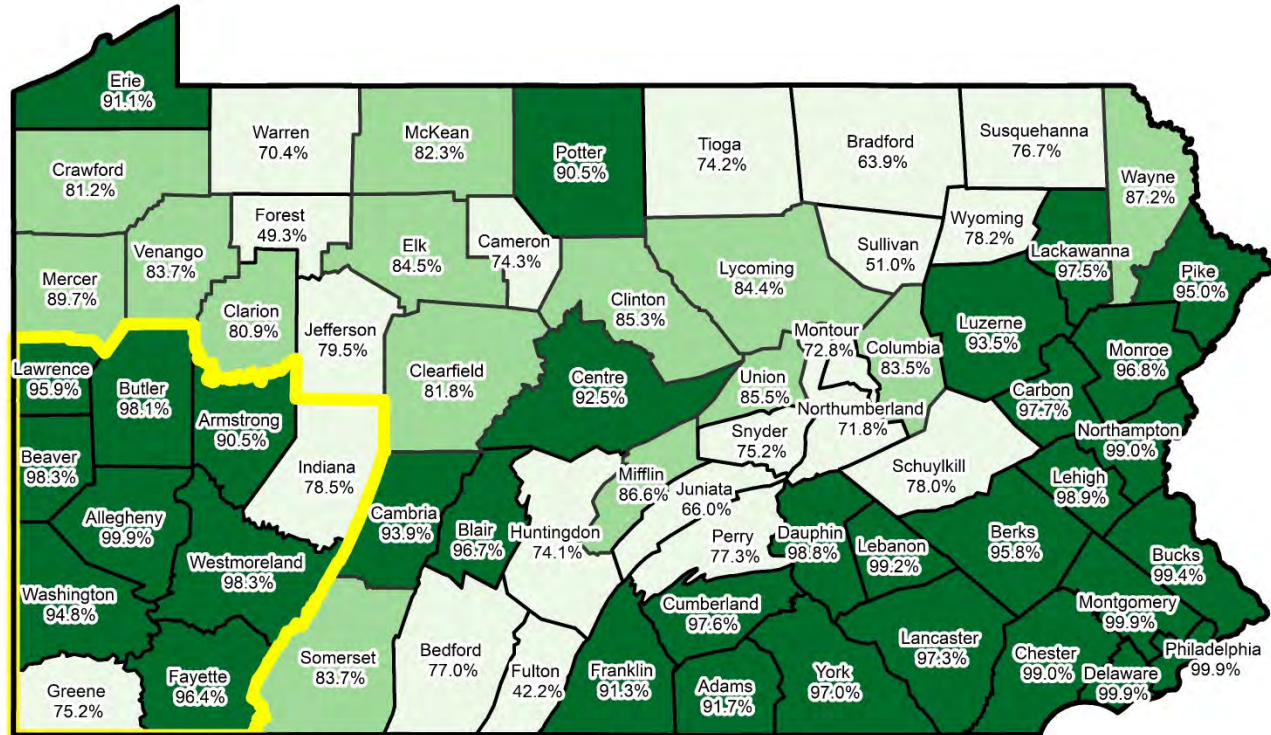- Susquehanna 76.7%
- Wayne 87.2%
- Mercer 89.7%
- Venango 83.7%
- Forest 49.3%
- Elk 84.5%
- Cameron 74.3%
- Wyoming 78.2%
- Lackawanna 97.5%
- Pike 95.0%
- Clarion 80.9%
- Jefferson 79.5%
- Clinton 85.3%
- Lycoming 84.4%
- Sullivan 51.0%
- Luzerne 93.5%
- Monroe 96.8%
- Lawrence 95.9%
- Butler 98.1%
- Armstrong 90.5%
- Clearfield 81.8%
- Centre 92.5%
- Montour 72.8%
- Columbia 83.5%
- Union 85.5%
- Carbon 97.7%
- Northampton 99.0%
- Beaver 98.3%
- Indiana 78.5%
- Northumberland 71.8%
- Snyder 75.2%
- Schuylkill 78.0%
- Lehigh 98.9%
- Allegheny 99.9%
- Cambria 93.9%
- Blair 96.7%
- Huntingdon 74.1%
- Mifflin 86.6%
- Juniata 66.0%
- Perry 77.3%
- Dauphin 98.8%
- Lebanon 99.2%
- Berks 95.8%
- Bucks 99.4%
- Westmoreland 98.3%
- Washington 94.8%
- Cumberland 97.6%
- Montgomery 99.9%
- Greene 75.2%
- Fayette 96.4%
- Somerset 83.7%
- Bedford 77.0%
- Fulton 42.2%
- Franklin 91.3%
- Adams 91.7%
- York 97.0%
- Lancaster 97.3%
- Chester 99.0%
- Delaware 99.9%
- Philadelphia 99.9%

Percent of Units with Access to Speeds of 25/3 Mbps

- <80.0%
- 80.% to 59.9%
- 90.0%+

Percent of Residential Units with 100/20 Mbps Available

Data source: FCC National Broadband Map Public Data for all wired and licensed fixed wireless technology. Updated February 1, 2023.
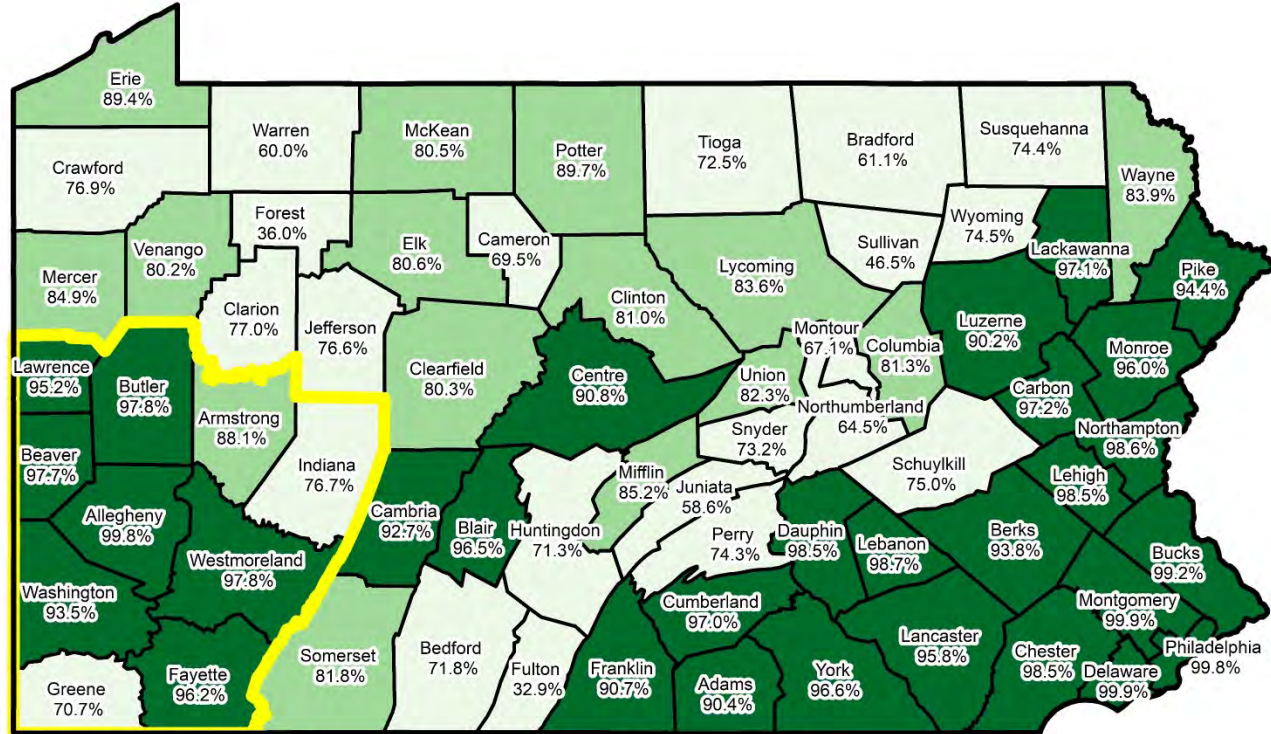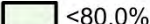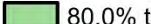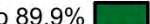

County	Percent
Erie	89.4%
Warren	60.0%
McKean	80.5%
Potter	89.7%
Tioga	72.5%
Bradford	61.1%
Susquehanna	74.4%
Wayne	83.9%
Crawford	76.9%
Forest	36.0%
Elk	80.6%
Cameron	69.5%
Wyoming	74.5%
Lackawanna	97.1%
Pike	94.4%
Mercer	84.9%
Venango	80.2%
Lycoming	83.6%
Sullivan	46.5%
Clarion	77.0%
Jefferson	76.6%
Clinton	81.0%
Luzerne	90.2%
Monroe	96.0%
Lawrence	95.2%
Butler	97.8%
Clearfield	80.3%
Centre	90.8%
Montour	67.1%
Columbia	81.3%
Carbon	97.2%
Armstrong	88.1%
Union	82.3%
Northumberland	64.5%
Northampton	98.6%
Beaver	97.7%
Indiana	76.7%
Snyder	73.2%
Schuylkill	75.0%
Lehigh	98.5%
Allegheny	99.8%
Cambria	92.7%
Mifflin	85.2%
Juniata	58.6%
Berks	93.8%
Bucks	99.2%
Westmoreland	97.8%
Blair	96.5%
Huntingdon	71.3%
Perry	74.3%
Dauphin	98.5%
Lebanon	98.7%
Washington	93.5%
Cumberland	97.0%
Montgomery	99.9%
Greene	70.7%
Fayette	96.2%
Somerset	81.8%
Bedford	71.8%
Fulton	32.9%
Franklin	90.7%
Adams	90.4%
York	96.6%
Lancaster	95.8%
Chester	98.5%
Delaware	99.9%
Philadelphia	99.8%

Percent of Units with Access to Speeds of 100/20 Mbps

- <80.0%
- 80.0% to 89.9%
- 90.0%+

No Home Internet Connection

Percent of Households Without Internet Connection, 2015 and 2021
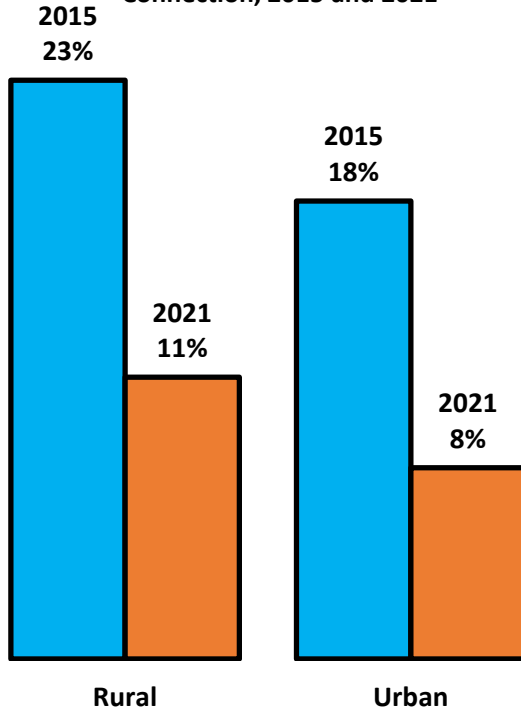
Data sources: 2015 and 2021, 1-Year Average, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample, U.S. Census Bureau.

	Rural Households with No Internet Connection, 2021	Urban Households with No Internet Connection, 2021	Households With Internet Connection, 2021
Avg. Age of Householder	69.2	68.7	52.3
Household Income	$26,984	$25,233	$71,155
Poverty Rate	20%	27%	11%
% With Children in Household	8%	7%	27%
% Living Alone	62%	68%	27%
% Householder Person of Color	7%	31%	22%
% Householder with No High School Diploma	23%	23%	6%
% Homeowners	71%	53%	71%
% Householder Not in Labor Force	73%	73%	32%
% No Vehicle Available	23%	38%	8%
% Householder with Disability	40%	38%	16%
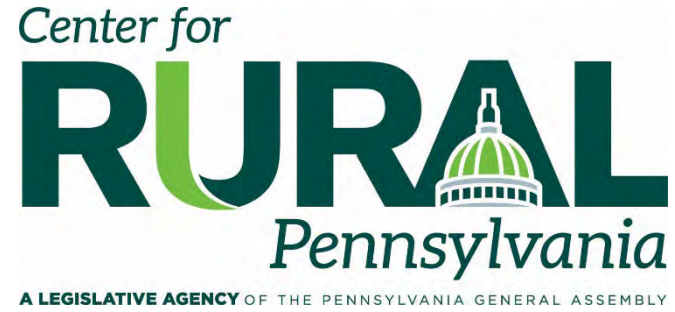
Thank You

Dr. Kyle C. Kopko, Executive Director, kkopko@rural.pa.gov

Regional Broadband & Connectivity Summit
Pennsylvania Statewide Implementation Plan and Summary of Regional Efforts

Brandon Carson, Executive Director, PA Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED), Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority (PBDA)

Dr. Kyle Kopko, Executive Director, Center for Rural Pennsylvania

Moderated by **Byron Stauffer**, Executive Director, Indiana County Office of Planning & Development

House Bill 2071 introduced in November 2021

Act 96 signed into law December 22, 2021

Independent agency of DCED

Governed by an 11-member board

STATEWIDE PLAN

STATEWIDE BROADBAND PLAN

Four core challenges facing Pennsylvanians' ability to access or adopt broadband:

1. Broadband Service Infrastructure & Availability
2. Digital Equity & Affordability
3. Device & Technology Access
4. Digital Literacy & Technical Support

➤ Plan Approved November 2022
➤ Framework for BEAD 5-Year Action Plan and Statewide Digital Equity Plan

FORMATION OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Four sub-committees to inform the Broadband Authority
Board, shape policy, programs, and the process:

- **Data & Mapping**
- **Technical**
- **Workforce & Supply Chain**
- **Outreach & Education**

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT (IIJA) FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) has three main programs to support broadband development

- **Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)**
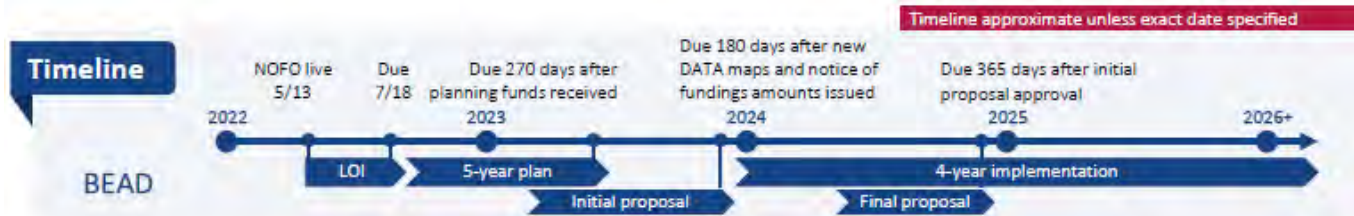- **Digital Equity Act**
- **Middle Mile Infrastructure**

$42.5B total for the program

- $5M in planning funds to develop a 5-year action plan
- $100M minimum guaranteed to PA
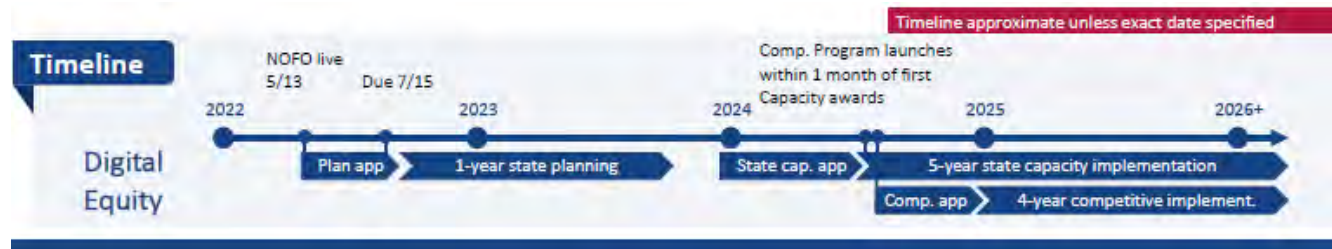 - Remaining funds allocated based on updated FCC maps

Three-tiered priorities include 25/3, 100/20, and 1 gigabit for community anchor institutions
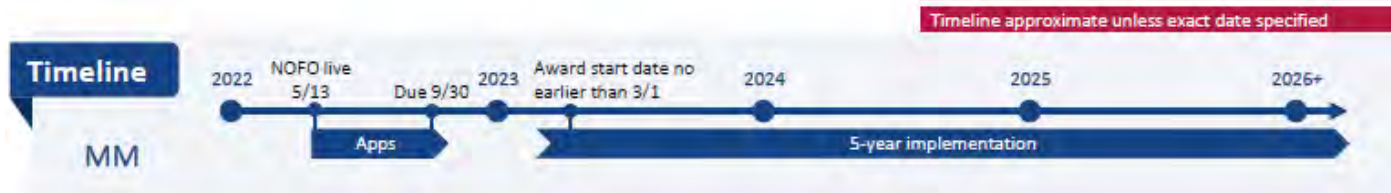
Three programs within the Act

- $60M formula for states to develop digital equity plan (Pennsylvania to receive $1.6M in planning funds)
- $1.44B formula grant for states to implement digital equity plan
- $1.25B for a competitive program

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified

Timeline		
2022	NOFO live 5/13 — Due 7/15	2023

Comp. Program launches within 1 month of first Capacity awards — 2024 — 2025 — 2026+

Digital Equity: Plan app → 1-year state planning → State cap. app → 5-year state capacity implementation; Comp. app → 4-year competitive implement.

$1B for the construction, improvement or acquisition of middle mile infrastructure

- Purpose is to expand and extend middle mile infrastructure to reduce the cost of connecting the unserved and underserved
- Competitive program – closed September 30th

Timeline approximate unless exact date specified

Timeline
2022 — NOFO live 5/13 — Due 9/30 — 2023 — Award start date no earlier than 3/1 — 2024 — 2025 — 2026+

MM — Apps — 5-year implementation

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

Commonwealth grant plans under review at U.S. Treasury

3 components:

1. $200 million for the Pennsylvania Broadband Infrastructure Program
2. $45 million for the Digital Anchor Institution Grant Program
3. $20 million for the Digital Access and Opportunity Grant Program

US Treasury has provided flexibility in several areas, to include:

- Matching requirements
- Award amounts
- Definition of affordability
- Challenge period

Public comment period is now open and will be closed on ***Thursday, February 23.***

Organizations and individuals are encouraged to provide feedback to help inform the creation of these guidelines.

PA

TIMELINE
& NEXT STEPS

Ongoing | Continue building staff capacity of Broadband Office

Feb. 2023 | Launch Digital Equity & BEAD Planning Efforts

Feb. 2023 | Begin implementation of outreach & engagement plan

March 2023 | Release Capital Projects Fund Guidelines

August 2023 | BEAD 5-Year Action Plan Complete

October 2023 | State Digital Equity Plan Complete

2024 to 2027 | 4 Years of BEAD and Digital Equity Implementation

Questions?

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Regional Broadband & Connectivity Summit

Pennsylvania Statewide Implementation Plan and Summary of Regional Efforts

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SPC
SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION

Southwestern Pennsylvania
Connected
Equitable Broadband Access

Regional Broadband & Connectivity Summit
Closing Remarks

Pat Fabian
Vice-Chairman, Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission
Commissioner, Armstrong County Board of Commissioners