



Department of
**Economic &
Community Development**

DIGITAL SUMMIT



Digital Opportunity Summit

Hamilton County Mayor Weston Wamp

Welcome Address



Digital Opportunity Summit

State Broadband Director Taylre Beaty

Welcome Address



Digital Opportunity Summit

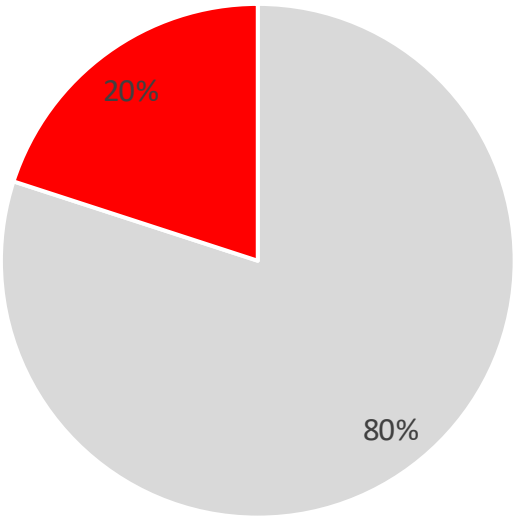
Donovan Spann and Emily Hale

State of Infrastructure

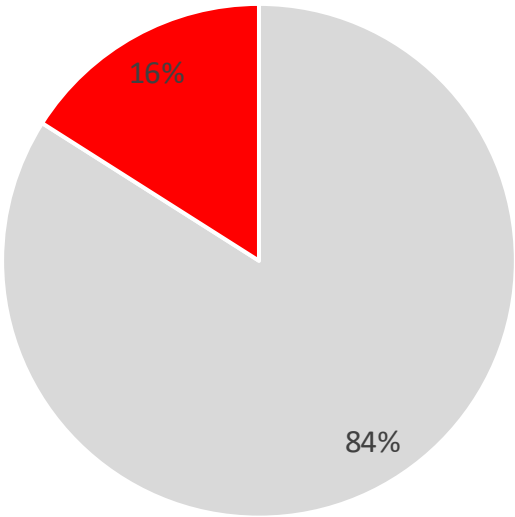


The Broadband Gap Over Time in TN

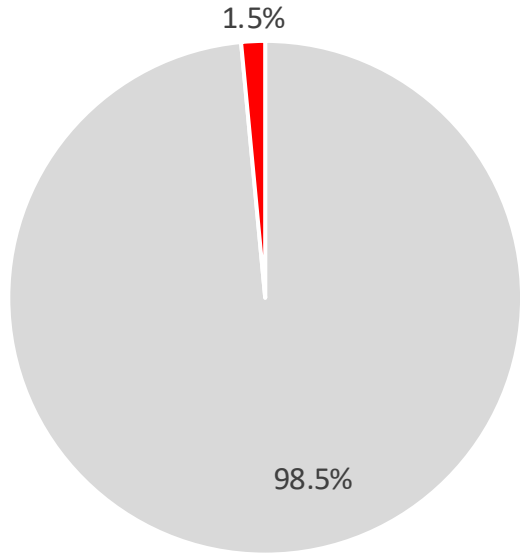
2020





2021



NOW
2024



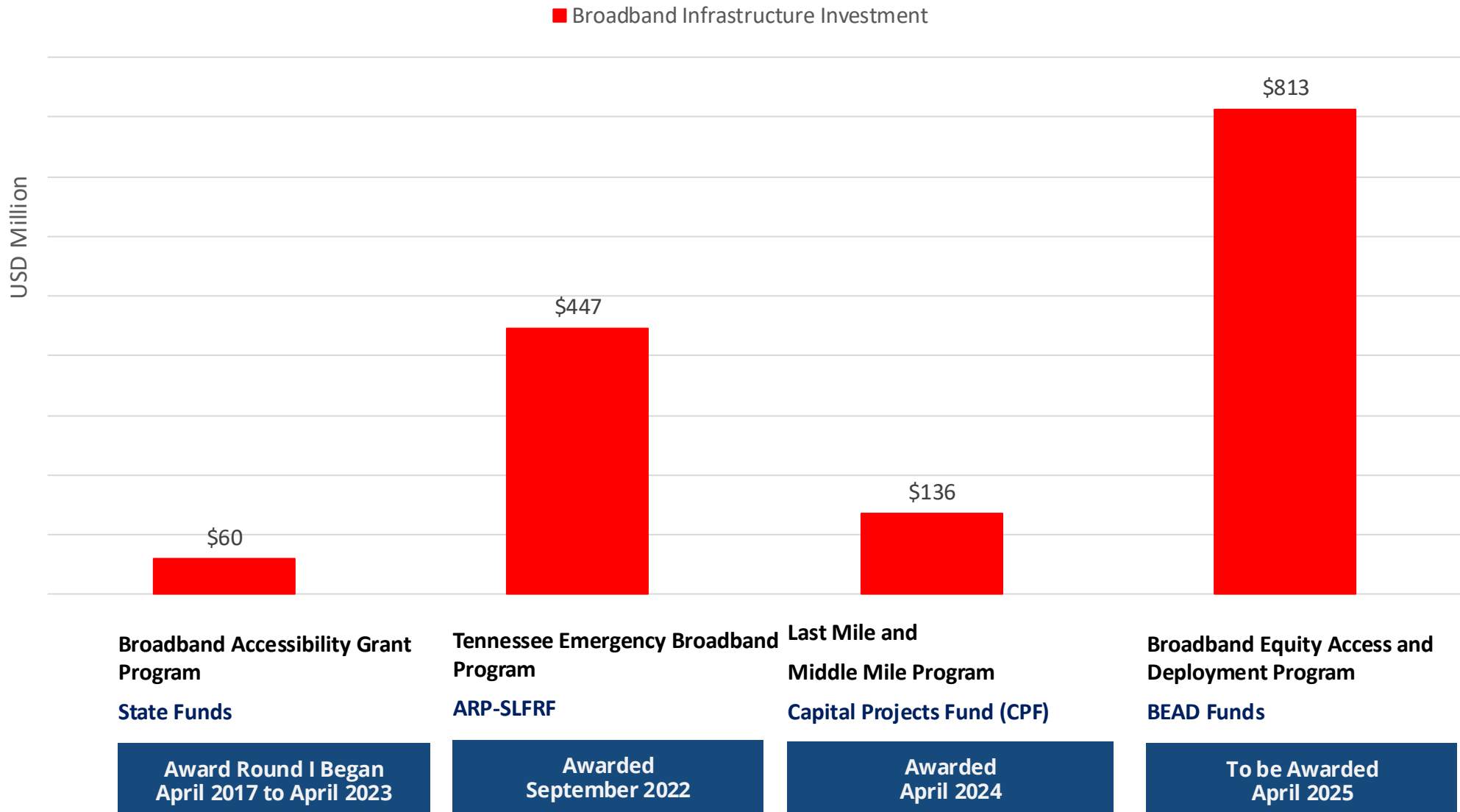
 Lacks speed of 25mbps/3mbps
 Served

5.4% of the total lacks speed of 100mbps/20mbps which represents **the last 151K locations remaining that is the goal to get.**

Source: FCC's Broadband Data Collection



Broadband Infrastructure Investment over time



In total, today we have committed...

\$703M

Funding

+138,000

Locations to
be Served

**The goal is to get those last
151K locations remaining**

Tennessee Emergency Broadband Program American Rescue Plan Program (TEBF-ARP) Program Impact

120,051

Total Locations

15,097

Total miles of fiber
planned

15

Projects have
completed 100% of
Mainline Construction

16,541

Customers Subscribed
to Broadband Services

33%

Adoption Rate / Take
Rate

TN

TNECD

Middle Mile Program Impact

18

Projects

\$73M

Awarded

18,141

Locations Served

TNECD

Last Mile Program Impact

9+

Projects

\$62M

Expected to be
Awarded

5,018+

Locations will be
Served

Broadband Access, Equity, and Deployment (BEAD) Funds

\$813,319,680.22

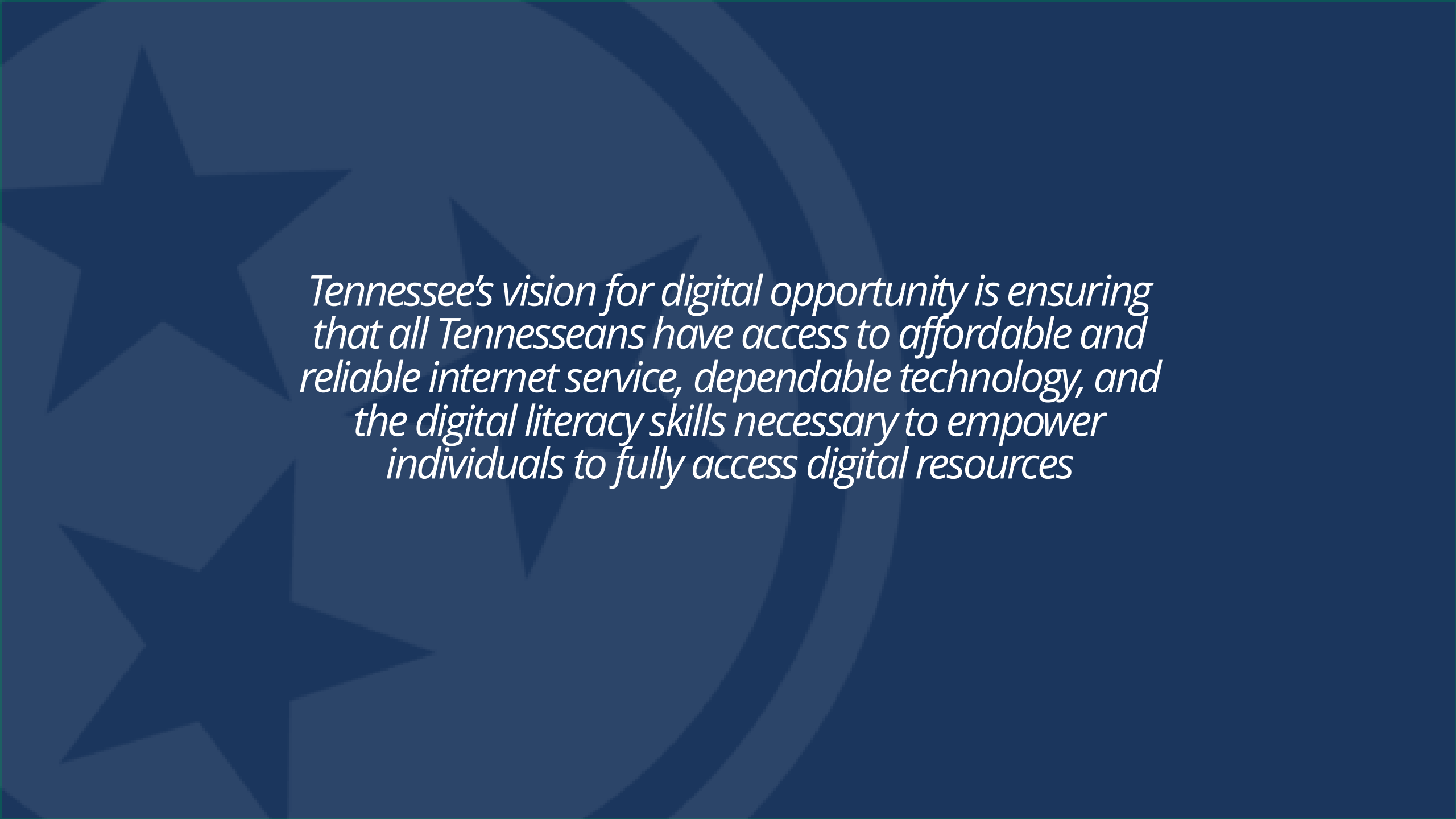
to expand high-speed internet access through infrastructure deployment and adoption programs



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Codi Drake and Leah Mims

State of Digital Opportunity



Tennessee's vision for digital opportunity is ensuring that all Tennesseans have access to affordable and reliable internet service, dependable technology, and the digital literacy skills necessary to empower individuals to fully access digital resources

Tennessee's Goals for Digital Opportunity

80%

of Tennessee residents belong to a covered population that may be disproportionately impacted by the digital divide (*NTIA Estimates*)



Digital Opportunity Taskforce



Community Listening & Working Groups



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Online Surveys



Digital Opportunity Asset Inventory

Needs and Barriers

Affordability

Broadband cost was the top barrier across all covered populations and communities

Digital Skills

Key Concern for Aging individuals as well as for employment opportunities and higher education

Technical Support

Lack of resources around troubleshooting, technical repairs, and maintenance services

Access to Quality Devices

Most Tennesseans have a smartphone, but many lack access to a device that enables remote working, online education etc.

Online Safety and Privacy

Tennesseans expressed concerns for the safety of both children and aging individuals utilizing the Internet with a strong correlation to digital skills

TNECD

Digital Opportunity Investment

5

Digital Opportunity Programs funded by SLFRF, CPF & NTIA

to provide digital skills training, workforce development, internet affordability, and bridge broadband adoption gaps

\$33M

Digital Skills, Education, and Workforce Development (DSEW)

\$10M

Broadband Ready Communities (BRC)

\$5M

Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT)

Awarded – April 2024

\$40M

Connected Community Facilities (CCF)

Awarded – April 2024

\$15.8M

Digital Equity Capacity (DCF)

To be Awarded – June 2024

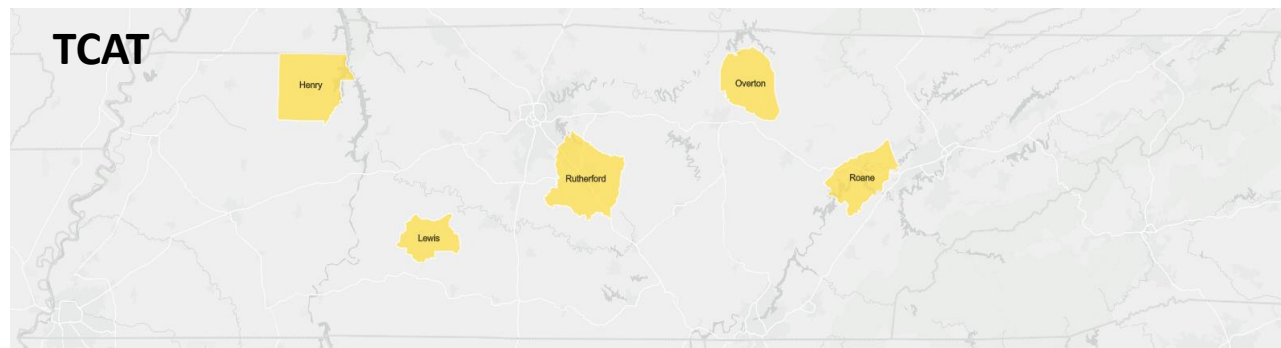
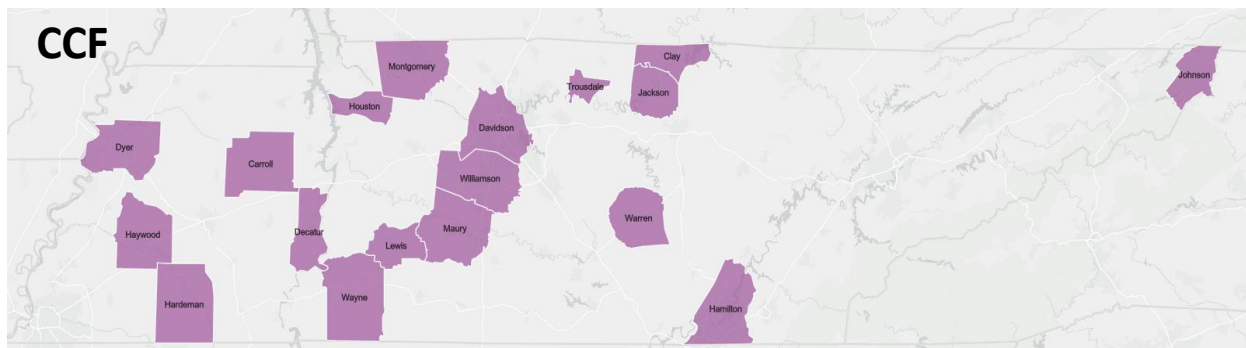
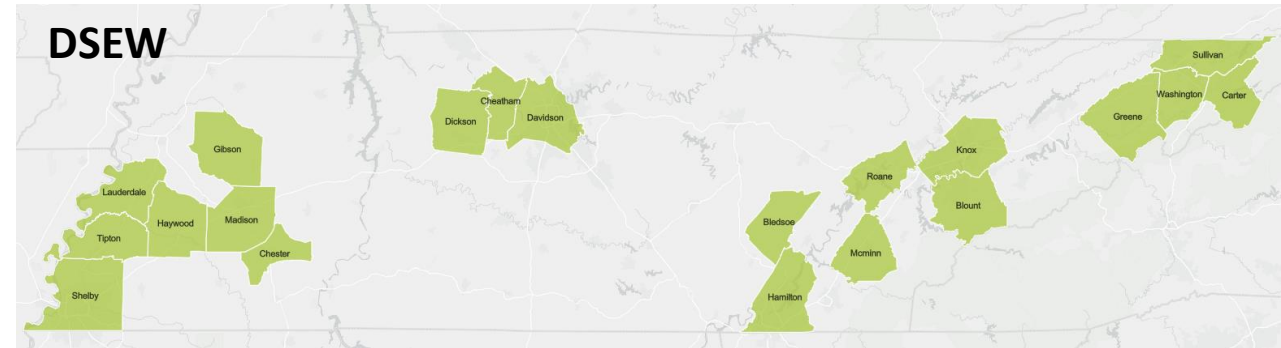
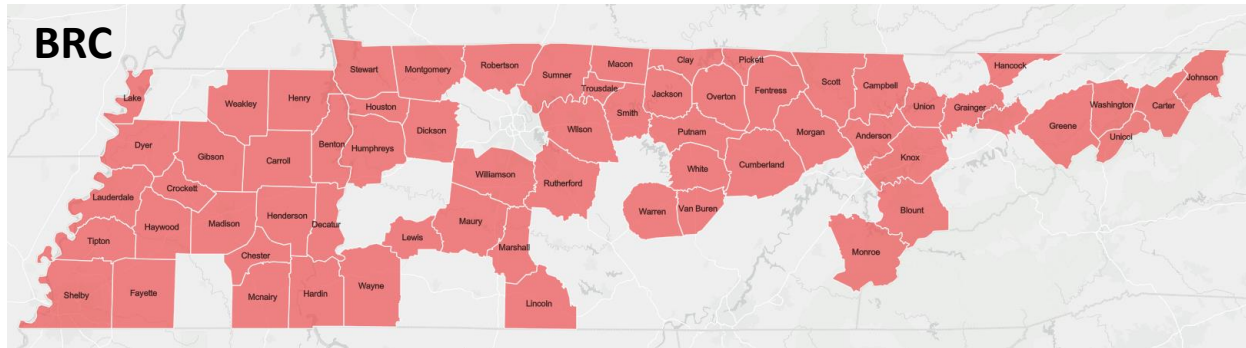
Digital Opportunity Projects



Number of Projects:



BRC, DSEW, CCF and TCAT Digital Opportunity Coverage



TNECD

Digital Opportunity Programs Round 1

138

Projects

20 CCF Improved Facilities
64 BRC Community Projects
49 DSEW Skilling Projects
5 Broadband Workforce Projects

\$61M

Investment

177,400

Individuals Served

DSEW (8,040) CCF (169,180), TCAT (180),
BRC (we did not ask for individuals served).



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Session 1

Digital Opportunities Envisioning Session





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Return at 10:45AM

Break





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Breakout Session A

Leveraging Partnerships to Deliver Digital Opportunities



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Starting at 11:45AM

Lunch





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Lunch and Fireside Chat

Chattanooga Ecosystem Conversation



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Return at 1:30PM

Break





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Breakout Session A

Broadband 101 and Fiber Splicing



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Return at 2:35PM

Break





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Breakout Session A

Closing the Digital Divide in Rural Tennessee



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Return at 3:35PM

Break





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BEAD Program Update

Current Snapshot

ECD has concluded the Challenge Process and is preparing data for submission to NTIA



Challenge data and ECD's determinations for served, unserved, and underserved locations will be published to the ECD Broadband website in August.

Anticipated Timeline – BEAD Deployment

	2024				2025				2026-2028	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Challenge Process		█								
Publish Data*			★							
Grant Area Maps*			★							
Letter of Intent*			█							
Public Comment*			█							
Publish Final Grant Area Maps*				★						
Application Window*				█						
Publish Remaining Counties*					★					
Tentative Round 2 Application*					█					
Final Proposal Submission*							★			
NTIA Approval*							★			
Contracting & Project Implementation*								█	█	█

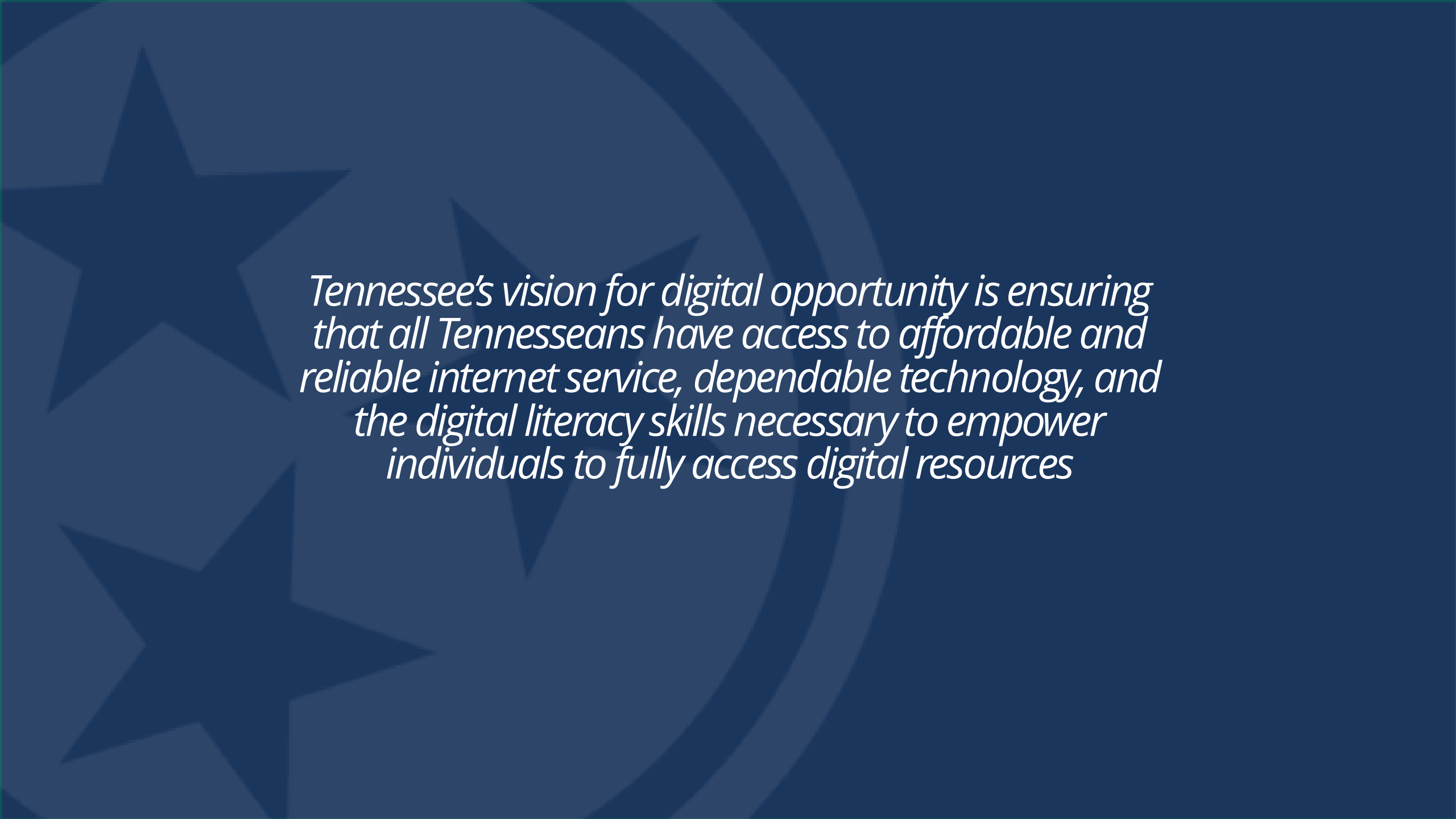


*This is an anticipated timeline as dates are pending decision points by NTIA, including the approval of the Initial Proposal Volume II. Once approved, TNECD has 365 days to submit the awards in the form of the Final Proposal to NTIA.



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DE Capacity Grant Update



Tennessee's vision for digital opportunity is ensuring that all Tennesseans have access to affordable and reliable internet service, dependable technology, and the digital literacy skills necessary to empower individuals to fully access digital resources

From Planning to Action

Inputs

DO Planning

- Community engagement
- Data collection

DO Program Development

- Stakeholder feedback
- State priorities

Outputs

Access to \$15.8 Million to enact TN's Digital Opportunity Plan

Digital Opportunity Taskforce

Digital Opportunity Summit

Looking Ahead: Digital Equity (DE) Plan



Federal Capacity Grant Proposal

- 7 programs & activities were submitted to NTIA to be approved for Capacity Grant Funds

Existing

- DSEW – \$10 million
- CCF (telehealth) – \$1.7 million
- TOPs – \$1 million
- Digital Opportunity Summit
- Digital Opportunity Taskforce

New

- Broadband Accessibility Grant (BAG) Program- \$1,531,727.20
- Digital Opportunity Annual Report and Dashboard

Disclaimer: Funding amounts and guidelines of planned activities are subject to change

Program Focus - DSEW

Design

- Required pathway for a free or subsidized device for digital skills programs
- Required cybersecurity component
- Required online accessibility component
- Priority for under-reached covered populations
 - *Veterans, rural residents, people with disabilities, people in carceral facilities.*
- Priority for underserved geographies

Impact

- New digital skilling and workforce development opportunities for covered populations
- Projected investment following Rounds 1, 2 and 3 Approximately \$60 million
- **Round 1 Impact:**
 - \$27,995,509.00 invested
 - 50 projects
 - 28,040 people served across 74 counties

Activity Focus – Digital Opportunity Annual Report

- Published annually starting in 2025
- Detailing investments and impact
 - Progress on measurable objectives for the Digital Opportunity Plan
 - Qualitative information regarding impact for covered populations.
- Will be made available on [TN.gov/broadband](https://www.tn.gov/broadband)



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See you in 2025!

Thank you!

