



Department of
**Economic &
Community Development**

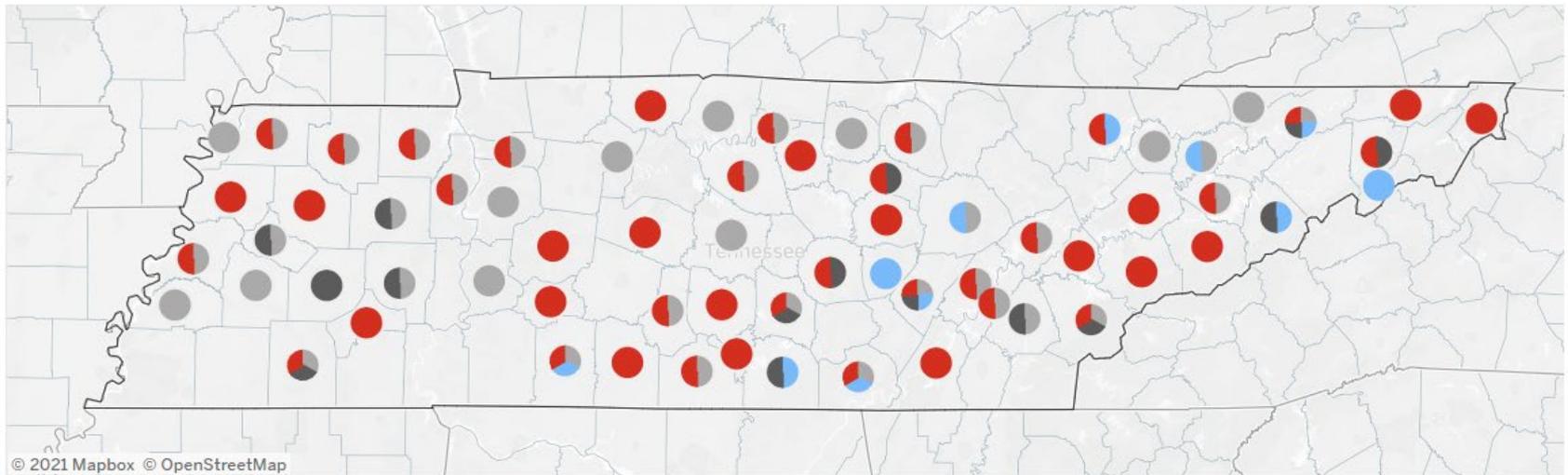
Local Government Technical Assistance Program Broadband Infrastructure

October 6, 2021

Progress

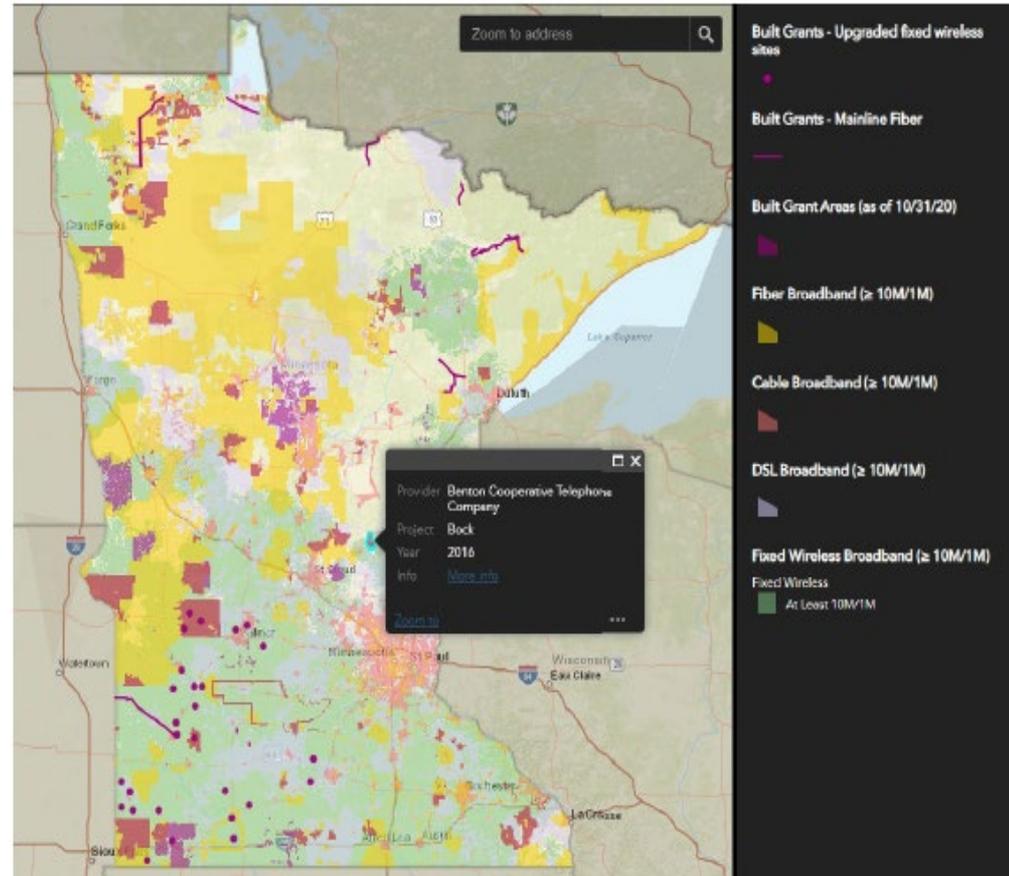
- Since 2018, ECD has awarded **\$120M** in state and CARES Act funding to make broadband service available to **140,000** Tennesseans in **64** counties.
- Participating broadband providers have included for-profit, non-profit cooperatives and municipal entities deploying technology including fiber-to-the-premise, hybrid fiber/coax cable, and fixed wireless.

Participation in Broadband Programs



Mapping

- Per TACIR recommendation, ECD will create detailed broadband map for informing funding decisions and acting as constituent and community planning resource
- ECD's mapping vendor is Connected Nation
- **Timeline**
 - June 2021 – Begin
 - Jan 2022 – Draft map available for public input
 - Summer 2022 – Final map available



American Rescue Plan

- On August 4, 2021, the FSAG approved **\$500** million of Tennessee's ARP FRF for broadband projects.
 - \$400 million for infrastructure in unserved areas
 - \$100 million for programs to encourage adoption and usage of broadband
- ARP expenses deadline – December 2026
- Awaiting Final Rule from US Treasury to determine specific requirements around eligible uses.

American Rescue Plan

Strategy	Program	Description	Funding	Match
Accessibility	ARP FRF Phase 1	Broadband deployment in unserved areas Two Parts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Distressed County Connectivity Fund</u> targeted to projects providing ubiquitous broadband service to remaining unserved distressed, at-risk counties • <u>Broadband Local Match Fund</u> targeted to projects located in political subdivisions supporting project with local ARP funds. 	\$400M	70/30 but can vary based on community needs
		Subtotal	\$400M	\$80-120M
Adoption	Low-Cost Internet	Temporary assistance to qualifying households to cover expense of 100mb/100mb broadband service	\$50M	80/20
	Community Connectivity	Provide connectivity to community anchor institutions. Support digital literacy programs. Examples may include schools, libraries, public safety buildings, public housing authorities, state offices, or state parks.	\$44M	80/20
	Downtown Wi-Fi	Connecting downtown business districts with free public wi-fi	\$2M	80/20
	Subtotal	\$96M	~\$20M	
Admin	1%-3%	Contracted services for mapping, project certification, technical assistance, grants administration and internal program management	\$5-15M	
TOTAL			\$500M	~\$100-140M

Potential Projects

- Eligible Areas: Significantly unserved
 - Unserved for the purposes of this grant means that the area does not have a terrestrial, fixed 25/3 connection.
- Priority for projects that are unlikely to be served without grant funding
- Determination of Eligibility:
 - Form 477 Data is the starting point
 - Additional information can be submitted to demonstrate that an area is unserved despite the FCC data

Statutory and Program Priorities

The US Treasury establishes priority for support to projects including:

- Broadband networks owned, operated by, or affiliated with local governments, non-profits, and co-operatives will be prioritized,
- Designed to deliver, upon project completion, service that reliably meets or exceeds symmetrical upload and download speeds of 100 Mbps where practicable,
- Integrating intentional affordability or low-cost service assistance options.

In addition to the above priorities, the State seeks to incentivize:

- Broadband projects establishing universal broadband access within distressed and at-risk counties.
- Projects including a local match component of at least 20% of the political subdivision's total ARP allocation. Political subdivisions may use their American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds to provide a match.

Grant Requirements

- **Reimbursable** grant - work must be completed and funds expended in order to submit an invoice to the State
- Procurement
 - Payments will be subject to the provisions of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (2 CFR 200) (the Uniform Guidance), including the cost principles and restrictions on general provisions for selected items of cost.
- Applicants will be required to obtain review of the project application by a Professional Engineer (PE) or another qualified individual
- Environmental reviews and Davis-Bacon prevailing wages are NOT required

Scoring

- Need for Grant Funding
- Leveraged and Match Funds
- Speed, Scalability and Affordability
- Sustainability and Implementation Readiness
- Economic and Community Impact
- Adoption Strategy
- Community Support
- Broadband Ready Community Designation
- County Designation

Timeline

January 3, 2022
Application Launch



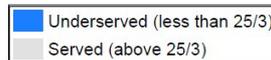
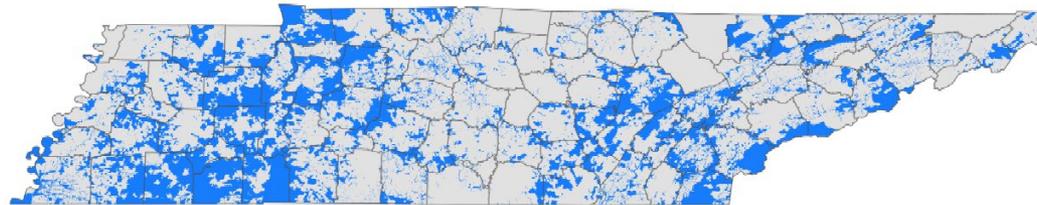
March 8, 2022
Application
Deadline



**Late May/ Early
June 2022**
Award
Announcement

Next Steps

- Meet with local providers & utilities **as soon as possible**
- Discuss broadband problem areas or issues within your community
- Encourage providers to submit an application for state's ARP program – offer to support their required match
- *Note - Communities may be required by US Treasury to conduct RFPs to identify provider partner*



Questions?

Brooxie Carlton

Assistant Commissioner of Community and Rural Development

Brooxie.Carlton@tn.gov

Taylre Beaty

Broadband Director, TNECD

Taylre.Beaty@tn.gov

Emily You

Broadband Grants Manager, TNECD

Emily.H.You@tn.gov

tn.gov/broadband