



NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF
INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY

Division of Broadband and Digital Equity

BROADBAND OPPORTUNITIES

COUNTY INFORMATION SESSION

FEB. 23, 2022

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OBJECTIVES FOR TODAY

- Division overview
- Broadband funding programs
- NC OneMap GREAT Grant mapping tool
- Answering your questions

DIVISION OF BROADBAND AND DIGITAL EQUITY

It's Time to Close the Digital Divide in North Carolina

At least 1.1 million North Carolina households lack access to high-speed internet, cannot afford it or do not have the skills needed to take advantage of the digital economy. Gov. Roy Cooper has a plan to close the digital divide to achieve digital equity for all North Carolinians.



MISSION

Expanding
broadband
access across the
state

Building a
sustainable team
to deliver digital
equity to NC

Leveraging data
to identify and
understand
community needs

Enabling more
North Carolinians
to afford high-
speed internet

Increasing digital
literacy among all
North Carolinians

KEY SUCCESS METRICS



Households with broadband internet access



Households with broadband internet subscriptions



Households with children with broadband internet subscriptions



Adoption rates across racial subgroups

- Native American
- Black
- Latinx
- White

N.C. Today

N.C. 2025

"95.5%"

98%

73%

80%

81%

100%

57%

80%

64%

80%

68%

80%

76%

80%

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMS

N.C. BROADBAND PROGRAMS

Governor Cooper’s plan invests about \$1 billion of American Rescue Plan funds (and \$30 million of state funds) in the following areas to achieve digital equity in North Carolina. We will also leverage significant private sector investment.



INFRASTRUCTURE

\$971M

Ensure availability of internet service at speeds of at least 100/20 Mbps for more than 98% of North Carolina households.

\$380M

- GREAT Grant (\$350M ARPA; \$30 State CIF)

\$400M

- Completing Access to Broadband (CAB)

\$90M

- Stop Gap Solutions

\$100M

- Broadband Make Ready Accelerator (Pole Replacement Fund)

\$1M

- Broadband Mapping



AWARENESS AND DIGITAL LITERACY

\$50M

Improve awareness and enable North Carolinians to realize the benefits of high-speed internet through digital literacy and upskilling aimed at accessing the digital economy.



ADMINISTRATIVE

\$15M

Supplement existing state administrative capacity to support high-speed internet efforts.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN DOLLARS

<https://www.ncbroadband.gov/grants/>

State Fiscal Recovery Funds

- Funds: portion of **GREAT Grant, CAB Program, Stop Gap**, Pole Replacement Fund
 - Interim Final Rule from U.S. Treasury released in May 2021
 - Purpose: broadband service to un/underserved households & businesses
 - Infrastructure requirements: 100 symmetrical, or 100:20 scalable to 100 symmetrical
 - Final Rule from US Treasury released Jan. 6, 2022

Capital Project Funds

- Funds: portion of **GREAT Grant**
 - US Treasury Guidance released Sept. 20, 2021
 - Purpose: Funds to State to carry out critical capital projects directly enabling work, education and health monitoring in response to COVID
 - Eligible Areas (federal): location with no wireline of at least 100:20 Mbps
 - Infrastructure requirements: 100 symmetrical or 100:20 scalable to 100 symmetrical

BROADBAND PROGRAMS

GREAT GRANT (FEDERAL)

GREAT GRANT GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION

<https://www.ncbroadband.gov/grants/great-grant-federal/great-grant-2021-2022>

Website contains:

- Key dates (launched Jan. 31, 2022; applications due April 4, 2022)
- Program guidelines
- FAQs
- Information session recording
- Directions to access online application portal

GREAT GRANT (FEDERAL) KEY PROVISIONS

- Applicants/Recipients are broadband service providers
- Funds to build infrastructure to last-mile unserved* locations (<25/3)
- Specific definition of unserved area in the Guidance Document
- Maximum grant award is \$4 million
- No combination of awards shall exceed \$8 million in a single county per fiscal year

GREAT GRANT (FEDERAL) KEY PROVISIONS

County Participation

- Projects must be located in an “Eligible Economically Distressed County”

The legislation for the GREAT Grant and CAB Program states that a county that has utilized federal funding for broadband infrastructure on or after May 1, 2021, (with the exception of funds for GREAT or CAB), is ineligible for these two state programs. Our interpretation of this legislation is that counties that have used Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (LFRF) for broadband infrastructure projects are ineligible for the GREAT Grant and CAB Program. Our understanding of this intent from policymakers is to encourage counties to partner with the state on broadband infrastructure programs to best leverage available American Rescue Plan Act funds.

GREAT GRANT (FEDERAL) KEY PROVISIONS

County Participation

Partner with an applying ISP

- Use of Infrastructure or other assets for the facilitation of broadband deployment

OR

- Financial contribution

Partnerships can impact scoring and match requirements for an ISP applicant

GREAT GRANT (FEDERAL)

SCORING AND MATCH

GREAT GRANT SCORING AND MATCH

Competitive

Sliding points
scale

Highest score
receives priority
for funding

BIO will review
application and give
"final" score

BIO will
verify match
requirement

GREAT GRANT SCORING CRITERIA

Defined in authorizing legislation

The criteria and description on how to earn points is in Section 5 of the Guidance Document

Opportunity to earn points in each criterion:

- **Partnership** - Up to 4 points
- Unserved Households in a County - Range from 1 - 3 points
- Percentage of unserved HH to be served - Range from 1 - 3 points
- Unserved Business(es) to be served - Range 1 - 3 points
- Cost Per Household or Business - Range 7 - 9 points or Zero Points
- Base Speed Multiplier - Based on minimum speeds offered to project area*

Minimum Speeds	Score Multiplier
100:20 Mbps up to 100:100 Mbps	1.00
100 Mbps, symmetrical	2.00
Greater than 100:100 Mbps	3.00

- Additional Points - Community Broadband Playbook - 1 point
- Additional Points - **County Match** - Range 1 - 7 points

GREAT GRANT SCORING CRITERIA

Implementation “Formula”

- Partnership + Unserved HH in a County + Percentage of unserved HH to be served + Unserved Business(es) to be served + Cost Per Household or Business = **Initial Score**
- Initial Score x Base Speed **Multiplier*** = Subtotal Score
- Subtotal + Community Broadband Playbook + County Match = **Final Score**

Applications that do not adequately explain how they can reliably provide broadband speeds indicated, or do not adequately address scalability of service to 100 Mbps symmetrical by Dec. 31, 2026, maybe deemed ineligible for consideration

GREAT GRANT MATCHING FUNDS - BY SCORE

Determined by application score

Up to 50% of match may be from third-party funding or other grants*

Highest score receives priority for funding

Match can be used only toward eligible project costs for GREAT Grant

*County ARPA Funds and Unrestricted General Fund Revenue Eligible

50%
12.0 points or less

45%
Greater than 12.0, but less than 17.5

40%
17.5, up to 22.0

30%
Greater than 22.0

GREAT GRANT MATCHING FUNDS

*Potential Match Reduction - Regardless of Score

County Financial
Contribution
partially ARPA

25%

County share
is partially
comprised of
ARPA funds

County Financial
Contribution
entirely ARPA

15%

County share
is all ARPA

BROADBAND PROGRAMS

COMPLETING ACCESS TO BROADBAND (CAB) PROGRAM

CAB PROGRAM KEY PROVISIONS

- Partnership between county and NCDIT
- Competitive bidding process must be developed
- Mutually identify eligible, unserved areas
- No county may receive more than \$4 million in aggregate funding from the CAB Program in a fiscal year
- Award must use county and state funds
 - Counties will transfer funds to the state
- State provides program and fiscal oversight of project
- Tentative dates- Award pilot CAB program counties in Q3

NEXT STEPS

- Complete the county survey from Broadband Infrastructure Office (BIO) by **Feb. 28**
 - Sent from CABprogram@nc.gov (Add to safe senders list)
- Designate primary contact who will coordinate with BIO on CAB Program, GREAT Grant and the other upcoming infrastructure programs
- Participating in the GREAT Grant and CAB Program

BROADBAND MAPS

<https://www.nconemap.gov/pages/broadband>



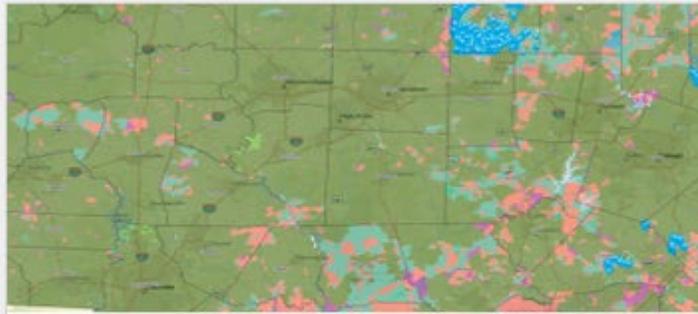
NC GREAT Grant Awards

NC GREAT Grant Online Mapping Tool

Online Mapping Tool to assist in identifying possible project areas for the GREAT Grant Program.

Data

View



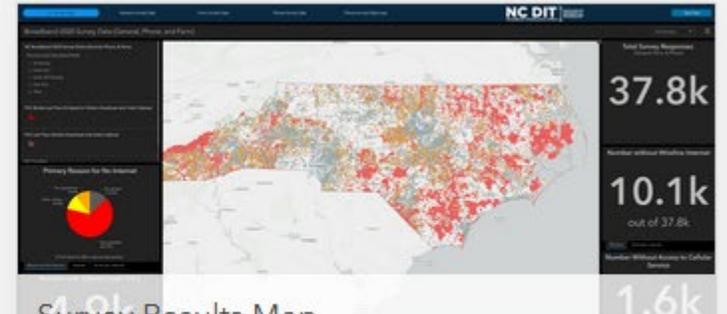
Broadband Planning

Broadband Project Planning

Identify areas that are eligible for various grant programs aimed at expanding broadband access across North Carolina.

Data

View



Survey Results Map

NC Broadband Survey

The NC Broadband Survey is designed to gather information on locations in the state without adequate internet access and speeds.

Data

View

MAPPING DATA

LIVE DEMONSTRATION

BEN SHELTON, GISP

PROJECT MANAGER

N.C. CENTER FOR GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS

NEED ASSISTANCE?

CAB Program Questions

- CABprogram@nc.gov
- <https://www.ncbroadband.gov/grants/cab-grant>

Mapping Questions

- broadbandmapping@nc.gov

GREAT Grant Questions

- GREATGrant@nc.gov
- <https://www.ncbroadband.gov/grants/great-grant-federal/great-grant-2021-2022>