BROADBAND OPPORTUNITIES

COUNTY INFORMATION SESSION

FEB. 23, 2022

ANGIE BAILEY
DIRECTOR, BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE OFFICE
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>N.C. Today</th>
<th>N.C. 2025</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Households with broadband internet access</td>
<td>“95.5%”</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with broadband internet subscriptions</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with children with broadband internet subscriptions</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adoption rates across racial subgroups</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Native American</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Black</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Latinx</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• White</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>80%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

"95.5%" refers to the percentage of households with broadband internet access.

N.C. Today and N.C. 2025 represent the current status and the desired 2025 status, respectively.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$971M</td>
<td>Ensure availability of internet service at speeds of at least 100/20 Mbps for more than 98% of North Carolina households.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$380M</td>
<td>GREAT Grant ($350M ARPA; $30 State CIF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$400M</td>
<td>Completing Access to Broadband (CAB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$90M</td>
<td>Stop Gap Solutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100M</td>
<td>Broadband Make Ready Accelerator (Pole Replacement Fund)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1M</td>
<td>Broadband Mapping</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Awareness and Digital Literacy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$50M</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Administrative

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$15M</td>
<td>Supplement existing state administrative capacity to support high-speed internet efforts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
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.
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
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*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum Speeds</th>
<th>Score Multiplier</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100:20 Mbps up to 100:100 Mbps</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 Mbps, symmetrical</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater than 100:100 Mbps</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 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% for 12.0 points or less
- 45% for greater than 12.0, but less than 17.5
- 40% for 17.5, up to 22.0
- 30% for greater than 22.0
*Potential Match Reduction - Regardless of Score

**County Financial Contribution**

- **partially ARPA**
- **entirely ARPA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County Financial Contribution</th>
<th>County share</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>partially ARPA</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>entirely ARPA</td>
<td>15%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

County share is partially comprised of ARPA funds

County share is all ARPA
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**
  o 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 Online Mapping Tool
Online Mapping Tool to assist in identifying possible project areas for the GREAT Grant Program.

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

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