



The Role of States in Expanding Broadband Access

NTIA Webinar Series

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Conference Line: 800-593-7190 Passcode: 984-4951#

February 19, 2020

Participants

Presenters

- Kathryn de Wit, Manager, Broadband Research Initiative, The Pew Charitable Trusts
- Deana Perry, Executive Director, Georgia Rural Broadband Program
- Crystal Ivey, Broadband Director, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development

Moderator

- Katherine Bates, Broadband Program Specialist, NTIA, BroadbandUSA

Helpful Information

Questions

- Please type questions and comments in the question box on the right hand side of the screen. Questions will be taken after the final presenter.

Presentation

- The presentation along with a transcript and an audio recording will be available on the BroadbandUSA website within 7 days of this webinar under Events/Past Events.
- <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/past-event>

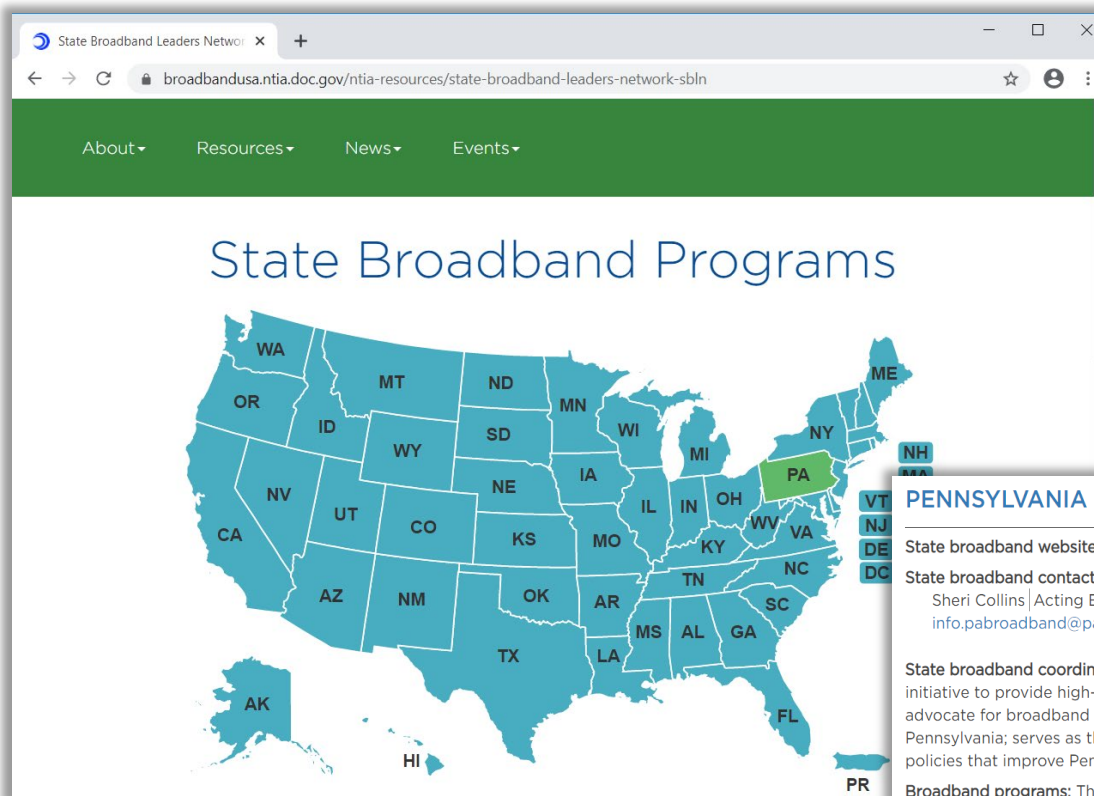
Technical Assistance

- Guides, products, publications, and other tools are available to assist you with the planning, funding and implementation of your broadband project.
- <https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov>

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State Broadband Leaders Network (SBLN)

- NTIA coordinates the State Broadband Leaders Network (SBLN), a community of practitioners who work on state broadband initiatives.
- Participants share priorities and best practices and discuss emerging telecommunications policy issues.
- Combined 51 states and territories participate in the SBLN (up from 15 states in 2016)
- Consists of broadband directors, managers, and staff from Governors' offices, Economic Development/Commerce Departments, CIOs office, University Extensions
- Meet virtually monthly and twice per year in person.
- NTIA compiles information on state broadband activities, including broadband programs and plans, funding, data collection and mapping and definitions of broadband.



PENNSYLVANIA

State broadband website(s): [Pennsylvania Broadband Initiative](#)

State broadband contact(s):

Sheri Collins | Acting Executive Director | Governor's Office of Broadband Initiatives |
info.pabroadband@pa.gov | (717) 720-1396

State broadband coordinator: The [Governor's Office of Broadband Initiatives](#): manages the Governor's initiative to provide high-speed internet access to all Pennsylvanians; serves as the Governor's public advocate for broadband access and utilization; recommends broadband programs and policies for Pennsylvania; serves as the point of contact for PA broadband issues; and encourages and advocates for policies that improve Pennsylvania's Broadband infrastructure.

Broadband programs: The [Governor's Office of Broadband Initiatives](#) administers the [Pennsylvania Broadband Investment Incentive Program](#), the [Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission](#) administers the [Pennsylvania Universal Service Fund](#) and the [Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation](#) administers the [Wireless Telecommunications Device Distribution Program](#).

Funding for broadband: Contact the [Governor's Office of Broadband Initiatives](#) for current funding levels for the programs: info.pabroadband@pa.gov or (717) 783-1116.

State Broadband Plan: [Restore Pennsylvania](#) is Governor Wolf's infrastructure plan, which includes a [broadband initiative](#) for the commonwealth.

Note on Methodology: State information is gathered by BroadbandUSA using publically available sources (e.g. state websites). The information is validated by the points-of-contact at each state-level agency(-ies). This information was last updated Fall 2019. The information is reviewed and updated



THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS

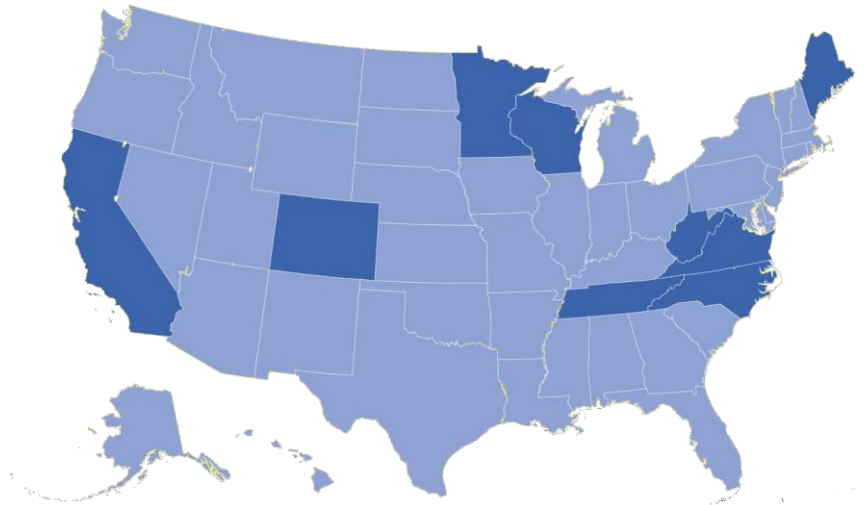
How States are Expanding Broadband Access

#PewBroadband

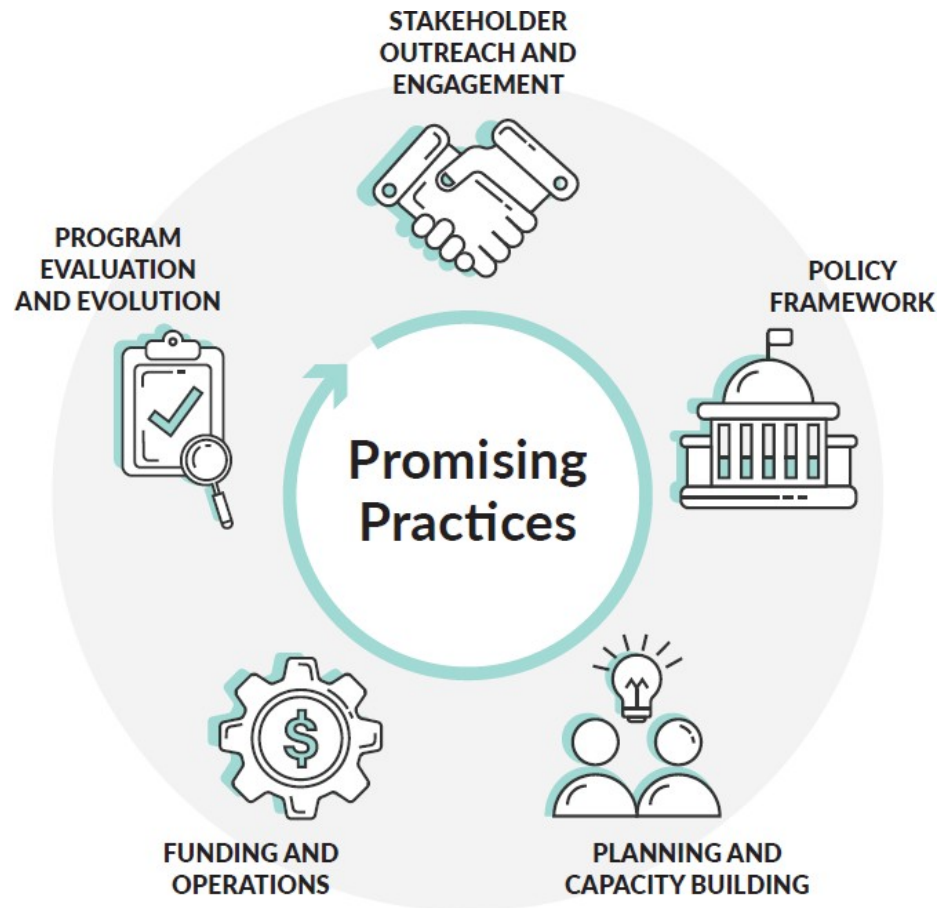
pewtrusts.org

Scope of research

- 50-state policy and program analysis
- Selection of case study states
- Field research
 - Interviews with state broadband programs, grantees, other stakeholders



5 promising practices



Stakeholder Outreach & Engagement

Stakeholder engagement informs all other practices



Policy Framework

Defining direction, identifying barriers, connecting priorities



Planning & Capacity Building

Adopting state plans, supporting local and regional planning



Funding & Operations

Funding broadband deployment, addressing accountability

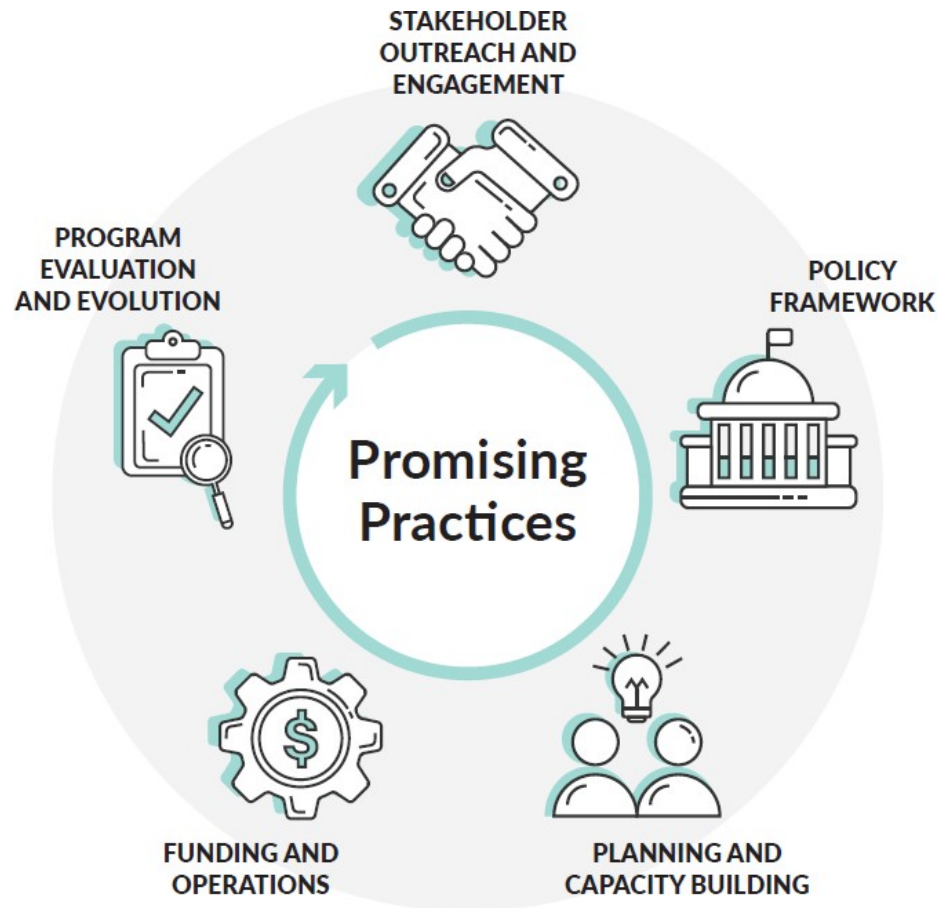


Program Evaluation & Evolution

Adapting, improving programs with experience and information



5 promising practices



(Near) Universal truths of broadband

- Executive and legislative leadership
- “Projects are the people”
- Trusted partners and resources



A broadband summit in Maine.

Common characteristics of state broadband efforts

- Multi-faceted challenge with no one solution
- Takes time and resources
- Respect the process



“What’s changed? *I’m not explaining what broadband is [or] why it’s important...What I’m out doing is telling people how to connect with our grant program, how to form partnerships, how to find other sources of funding.* That’s a big change.”

Angie Dickison
MN Office of Broadband Development



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Thank you, Kathryn!



Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative

 Georgia[®] Department of
Community Affairs

February 19, 2020

NTIA/Broadband USA
Deana Perry, Executive Director of Broadband

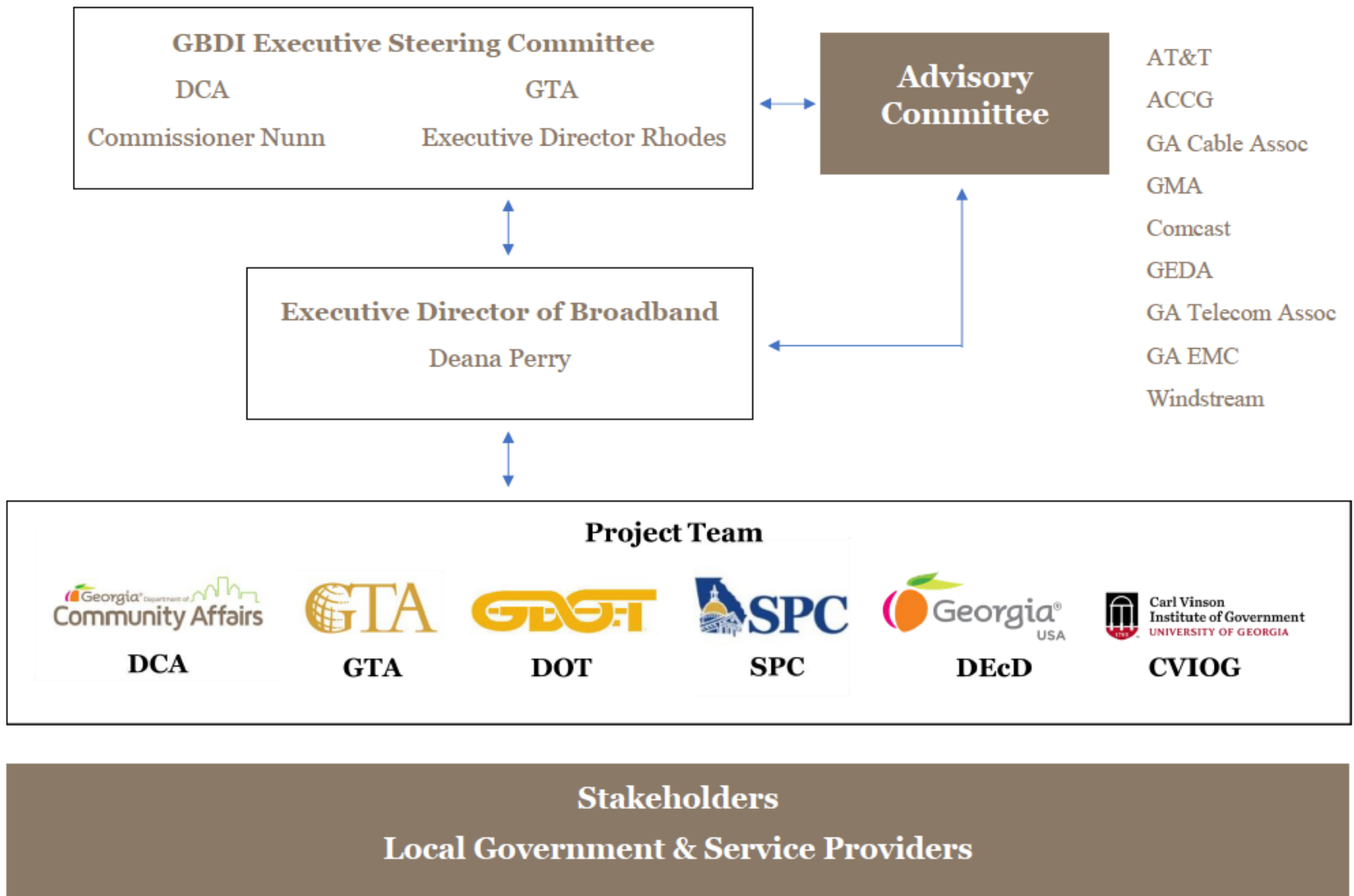
Legislative Background

- **Legislative Session 2018**
 - SB402- created as the framework for the Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative (GBDI)
- Rural study committees 2017
 - Senate Rural Georgia Study Committee was created
- House Rural Development Council created in 2017
- Senate Resolution 876 in 2016
 - Joint High-speed Broadband Communications Access for all Georgians Study Committee

Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative: Framework

- Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative (GBDI) Project Management and Governance
- Broadband Plan
- Broadband Grant Program Development
- Statewide Mapping
- Community Readiness Programs
 - Broadband Ready Community Designation
 - Broadband Ready Site Designation
- State Asset Analysis
- Legislation defines broadband services and broadband eligible areas.

Structure of GBDI



Broadband Mapping

FCC Mapping Lacks Accuracy

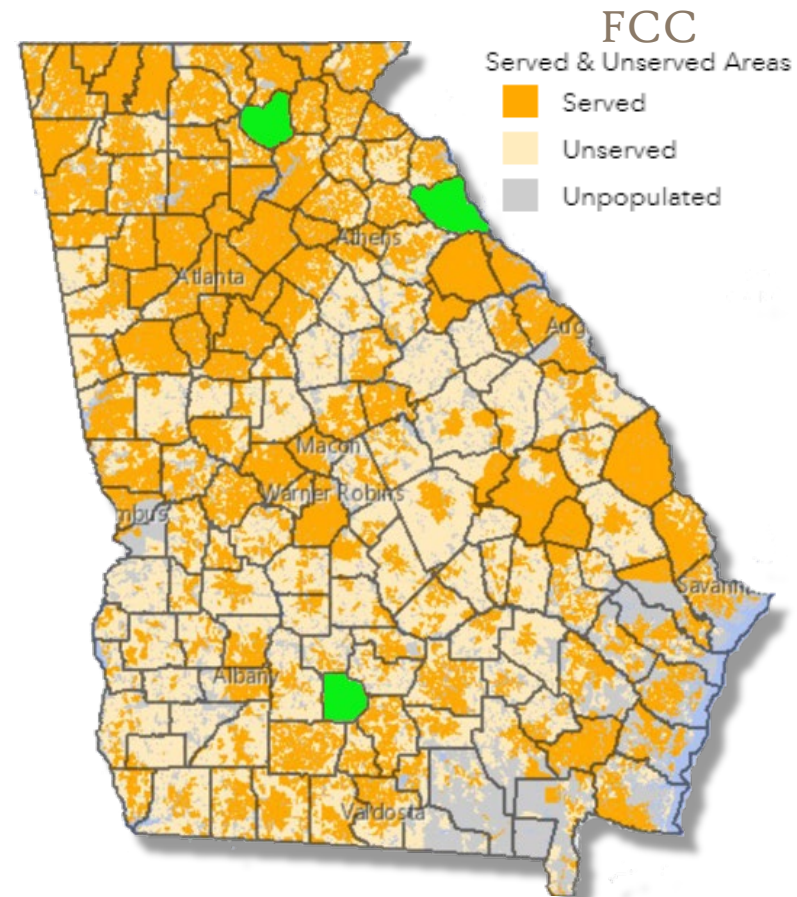
- 1 location per census block = served
- Uses 2010 census location counts

Georgia Mapping Accuracy for 25/3

- For each location (5-6 million) with location details
- Using 2019 location counts
- Determine unserved locations and census blocks
- Determine investment requirement

Mapping Pilot

- 3 counties; Lumpkin, Elbert and Tift
- 7 providers; Cable, EMC, Telco and City
- Completed in March: 44,443 locations
- Statewide mapping in progress for 156 counties, 46 providers



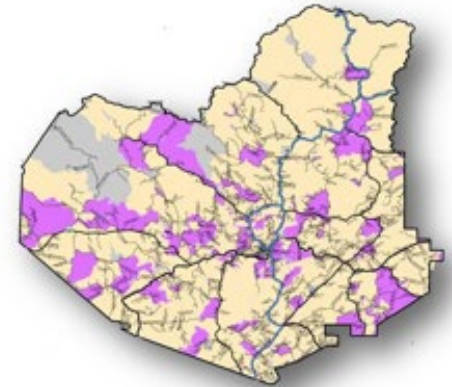
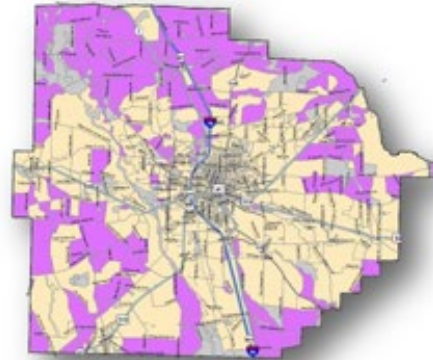
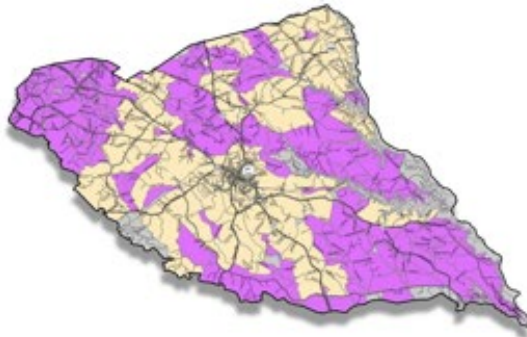
Pilot Results

Elbert Co.

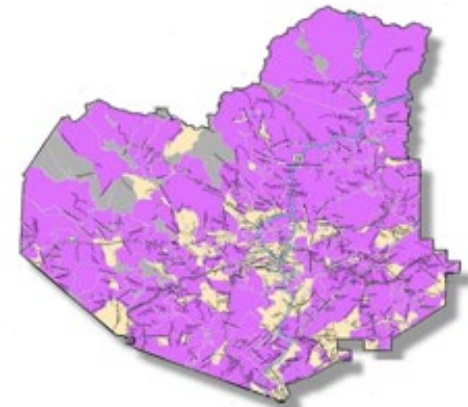
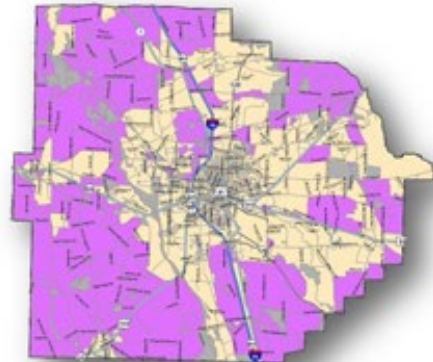
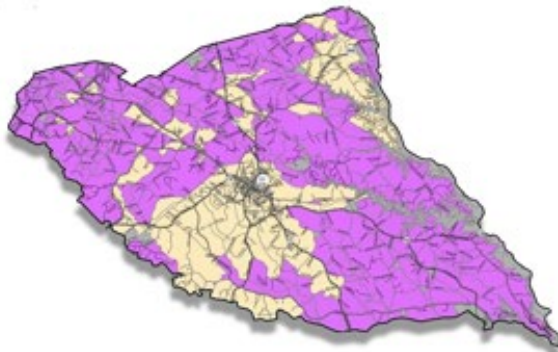
Tift Co.

Lumpkin Co.

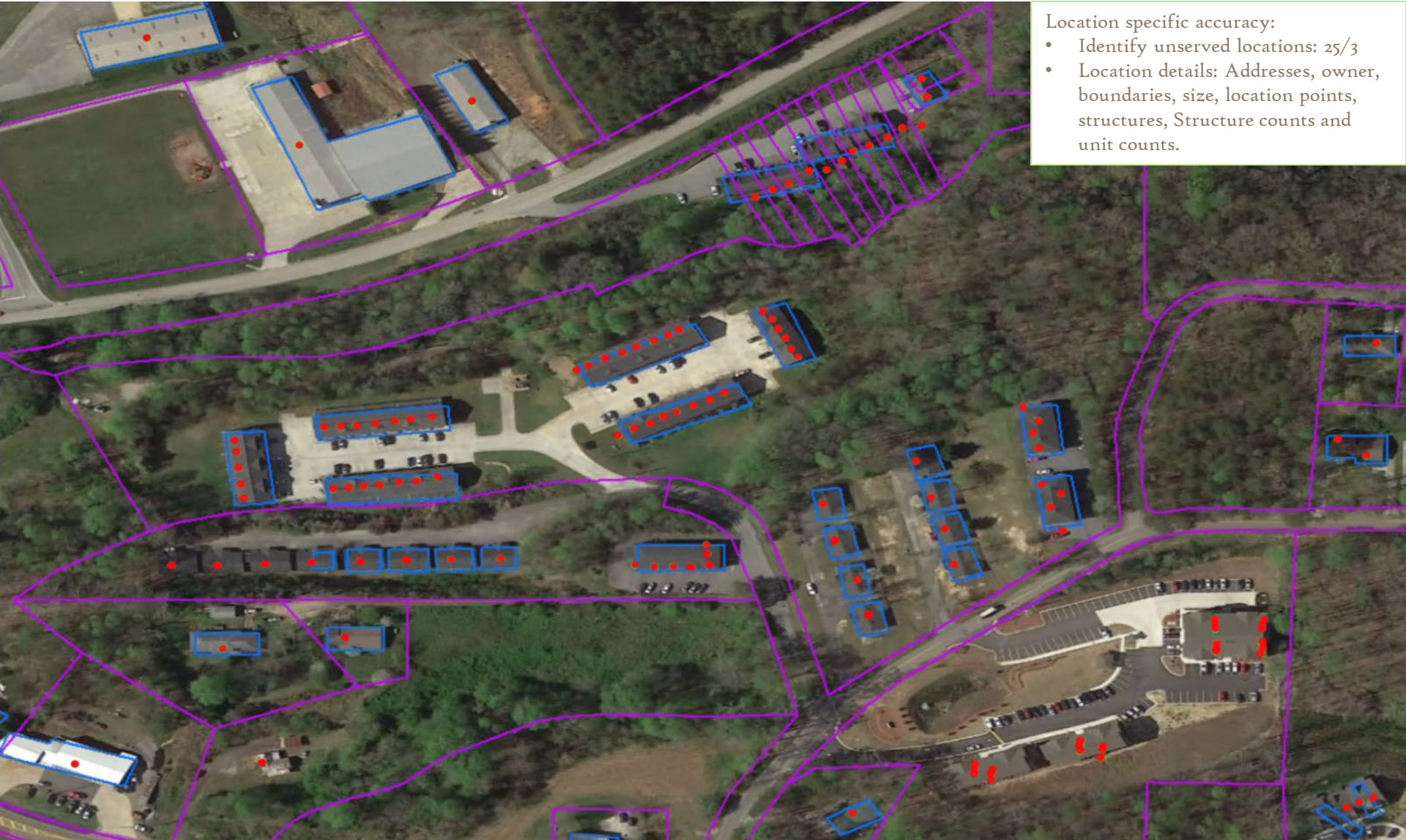
**FCC
Map**



**Georgia
Map**



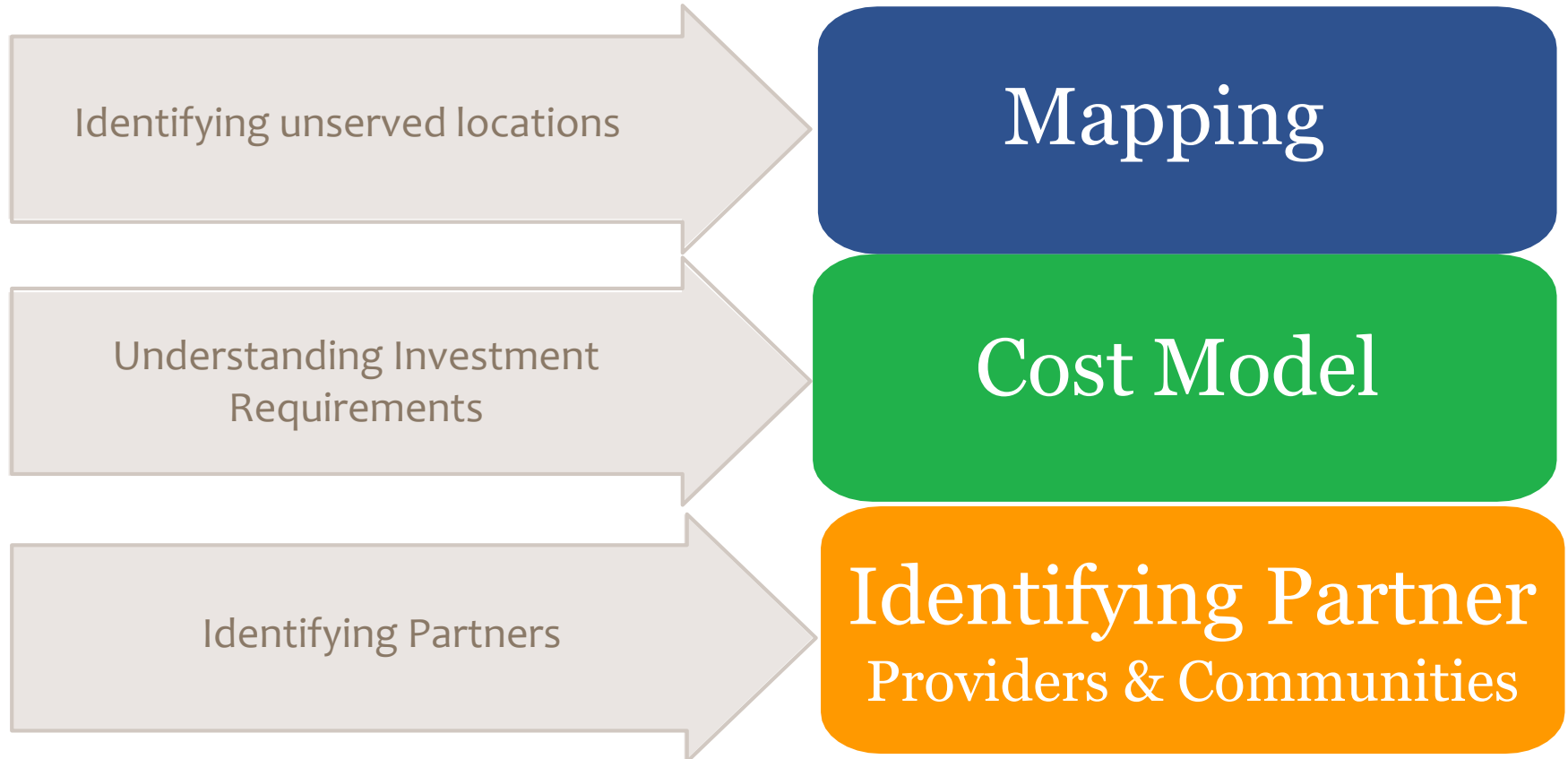
Illustration



Location specific accuracy:

- Identify unserved locations: 25/3
- Location details: Addresses, owner, boundaries, size, location points, structures, Structure counts and unit counts.

Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative





Georgia[®] Department of



Community Affairs





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Thank you, Deana!



BROADBAND INITIATIVE

Crystal Ivey, Broadband Director

TN Broadband Accessibility Act (TBAA)

Investment – TBAA commits to three years of grants that focus on unserved areas.

Deregulation – TBAA permits the state’s private, nonprofit electric cooperatives to provide broadband service.

Education – Through the Rural Task Force and other efforts, existing programs and resources will be evaluated and leveraged to drive broadband adoption.

- TBAA provides grant funding opportunities to the state’s local libraries to help residents improve their digital literacy skills and maximize the benefits of broadband.

Tennessee Broadband Accessibility Grant

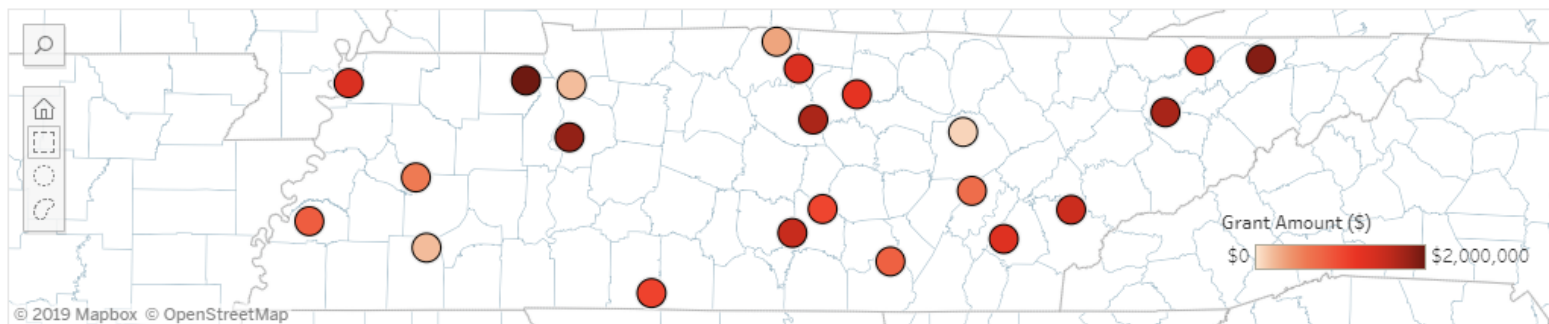
Program details:

- Applicants: Any entity legally authorized to provide broadband in Tennessee can apply.
- Proposed Service Areas: currently lacking fixed, terrestrial 25/3 Mbps internet speed based on FCC Form 477 data or supplemental information provided by applicants
- Technology: Technology neutral program with speed, scalability, and affordability included in the scoring.

Tennessee Broadband Accessibility Grant

Years 1 and 2

Broadband Accessibility Grants



22

Grants Awarded

\$24,633,173

Grant Amount Awarded

13,630

Contracted Passings



Tennessee Broadband Accessibility Grant

Grant Applications – Round 3

- \$20M in available funding
- Application period: July 22, 2019– November 20, 2019; Announce in March 2020
- \$62M in requests received on 50 applications from all nine regions
- 50% increase in applications for projects in distressed counties

- Evaluation Criteria
 - Eligibility
 - Need for grant funding
 - Sustainability and implementation readiness of applicant
 - Speed, scalability, and affordability
 - Community and economic development impact

- Scoring conducted by
 - TNECD internal team consisting of the Broadband team and members from the Community and Rural Development and Research divisions
 - External broadband consultant provided technical expertise

Electric Cooperatives

TENNESSEE'S ELECTRIC CO-OPS ARE INVESTING MORE THAN
1.2 BILLION DOLLARS
TO EXPAND CONNECTIVITY IN RURAL AND SUBURBAN TENNESSEE

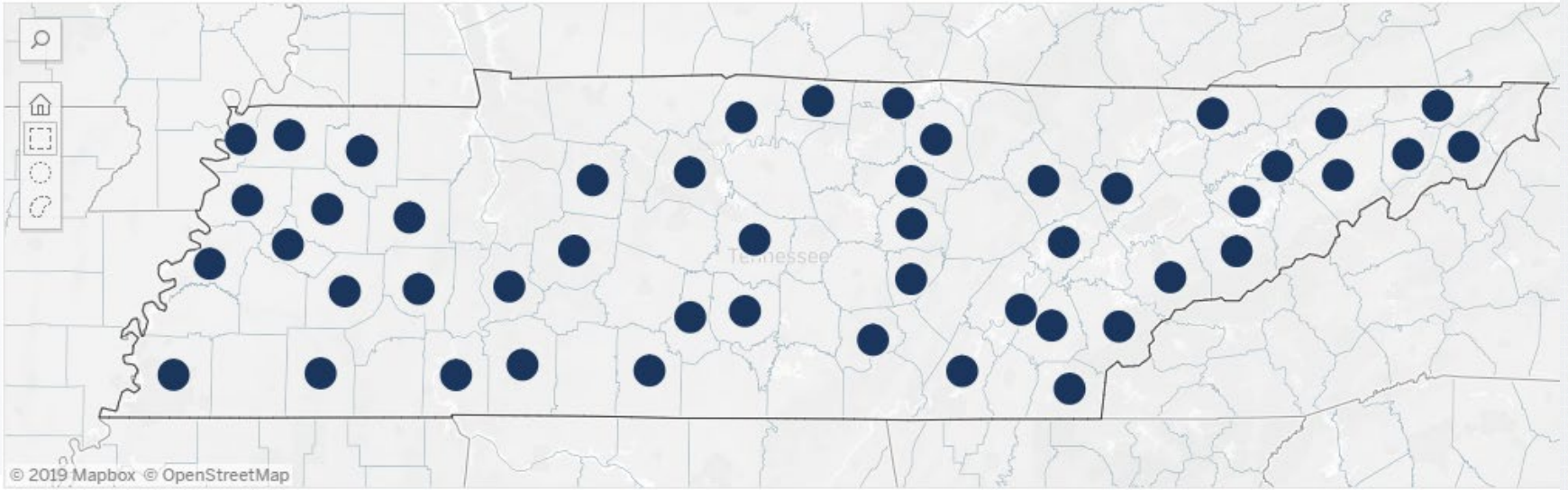
13 OF 23 CO-OPS
HAVE ACTIVE BROAD BAND PROJECTS

790,000
POTENTIAL LOCATIONS

\$187 MILLION
ALREADY INVESTED



Digital Literacy Grants



\$245,473

Value of Grants and
Consulting Services
(2018 - 2019)

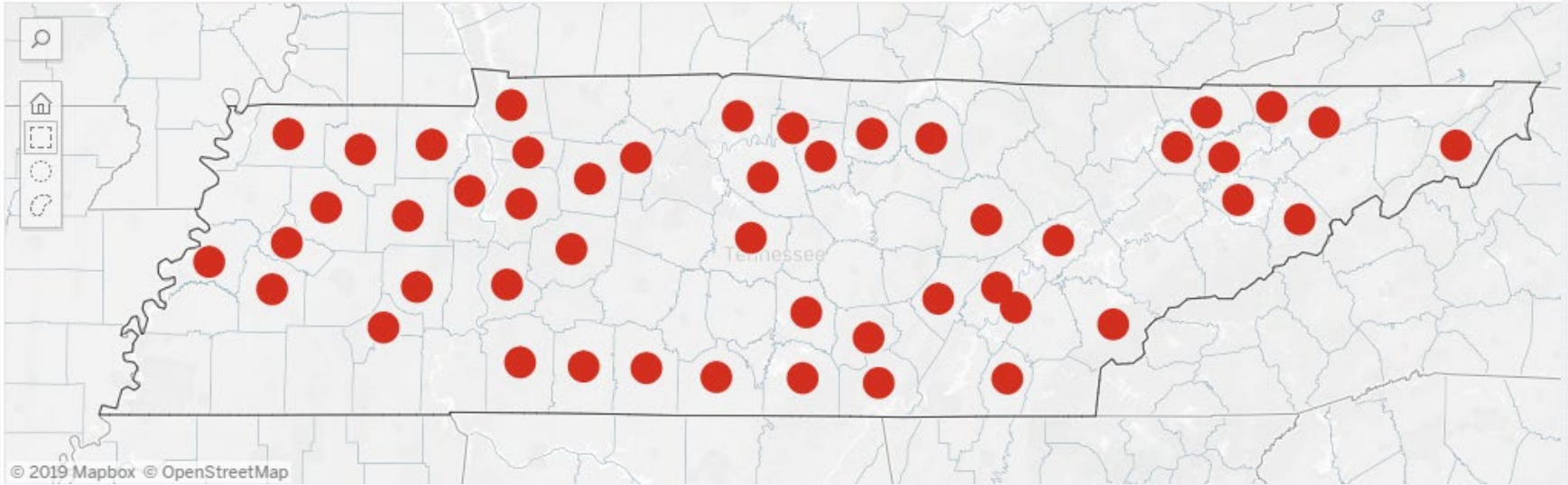
48

Counties Receiving Grants
(2018 - 2019)

88

No. of Grants Awarded and
Consulting Services Applied
(2018 - 2019)

Broadband Ready Communities



54

Broadband Ready
Communities
(2017 - 2019)



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Thank you, Crystal!

The Role of States in Expanding Broadband Access

Questions and Answers

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BroadbandUSA

Thank you for attending.

Tune in for the next Practical Conversations Webinar

The American Broadband Initiative – 1 year update

March 18, 2020

2:00 pm ET

Registration is required for each webinar:

<https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/event>

BroadbandUSA is available to help communities with their broadband access and digital inclusion efforts

For General Information:



202-482-2048



broadbandusa@ntia.gov



<https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/resources>

To Request Technical Assistance (TA):



Broadband TA Request Form -
<https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/ntia-common-content/how-we-can-help>

BBUSA Resources

- [Implementing a Broadband Network Vision: A Toolkit for Local and Tribal Governments](#)
- [Community Broadband Roadmap Toolkit](#)
- [Guide to Federal Funding of Broadband Projects](#)
- [Using Partnerships to Power Smart Cities](#)