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Welcome & Introduction

By **Larry Hanson**

CEO & Executive Director

Georgia Municipal Association

AGENDA & SPEAKER BIOS:

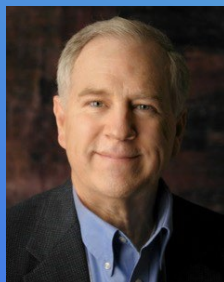# State Broadband Update

Moderated by

Jessica Simmons
Deputy CIO and Executive
Director, Georgia Broadband
Program,
Georgia Technology Authority

Oneisha Freeman
Digital Connectivity Manager
Georgia Technology Authority

Michell Morton
Acting Deputy Director for Digital Equity
Program, Internet for All
NTIA

Bob Swiggum
K12 Connectivity Officer, Office of Technology
Services
Georgia Department of Education

Julie Walker
State Librarian of Georgia
Vice Chancellor for Libraries & Archives
University System of Georgia

Full speaker
biographies:

4

2023 GMA Broadband Summit

K12 Broadband Connectivity

Steven S. Korwan
Program Manager
Technology Services/K12 Connectivity
Cell Phone: 470.755.0922
Steven.Korwan@doe.k12.ga.us

Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent | Georgia Department of Education | *Educating Georgia's Future*

GaDOE
Georgia Department of Education

K12 Broadband Connectivity in Georgia

In the classroom

Peachnet – Increase bandwidth in every Georgia 2300 public K12 school to 400 MBPS.
Paid for by state funds and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) erate program.

Upgraded district's network infrastructure to accept increase in Peachnet bandwidth.
Paid for by governors GEERs grant.

Current computers per student ratio is 0.6. Almost two computer per student.

K12 Broadband Connectivity in Georgia

<u>Outside of the classroom</u>

External WIFI antennas to provide wifi access on all public k12 schools.

11,000 WIFI hot spot devices with 5 year data plans for students living in low income housing. Paid for by governors GEERs grant.

155,000 WIFI hot spot devices provided to students by districts. Paid for by the FCC's Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF)

K12 Broadband Connectivity in Georgia

Sustainability

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is an FCC program that helps low-income households pay for internet service and connected devices. Up to a $30/month discount on internet service and a one-time discount of up to $100 for a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer

Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) and Free/Reduced Lunch (FRL) Data

ACP data from May 2023
FRL data from FY2023

County-level Data — Click on a county name below to drill down.

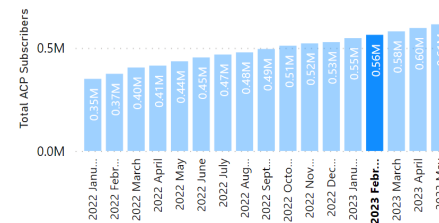| County Name	ACP Subscribers	FRL ACP Subscribers Estimate	FRL Households	ACP to FRL Ratio Estimate
Appling County	1,189	297	2,054	0.14
Atkinson County	482	121	985	0.12
Bacon County	964	241	1,142	0.21
Baker County	262	66	218	0.30
Baldwin County	4,780	1,195	3,117	0.38
Banks County	926	232	994	0.23
Barrow County	3,383	846	4,306	0.20
Bartow County	4,875	1,219	7,120	0.17
Ben Hill County	2,025	506	1,766	0.29
Berrien County	1,465	366	1,817	0.20
Bibb County	21,933	5,483	12,883	0.43
Bleckley County	680	170	1,497	0.11
Brantley County	977	244	2,289	0.11
Brooks County	1,667	417	1,331	0.31
Bryan County	1,140	285	2,431	0.12
Bulloch County	3,674	919	4,170	0.22
Burke County	2,232	558	3,010	0.19
Total	**614,346**	**153,587**	**669,763**	**0.23**
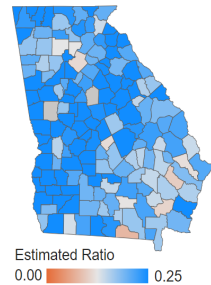
Filters

District	All
Estimate of ACP Households with School-age Children	25%
Community Eligibility Program (CEP)	All

ACP Subscriber Trend

Total ACP Subscribers:
0.35M, 0.37M, 0.40M, 0.41M, 0.44M, 0.45M, 0.47M, 0.48M, 0.49M, 0.51M, 0.52M, 0.53M, 0.55M, 0.56M, 0.58M, 0.60M, 0.61M

2022 January, 2022 February, 2022 March, 2022 April, 2022 May, 2022 June, 2022 July, 2022 August, 2022 September, 2022 October, 2022 November, 2022 December, 2023 January, 2023 February, 2023 March, 2023 April, 2023 May

Estimated Ratio: 0.00 – 0.25

County Composition by District

County Name / District Name	FRL Household Count
Appling County	**2,066**
Appling County	2,038
Department of Juvenile Justice	Too Few Students
Jeff Davis County	Too Few Students
Long County	Too Few Students
Pierce County	Too Few Students
State Charter Schools- Georgia Connections Academy	Too Few Students
State Charter Schools- Georgia Cyber Academy	Too Few Students
State Charter Schools II- Cirrus Charter Academy	Too Few Students
State Schools	Too Few Students
Tattnall County	Too Few Students
Toombs County	Too Few Students
Total	**580,729**

GADOE free services in support of ACP

- **GADOE provided parental outreach**
- **GADOE provided ACP support line**
- **GADOE supported district parental outreach**
- **GADOE provided ACP workshop for district staff**
- **GADOE supported ACP workshop for families**

Georgia

- Affordable internet
- Self service kiosks
- PLAY cards
- Device loaner programs
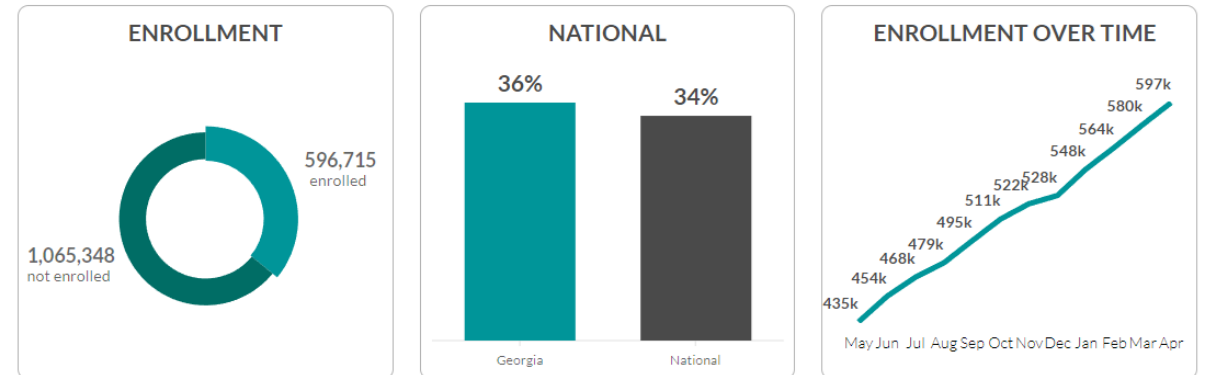- Wi-Fi and broadband expansion

Affordable Internet

- GPLS provides info and tools to support ACP adoption and education of library staff.
- Encouraged libraries to focus on areas most in need.

## Georgia ACP Adoption

1,662,063 eligible households

ENROLLMENT	NATIONAL	ENROLLMENT OVER TIME
596,715 enrolled / 1,065,348 not enrolled	Georgia 36% — National 34%	435k → 597k (May–Apr)

FILTERS   DOWNLOAD

Data By City

Data By City	ADOPTION RATE	ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS	ENROLLED HOUSEHOLDS	ELIGIBLE UNCONNECTED HOUSEHOLDS
Abbeville	33%	226	75	124
Acworth	17%	2577	445	385
Adairsville	24%	863	207	345
Adel	37%	1208	450	649

Self service kiosks

- Department of Human Services benefits kiosks in libraries
- Linked to ACP
- Centrally managed by GPLS
- Marketing strategies
- Data Dashboards
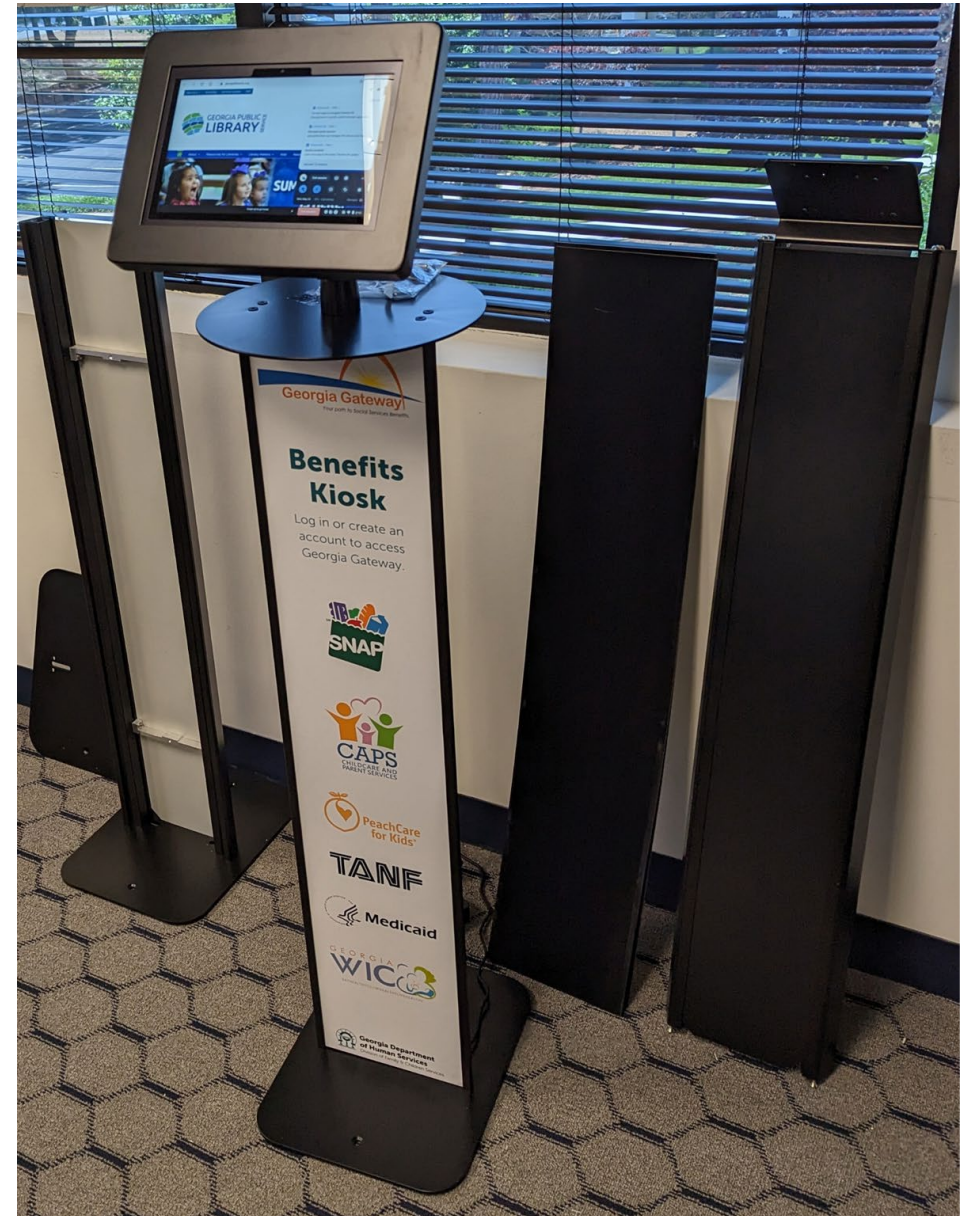
PLAY (PINES Library Access for Youth)

- PLAY card gives library access to kids who may not have it otherwise.
- Implemented through an agreement between PINES library systems and regional public school systems.
- 450,000 active cards and growing.

"This is my first time at the library. There are so many books to choose from; I'm so happy!" - Lola, 9

Device circulation

- Started with pandemic funding, has continued to expand.
- State of GA GEER grant enabled 10,000+ laptops and pre-loaded learning tablets for checkout, to help with learning loss.

Wi-Fi and broadband expansion

- GPLS supports access to tech and fast internet across all libraries.
- Helped libraries expand wireless coverage and quality during COVID.
- Developed public map of library wifi availability, speeds, and tech.
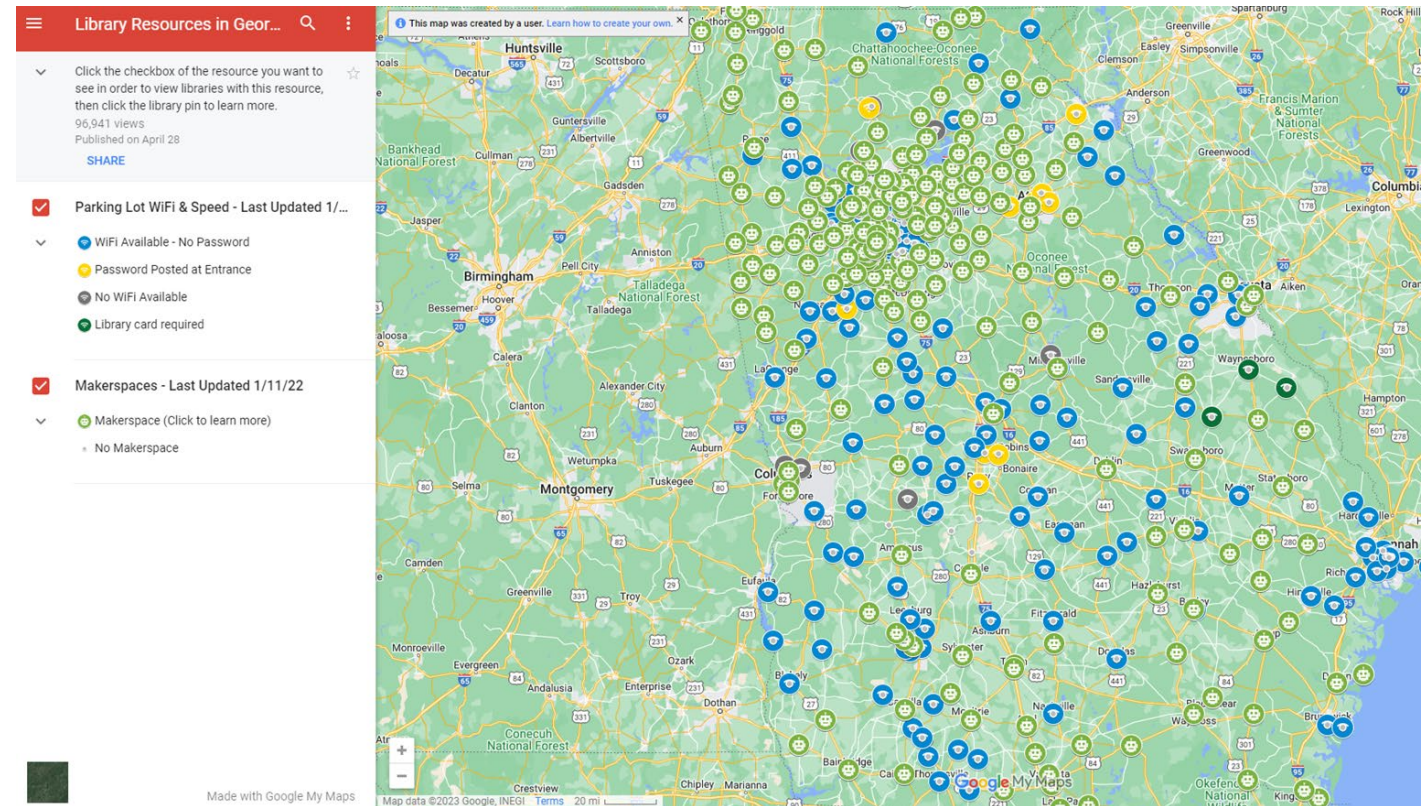
Julie Walker
Vice Chancellor for Libraries & Archives
State Librarian

jwalker@georgialibraries.org
@JulieWalkerSL

Partnerships, Case Studies, Success Stories

Steven Ferguson
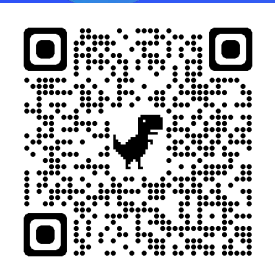Chief Information Officer
Technical College System of Georgia

Jamal Lewis
Economic Opportunity Manager
Partnership for Inclusive Innovation

Venus R. Lockett
Chief Empowerment Officer
Georgia Asset Building Coalition Initiative

Mayor Kenneth Sumpter
City of Fort Gaines
Consultant, Empower Southwest Georgia
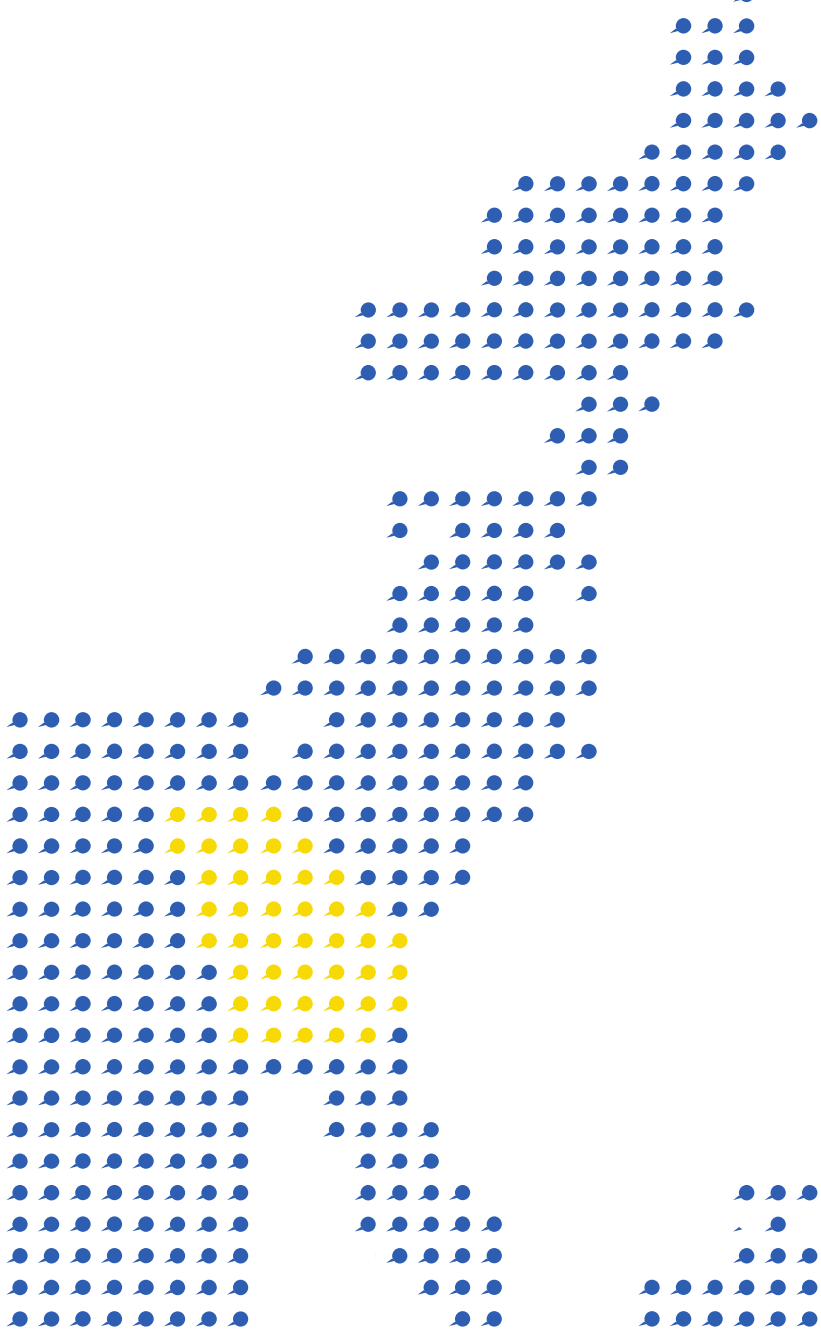
Full speaker biographies:

Partnership for Inclusive Innovation

GMA Broadband Summit

29 August 2023

Jamal Lewis, Economic Opportunity Manager

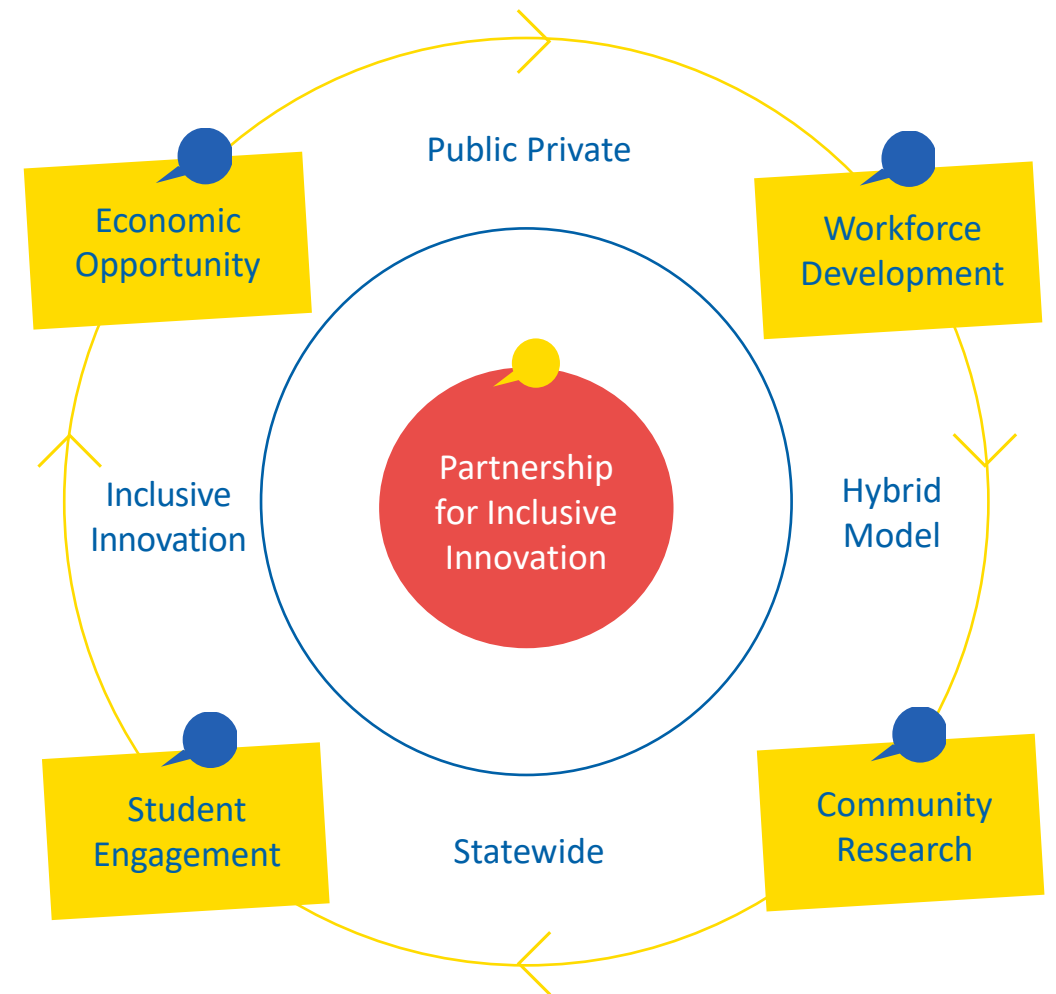pin partnership for inclusive innovation

pingeorgia.org

What We Do

Through its four pillars, the Partnerships provides social and financial capital to scaled programs, research, technology and services; and mentors the next generation of innovators who can navigate public private partnership for shared economic success.

Each pillar has active networks, fluency to respond to emerging opportunities and programs to catalyze innovation:

- **Summer Internships**
- **Year -Long Fellowships**
- **Ecosystem Leadership Development**
- **Applied Research Grants**

Economic Opportunity

Workforce Development

Public Private

Inclusive Innovation

Partnership for Inclusive Innovation

Hybrid Model

Student Engagement

Statewide

Community Research

pin

Project Overview and Highlights

- PIN supported: Digital Literacy for Small to Mid-Size Farms Research Project
  - **Develop and offer training for beginner and advanced-level technology users to make data-driven decisions**

- Recently awarded a USDA Farm of the Future Grant (4-year, $4-million-dollar project)
  - **4-D Farm – Digital and Data-Driven Demonstration Farm**

- Building a "Farm of the Future" to conduct research and demonstrate:
  - **Industry-leading** practices
  - Digital data **integration** for decision support
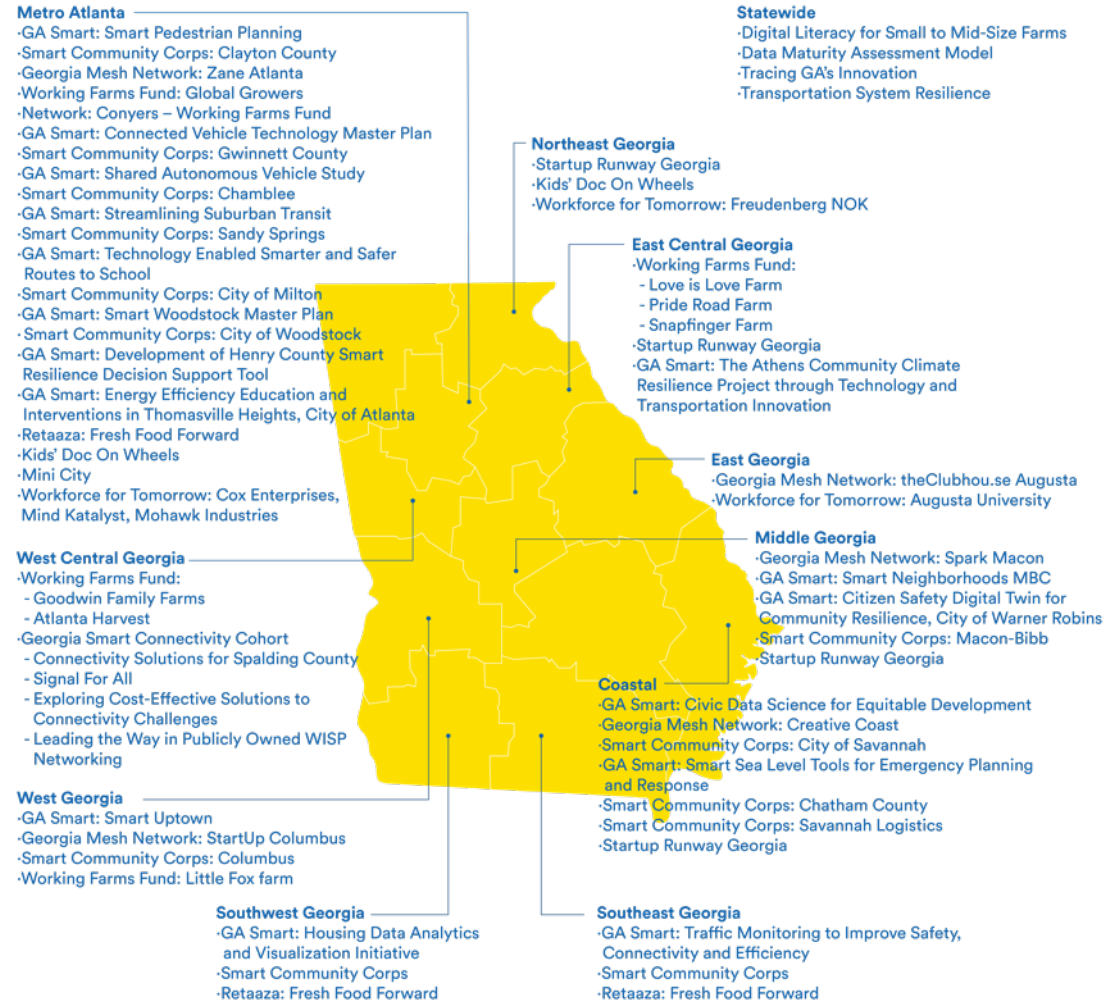 - **Education and training** in digital farming

Innovation, Opportunity, and Shared Economic Success

Enter the State of Innovation

Visit our website: Pingeorgia.org
Follow us: @pingeorgia

Metro Atlanta
·GA Smart: Smart Pedestrian Planning
·Smart Community Corps: Clayton County
·Georgia Mesh Network: Zane Atlanta
·Working Farms Fund: Global Growers
·Network: Conyers – Working Farms Fund
·GA Smart: Connected Vehicle Technology Master Plan
·Smart Community Corps: Gwinnett County
·GA Smart: Shared Autonomous Vehicle Study
·Smart Community Corps: Chamblee
·GA Smart: Streamlining Suburban Transit
·Smart Community Corps: Sandy Springs
·GA Smart: Technology Enabled Smarter and Safer
 Routes to School
·Smart Community Corps: City of Milton
·GA Smart: Smart Woodstock Master Plan
·Smart Community Corps: City of Woodstock
·GA Smart: Development of Henry County Smart
 Resilience Decision Support Tool
·GA Smart: Energy Efficiency Education and
 Interventions in Thomasville Heights, City of Atlanta
·Retaaza: Fresh Food Forward
·Kids' Doc On Wheels
·Mini City
·Workforce for Tomorrow: Cox Enterprises,
 Mind Katalyst, Mohawk Industries

West Central Georgia
·Working Farms Fund:
 - Goodwin Family Farms
 - Atlanta Harvest
·Georgia Smart Connectivity Cohort
 - Connectivity Solutions for Spalding County
 - Signal For All
 - Exploring Cost-Effective Solutions to
   Connectivity Challenges
 - Leading the Way in Publicly Owned WISP
   Networking

West Georgia
·GA Smart: Smart Uptown
·Georgia Mesh Network: StartUp Columbus
·Smart Community Corps: Columbus
·Working Farms Fund: Little Fox farm

Southwest Georgia
·GA Smart: Housing Data Analytics
 and Visualization Initiative
·Smart Community Corps
·Retaaza: Fresh Food Forward

Statewide
·Digital Literacy for Small to Mid-Size Farms
·Data Maturity Assessment Model
·Tracing GA's Innovation
·Transportation System Resilience

Northeast Georgia
·Startup Runway Georgia
·Kids' Doc On Wheels
·Workforce for Tomorrow: Freudenberg NOK

East Central Georgia
·Working Farms Fund:
 - Love is Love Farm
 - Pride Road Farm
 - Snapfinger Farm
·Startup Runway Georgia
·GA Smart: The Athens Community Climate
 Resilience Project through Technology and
 Transportation Innovation

East Georgia
·Georgia Mesh Network: theClubhou.se Augusta
·Workforce for Tomorrow: Augusta University

Middle Georgia
·Georgia Mesh Network: Spark Macon
·GA Smart: Smart Neighborhoods MBC
·GA Smart: Citizen Safety Digital Twin for
 Community Resilience, City of Warner Robins
·Smart Community Corps: Macon-Bibb
·Startup Runway Georgia

Coastal
·GA Smart: Civic Data Science for Equitable Development
·Georgia Mesh Network: Creative Coast
·Smart Community Corps: City of Savannah
·GA Smart: Smart Sea Level Tools for Emergency Planning
 and Response
·Smart Community Corps: Chatham County
·Smart Community Corps: Savannah Logistics
·Startup Runway Georgia

Southeast Georgia
·GA Smart: Traffic Monitoring to Improve Safety,
 Connectivity and Efficiency
·Smart Community Corps
·Retaaza: Fresh Food Forward

v

pin

Presented By: Venus R. Lockett

WHAT IS *BANK ON*?

Cities for **FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT** Fund

- Bank On is one of the many projects of the CFE Fund.

- The CFE Fund improves financial stability by embedding financial empowerment in local government.

- CFE Fund provides a range of support including technical assistance, a national learning community and Bank On National Conferences.

WHAT IS *BANK ON*?

A MOVEMENT

The goal is to ensure that everyone has access to a safe and affordable bank or credit union account.

397 Certified accounts nationally

46,490+ Branches with certified accounts

BANK ON NATIONAL ACCOUNT STANDARDS
= COMPREHENSIVE + DESIGNED WITH CONSUMERS IN MIND

ALL participating banks and credit unions have certified accounts that meet these standards:

Opening Deposit
$25 or less

Monthly Maintenance Fee
$5 or less, unless waived with direct deposit
(NO minimum balance requirement)

Overdraft/Non-Sufficient Fund (NSF) Fee
None

Branch Access/ Telephone/ Online Banking
FREE and unrestricted

Bill Pay
FREE if available, or at least four FREE money orders

NEED TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND

- How Banked and if for Success

- How Banking Choices May Affect Asset Building Goals

- FinTech vs Mainstream Financial Institutions

- The Safety, Functionality, and Availability of Online Banking Services Offered by Mainstream Financial Institutions

- Why Mainstream Banking Matters

- Where to Find Safe and Affordable Bank On Accounts

- Account Security

Presented By: Venus R. Lockett

MAINSTREAM BANKING MATTERS

- Local Branch Access
- **Relationship Building**
- More Flexibility with Transactions
- Network of ATMs
- Suite of Comprehensive Financial Services

Bank On Atlanta — Everyone is Welcome

www.BankOn.Atlanta.gov

BANK ON ATLANTA:
ACTIVITY & IMPACT

65+ Coalition Members

14 Financial Institutions (**11** Banks **3** Credit Unions)

15 Certified accounts (PNC Bank has **2**)

15,000+ certified accounts opened through 2021

Bank On
Atlanta Everyone
is Welcome

www.BankOn.Atlanta.gov

FINANCIAL INSTITUTION PARTNERS
BANKS (ONLINE ACCOUNT OPENING)

Bank of America
Advantage SafeBalance Banking

BankOn
National Account Standards
2021–2022 Approved
certified since October 2015
Cities for FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT Fund

Bank OZK
Freedom Advantage Checking

BankOn
National Account Standards
2021–2022 Approved
certified since December 2020
Cities for FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT Fund

Chase
Secure Banking

BankOn
National Account Standards
2021–2022 Approved
certified since February 2019
Cities for FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT Fund

Fifth Third Bank
Express Account

BankOn
National Account Standards
2021–2022 Approved
certified since July 2021
Cities for FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT Fund

PNC Bank
SmartAccess

BankOn
National Account Standards
2021–2022 Approved
certified since December 2020
Cities for FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT Fund

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FINANCIAL INSTITUTION PARTNERS
BANKS (ONLINE ACCOUNT OPENING)

Regions
Regions Now Checking

BankOn
National Account Standards
2021–2022 Approved
certified since July 2021
Cities for FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT Fund

Synovus Bank
Budget Checking

BankOn
National Account Standards
2021–2022 Approved
certified since June 2018
Cities for FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT Fund

Truist Bank
Money Account

BankOn
National Account Standards
2021–2022 Approved
certified since January 2020
Cities for FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT Fund

Wells Fargo
Wells Fargo Clear Access Banking

BankOn
National Account Standards
2021–2022 Approved
certified since July 2020
Cities for FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT Fund

Bank On Atlanta
Everyone is Welcome

FINANCIAL INSTITUTION PARTNERS
BANKS

Bank OZK
Freedom Advantage Checking

BankOn

National Account Standards
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certified since December 2020

Cities for
FINANCIAL
EMPOWERMENT
Fund

Cadence Bank
eChecking

BankOn

National Account Standards
2021–2022 Approved

certified since January 2019

Cities for
FINANCIAL
EMPOWERMENT
Fund

IBERIABANK
Ability Banking

BankOn

National Account Standards
2021–2022 Approved

certified since February 2018

Cities for
FINANCIAL
EMPOWERMENT
Fund

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Atlanta Everyone is Welcome

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FINANCIAL INSTITUTION PARTNERS
CREDIT UNIONS

1st Choice Credit Union
Freedom Checking Account

BankOn

National Account Standards
2021–2022 Approved

certified since February 2019

Cities for
FINANCIAL
EMPOWERMENT
Fund

Credit Union of Atlanta
EZAccess Account

BankOn

National Account Standards
2021–2022 Approved

certified since July 2019

Cities for
FINANCIAL
EMPOWERMENT
Fund

Georgia's Own Credit Union
Bank On Account

BankOn

National Account Standards
2021–2022 Approved

certified since June 2019

Cities for
FINANCIAL
EMPOWERMENT
Fund

Bank On
Atlanta Everyone is Welcome

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2021 FDIC NATIONAL SURVEY OF UNBANKED AND UNDERBANKED HOUSEHOLDS: ATLANTA MSA

Key Statistics

ATLANTA–SANDY SPRINGS–ROSWELL, GA~

2.4%

Unbanked

	2019	2021	Change
Unbanked	5%	2.4%	-2.6% (S)

FDIC #GETBANKED CAMPAIGN
APRIL 7 – JULY 11, 2021

8,208 Visitors to the #GetBanked webpage from Atlanta **(out of 165k total).**

Atlanta was ranked **#2** for cities that drove traffic to the #GetBanked webpage.

There were over **2 million** #GetBanked videos streamed in Atlanta with an extremely high video completion rate of **98%. This significantly exceeded the benchmark for government ads (typically 70-75%).**

Mobile video in Atlanta had a click-through rate of **0.71% (exceeding the government benchmark of 0.10%-0.30%)**

Bank On Atlanta
Everyone is Welcome

www.BankOn.Atlanta.gov

2021 FDIC NATIONAL SURVEY OF UNBANKED AND UNDERBANKED HOUSEHOLDS: GEORGIA
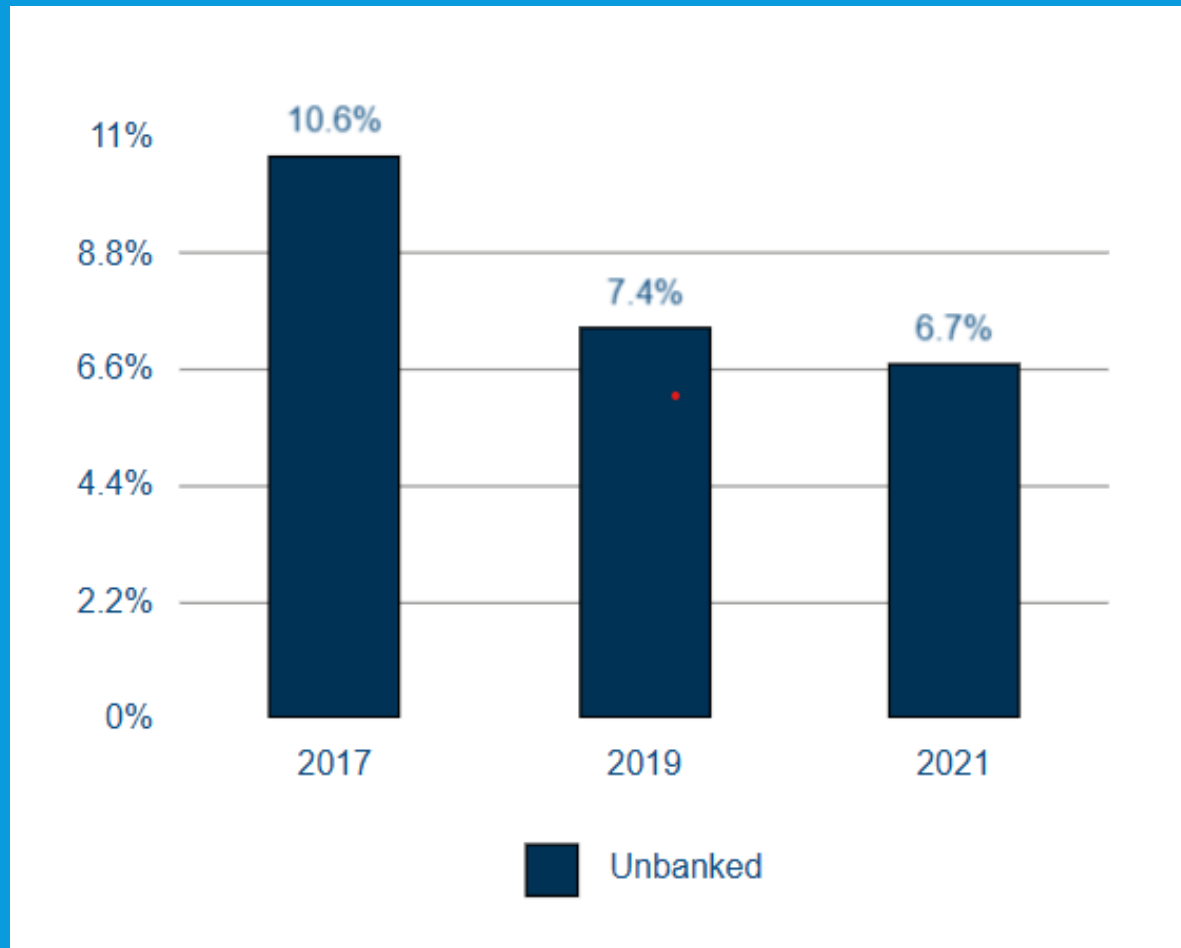
CFPB BANKING AND CREDIT ACCESS IN THE SOUTHERN REGION OF THE U.S.: GEORGIA

Unbanked rates, 2021.
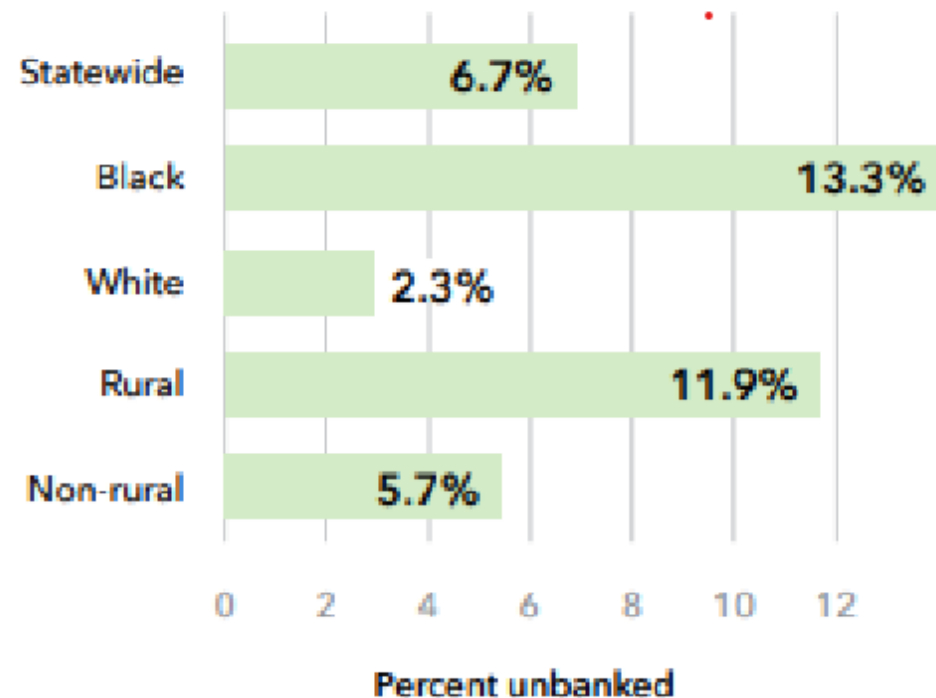
EMPOWER SOUTHWEST GEORGIA

GMA Broadband Summit 2023
Jackson, Georgia

Mayor Kenneth Sumpter, Presenter

August 29, 2023

Our Mission

We are working with the underserved citizens of rural Southwest Georgia to become empowered to improve their economic and personal well-being through improvements in education, healthcare, access to high speed internet, and housing strategies. We are particularly passionate about supporting the development of young leaders.

A "Neighbor To Neighbor" Organization

We know we are a stronger community when we support our neighbors. Empower SW Georgia, a non profit organization, operates programs where we strive to strengthen community relationships.

- Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N
- Affordable Connectivity Program
- Community Technology Centers
- Americorps Broadband Program

Targeted Southwest Georgia counties - Chattahoochee, Clay, Dougherty, Early, Marion, Miller, Quitman, Randolph, Schley, Stewart, Sumter, Terrell, Webster
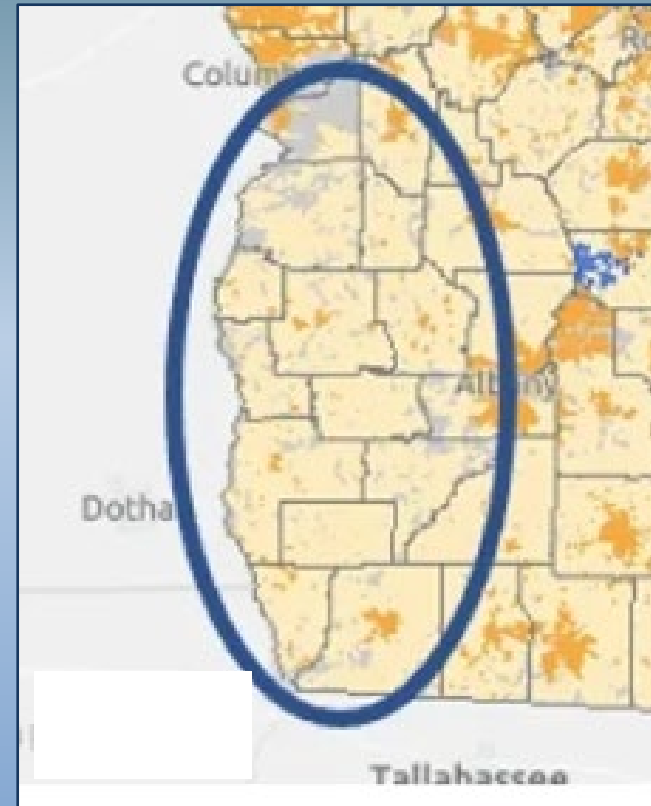
Selected Host for Americorps Broadband Program

The Southern Tribune
50¢ per issue

Dedicated to Community Pride, Promotion and Progress

Empower Southwest Georgia Selected As Host for AmeriCorps Broadband Program

Albany, Ga. June 12th, 2023 - Empower Southwest Georgia (ESWGA) has been selected as a host for the AmeriCorps Broadband Program. Scooter Pittman of Dawson, GA and youth advisor with Empower Southwest Georgia has also been selected as the AmeriCorps Fellow working with Empower South West Georgia.

In anticipation for his Fellowship, Pittman said ""Broadband is the wave of the future. high-speed Internet is of the utmost importance. I am proud to be a member of this forward thinking team!"

The AmeriCorps Broadband Program of Lead For America bridges the digital divide that plagues rural communities as well as activating local leaders in rural and emerging communities to tackle critical, bi-partisan challenges to advance economic prosperity.

Bobby Jenkins, Chairman of Empower Southwest Georgia said "We're honored to be selected as a host organization, and we're ready to begin planning to support broadband expansion in our area." Joyce Barlow, Board Member and Albany business owner, added, "dependable, affordable internet is critical to the economic health of SW Georgia. It impacts our healthcare, education, economic development, and good jobs."

Scooter Pittman of Dawson, GA has been selected as an AmeriCorps fellow to work with Empower SW Georgia

Our Broadband Initiative - Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)
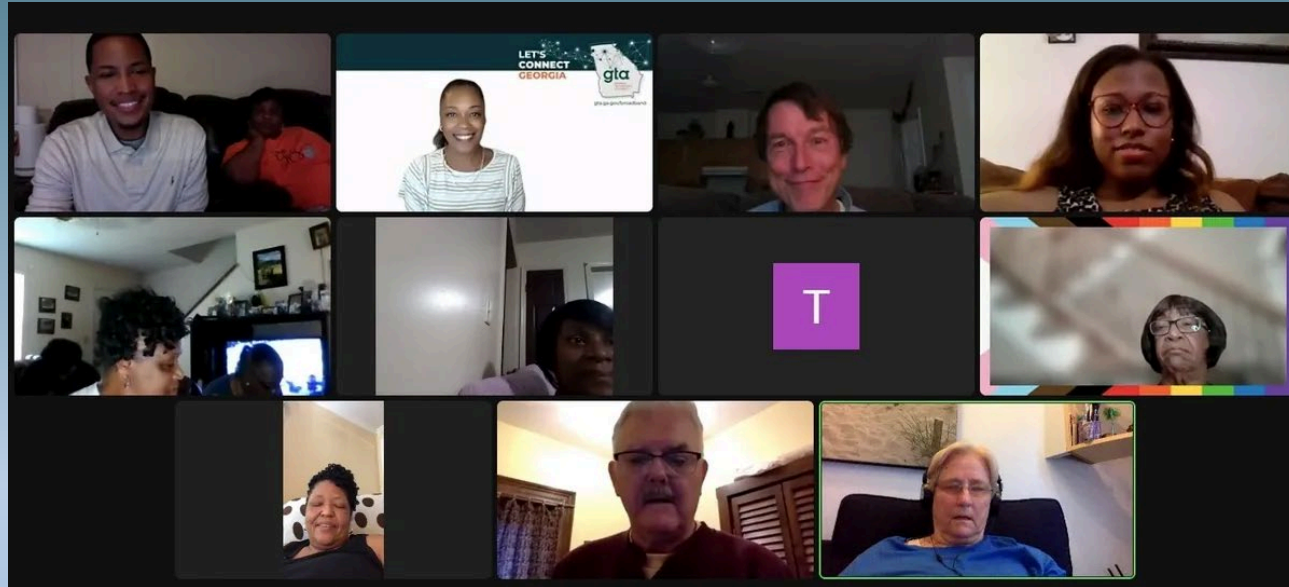
On June 6, members of our field team completed the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) training program. We were joined by Oneisha Freeman of Georgia Technology Authority for a pep talk and background about the program..

"INTERNET TO ALL"

❑ **Expansion:** **NTIA** **(National Telecommunication and and Information Administration)**

GTA **(Georgia Technology Authority)**

DEOI **(Digital Equity and Opportunity Initiative)**

❑ **Connectivity** **ACP** **(Affordable Connectivity Program)**

ISP's **(Internet Service Providers)**

❑ **Education** **CTC's** **(Community Technology Centers)**

Albany Technical College

Empower Southwest Georgia

Broadband Equity
and Adoption

Healthcare

ESWGA
EMPOWERSWGA.ORG

Housing
Security

Education and
Economic Development

Keynote

Jessica Simmons
Deputy CIO and Executive Director,
Georgia Broadband Program

Georgia Technology Authority

Jen Wade
Grants Division Director
Governor's Office of Planning and Budget

Georgia Broadband Update

Broadband Funding Programs

All grants are administered by the Office of Planning & Budget, with GTA providing technical assistance.

American Rescue Plan Act

- Governor Kemp announced over $400 million in State Fiscal Recovery Funds for broadband on February 1, 2022

- Over 175,000 locations

- Almost $730 million invested when combined with matching funds

- Projects must be completed by December 31, 2026

American Rescue Plan

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARP; P.L. 117-2) was signed into law on March 11, 2021. It is the sixth COVID-19 relief bill enacted and provides approximately $1.9 trillion in assistance. It includes fiscal relief funding for state and local governments, education, housing, food assistance, and additional grant programs.

According to current projections, the bill will result in at least $17.4 billion to Georgia, including state and local governments and individual assistance. However, Georgia may receive more or less than the projected amount for any particular program.

The Office of Planning and Budget is the prime recipient of the State and Local Fiscal Relief Fund, Capital Projects Fund, Homeowners Assistance Fund, and Emergency Rental Assistance Program. Other funds made available through federal relief acts are directly allocated to other state and local entities.

Note: All allocation amounts are projections and are subject to change as new guidance is released. Funds have not yet been received from U.S. Treasury.

Click on the icons below to learn more about the current programs.

State Fiscal Recovery   Local Fiscal Recovery   Capital Projects   Emergency Rental Assistance   UI Trust Fund

Broadband Funding Programs

Capital Projects Fund

- Governor Kemp announced $234 million in Capital Projects Funds for broadband infrastructure on January 4, 2023, and $14.7 million on June 12, 2023

- Over 77,000 unserved locations

- Almost $480 million invested when combined with matching funds

- Projects must be completed by December 31, 2026

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE *of* PLANNING *and* BUDGET

About OPB   Budget Information   COVID Response   Census Data   Planning and Evaluation   State Policies
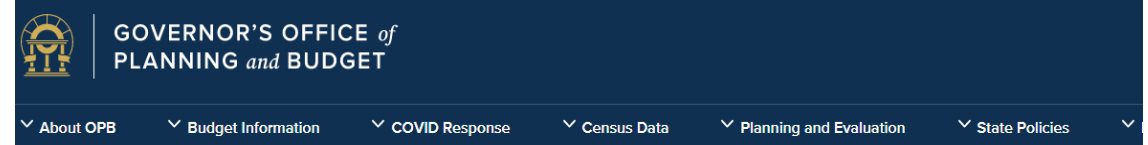
Capital Projects Fund

The Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (CCPF) will address many challenges laid bare by the pandemic, especially in rural America and low- and moderate-income communities, helping to ensure that all communities have access to the high-quality, modern infrastructure needed to thrive, including internet access.

Recent Broadband Awards
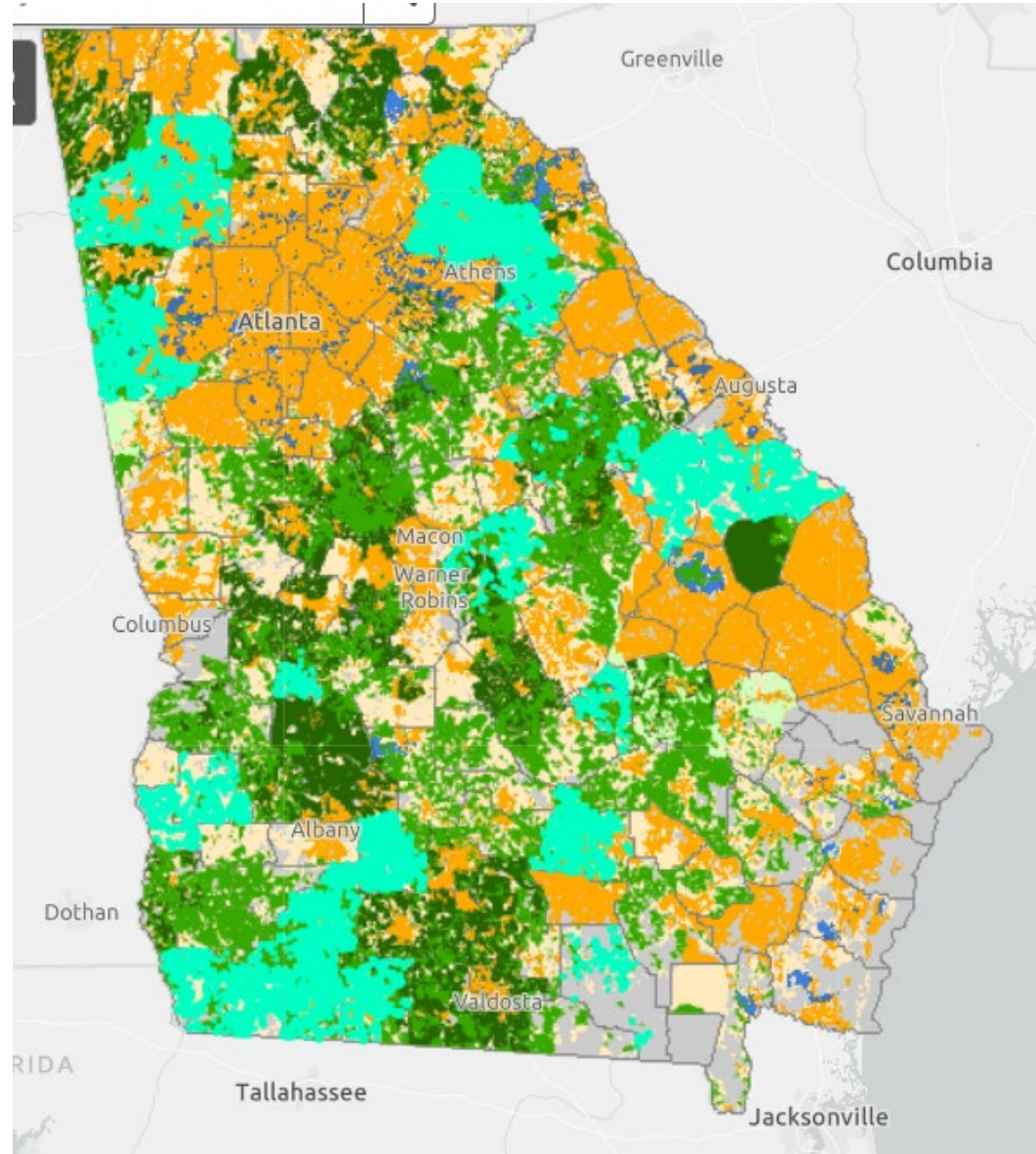
Current Broadband Funding Programs

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program

- $42.45 billion to expand high-speed internet access by funding planning, infrastructure deployment, and adoption programs in all 50 states and territories

- Georgia Allotment: $1,307,214,371.30

- BEAD Planning Funds: $4,999,994.65 (sub-awarded to GTA and DCA)

Current Broadband Funding Programs

Digital Equity Act

- The Digital Equity Act provides $2.75 billion to establish three grant programs that promote digital equity and inclusion

- Digital Equity Planning Grant: $1,429,212.96 (sub-awarded to GTA)

- Additional funding to follow to create a digital equity capacity grant program

Preparing for BEAD and DE

- FCC Map Challenge

- Listening Sessions

- 5-Year Action Plan available at gta.ga.gov

- Preparing the state's Initial Proposal (grant plan) for BEAD
    - State Challenge Process

- Preparing the state's Digital Equity Plan

Best Practices and Challenges

Jen Wade, Grants Director OPB

August 28, 2023

SFRF Broadband Infrastructure

Grant Name	Budgeted	Awarded/ Obligated	Amount Drawn (Payments Completed)	% of Award Drawn	Notes on Spend
Broadband Infrastructure	$ 414,909,962.14	$ 414,909,962.14	$ 42,030,727.83	11%	52% of projects have not yet started or are in preliminary engineering phases. 64% of grantees have NOT submitted requests for reimbursement. As of 8.25.2023 there are only 2 open PAs, both were received and will be processed this week. As reported by grantees on the most recent quarterly survey, we anticipate 60% of funds to be drawn down by December 2024, 71% of funds to be drawn down by December 2025, and 100% by October 2026. Treasury guidance changes, 2 CFR procurement challenges, and other issues have contributed to some delays in payments for historical expenditures, but with 52% of projects having not yet started, 10% current amount drawn is inline with expectations.

SFRF Broadband Infrastructure

Awarded (Obligated): $414,909,962.14

Amount Drawn: $42,030,727.83 (11%)

- 52% of projects have not yet started or are in preliminary engineering phases. 64% of grantees have not submitted requests for reimbursement. As reported by grantees on the most recent quarterly survey, we anticipate 60% of funds to be drawn down by December 2024, 71% of funds to be drawn down by December 2025, and 100% by October 2026.

- Treasury guidance changes, 2 CFR procurement challenges, and other issues have contributed to some delays but with recent flexibilities in guidance, grantees have begun to seek reimbursement for projects that have started.

Capital Projects Funds

Awarded (Obligated): $246,096,344.83

Amount Drawn: $0 (0%)

- More recently awarded with updates to Treasury guidance forthcoming, grantees have not submitted for repayment and others have not begun projects.

Complying with both the ARPA requirements and the Uniform Guidance poses a considerable challenge for organizations. ARPA funds may have specific eligibility criteria and allowable expenses distinct from other federal grants, requiring careful segregation of funds and meticulous documentation. Organizations must navigate the nuances of each funding stream to ensure accurate and transparent financial reporting.

- No emergency exigency
- No ability for recipients to waive procurement
  - Sole Source
- Small units of local government receiving funds
  - Complexity in the way uniform guidance is written
  - Not typically entities who receive federal funding but given the nature of ARPA, these recipients are encouraged
  - Turnover
  - Lack of knowledgeable staff (reliance on contractors)

As one of the leading states for ARPA implementation through competitive and noncompetitive subawards, Georgia was a front runner in many of their processes, to include SLFRF broadband programs. Through this, Georgia noted the challenges of implementing broadband programs under the applicable policy requirements of 2 CFR 200. These requirements present complex challenges particularly as they relate to for profit Internet Service Providers with existing procurement guidelines and accounting procedures working on large infrastructure programs on a federal deadline.

In May of 2023, the Treasury Department released the final version of important compliance guidance applicable to broadband projects funded through SLFRF and CPF awards. The "SLFRF and CPF Supplemental Broadband Guidance" ("Guidance") addresses several issues relating to the use of SLFRF and CPF funds for broadband projects, including the distinction of ISPs acting as "contractors" vs. "subrecipients," the treatment of "program income," the scope of the Federal interest in grant-funded property, procurement requirements, and other issues.

Of significant impact to the Office of Planning and Budget's (OPB) Broadband Infrastructure programs is the guidance regarding fixed awards and procurement requirements. Given the flexibilities this updated guidance allows, OPB restructured their programs to align to the compliance guidance. As a result of this, a large number of subrecipients under the SLFRF and CPF broadband programs refrained from project initiation in light of the looming guidance updates.

In light of the challenges, we have face in our state, Georgia's State Broadband Office and the Office of Planning and Budget have applauded NTIA's consideration to harmonize the policy requirements of the BEAD program with the updated guidance Treasury issued in May of 2023 for consistency across all programs. This will decrease conflicting requirements, ease the administrative burden for the State as well as the subrecipients, and ensure a seamless start to the projects that Georgians are counting on to close the digital divide.

- Limited Resources
- Lack of Expertise
- Administrative Burden
- Inadequate Technology
- Limited Grant Experience/Turnover
- Changing Regulations
- Risk of Non-Compliance

- Proactive Training and Education: Offer specialized training to staff and stakeholders regarding both ARPA and Uniform Guidance requirements, emphasizing compliance and reporting protocols.
- Transparent Communication: Establish open channels of communication with federal and agencies to seek clarification on complex matters, ensuring adherence to evolving guidelines.
- Strengthen Internal Controls: Implement comprehensive internal control systems to manage grant funds, emphasizing regular audits and risk assessments.

- Streamline Reporting Processes: Optimize reporting procedures to efficiently track ARPA expenditures while ensuring accuracy and transparency.
- Utilize Resources: Know all available resources at the federal, state, and local level
  - State broadband office staff, OPB staff, federal program webinars, tutorials, webpages, ACCG, GMA, Regional Commissions

Outsourcing federal funds can bring tremendous benefits and efficiencies in the allocation of public funds. Here are some reasons why governments may choose to outsource:

- Expertise and Specialization
- Focus on Core Functions
- Enhanced Capacity
- Access to Best Practices
- Streamlined Processes
- Faster Decision-Making
- Mitigation of Conflict of Interest
- Cost Savings

- Read to understand, not to answer a question
- Know the policy requirements
- Understand the policy requirements
- Attend any meetings or webinars
- Ask questions!
- Don't wait until the last minute
- Ensure there is adequate support for the grant in the community/government
- Have a plan for the administrative requirements including financial and asset management, cost principles and audit requirements.
- Ensure you have written policies and procedures in place prior to application.

Implementing federal funding under any federal program can present unique challenges, requiring careful navigation and adherence to specific requirements. By understanding the complexities, participating in training and comment periods, and organizations can optimize the positive of broadband funds and help to shape the programs before implementation while setting grantees up for success upon implementation.

Contact Information

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GEORGIA CITY SOLUTIONS
A Georgia Municipal Association Nonprofit

Our mission is to establish and support innovative programs, solutions and research aimed at building vibrant, economically prosperous, and well-managed cities.

https://www.gacitysolutions.org

AREAS OF FOCUS

EQUITY AND INCLUSION

EMBRACE
Embracing Equity & Inclusion. Celebrating Differences.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT

ENGa.GE
Connecting with Georgia's Children and Youth

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

JOBS WITH PURPOSE
MUNICIPAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Provider Update: Accomplishments and Initiatives Around Georgia

Herschel Arant
Sr. Vice President of Energy Supply and External Services
Central Georgia EMC

Catherine Fleming
State Government Affairs Director
Charter Communications

Carla French
President/CEO
TruVista Communications

Rich Johnson
Assistant Vice President of Legislative & Regulatory Affairs
AT&T

Full speaker biographies:

Central Georgia EMC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

connect
Powered by Central Georgia EMC

- EMC Partnership
- Gigabit broadband service
- 12,500 miles of fiber installed
- Over 124,000 passings
- About 34,000 subscribers

EMC BROADBAND EFFORTS AS OF 2023
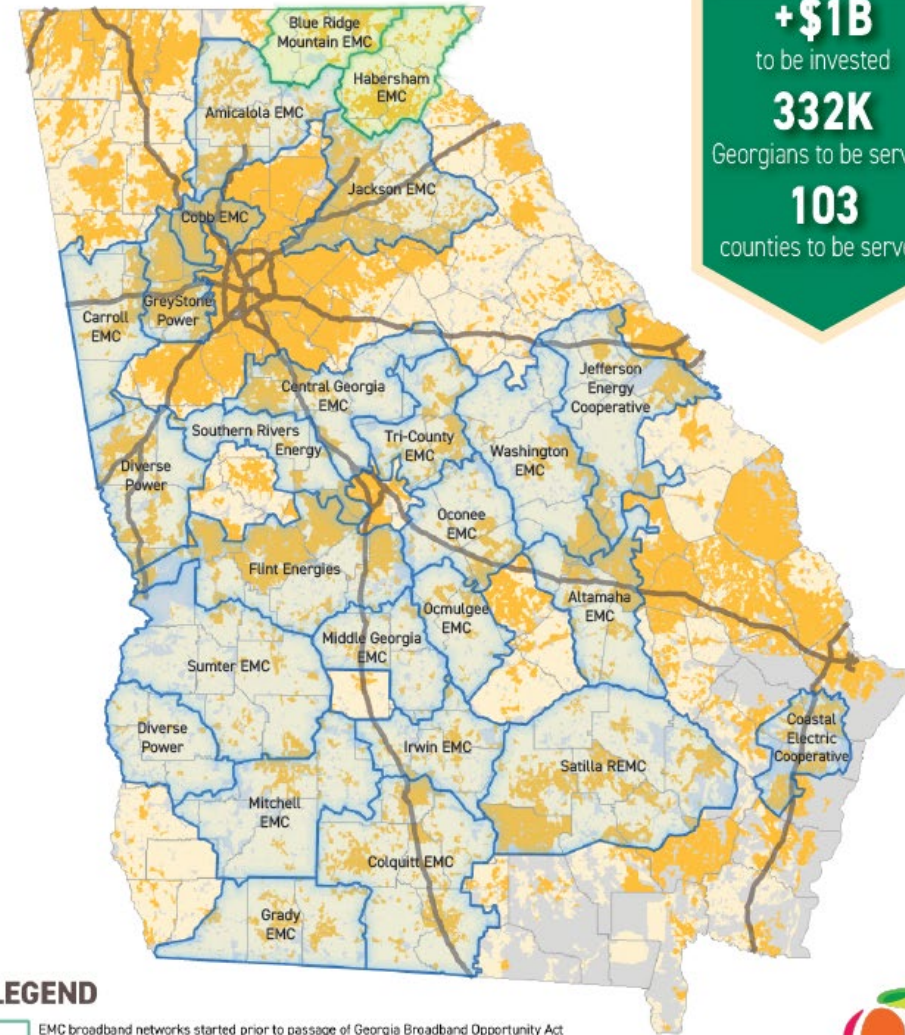
25 EMCs
+$1B to be invested
332K Georgians to be served
103 counties to be served

LEGEND

EMC broadband networks started prior to passage of Georgia Broadband Opportunity Act

EMC providing or to provide retail broadband service through affiliate/subsidiary or via partnership

Served Areas

Unserved Areas

Georgia® USA

Georgia EMC GOVERNMENT RELATIONS: Suite 845, 75 Fifth St NW, Atlanta GA 30308 • (404) 521-7600 • georgiaemc.com

CHARTER IN GEORGIA

Charter is committed to being part of a comprehensive solution to close the technology divide.
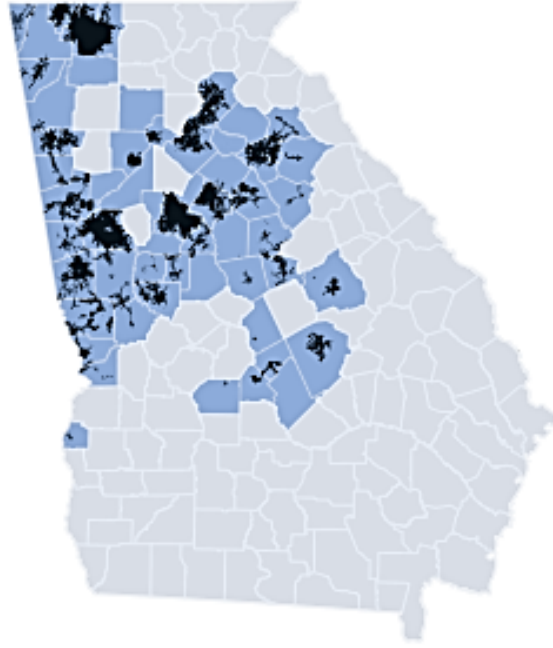
454,000 customers served

718 employees

$30 million paid in taxes and fees in 2022*

$168 million 2022 capital investment*

SERVING GEORGIA

Charter's insourced, U.S.-based workforce includes **718 people in Georgia.**

Our largest employment centers are housed in **Duluth, Stockbridge, and Dalton.**

We serve **157 communities** across the state.

EXPANDING ACCESS

In 2022 alone, Charter extended its network to reach an additional **24,000 homes and businesses in Georgia.**

Charter | Spectrum
COMMUNICATIONS

Where to Find Us

800.768.1212

TruVista.net

truvista-communications

TruVista

truvista_

TruVista®

Retail Locations

CAMDEN
1637 Springdale Dr.
Camden SC, 29020

CHESTER
112 York Street
Chester SC, 29706

WINNSBORO
736 US Highway 321 Bus S
Winnsboro SC, 29180

GREAT FALLS
501 Dearborn Street
Great Falls SC, 29055

SOPERTON
5012 S 3rd Street
Soperton GA, 30457

COMMERCE
15 Bolton Drive
Commerce GA, 30529

TIFTON
1703 Hwy 82 W
Tifton GA, 31793

TOCCOA
119 Falls Road
Toccoa GA, 30577

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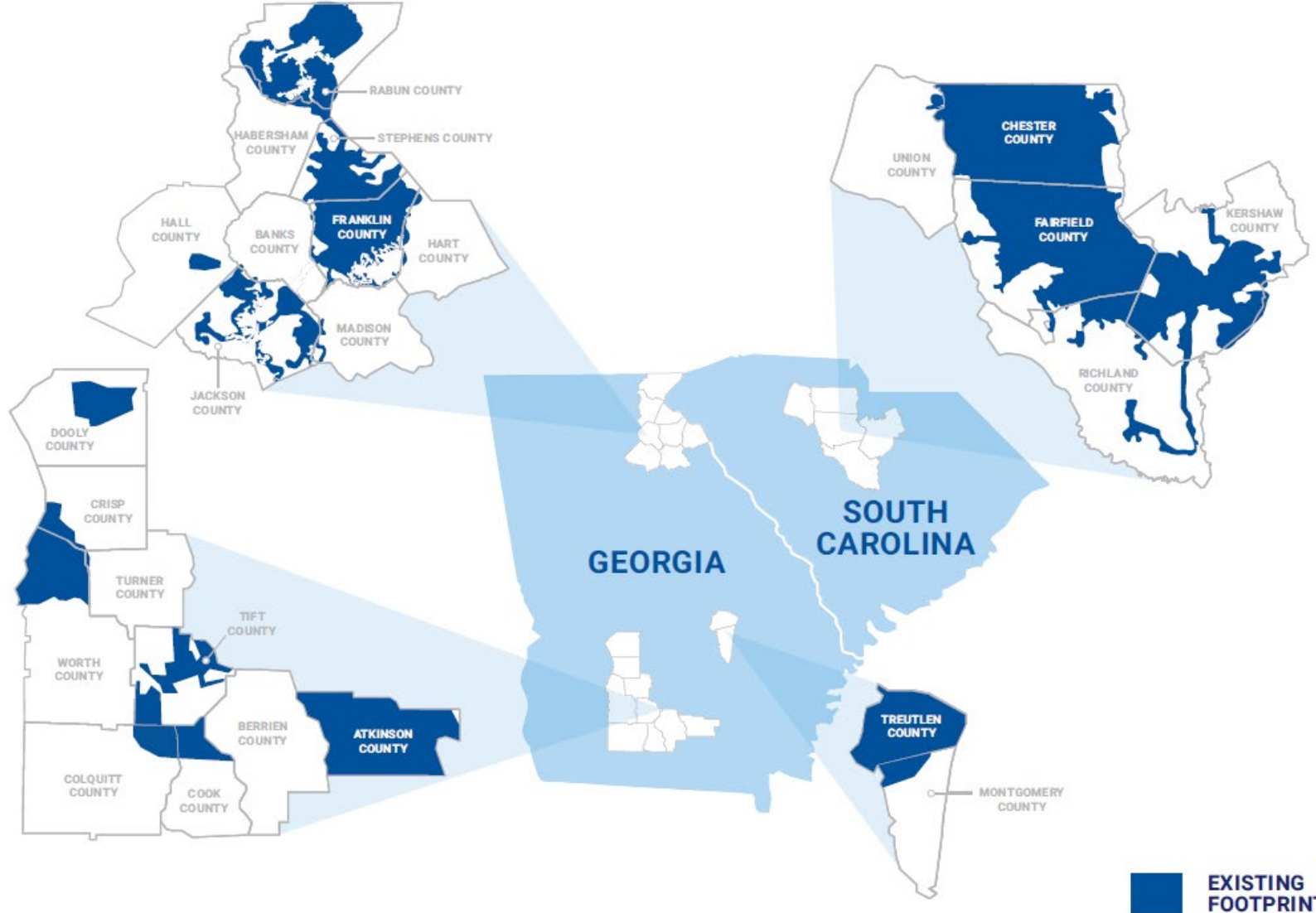
AT&T Connecting Georgia

Georgia Municipal Association

Broadband Summit

August 29, 2023

AT&T

Investing in Georgia for 144 years.

1.55M+ customer locations
with AT&T Fiber, including in **101 cities**

225+
communities
where first responders
are **staying connected**
with FirstNet

28
digital literacy
workshops hosted

More than
$5.3B
invested in our **wireless**
and wireline network
infrastructure from
2020–2022

More than
6.4M
strand-miles of **fiber**
optics across the state

$23.7M+
contributed by AT&T,
the AT&T Foundation
and our employees
from 2020–2022

37K+
volunteer hours
by AT&T employees to
community activities
in 2022—worth **more**
than $1.1 million[1]

1 – The financial equivalent is based on the annual industry standards from Independent Sector.

AT&T

AT&T Fiber

What is Fiber?

- Fiber is an ultra-fast broadband technology delivered over a fiber optic connection to the customer's premises.

- Fiber network connections support more bandwidth and faster upload speeds than standard cable.

- Fiber is future-proofing with >99% proven reliability.

- In 2022, we launched fiber service up to 5Gbps* – the fastest offering among major internet service providers.

- Today, **more than 1.55 million** Georgia businesses and households have access to AT&T Fiber for critical bandwidth to power video, collaboration, cloud services and more.

- AT&T fiber internet service is **ranked #1** in customer satisfaction.[1]

With Fiber, You Can:

- Work from home with consistently fast speeds,

- Learn virtually with nearly 5 Gbps speeds and avoid congestion,

- Reach business customers in new and reliable ways,

- Receive telehealth consultations securely, and;

- Game and binge watch without lag or congestion.

* Limited availability in select areas. Internet speed claims represent maximum wired network service capability speeds to the home and recommended setup. Actual customer speeds are not guaranteed. Single device wired speed maximum 4.7Gbps. For more information go to www.att.com/speed101.
1 AT&T received the highest score among large enterprises in the J.D. Power 2018-2022 U.S. Business Wireline Satisfaction Studies of customers' satisfaction with their business wireline data and voice service provider. Visit jdpower.com/awards for more details.

Our Commitment to Help Bridge the Digital Divide

AT&T has committed $2 billion to bridge the digital divide through efforts that promote broadband affordability, accessibility and safe adoption.

AT&T Connected Learning
We're working hand in hand with local organizations and nonprofits to provide essential internet, devices, and education resources for students in underserved communities. We have opened **four** CLCs here in Georgia.

Digital Literacy
Individuals need digital skills and confidence to make the most of their online experience, so we're engaging in the digital literacy initiatives to help people learn how to safely and responsibly use devices. We have hosted **nearly 30** digital literacy workshops across the state.

Device Distributions
In 2022, AT&T contributed **more than $10 million** to support the distribution of free laptops to students and families across the country. This summer, we have hosted device distribution events in **Albany**, **Newnan** and **Gibson** in collaboration with local nonprofits.

AT&T

Best Practices and Tips for Local Government

Oneisha Freeman
Digital Connectivity Manager
Georgia Technology Authority

Amy Stone
Broadband Consultant
Georgia Department of Community Affairs
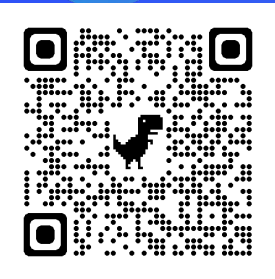
Full speaker biographies:

BEST PRACTICES AND TIPS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Georgia® Department of
Community Affairs

gta | GEORGIA TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY

WHAT SHOULD LOCAL OFFICIALS BE DOING NOW?

Speak to internal departments

Get to know the lingo

Needs Assessment

Support your ISP's

Evaluate your planning

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Become a Broadband Ready Community
- Provide a single point-of-contact
- Develop community-centric solutions
- Consider both sustainability and scalability
- Share your stories!

INFORMATION TO PROVIDE TO THE STATE, NTIA, AND OTHER PARTNERS

- Confirm the accuracy of the maps
- Community Anchor Institution location information
- Your plans and strategies
- Community engagement reports
- Expectations beyond infrastructure

CONTACT INFO

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Amy Stone, AICP

Broadband Consultant

Georgia Department of Community Affairs

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Resources to Help Communities and Residents

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Associate State Director for Advocacy
AARP Georgia

Oneisha Freeman
Digital Connectivity Manager
Georgia Technology Authority

Ernesto Gonzalez
Business Development Manager / ACCIONA
Business Accelerator
Latin American Association

Michell Morton
Acting Deputy Director for Digital Equity
Program, Internet for All
NTIA
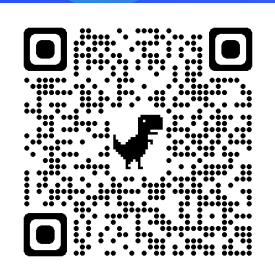
Full speaker biographies:

Georgia's Vision for Broadband and Digital Connectivity

Our vision for a fully connected Georgia is to ensure that every Georgian has reliable and affordable access to internet along with the necessary tools and skills that unlock opportunities for educational advancement, economic success, improved health, and strengthened social ties. This will create more connected, resilient, and prosperous communities and cultivate an environment across the state where our workforce can thrive, our infrastructure can support growth, and our industries can continue to lead the way.

draft

Pre-Decisional August 2023

Importance of Community-Centric Solutions

- Local Challenges Require Local Solutions

- Community Involvement for Sustainability

Best Practices

- User-Centric Design

- Multi-Stakeholder
  Partnerships

- Tailored Digital Literacy
  Programs

Partnerships for Resource Maximization

- Local Business Sponsorships

- Non-Profit Outreach

- Educational Institutions as Partners

Success Stories

Clayton County ODE

Ensure that the residents of Clayton County have equal access to affordable and reliable high-speed internet, technology, and the skills needed to survive and compete in the digital world.

- Affordable Connectivity Program Sign Up events
- Collaborative Community Events
- Digital Skills Classes
- awarded GMIS International Government to Citizens (G2C) Award!

Morehouse School of Medicine

From Survivor to Innovator: Digital Health Equity and Community Impact project

- Community Technology Hub/Upgrade;
- Digital Literacy Skills;
- Internships/Apprenticeships; STEM/STEAM;
- Telehealth/Telemedicine; Workforce
- Training/Economic Growth

Fort Valley State University

Fort Valley State University (FVSU)'s Communi-versity: Piloting an Ecosystem for Digital Equity project will expand broadband connectivity, access, and digital skills for students and residents in Peach County, GA.

Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

Wiregrass Georgia Technical College has 4 campuses and 12 Centers throughout south Georgia is an approved institution and are able to provide CFOT Training to the students

Recommendations and Next Steps for Cities

- Budget Allocation for Digital Literacy

- Utilizing Public Libraries and Community Centers

Join Our E-Mail List

SCAN ME

Data Resources

Stakeholder Surveys
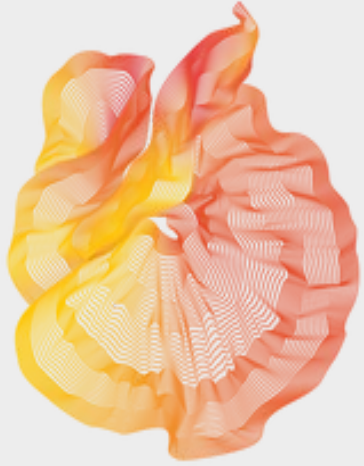
Latin American Association

More than 50 years serving our community
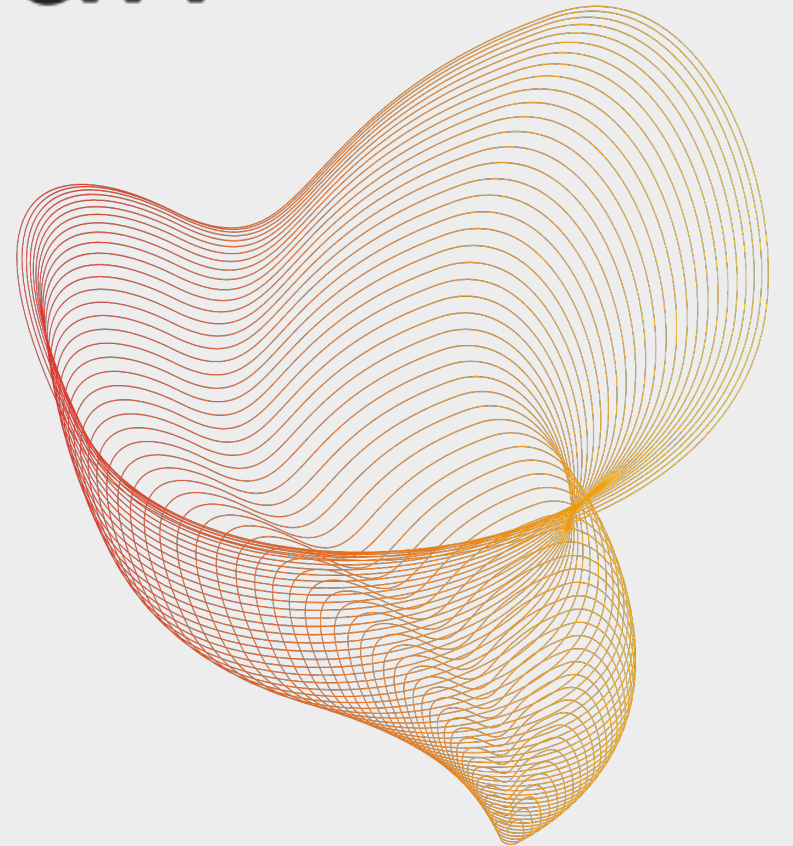
About Us

The Latin American Association is committed to empowering Latino individuals and families to adapt, integrate, and thrive, and to serve as a driving force in building a better, brighter, and more inclusive future for Georgia.

LAA Services

- Family Stabilization and Well-being
- Immigration
- Youth Services
- Economic Empowerment
- Civic Engagement and Advocacy
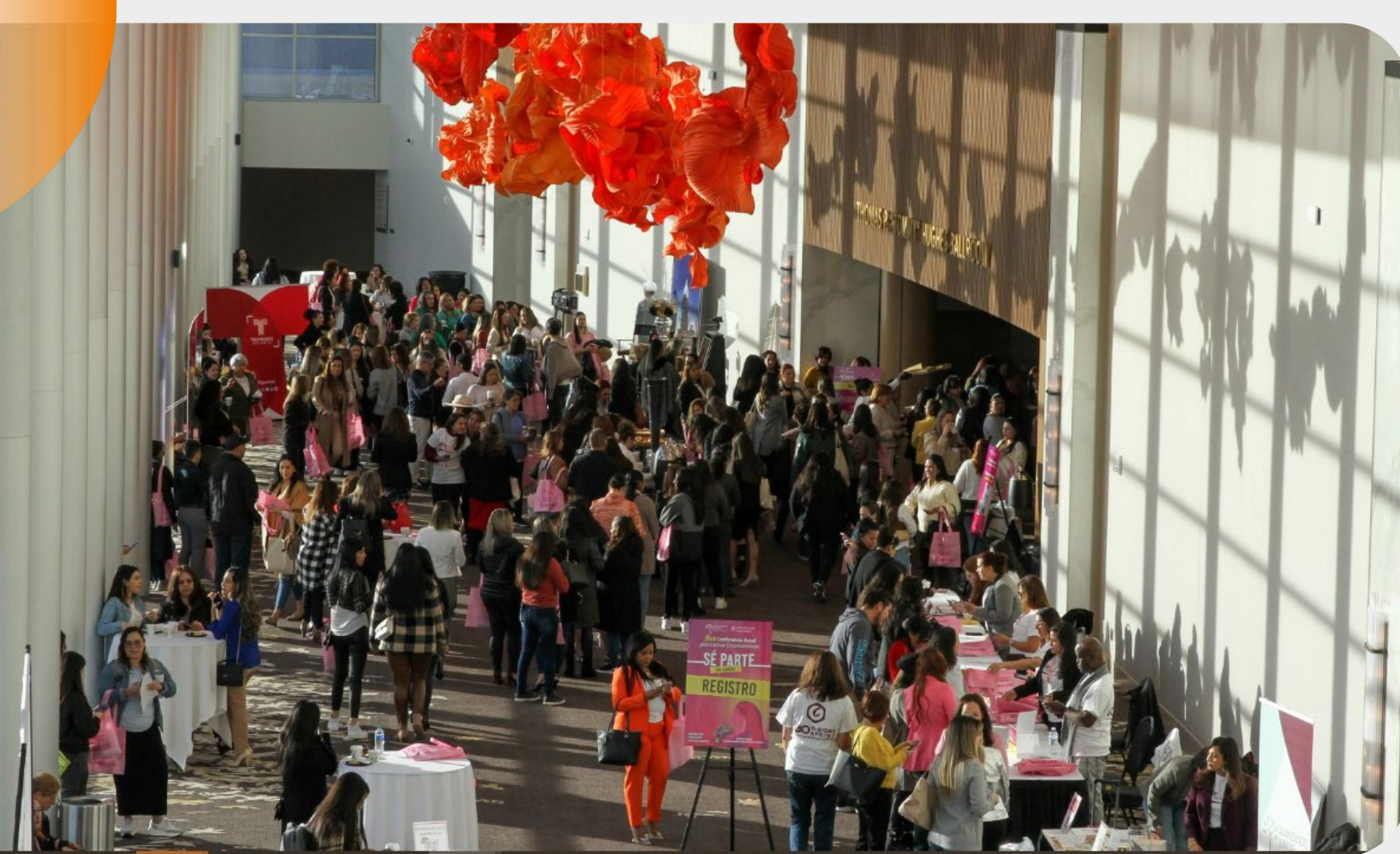
LAA was founded in the year 1972 and currently operates across three main locations: Atlanta, Dalton, and Lawrenceville.

Experience
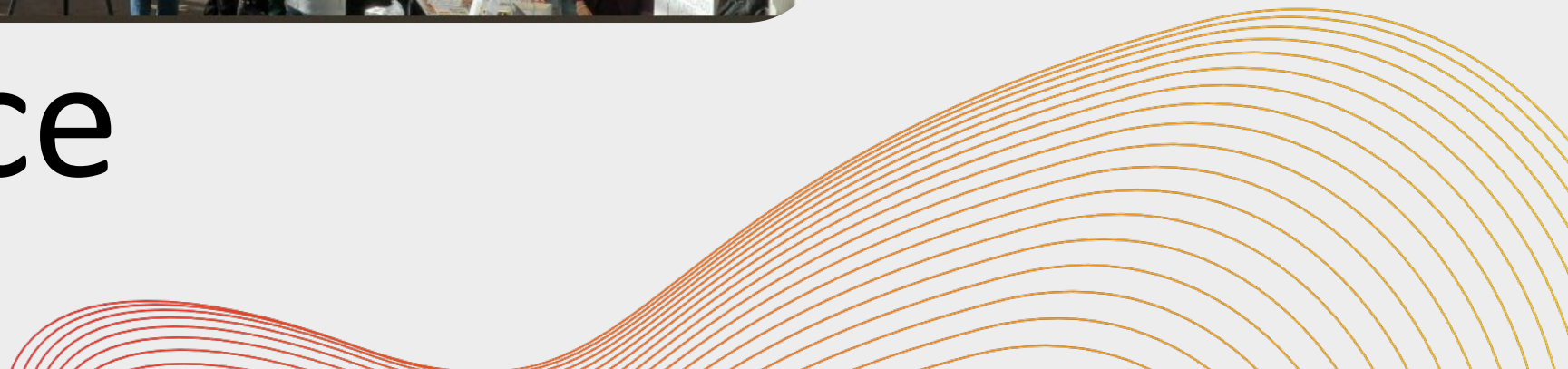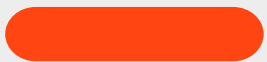
LAA Impact

Our services have impacted

42248

lives

Education

6234

Students are better prepared to achieve educational success through our college advising, summer program, mentoring & the Latino Leadership Conference

Nutrition

13788

Low income individuals & families receiving emergency food assistance alleviating hunger

Housing

836

Families worried about losing their homes to foreclosure or playing rent received financial assistance providing long term housing stability

Health

4931

Individuals and families received medicaid enrollment, vaccinations & health screening services to increase quality of life and self sufficiency

LAA Impact

Workforce Development

4185

Individuals increased their opportunities to thrive in the U.S. through professional trainings, adult education, job training, ESL classes & job fairs

Entrepeneurship

2308

Latina entrepreneurs and aspiring latina entrepreneurs will be better equipped to start developing or growing their business to obtain economic self sufficiency

Immigration

3104

Low income immigrants were provided with affordable immigration legal services & external referrals

Volunteers

11124

Volunteer hours completed since January 2022

The LAA is committed to being a data driven organization as it helps us better understand the community we serve.

Economic Empowerment

- **Adult Education Programs:** English & Spanish

- **Workforce Development Programs:** Digital Literacy, Google Certifications, Finance trainings, Professional Carpentry certifications, Job readiness, and Employment

- **Latina Business Entrepreneurship Programs**

  - Incubator: "Plan your Business" (2 months)

  - Digitalize your business (1 month)

  - ACCIONA Business Accelerator (1 year)

  - Community Navigator Pilot Program (3 months)

acciona
centro empresarial de innovación y tecnología
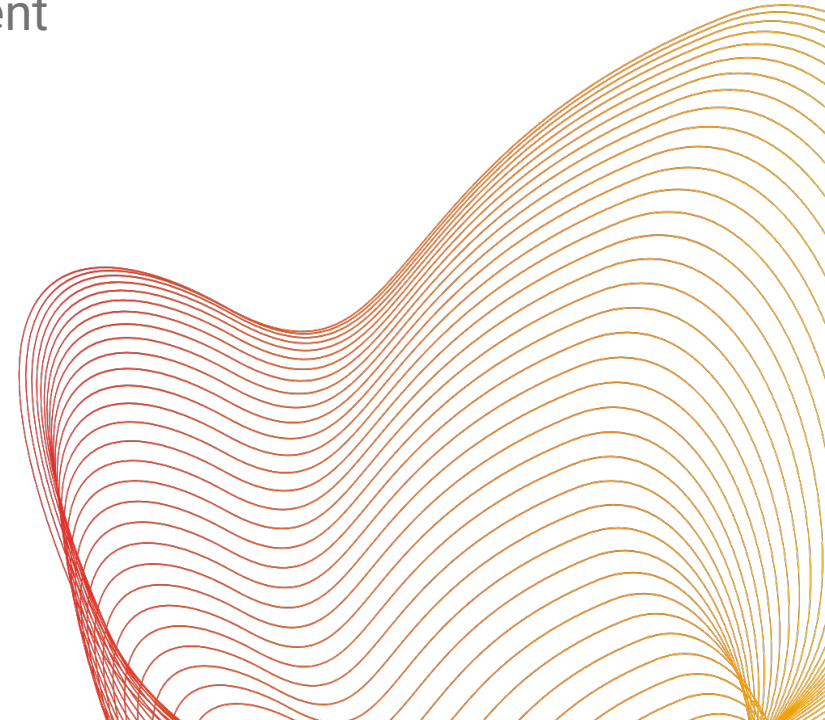
Let's connect & work together

Ernesto González

Director of the Latina Entrepreneurship Program

Email: egonzalez@thelaa.org

🌐 thelaa.org

📞 (404) 638-1800

📍 2750 Buford Hwy NE, Atlanta, GA 30324 (Main Office)

Defining Equity

According to the White House Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government, 'Equity" is defined as:

> **"** Sec. 2. Definitions. For purposes of this order: (a) The term "equity" means the **consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals**, including individuals who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment, such as Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality. [1]
>
> (b) The term "underserved communities" refers to populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been **systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life**, as exemplified by the list in the preceding definition of "equity." [2] **"**

[1] https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/20/executive-order-advancing-racial-equity-and-support-for-underserved-communities-through-the-federal-government/
[2] Ibid.

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Defining Other Key DEI Terms

Diversity
....
REPRESENTATION

Inclusion
....
BEHAVIOR

Belonging
....
FEELING

Equity
....
SYSTEMS

Justice
....
RESULTS

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Digital inclusion activities collectively build to advance and ensure digital equity & improve outcomes for unconnected communities

Digital inequity disproportionally impacts our stakeholders
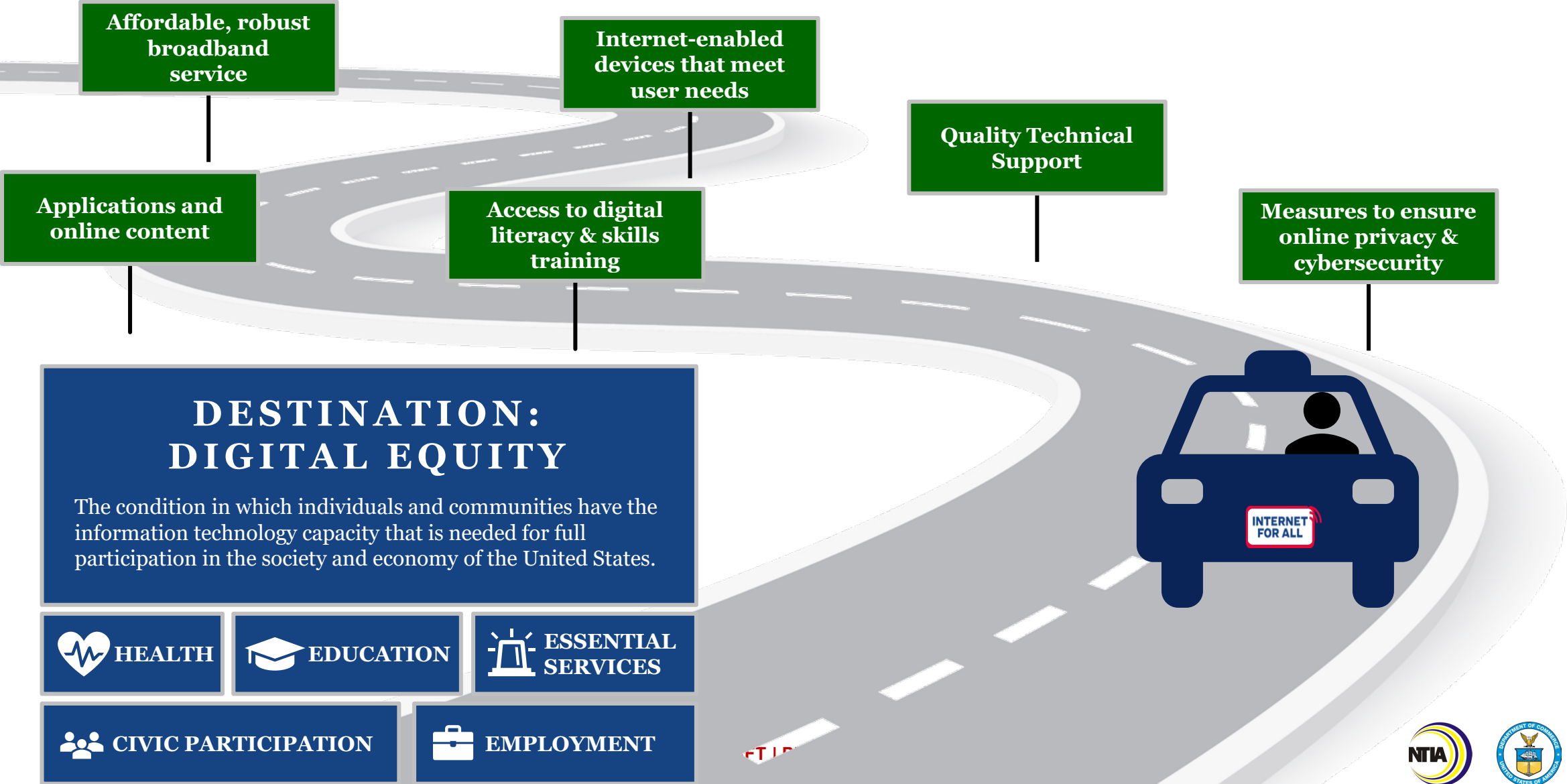
DE & BEAD

Covered Populations and Underrepresented Communities

Identity groups and communities disproportionally impacted by digital inequity

- Low-income households
- Aging individuals
- Incarcerated individuals
- Veterans
- Persons of Color

- Indigenous and Native American persons
- Members of ethnic and religious minorities
- Women
- LGBTQI+ persons
- Persons with disabilities

- People with language barriers
- Racial and ethnic minorities
- Rural inhabitants
- Persons adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality

DE NOFO   BEAD NOFO

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Digital Equity and the Social Determinants of Health

Health Care Access and Quality

Education Access and Quality

Neighborhood and Built Environment

Social and Community Context

Economic Stability
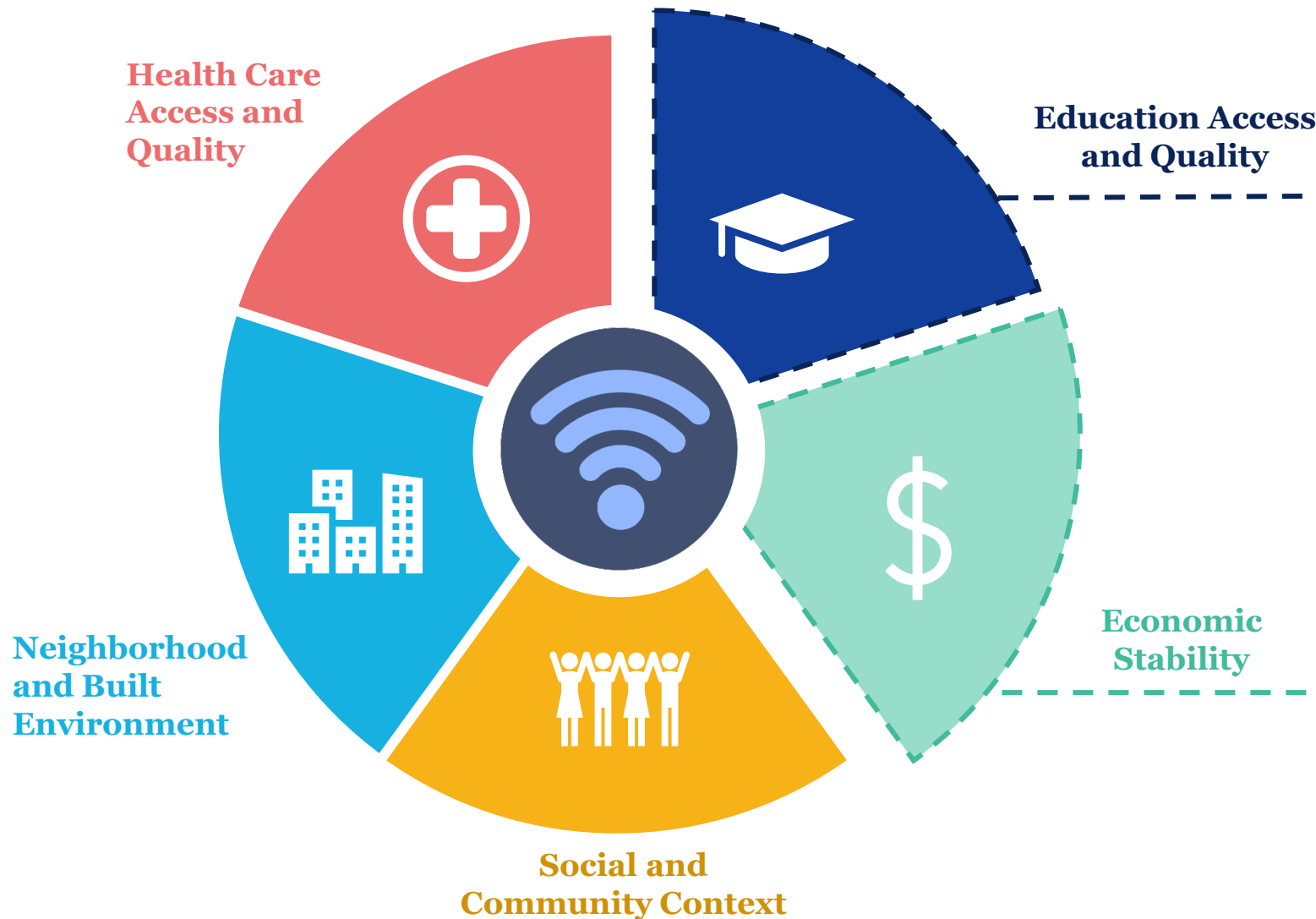
Example: Hamilton County Schools in Chattanooga is offering an initiative to bridge the digital divide by **providing home WiFi to every qualified family until 2030 for no charge**. After the program was enacted, **parity was seen between all students in academic achievement**, proving that an increase in digital access leads to an increase in educational quality.[1]

Example: Economic stability has a **positive relationship with other social determinants**, such as wellness and longevity. Bridging the digital divide among rural areas allows those in rural areas to **access online jobs** and helps small business owners and entrepreneurs **adopt new technologies,** like farmers in Texas' Rio Grande Valley who are advancing their businesses with **new 'smart' agricultural technologies.**[2]

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[1] https://edconnect.bc.edu/#/
[2] https://www.ntca.org/sites/default/files/documents/2021-02/Rural%20America%27s%20Critical%20Connection%20--%20FRS%20White%20Paper.pdf

AN UPDATE ON THE DIGITAL EQUITY ACT PROGRAMS

This presentation focuses on the Digital Equity Act

BEAD

$42.45B

Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment Program

A program to get all Americans online by funding partnerships between states or territories, communities, and stakeholders to build infrastructure where we need it to and increase adoption of high-speed Internet.

Presentation focus

DIGITAL EQUITY

$2.75B

Digital Equity Act

Three programs that provide funding to promote digital inclusion and advance equity for all. They aim to ensure that all communities can access and use affordable, reliable high-speed Internet to meet their needs and improve their lives.

TRIBAL

$2.00B

Tribal Connectivity Technical Amendments

A program to help tribal communities expand high-speed Internet access and adoption on tribal lands.

MIDDLE MILE

$1.00B

Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure

A program to expand middle mile infrastructure, to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas.

Note: Funding amounts inclusive of all administrative set-asides

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Digital Equity Act created three programs

INTERNET FOR ALL

Funding pool
$2.75B

Three programs that provide funding to promote digital inclusion and advance equity for all. They aim to ensure that all communities can access and use affordable, reliable high-speed Internet to meet their needs and improve their lives.

PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHTS

The Digital Equity Act created three programs:

State Planning
- $60M formula funding program to develop digital equity plans

State Capacity
- $1.44B formula funding program to implement plans & promote digital inclusion

Competitive
- $1.25B to implement digital equity and inclusion activities

Example eligible uses of funds across three programs include:

- ☆ Developing digital equity plans; states must develop a plan to be eligible for state capacity grants

- ☆ Making awards to other entities to help make digital equity plans

- ☆ Improving accessibility and inclusivity of public resources

- ☆ Implementing digital equity plans and related activities

- ☆ Providing digital literacy and digital skills education

- ☆ Facilitating the adoption of high-speed Internet

NTIA is currently running the State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program.

All 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, have been awarded their State Digital Equity Planning Grants.

The U.S. Territories have submitted their Digital Equity Planning Grant applications.

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The programs are sequential and participation in planning is essential

Current Phase

State Planning Grant   State Capacity Grant   Competitive Grant

$60 million   **$1.44 billion**   **$1.25 billion**

Who Open to **U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico**   Open to U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, that **completed the State Planning Program**   Open to **certain entities**, such as political subdivisions, Tribal entities, nonprofits, community anchor institutions, local educational agencies, and workforce development orgs

What Grants will be used to **develop a State Digital Equity Plan**   Grants will be used to **implement State Digital Equity Plans**   Grants will be used to **develop and implement digital inclusion activities**

Other U.S. territories, Indian Tribes, Alaska Native entities, and Native Hawaiian orgs have a statutory set-aside and separate program requirements under the State Planning and Capacity Programs, as detailed on the next page

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LEVERAGING NTIA RESOURCES TO DEVELOP STATE DIGITAL EQUITY PLANS

State Digital Equity Plan Components (I/II)

1   The **identification of the barriers to digital equity** faced by covered populations

2   **Measurable objectives for documenting & promoting** broadband technology; the online accessibility of public resources and services; digital literacy; secure online privacy / cybersecurity; consumer devices and tech support

3   An assessment of how the **objectives will impact and interact** with the State's economic and workforce goals; health, education and civic engagement outcomes; and delivery of other essential services

4   A description of how the State **plans to collaborate with key stakeholders** (e.g., anchor institutions, municipal government, educational agencies, non-profits) to achieve objectives

5   A list of organizations with which the administering entity for the State **collaborated in developing and implementing the Plan**

6   A stated **vision for digital equity**

7   A **digital equity needs assessment**, including an assessment of the baseline and the State's identification of the barriers to digital equity

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8 An **asset inventory**, including current resources and strategies that promote digital equity and existing digital equity plans and programs

9 A **coordination and outreach strategy**, including opportunities for public comment by, collaboration with, and ongoing engagement with the covered populations and the full range of stakeholders

10 Description of how **municipal, regional, and/or tribal digital plans will be incorporated**

11 An **implementation strategy** (1) establishing measurable goals, objectives, proposed core activities, (2) setting out measures ensuring the plan's sustainability, and (3) adopting mechanisms to ensure that the plan is regularly evaluated and updated

12 Explanation of how the strategy **addresses gaps in existing efforts** to address barriers to digital equity

13 Description of how the State intends to accomplish the implementation strategy by **partnering with workforce organizations and institutions of higher learning**

14 A **timeline** for implementation of the Plan

15 Material indicating how the State will coordinate its use of Digital Equity Capacity Grant funding and **Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) funding**

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Using Technical Assistance Materials Effectively

There are multiple guides, templates, and resources available to applicants related to Digital Equity, and it is important to understand how to use them effectively.

Each Resource is Helpful

Although different resources are helpful to specific parts of the Digital Equity Plan requirements, remember that each resource can be utilized for all parts. Using each resource in conjunction with each other will only help.

Everyone Can Use These

No resource is designed for a specific audience, allowing all applicants and stakeholders to effectively use these resources. Try to use each resource to its full extent, as that will be the best way to ensure a comprehensive and robust application.

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Overall Digital Equity Technical Assistance

Below are general technical assistance resources that all stakeholders and participants will find helpful. The following slides will provide additional resources that will help with specific parts of Digital Equity plans.
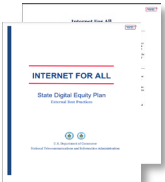
Digital Equity Best Practices
This document gathers best practices and examples for digital inclusion activities from across the country and aligns to each of the Digital Equity Plan requirements

Digital Equity Guide for States
This guide includes the basics of digital equity, an overview of the DEA — recommendations for preparing for the planning requirements, and recommendations for weaving digital equity throughout all State-led broadband activities
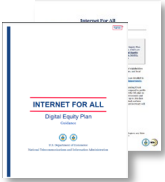
Digital Equity Plan Guidance
This document takes the reader step-by-step through each Plan requirement, providing expanded detail on how State Broadband Offices can comprehensively meet each requirement

Digital Equity Plan Template
The template is an optional resource that enables State Broadband Offices to use a pre-set format to build out the State Digital Equity Plan

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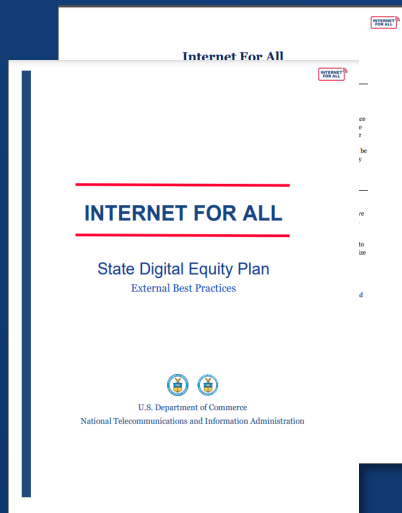
DIGITAL EQUITY BEST PRACTICES

This document gathers best practices and examples for digital inclusion activities from across the country and aligns to each of the digital equity plan requirements

Examples:

Vision Statement	Reference
"Forsyth County is a thriving, inclusive community where all residents—especially residents of underserved communities— have equal access to learn, participate, and contribute to society through robust and digital information technology."	Forsyth County, NC - Digital Equity Plan
"Ensure all residents, businesses, and organizations can participate in and benefit from the prosperity and culture of innovation in Silicon Valley." "Broaden access to basic digital infrastructure to all residents, especially our youth, through enabling free or low cost, high-speed, 1 gigabit or faster broadband service in several low-income communities, and increasing access to hardware, including tablets and laptops, for low-income students."	San Jose, CA - Digital Equity Plan
"All residents of Portland/Multnomah County will have barrier -free access to high-speed broadband Internet at home and school, and affordable computing device and the training to use them effectively."	Portland, OR Digital Equity Plan
"We want every Detroiter to have affordable, reliable, and abundant digital access that elevates local communities and accelerates opportunities."	City of Detroit, MI Digital Access Infrastructure Overview
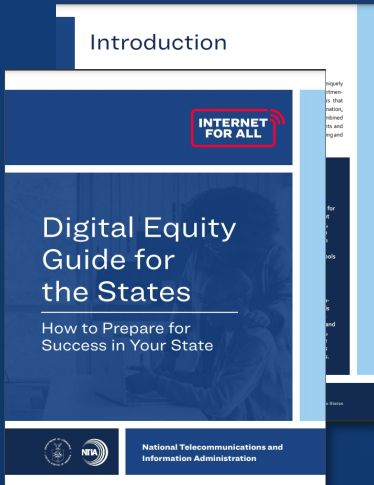
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State Digital Equity Plan
External Best Practices

U.S. Department of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration

DIGITAL EQUITY GUIDE FOR STATES

This guide includes the basics of digital equity, an overview of the DEA — recommendations for preparing for the planning requirements, and recommendations for weaving digital equity throughout all state-led broadband activities

Introduction

Digital Equity Guide for the States

How to Prepare for Success in Your State

Be Intentional with Language and the Details

The language you use to communicate with stakeholders throughout the DEA planning process matters. If the office is "leading with equity" but uses phrases like, "now, let us put on our equity lens," those you interact with may believe that equity is optional and only thought of intermittently.

Similarly, being thoughtful and intentional about the details of the planning process matters in terms of signaling the value that DEO places on equity. For instance, if hosting a listening session for both the DEA plan and the BEAD plan but your agency leadership only attend the BEAD session, it signals to stakeholders that BEAD is a priority for leadership whereas DEA is not.

Additionally, intentionally planning stakeholder outreach to provide opportunities for as many disconnected households as possible by selecting dates and times where a diversity of households can engage, and ensuring invitations to the stakeholder outreach events reach the disconnected, will lead to more equitable engagement and a more holistic plan. Things to consider for in-person meetings would be providing childcare, ensuring meeting locations are easily accessible from public transit or have ample parking, and providing travel vouchers or mass transit tickets for participants.

Center the Voices of Covered Populations and Historically Disconnected Communities

Throughout the planning, development, and implementation of the plan, intentionally identifying, amplifying, and centering the voices of those most affected by the digital divide, the covered populations, and the disconnected communities will provide for a more prosperous and more equitable planning process and plan.

One strategy several digital inclusion coalitions and organizations have begun incorporating into their community-based coalition work, and digital inclusion work is to financially compensate the residents for their participation. Lived experts are members of covered populations, particularly individuals from

historically disconnected communities with direct, lived experience of being disconnected. For example, the **Franklin County Digital Equity Coalition** has compensated lived experts for their participation as research team members to better understand the ramifications of different aspects of the digital divide in their communities.

Another digital inclusion coalition plans to provide lived experts with $5,000 for a 10-month commitment to participate in the coalition work as a subcommittee co-chair. The co-chair would commit to attending 80 percent of the subcommittee meetings, lead subcommittee meetings, and actively engage with the subcommittee's work during that time. The entity could invite lived experts to join the core planning team and other stakeholder touch points throughout the planning process.

Including lived experts in the planning process provides a viewpoint and expertise to the team that cannot otherwise be obtained. In addition, the practice is radically humanizing and would enable the State to demonstrate respect for the residents.

Content Simplicity and Translation

Another simple but important way to operationalize equity is to ensure all content the DEO publishes is comprehensible and translated into the State's predominant languages. Translating all materials developed throughout the planning process, including but not limited to public notices, surveys, flyers, and informational pamphlets, into simple, easy-to-understand wording and the State's predominant languages will engage a wider pool of residents throughout the State. Additionally, we recommend translating and publishing materials into formats easily accessible for people with limited vision and those who are deaf or hard of hearing.
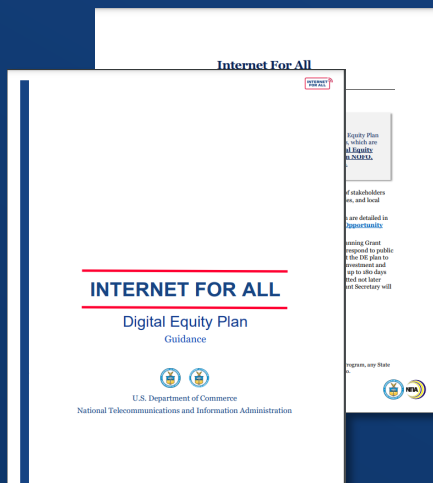
DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN GUIDANCE

This document takes the reader step-by-step through each plan requirement, providing expanded detail on how state broadband offices can comprehensively meet each requirement

2 Introduction & Vision for Digital Equity

2.1 Vision

Relevant Requirements from the NOFO, page 21:

- A stated vision for digital equity ^{Additional Req.1}

The purpose of this section is to provide a clear, specific picture of the State's vision for digital equity. As part of this vision, States should define digital equity in the context of their State.

Each State may use this section to describe what success looks like for their State, inform strategies, serve as a guide for setting goals and objectives, and determine the activities the State will prioritize in the Digital Equity Plan.

States that are also utilizing funding from the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program should ensure that the programs and plans are coordinated and that the visions for BEAD and digital equity are aligned.

What should applicants describe for their vision?

Applicants should focus on describing what success looks like for their State, and it should inform strategies and serve as a guide for setting goals and objectives:

- What will digital equity look like in in the context of your state?
- What are the broad goals that should be accomplished in executing this plan? (e.g., improve rural health outcomes, increase underrepresented youth employment in technology-related fields)
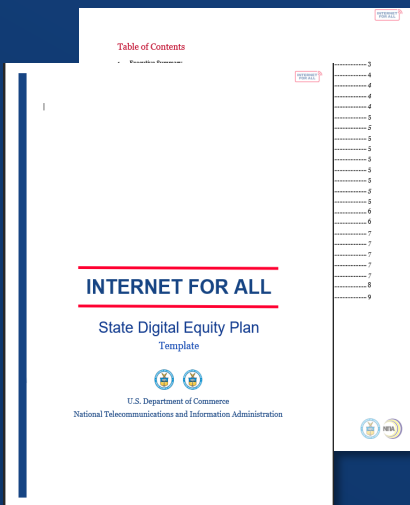
DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN TEMPLATE

The template is an optional resource that enables state broadband offices to use a pre-set format to build out the state digital equity plan

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3 Current State of Digital Equity: Barriers and Assets

3.1 Asset Inventory

Refer to Section 3.1 of the State Digital Equity Plan Guidance.

3.1.1 Digital Inclusion Assets by Covered Population
Refer to Section 3.1.1 of the State Digital Equity Plan Guidance.

3.1.2 Existing Digital Equity Plans
Refer to Section 3.1.2 of the State Digital Equity Plan Guidance.

3.1.3 Existing Digital Equity Programs
Refer to Section 3.1.3 of the State Digital Equity Plan Guidance.

3.1.4 Broadband Adoption
Refer to Section 3.1.4 of the State Digital Equity Plan Guidance.

[Identify and detail the assets in the state/territory]

3.1.5 Broadband Affordability
Refer to Section 3.1.5 of the State Digital Equity Plan Guidance.

Stakeholder Engagement & Local Coordination Resources

PLAN REQUIREMENT

4 A description of how the State **plans to collaborate with key stakeholders** (e.g., anchor institutions, municipal government, educational agencies, non-profits) to achieve objectives

5 A list of organizations with which the administering entity for the State **collaborated in developing and implementing the Plan**

ASSOCIATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

4 **Local Coordination One-Pager**
Resources on conducting local coordination including guidance on creating accessible meetings, how to conduct effective community engagement, and a Digital Inclusion Coalition guidebook discussing keys to successful coalition operations.

5 **Local Coordination Interview Guides for SBOs**
Example agendas, targeted outcomes, and best practices for meeting with stakeholders during the planning phase. Guides are organized by the stakeholder groups.

5 **Local Coordination Tracker**
Use the tabs of this spreadsheet to track stakeholders, activities, and local plans.

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Digital Equity Plan Development Strategies

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PLAN REQUIREMENT

7 — A **digital equity needs assessment**, including an assessment of the baseline and the State's identification of the barriers to digital equity

8 — An **asset inventory**, including current resources and strategies that promote digital equity and existing digital equity plans and programs

ASSOCIATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

7 — **Needs Assessment Guide**
Resource that details how to structure a Needs Assessment, as well as examples from existing needs assessments from across the country

8 — **Asset Mapping Guide**
Practical guidelines designed to support asset mapping efforts by digital equity practitioners within State Broadband Offices

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Defining Equity Outcomes

PLAN REQUIREMENT

(6) A stated **vision for digital equity**

(11) An **implementation strategy** (1) establishing measurable goals, objectives, proposed core activities, (2) setting out measures ensuring the plan's sustainability, and (3) adopting mechanisms to ensure that the plan is regularly evaluated and updated

ASSOCIATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

(6) **Equity Outcomes for State Broadband Offices**

(11) A resource that connects digital inclusion activities with their impacts on health, civic participation, employment, education, and essential services

Coming Soon

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BEAD-DE Alignment Guide

The BEAD-DE Alignment Guide is a robust resource that provides guidance on how to align the requirements and coordinate the activities across the two grant programs.

The guide provides the following purposes and resources:

- *Supports Eligible Entities in receiving initial planning funds for BEAD and DE*

- *Provides a review of the requirements for each program and how to create plans that meet both requirements*

- *Assists Eligible Entities in aligning efforts across programs*

- *Provides an overview of the programs*

- *Provides general guidance, requirements, and funding uses*

- *Explains the importance of digital equity*

Introduction

This guide was created to support entities receiving Initial Planning Funds for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program and recipients of the State Digital Equity

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BEAD Five-Year Action Plan-Digital Equity Plan Alignment Guide

U.S. Department of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration

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Access the guide here:
https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/2022-09/BEAD-Digital_Equity_Alignment_Guide.pdf

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How to Find Technical Assistance Materials on BroadbandUSA

Existing and future Digital Equity TA Materials can be found at **broadbandusa.ntia.gov/digital-equity-programs** and by scrolling down the page.

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How to Find Technical Assistance Materials on BroadbandUSA

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*Access Digital Equity Technical Assistance Materials using the above link. Items such as **Frequently Asked Questions**, **Guides**, **Templates**, **Toolkits**, **Local Coordination** Resources, and more **general TA resources** can be accessed through this page. Additionally, this page provides links to the DE Planning Grant NOFO, program application guidance, and key dates for applicants.*

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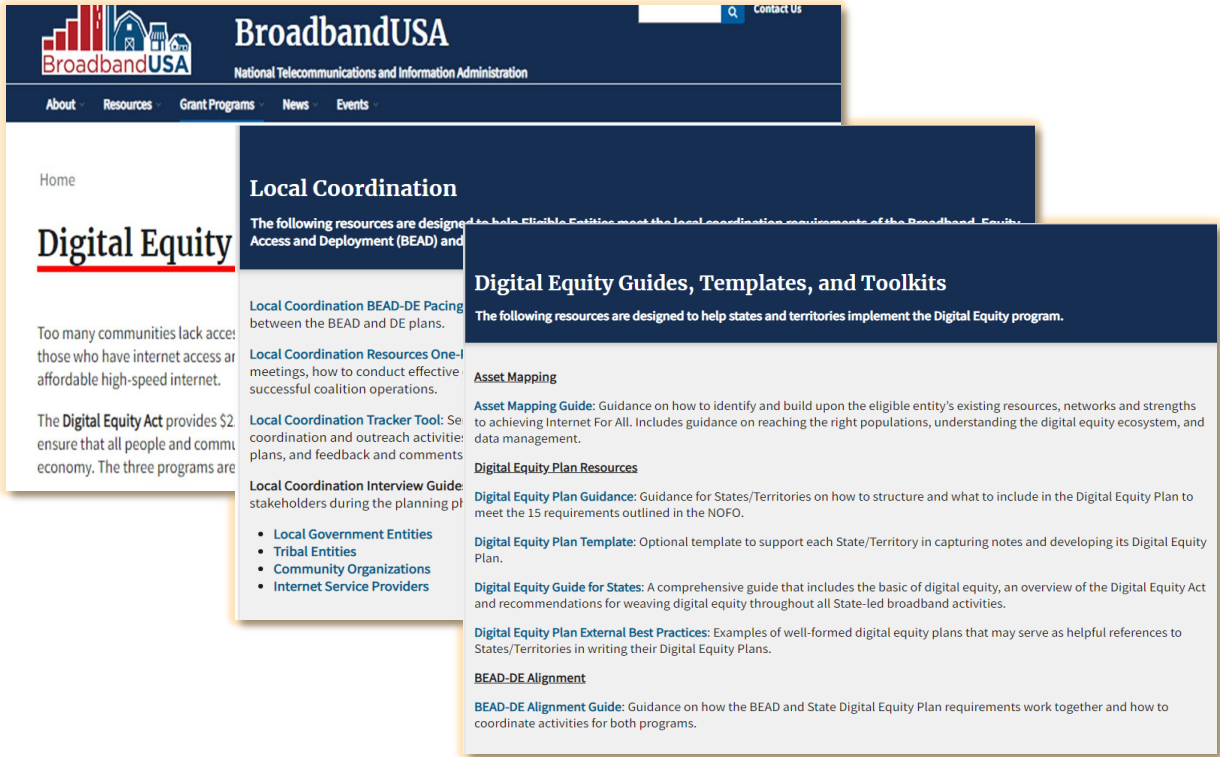
How to Find Webinars on BroadbandUSA

Existing and future webinars can be found on the Past Events section of the BroadbandUSA website, at **https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/events/past-events**. Users can filter by topic and engagement.

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States are required to submit Digital Equity Program Semi-Annual Reports on **April 30.** NTIA will provide Technical Assistance to support States in this process.

Coming Soon
For Grantees Only

Digital Equity Semi-Annual Report Sample
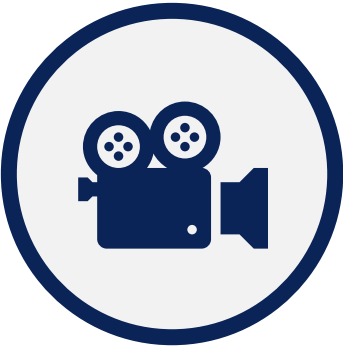
Digital Equity Semi-Annual Report Instructional Video

Digital Equity Semi-Annual Report Office Hours

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The Digital Equity Act Population Viewer

This map viewer depicts the data used in the funding allocation formula and shows the percentage of the population that falls into at least one of the eight covered population categories by State as defined by the Digital Equity Act of 2021. The next iteration of The DEA Population Viewer will have data at the local level.

Access the map at

https://mtgis-portal.geo.census.gov/arcgis/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=a0013a9dcbb9419e855f563d78e892ef

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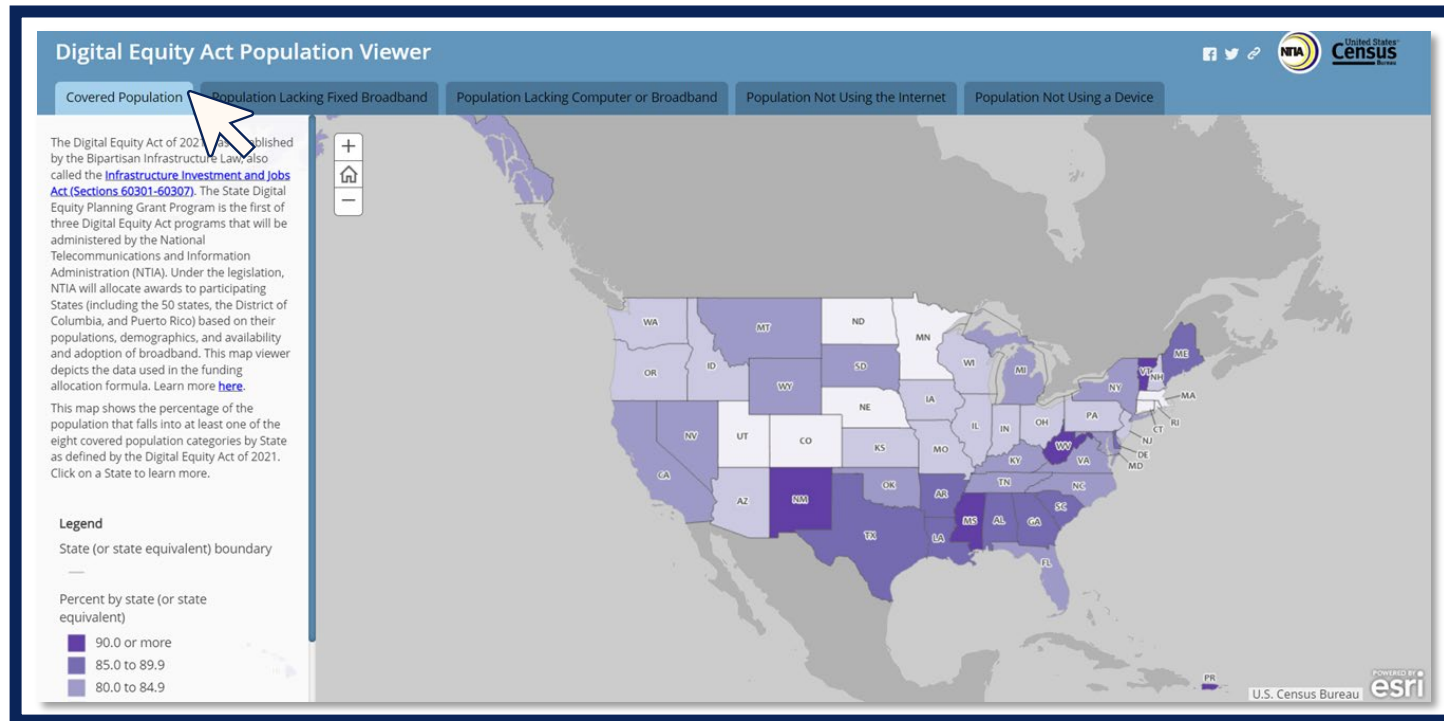
Internet for All Map

This clickable map provides information for all the States and Territories participating in the Digital Equity and the Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment Grant Programs.

Access the map at

https://www.internetforall.gov/interactive-map

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Thank you for attending the 4ᵗʰ Annual Georgia Broadband Summit!

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For materials from the event, scan: