

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The central text is set against a white background that is framed by these green shapes.

# 2021: FINALLY FOCUSED ON BROADBAND FOR ALL

Senator Lorraine Ausley

# THE INTERNET IS IMPORTANT TO EVERYONE.



## WORK

Using the internet to look for a job reduces the time spent unemployed by 25%.



## ECONOMY

Securing 15 million more broadband lines in the U.S. can increase the GDP by \$50 billion.



## GOVERNMENT

54% of U.S. adults went online to get information about or to get involved in the 2010 midterm election.



## EDUCATION

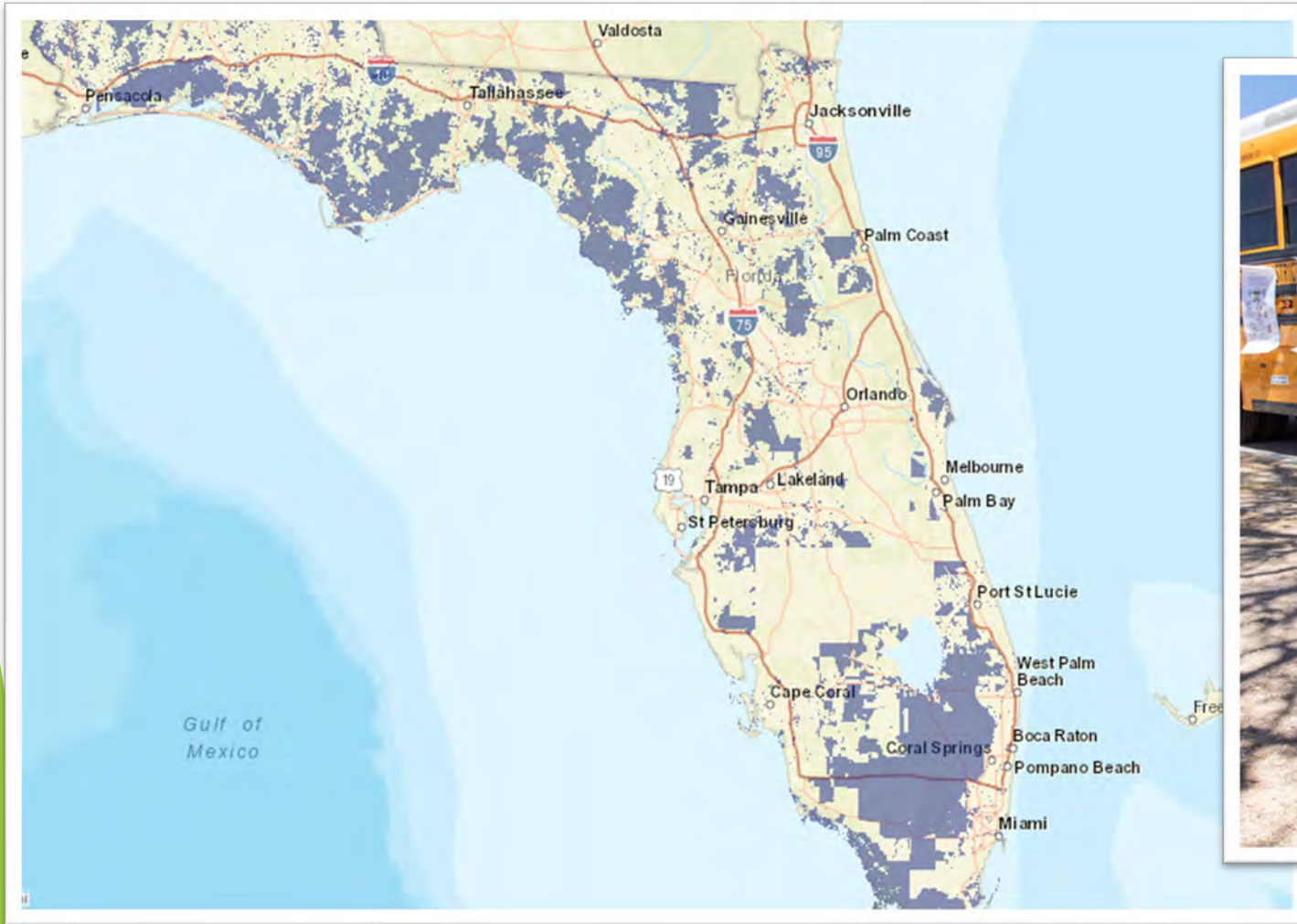
As of January 2014 the GED test will only be available online.



## HEALTH

Broadband enabled remote health care monitoring can save \$197 billion in health care costs over 25 years.

# Rural Deployment/Urban Adoption Different Challenges: BOTH IMPORTANT!



# LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES!

## 2020 SESSION (HB 969)

- ▶ Moved Office of Broadband from DMS to DEO
- ▶ Requires strategic plan and Local Technology Teams

## 2021 SESSION (HB 1239)

- ▶ Defines unserved/underserved
- ▶ Grant Program
- ▶ Statewide Mapping
- ▶ Requires Technology Planning Teams to work with rural counties





# UNSERVED vs UNDERSERVED

Defines or adjusts definitions for:

**Broadband Internet Service-** a service that offers a connection to the Internet with a capacity for transmission at a consistent speed of at least 25 megabits per second downstream and 3 megabits per second upstream.

**Unserviced-** a geographic area of this state in which there is no provider of broadband Internet service.

**Underserved-** means a geographic area of this state in which there is no provider of broadband Internet service that offers a connection to the Internet with a capacity for transmission at a consistent speed of at least 100 megabits per second downstream and at least 10 megabits megabit per second upstream.

# STATE GRANT PROGRAM

- ▶ “The Broadband Opportunity Program is established within the office to award grants to applicants who seek to expand broadband Internet service to unserved areas of this state. The office must administer and act as fiscal agent for the program and is responsible for receiving and reviewing applications and awarding grants”
- ▶ Only applies to unserved areas
- ▶ Grant can only fund 50% of a project
- ▶ Grant cannot be used in areas with federal funding
- ▶ No dollars have been applied to the program

# STATEWIDE MAPPING

For the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year, the nonrecurring sum of \$1,500,000 is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Economic Opportunity to develop geographic information system maps of broadband Internet service availability throughout this state consistent with the Digital Opportunity Data Collection program reporting standards established by the Federal Communications Commission.

The maps must identify where broadband-capable networks exist, where service is available to end users, gaps in rural areas, and download and upload transmission speeds.

Development of the maps may be in collaboration with broadband service providers, state agencies, local governmental entities, private businesses, educational institutions, and community organizations and the maps may incorporate information already compiled by other state agencies provided that the data is verified and the department can determine that the information was compiled based on a sound and reliable methodology.

The department must receive and verify public input to identify locations in which broadband Internet service is not available, including locations in which broadband Internet service is provided at data transmission speeds below the standard established by the Federal Communications Commission for broadband Internet service, and incorporate such information into the development of the maps.

The maps must be complete by June 30, 2022.

# STATEWIDE MAPPING

*“...We need to set up a new method for collecting information to build a comprehensive, user-friendly dataset on broadband availability—one that will consider input from state and local governments, Tribal nations, and consumers, supplementing information we gather from carriers. We must also develop, test, and launch IT systems to collect and verify these data. Then we will create—for the first time—a publicly accessible, data-based nationwide map of locations where broadband is truly available throughout the United States.”*

*Jessica Rosenworcel  
Federal Communications Commission-Acting Chairwoman  
“A Running Start on New Broadband Maps”  
March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021*





# TECHNOLOGY PLANNING TEAMS

- ▶ Enhances local technology planning teams by directing them to work with rural communities to identify areas for deployment
- ▶ The local technology planning teams or partnerships shall work with rural communities to help the communities understand their current broadband availability, locate unserved and underserved businesses and residents, identify assets relevant to broadband deployment, build partnerships with broadband service providers, and identify opportunities to leverage assets and reduce barriers to the deployment of broadband Internet services in the community.
- ▶ The teams or partnerships must be proactive in fiscally constrained counties in identifying and providing assistance with applying for federal grants for broadband Internet service.



# \$\$\$ Is NOT THE ISSUE

- ARP County/City Allocations
- Rural Infrastructure Fund (up to 50% of project cost)
- CDBG-CV (Max of \$5 million, or established dollars for entitlement communities)
- Broadband Opportunity Program being developed

LOCAL/STATE  
RESOURCES



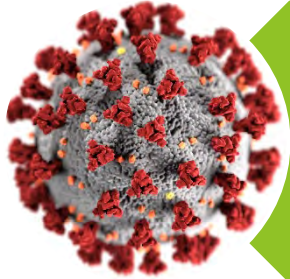
- Capital Grants Fund (\$364 million info forthcoming)
- Infrastructure Package (dollars TBD)
- Emergency Connectivity Fund (Subsidizes Libraries and Schools, \$7.17 billion)
- USDA ReConnect Program (\$635 million)
- RDOF (Phase I closed Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>, Phase II pending)

FEDERAL  
RESOURCES



# BROADBAND FOR ALL IS A REALITY NOW

## WHAT IS DIFFERENT?



Pandemic has Truly Revealed  
Essential Nature of Internet



Federal Commitment is Real



Emerging Technologies

# THANKS & QUESTIONS?

**LORANNE  
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