

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

TECH SUMMIT 2025

PRESENTED BY:



FLORIDA
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES
All About Florida

JANUARY 30-31, 2025

WORLD EQUESTRIAN CENTER | MARION COUNTY

W E L C O M E

Terry Burroughs

FAC President

Okeechobee County



FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

TECH
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2025

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WELCOME TO MARION COUNTY

Carl Zalak



Vice Chair
Marion County



FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

**TECH
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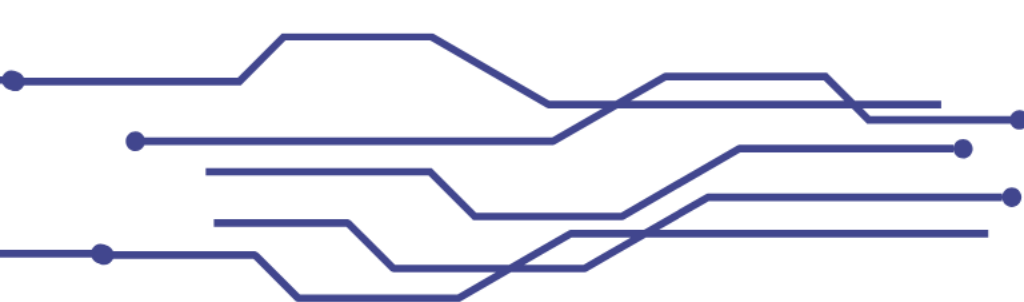




GOLD CORPORATE PARTNERS

THANK YOU!





PLATINUM CORPORATE PARTNERS

THANK YOU!





FAC BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

THANK YOU!



SUMMIT OVERVIEW

Terry Burroughs

FAC President

Okeechobee County



FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

**TECH
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2025

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THE FLORIDA OFFICE OF BROADBAND



\$708 MILLION

in grant awards



\$366 MILLION

to Florida's Rural
Communities



\$642 MILLION

in private leverage



**FLORIDA
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES**
All About Florida

Florida Broadband Progress Report

Katie Smith

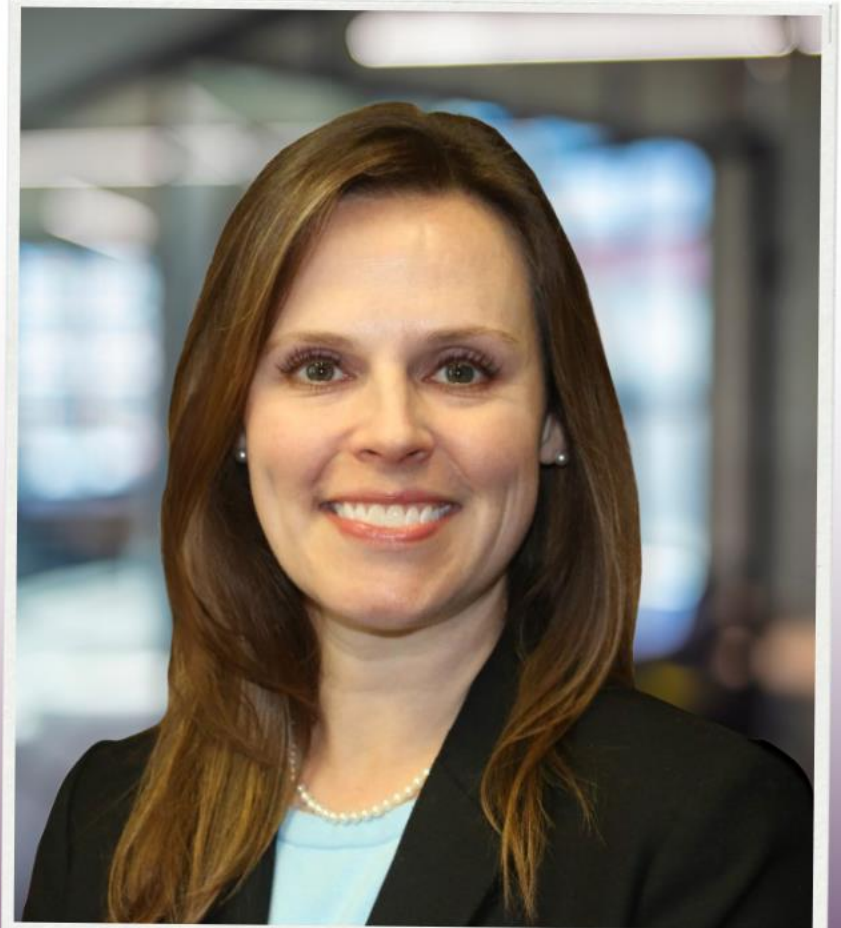
Vice President of Broadband &
Community Partnerships
GrantWorks



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M o d e r a t o r



FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
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2025

Florida Broadband Progress Report

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COMMUNICATIONS



Albert "Albie" Kaminsky
Senior Director
State Government Affairs
Charter Communications



Leo Garcia
Director
Office of Broadband
Florida Commerce



Jeff Scala
Deputy Director
Public Policy
FAC

Moderator



Katie Smith
VP for Broadband & Community Partnerships
GrantWorks



Office of Broadband Overview

Leo Garcia
January 30, 2025

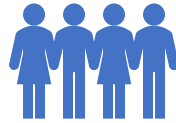
COMMERCE IN FLORIDA



FloridaCommerce and SelectFlorida



Economic
Development



Workforce
Development



Community
Development



International
Commerce

Office of Broadband Overview

- ❑ The Legislature found that the sustainable adoption of broadband internet service is critical to the economic and business development of this state.
- ❑ In July 2020, the Legislature established the Office of Broadband within FloridaCommerce and tasked the Office with encouraging the use of broadband internet service.

Office of Broadband Program Overview

FloridaCommerce's Office of Broadband has engaged with 525 stakeholders to increase the availability and effectiveness of broadband internet throughout Florida including:

- ☐ Local and state government agencies
- ☐ Local Technology Planning Teams
- ☐ Community organizations
- ☐ Private businesses

**How can our
funding assist
you?**

Workforce Development Opportunities

Economic Opportunities

Educational Opportunities

Telehealth and Health Monitoring



Broadband Update

State Grant Program – **Fully Awarded**

- ❑ Broadband Opportunity Grant Program - \$363.9 million awarded for 137 grants in 59 counties

Federal Grant Programs – **Fully Awarded**

- ❑ Capital Projects Fund Program:
 - ❑ Broadband Infrastructure Program – Approximately \$249 million awarded for 74 grants in 50 counties
 - ❑ *Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program (workforce, health, digital literacy) – Approximately \$87 million for 29 grants in 17 counties*
 - ❑ *Digital Connectivity Technology Program – More than \$11 million for 15 grants in 25 counties*
- ❑ Many of the recipients mirrored the Multi-Purpose Community Facilities grants
- ❑ As of 2024, an estimated 1,167 miles of aerial and underground fiber were laid, enabling 4,300 residential and businesses to have access to broadband infrastructure.

Federal Grant Programs – **New; Grant Competitions in 2025**

- ❑ *Digital Capacity Grant Program – \$70 million awarded to Florida (\$41.7 million in-hand), with the intent to have competitive grant application window in Spring 2025*
- ❑ BEAD Program – \$1.16 billion awarded to Florida, with the intent for competitive grant application windows in Spring 2025 and Summer 2025
 - ❑ Infrastructure – More than \$970 million (\$200 million prioritized for Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes)
 - ❑ *Workforce - \$110 million*
 - ❑ Digital Literacy and Cybersecurity – \$30 million

Italicized Text indicates:

Proactively targeted participation of state colleges, technical colleges and local workforce boards



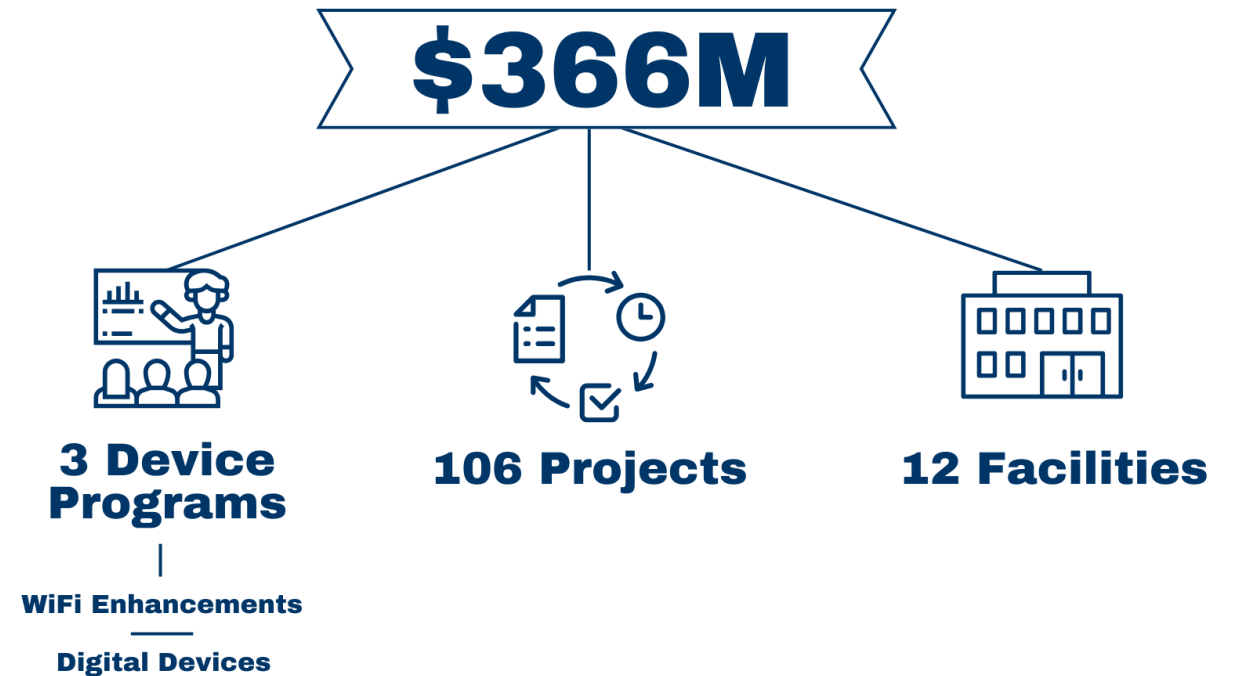
Office of Broadband: 255 Awards in 65 Counties

Since July 2020, FloridaCommerce's Office of Broadband has accomplished the following:

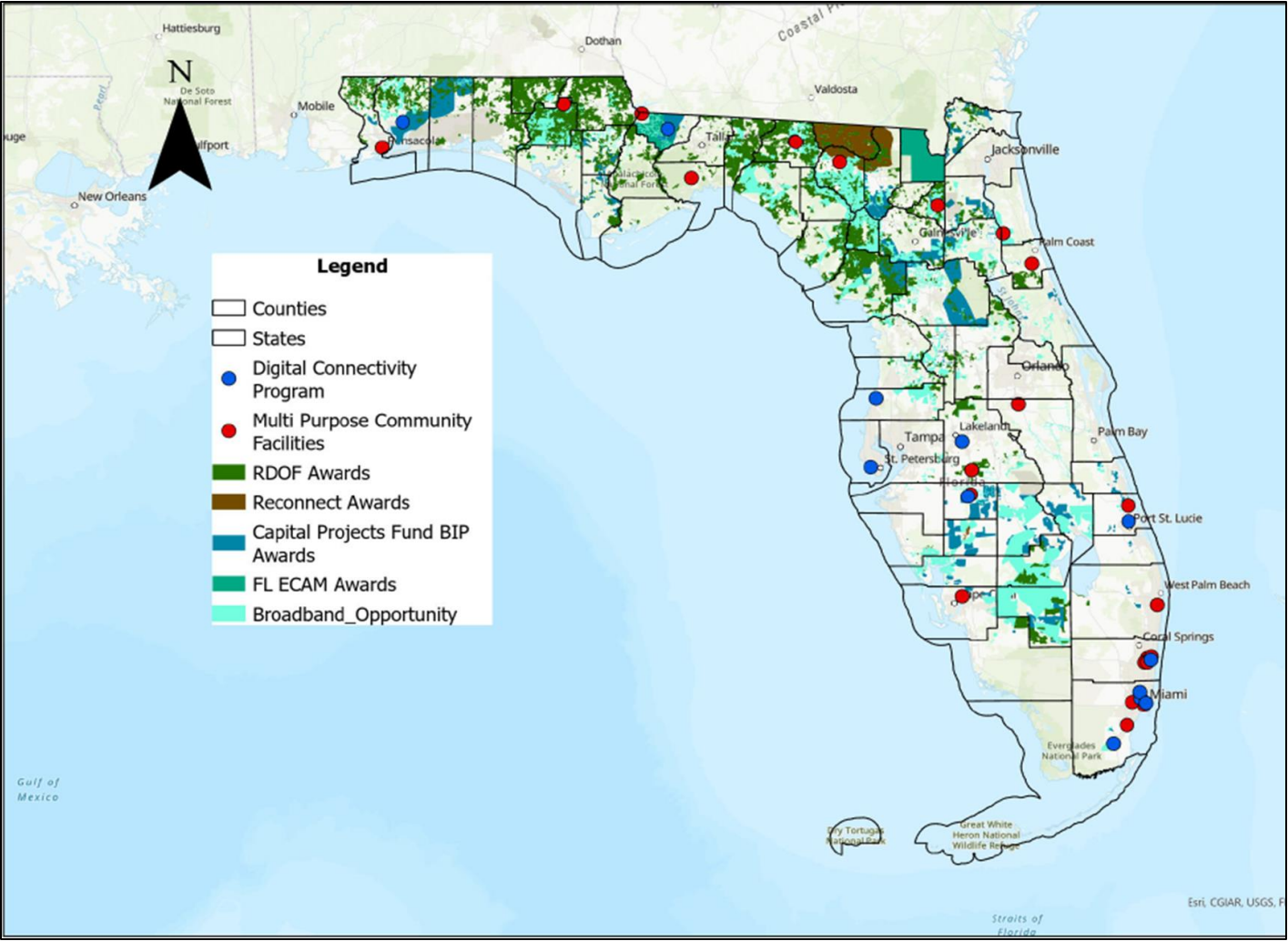
- ❑ Awarded more than \$708 million in funding to four grant programs:
 - ❑ Broadband Opportunity Program
 - ❑ Capital Projects Fund
 - ❑ Broadband Infrastructure Program
 - ❑ Multi-Purpose Community Facility Program
 - ❑ Digital Connectivity Technology Program
- ❑ Generated \$642 million in private leverage
- ❑ Upgrading 29 community facilities
- ❑ Funded 15 programs for digital devices, equipment and training

Broadband's Impact on Florida's Rural Communities

- ❑ FloridaCommerce prioritizes rural investment
- ❑ New opportunities for businesses and employees
- ❑ New workforce needs for infrastructure
- ❑ Expanded educational opportunities



Office of Broadband Award Map



Broadband Opportunity Program

The Broadband Opportunity Program provides federal and state funding for installation and deployment of broadband internet infrastructure in unserved Florida communities.



\$364.8M
in Award Funding



66,804
Passings



18,227
Miles of Fiber



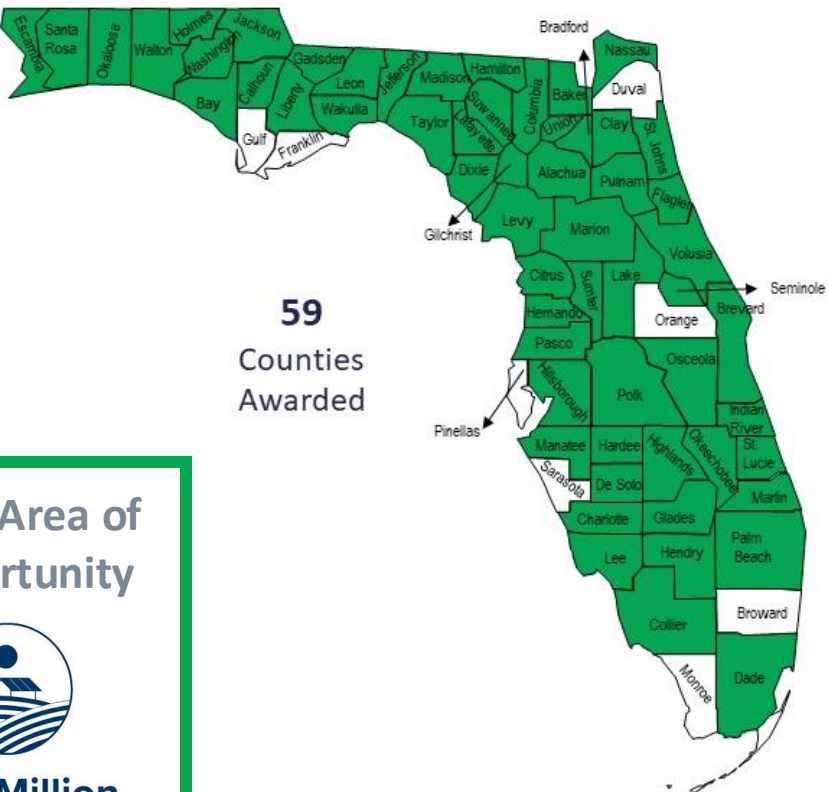
137
Awarded Projects

Rural Area of Opportunity



\$168 Million

59
Projects



Broadband Infrastructure Program

The Broadband Infrastructure Program provides funding to deploy broadband internet infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas throughout the state, prioritizing rural areas.



\$248.5M
in Award Funding



37,313
Passings



8,796
Miles of Fiber



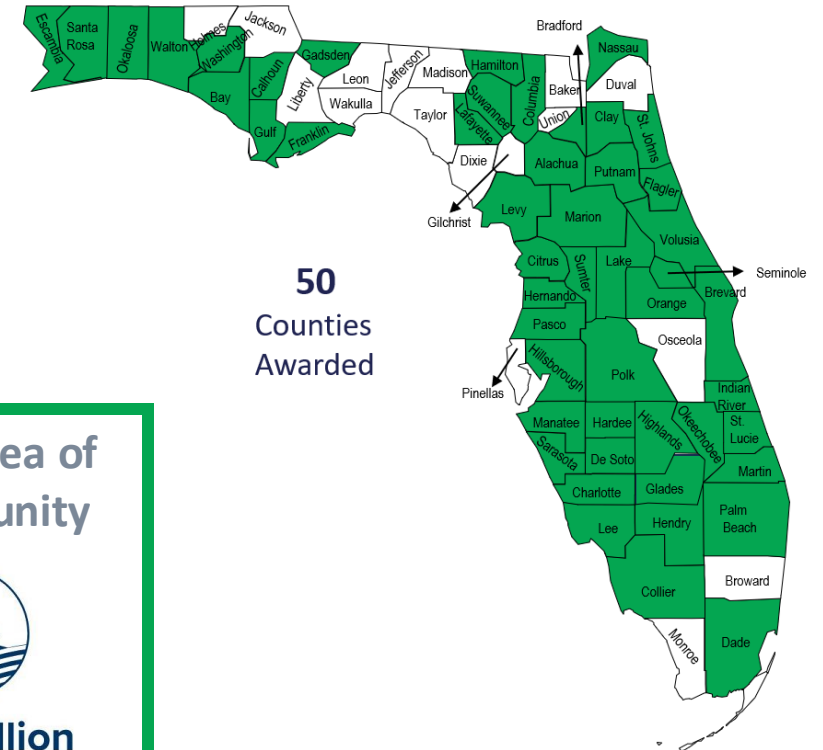
74
Awarded Projects

**Rural Area of
Opportunity**



\$82 Million

28
Projects



50
Counties
Awarded

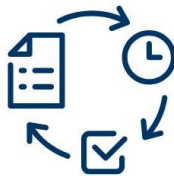


Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program

The Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program provides funds for construction of or improvements to buildings designed to give local communities access to broadband internet.



\$86.9M
in Award Funding



29
Awarded Projects

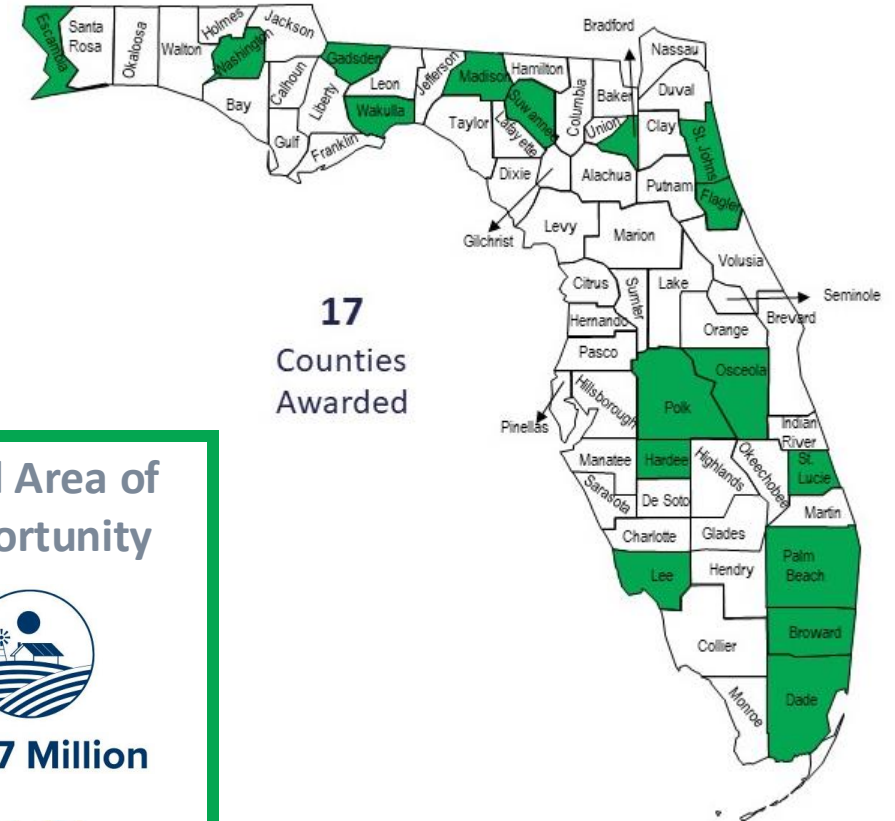
Rural Area of
Opportunity



\$37.7 Million

12
Projects

17
Counties
Awarded



Digital Connectivity Technology Program

The Digital Connectivity Technology Program provides funds to subrecipients to enhance digital connectivity by providing essential devices, equipment and training.



\$11.5M
in Award Funding



15
Awarded Projects

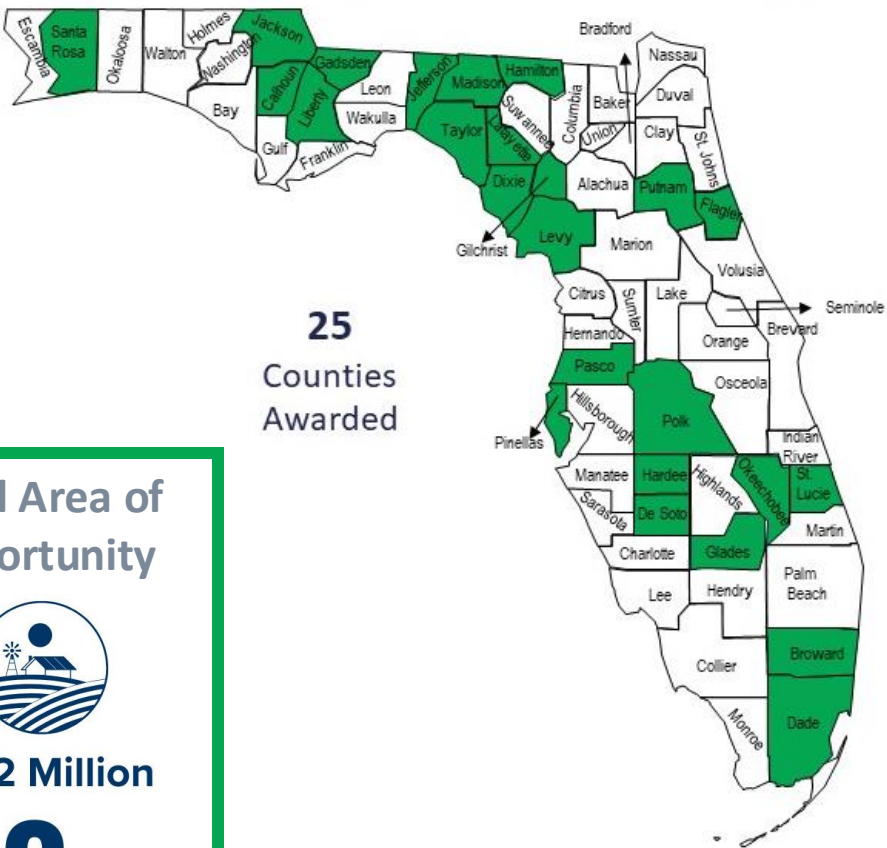
Rural Area of Opportunity



\$6.2 Million

3

Projects



Digital Capacity Grant Program

The Digital Capacity Grant Program will provide funding to close the digital divide, such as digital literacy, device programming, digital navigators, workforce and economic development.

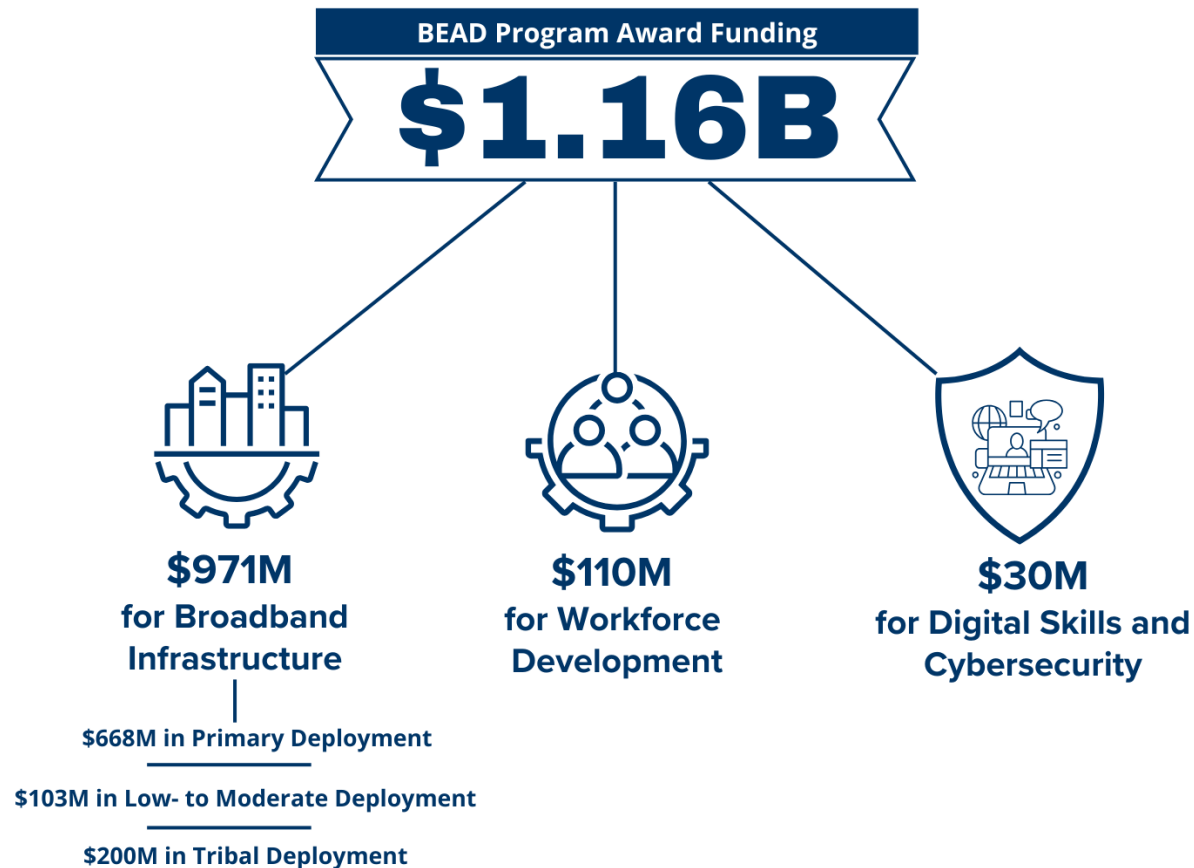
Digital Capacity Total Award Allocation

\$70M

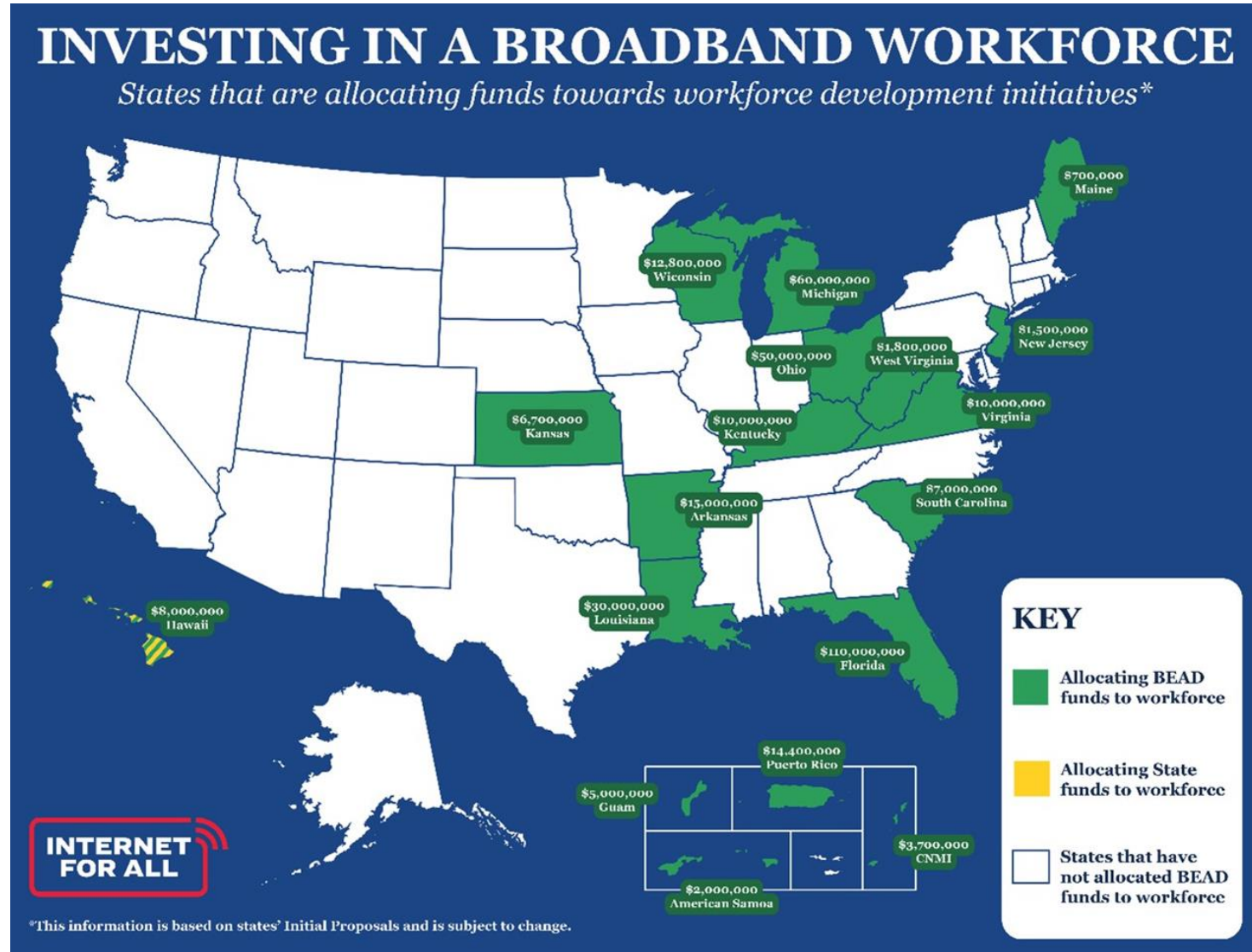


BEAD Program

The BEAD Program provides federal funding for grants to states for broadband planning, deployment, mapping, adoption and use activities. With this funding, Florida will serve every remaining unserved and underserved location in the state.



States with a BEAD Workforce Plan Map



BEAD Non-Deployment Overview

- ❑ Workforce development, digital literacy, and cybersecurity training investments
 - ❑ \$110 million in BEAD funding for workforce development
 - ❑ \$30 million for digital literacy and cybersecurity
 - ❑ \$70 million through separate Digital Capacity Grant Program for digital literacy, economic and workforce development, and digital device programs
- ❑ Curriculum Frameworks
- ❑ Working with industry
- ❑ Application early 2025



How to utilize training funding?

- ☐ Apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs
- ☐ On-the-job training programs
- ☐ Credentialing and certificate programs
- ☐ Training equipment purchasing
- ☐ Tuition cost
- ☐ Instructor recruitment and training



Fiber Technician Training Plan



INDUSTRY
CERTIFICATIONS

CompTIA Network+
Fiber Optics Association's Fiber
Optics Installer (FOI)
Fiber Optics Association's Fiber
Optics Technician (FOT)



CAREER TECHNICAL
CERTIFICATE

Telecommunication
and Fiber Optic
Technician



COLLEGE CREDIT
CERTIFICATES

Cable installation
Network Communications
(WAN/LAN)
Wireless Communications



ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE
DEGREE

Telecommunications
Engineering
Technology

Fiber Technician Curriculum Framework

TCN 1xxx - Telecommunications Fundamentals

3 Credits - 115 hours

TCN 1xxx - Network Cabling and Installation

3 Credits - 115 hours

Aligned Certification: CompTIA Network+

TCN 1xxx - Fiber Optics and Splicing Techniques

3 Credits - 115 hours

Aligned Certification: Fiber Optics Association's Fiber Optics Installer (FOI)

TCN 2xxx - Advanced Telecommunications Systems

3 Credits - 115 hours

Aligned Certification: Fiber Optics Association's Fiber Optics Technician (FOT)



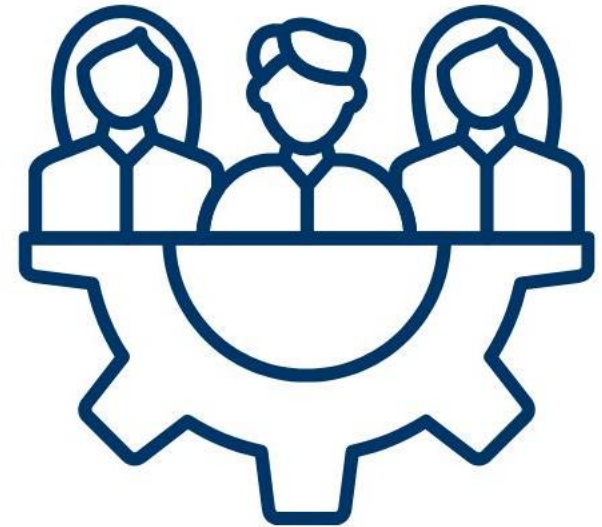
Role of Educational Institutions

- ❑ Deploy trusted curriculum frameworks
- ❑ Private Industry feedback
- ❑ Job-seeker confidence
- ❑ Increased capacity for new demand
- ❑ K-12 participation



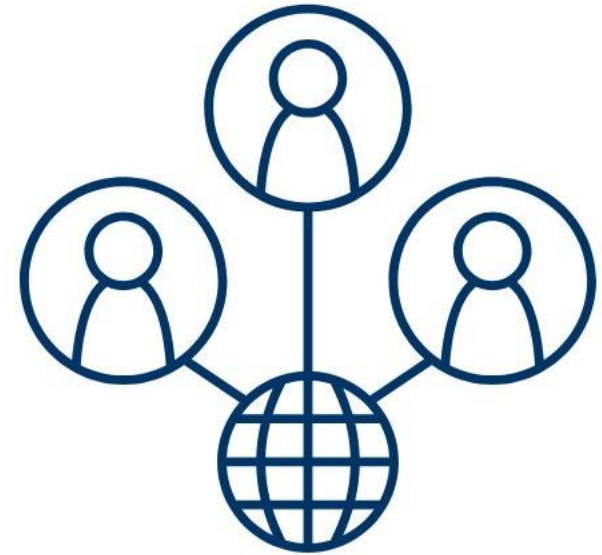
Role of Workforce Boards

- ❑ Digital Literacy Training Efforts
- ❑ Workforce Development and Standardization
- ❑ Industry and Education Relationships
- ❑ Job-seeker referrals

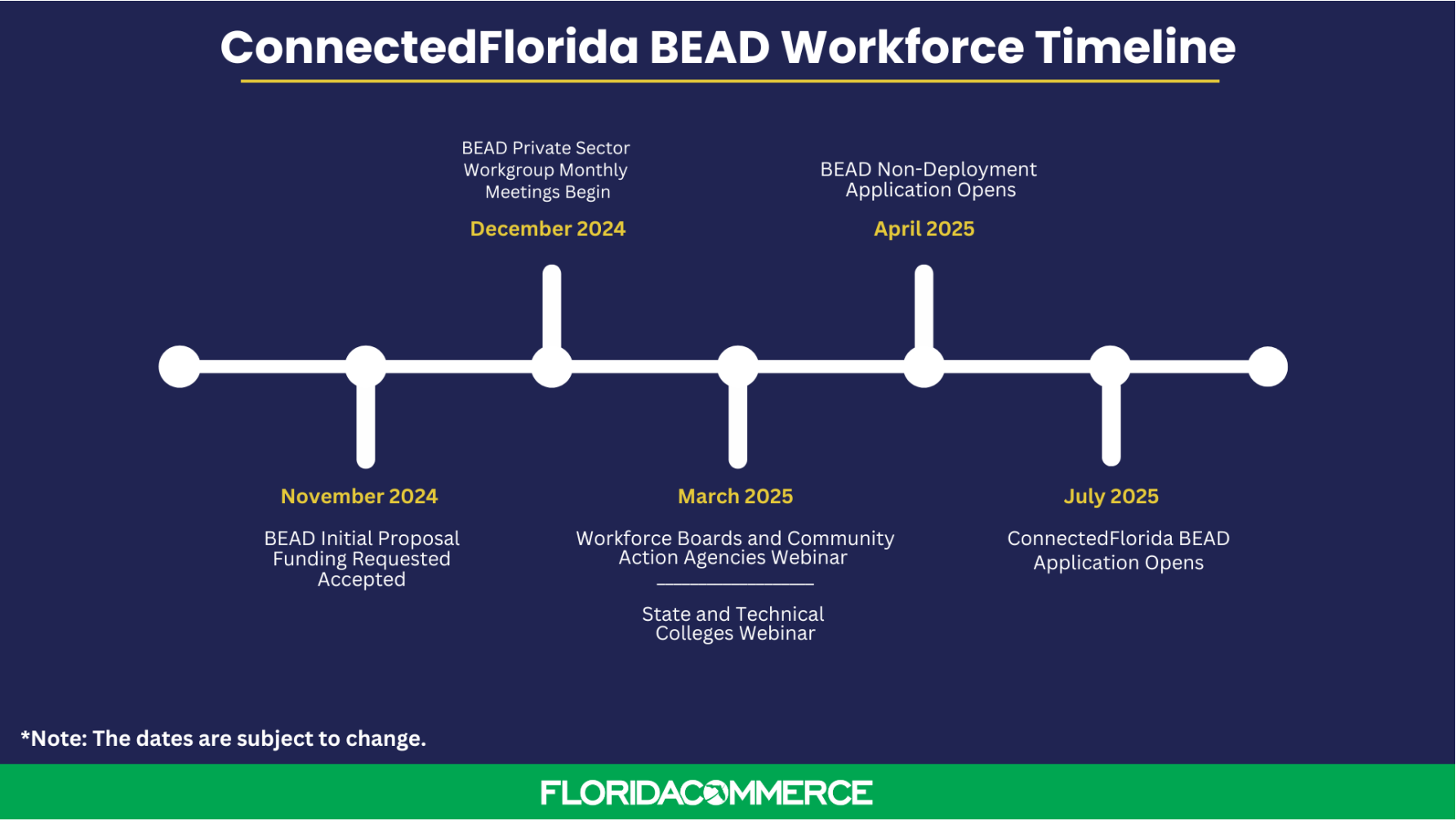


Role of Community Action Agencies

- ❑ Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) Program
 - ❑ Local Workforce Board Partnerships
- ❑ New opportunities for community
- ❑ Wraparound services
- ❑ Strong community presence
 - ❑ Referrals



Timeline and Next Steps



Contacts

If you have questions or comments about this presentation, please contact us or visit www.FloridaJobs.org/Broadband



Leo Garcia, Director, Office of Broadband

Email: Leo.Garcia@Commerce.fl.gov



FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES TECH SUMMIT
January 30, 2025



CONNECTING
THE UNCONNECTED



Charter | Spectrum
COMMUNICATIONS

The Economic Impact

\$196B

IN US GDP

ATTRIBUTABLE TO
US CABLE OPERATORS
EACH YEAR

\$41.4B

IN TAXES

RESULTING FROM
US CABLE OPERATORS'
ANNUAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

1M+

US JOBS

SUPPORTED BY US
CABLE OPERATORS

- ✓ These workers earned \$83 billion in income
- ✓ Bigger than the entire workforce of 15 states

Over the past 20 years,
US Cable operators have invested
\$325 BILLION
to build, maintain, and expand their networks.

Sources: NCTA: Investment: Company Reports, S&P Global Market Intelligence Estimates; Other Data: Estimated Impacts of Cable Provider Services, 2022

Empowering Opportunity

MORE THAN
875,000
MILES OF NETWORK
INFRASTRUCTURE

er
ONS

CHARTER'S IMPACT

Serving Florida

2.95 Million

customers served

740,000

mobile lines

9,950+

employees

\$266 Million

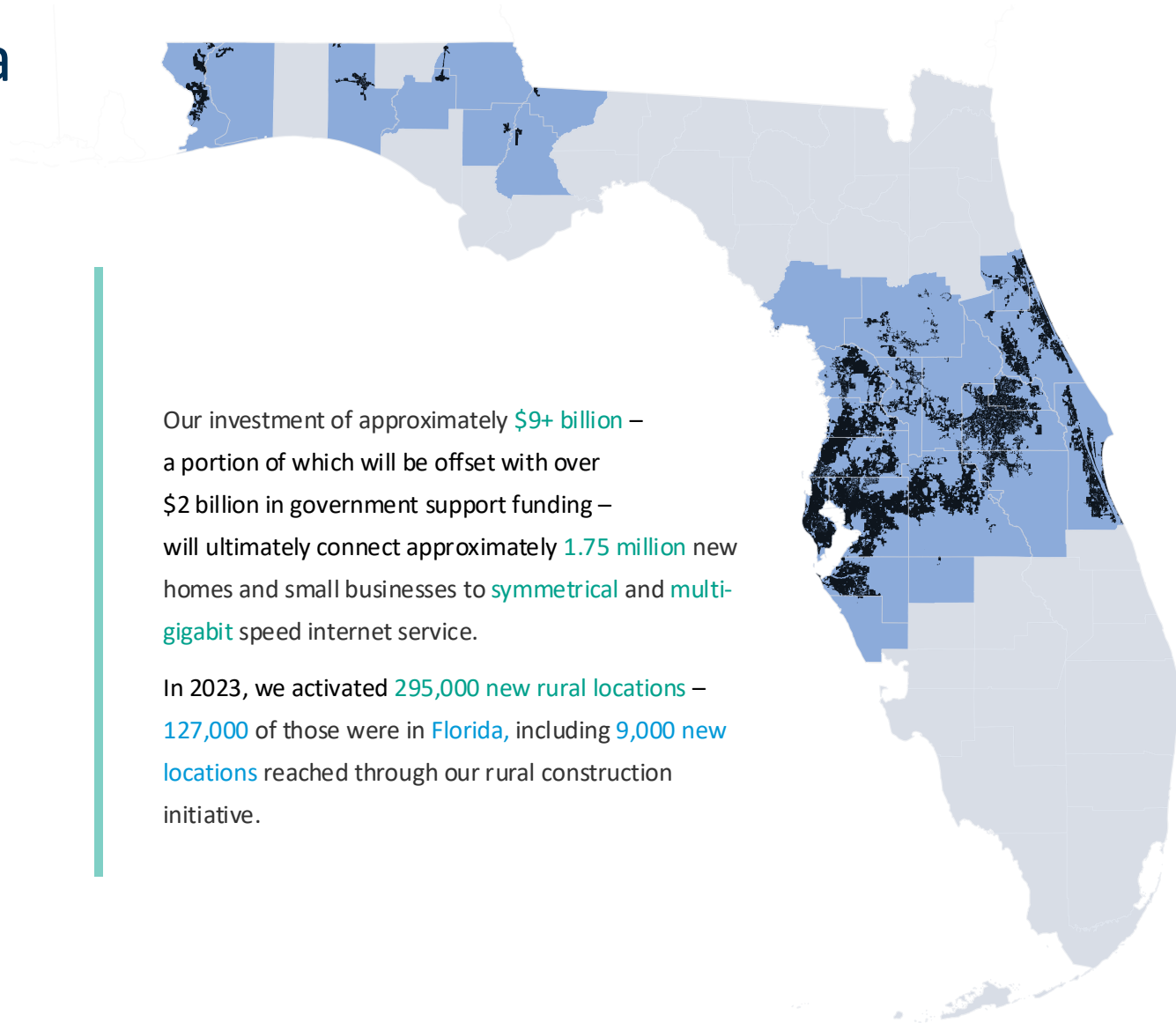
paid in taxes & fees in 2023

\$769 Million

2023 capital investment

Our investment of approximately **\$9+ billion** – a portion of which will be offset with over \$2 billion in government support funding – will ultimately connect approximately **1.75 million** new homes and small businesses to **symmetrical** and **multi-gigabit** speed internet service.

In 2023, we activated **295,000 new rural locations** – **127,000** of those were in **Florida**, including **9,000 new locations** reached through our rural construction initiative.






CHARTER'S IMPACT

Unmatched Connectivity

HIGH-QUALITY INTERNET, WI-FI, AND MOBILE

✓ No Data Caps | ✓ No Modem Fees | ✓ No Annual Contracts

BROADBAND	WIFI	MOBILE
		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Most Reliable Speeds• Gigabit Speeds Across Our Entire Footprint	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Gigabit-Powered WiFi▶ Security Shield	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Fastest Growing Mobile Provider
Fastest Wireless Speeds (based on combined WiFi + Mobile speeds)		

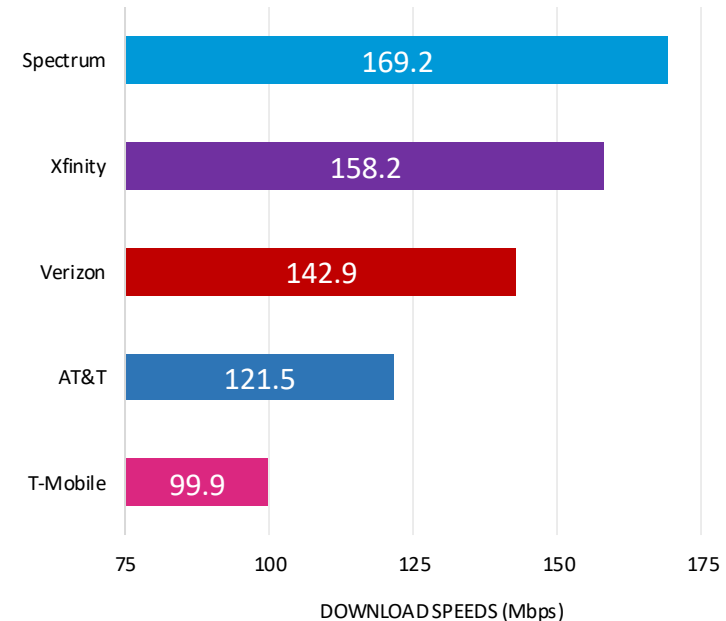
DELIVERING SPEED AND RELIABILITY

- ▶ We're making an investment of nearly **\$6 billion** to upgrade our entire network to deliver **symmetrical and multi-gigabit speeds to homes and businesses**.
- ▶ This 100% Charter-funded investment limits new construction by leveraging existing infrastructure making it cost effective, less disruptive to our customers, and more environmentally friendly.
- ▶ Symmetrical and multi-gigabit speeds are expected to be available **across our entire service area** in 2026.

Spectrum Crowned Fastest
US Internet Provider in New
Opensignal Report

CNET

Spectrum Provides the Fastest Download Speeds



Sources: "Helping Meet the Needs of Low-Income Families and Narrowing the Digital Divide," Charter Policy Blog, 05/04/2024 | "Spectrum Crowned Fastest US Internet Provider in New Opensignal Report," CNET, 05/21/2024

Broadband Expansion

RDOF

17,686 Locations | 14 Counties

DIRECT LOCAL AWARDS

- Flagler: 901 Locations
- Orange: 1,341 Locations
- Sumter: 3,603 Locations
- Volusia: 3,728 Locations

BROADBAND OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM (ARPA – SLFR)

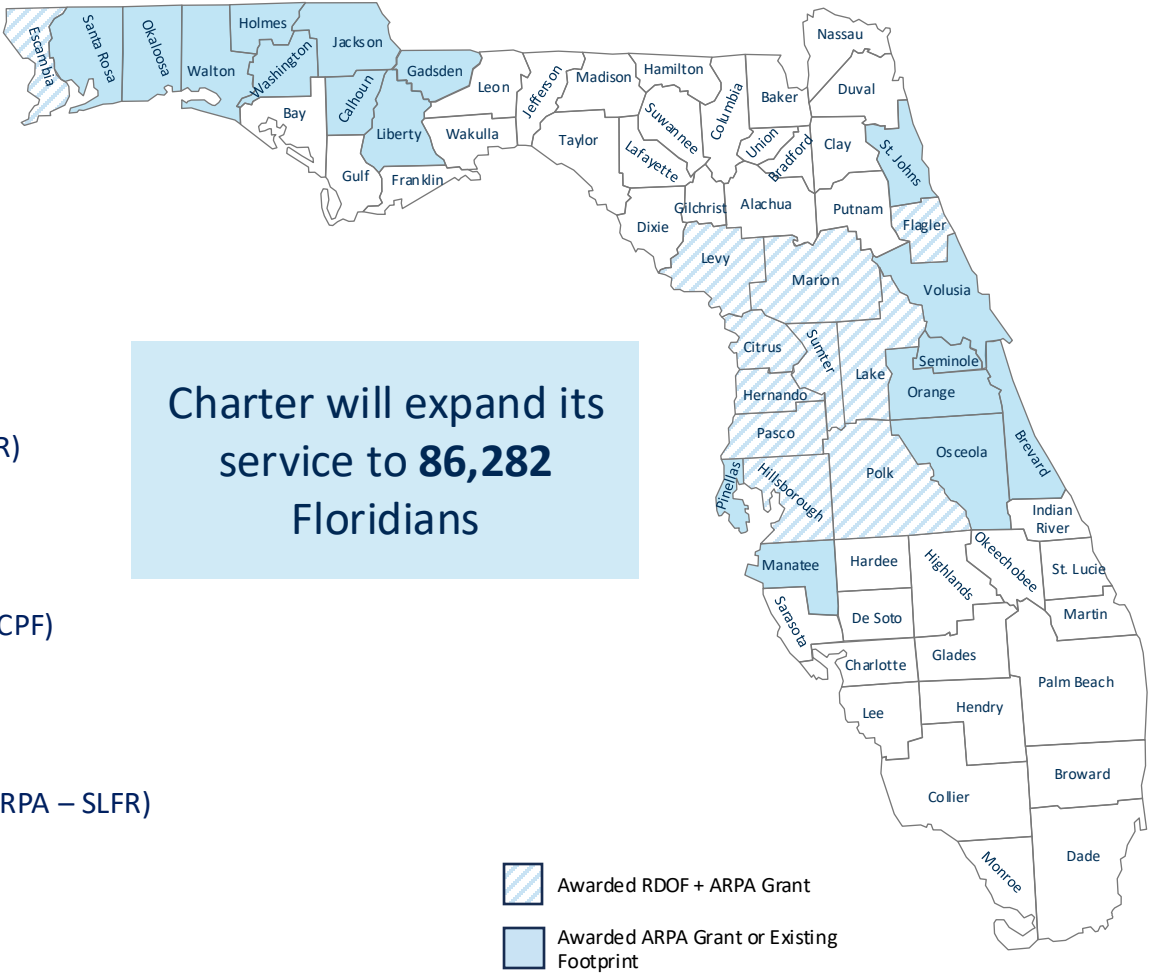
- 26 Applications Awarded
- 48,642 Locations

BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (ARPA – CPF)

- 19 Applications Awarded
- 5,037 Locations

BROADBAND OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM ROUND 2 (ARPA – SLFR)

- 12 Applications Awarded
- 5,354 Locations



All data as of 06/19/2024.

CHARTER'S IMPACT IN FLORIDA

Sumter County (Direct Deal)

In partnership with **Sumter County Government, 4-H Youth, CareerSource Central Florida, You Thrive Florida, & Sumter Fair Association**, Spectrum hosted a broadband town hall during the first week back to school on **Saturday, August 17th** in Bushnell, Florida, located in the heart of Spectrum's rural broadband expansion plan.

Prior to the town hall, Spectrum had a fiber splicing demonstration for community members, backpack and school supply giveaways, refreshments and baked good on-site, & several Spectrum representatives available to answer any questions regarding the build and help resident's sign-up for Spectrum service.

Speakers:

- Kristy Russel, Local Technology Planning Team Chair & Director of Economic Development, Sumter County Government
- Albie Kaminsky, Sr. Director, State Government Affairs, Charter Communications
- Mike DeCroix, Sr. Director, Construction, Charter Communications
- Sumter County Chairman Craig Estep
- NTIA Carlos Smith (*virtual*)



CHARTER'S IMPACT IN FLORIDA

Orange County (Direct Deal)

On August 16th, Spectrum & Orange County Government host a press conference to publicly commemorate the near-completion of the **public-private partnership** to extend Spectrum broadband services to **more than 1,300 previously unserved and underserved Orange County households**.

The County Mayor stated this project was emblematic of the County's commitment to closing the Digital Divide, and fellow County Commissioners gave **personal testimonies of how the project impacted them** and their constituents.

Speakers:

- Jeff Williamson, Director of Communications, Orange County Government
- Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings
- Orange County Commissioner Maribel Gomez Cordero
- Orange County Commissioner Christine Moore
- Orange County Commissioner Emily Bonilla
- Marva Johnson, Group Vice President, State Government Affairs, Charter Communications



PRIORITIZING ADOPTION

How Communities Can Help

- Local Technology Planning Teams play a critical role in helping to accurately assess the community needs, don't recreate the wheel to get good needs assessment data, but DO engage the LTP to enhance the accuracy and quality of the needs assessment data.
- Work proactively to remove infrastructure access challenges like right-of-way permitting and utility pole attachment challenges
- Consider Quality, Reliability, Dependability, and long-term financial viability when choosing a partner (Established Track a Record)
- Engage RDOF and BOP Award Winners to leverage these investments for Synergy Opportunities
- Plan fully for deployment and adoption (Deployment efforts need to include supplemental services in addition to broadband to help drive adoption, Digital Literacy efforts, connected device support, and affordability programs)



Prioritizing Broadband Adoption



Charter has a proven record of commitment to broadband affordability & adoption



Charter has helped millions of families in financial need get and stay connected to reliable, high-speed in-home internet service.

Charter offers a variety of affordable high-speed internet packages to meet its customers' connectivity and budget needs.

Our nationwide pricing means the same competitive residential retail rates and speed tiers are available and affordable throughout its entire 41-state service area, regardless of whether a customer lives in an urban, suburban, or rural community.

We're advancing the local communities where our customers and employees live and work by promoting economic opportunity and providing access to information and connectivity, including through programs providing affordable connectivity services to low-income families, revitalizing community centers, and supporting small businesses.

Charter's philanthropic programs include:

- ▶ Spectrum Community Center Assist
- ▶ Spectrum Community Investment Loan Fund
- ▶ Spectrum Digital Education
- ▶ Spectrum Employee Community Grants

Source: "Helping Meet the Needs of Low-Income Families and Narrowing the Digital Divide," Charter Policy Blog, 05/04/2024



STAY CONNECTED

Policy.Charter.com



@CharterGov



/CharterGov

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Local Technology Planning Teams (LTPT) Directives

- **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;**
- **Identify opportunities to leverage assets and reduce barriers to the deployment of broadband Internet services in the community; and**
- **Teams must be proactive in fiscally constrained counties in identifying and providing assistance with applying for federal grants for broadband Internet service.**



LTPTs and the Strategic Plan for Broadband

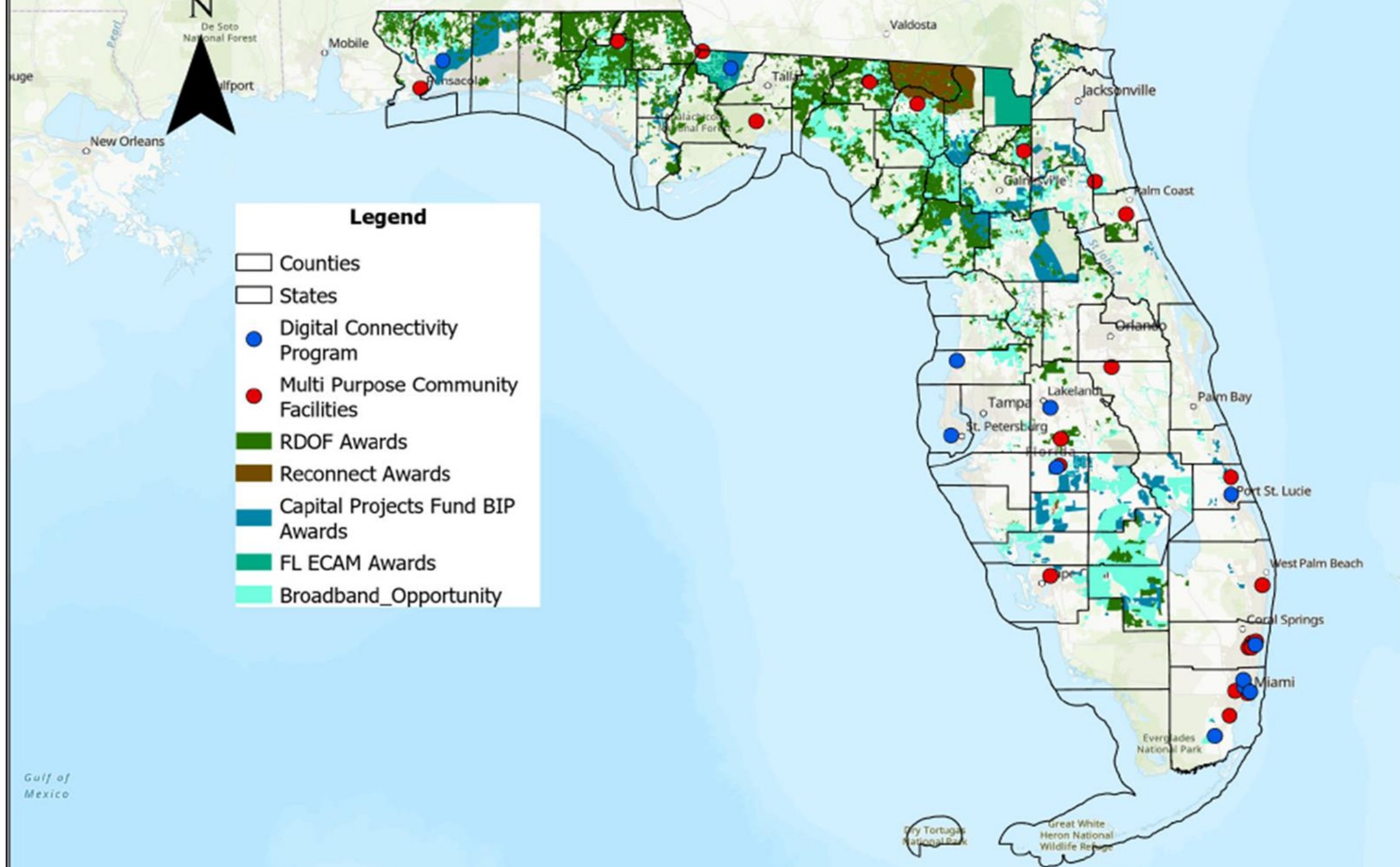
- **Update released in May 2024; LTPTs mentioned 74 times**
- **Funding Support**
- **Infrastructure Coordination & “Dig Once”**
- **Data Collection—mapping, affordability, broadband needs of low income, elderly, & veterans**
- **Philanthropic Organizations**
- **Two-way communication with Connected Florida**



LTPTs and BEAD

- **LTPTs offer a key point of view when it comes to expanding deployment, adoption, and use across the state.**
- **The Office will continue to rely on LTPTs for their insights and feedback through the BEAD program.**
- **The Office meets with LTPTs on a monthly basis and will continue this cadence in addition to ad hoc conversations that arise.**
- **As deployment ramps up, touchpoints will focus increasingly on identifying and mitigating costs and barriers**
- **LTPT feedback will be used to inform the state on affordability**
- **LTPTs offer a statutorily created mechanism of understanding the needs and service levels of Community Anchor Institutions within each county.**





Florida Broadband Progress Report

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INTRODUCTION

Terry Burroughs

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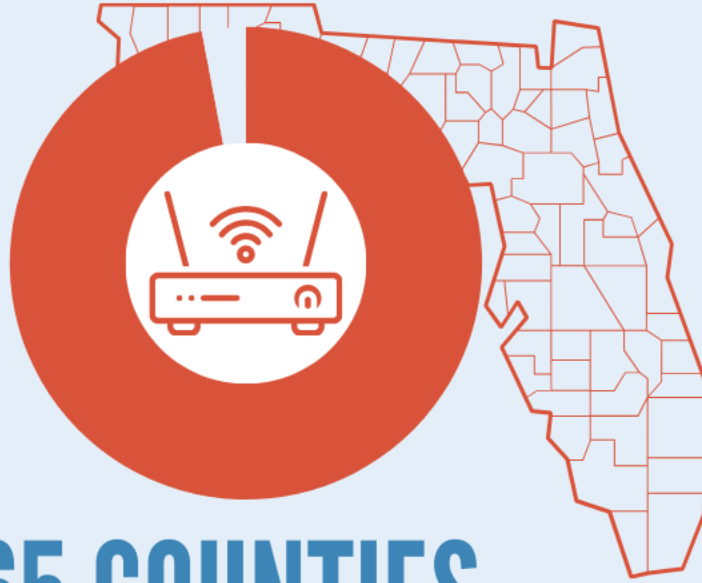


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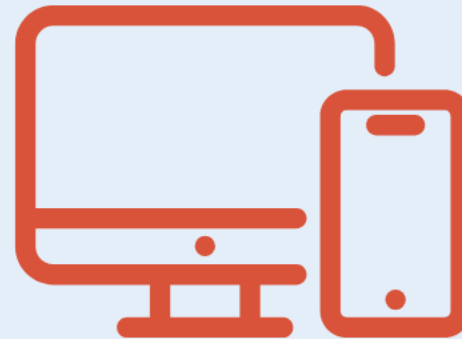
THE FLORIDA OFFICE OF BROADBAND



255 AWARDS IN 65 COUNTIES



29
community
facilities upgrades



15
affordable device
programs

Broadband for All: Closing the Digital Divide

Katie Smith

Vice President of Broadband &
Community Partnerships
GrantWorks

 Presented by: COMCAST

M o d e r a t o r



FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
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2025

Closing the Digital Divide

Presented by:



Dr. Matthew Cretul, Ph.D
Legislative Manager
Marion County



Jacob Sjostrom
Chief of State
Broadband
Initiatives
Florida Commerce



Lynn Nobles
Former Extension
Director
UF/IFAS Marion County

Moderator



Katie Smith
VP for Broadband & Community Partnerships
GrantWorks





Digital Adoption and Use in Florida

January 30, 2025

What is Digital Adoption and Use?

The Florida Office of Broadband envisions a future where every Floridian benefits from a connected economy through the meaningful use of high-speed internet – to enhance educational and employment opportunities, access telehealth and engage with families and local communities.



Digital Adoption and Use Challenges



Rural Areas

- Connectivity
- Digital literacy



Urban Areas

- Affordability



Unserved and Underserved Populations

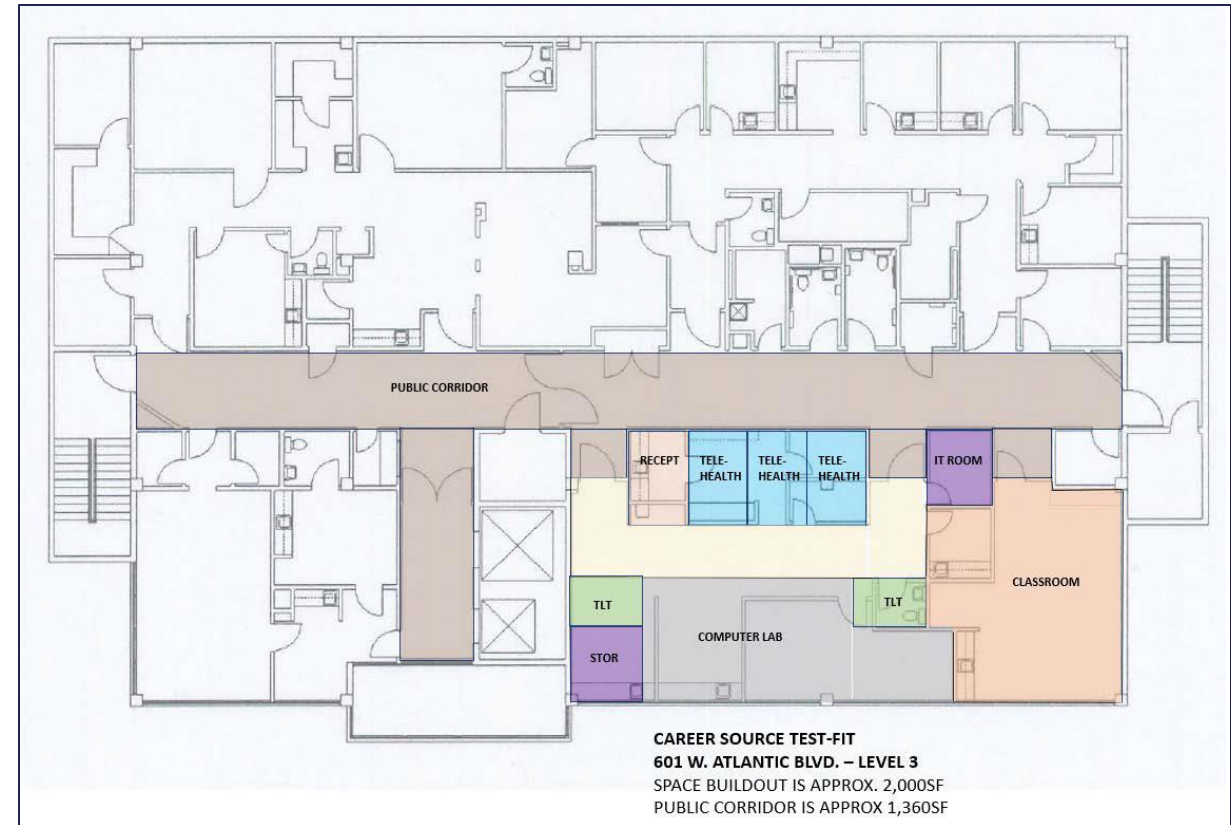
- Veterans
- Rural
- Non-English speakers



Digital Adoption and Use Grant Spotlight

CareerSource Broward

- ❑ \$3 million for Multi-Purpose Community Facility Program
- ❑ Rehabilitation of the Broward Health Pompano Healthcare Center
- ❑ Increased access to on-site workforce development services
- ❑ Improving access to telemedicine/telehealth services
- ❑ Expected to attract over 3,000 healthcare users



Broward Healthcare Center – Floor Plan (3rd Floor)



Digital Connectivity Technology Grant Highlight

Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners

- ❑ \$355,000 for Digital Connectivity Technology.
- ❑ Provide to three public libraries in Gadsden County such as Quincy, Chattahoochee, and Havana.
- ❑ Increased access with the distribution of laptops to help enable work, education and health monitoring.
- ❑ This program distributed 1,946 desktops, 5,968 laptops and 7,403 tablets.

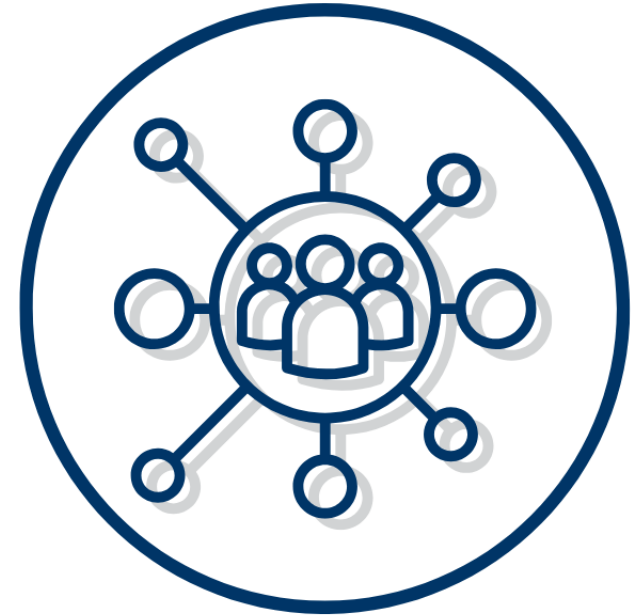


Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners



Local Outreach/Collaboration

- ☐ Local Technology Planning Teams
- ☐ Broad membership across sectors
- ☐ Grant feedback
- ☐ Statewide collaboration across teams
- ☐ Direct line of communication with Office
- ☐ Anyone can join



Digital Capacity Grant Program

The Digital Capacity Grant Program will provide funding up to \$70 million across three tranches to close the digital divide, such as digital literacy, device programming, digital navigators, workforce and economic development.

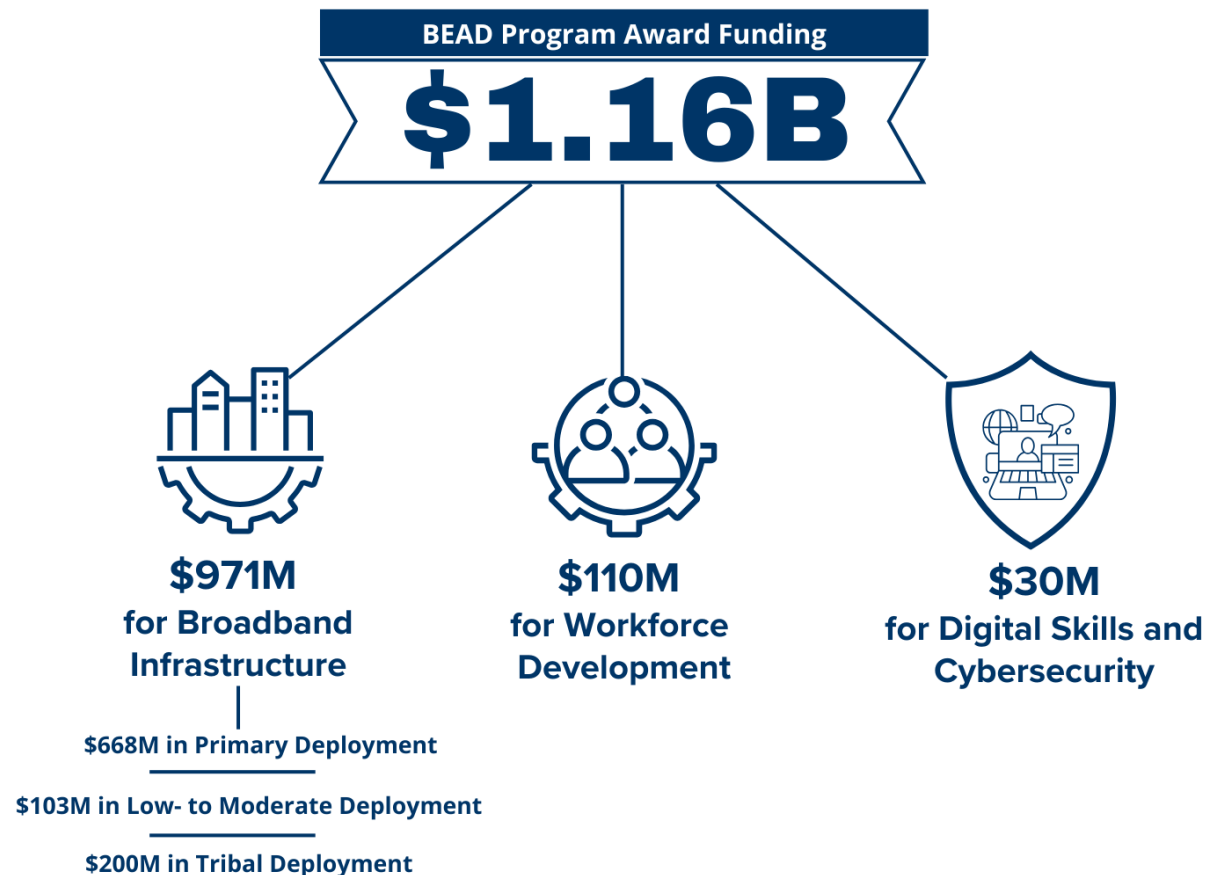
Digital Capacity Total Award Allocation

\$70M



BEAD Program

The BEAD Program provides federal funding for grants to states for broadband planning, deployment, mapping, adoption and use activities. With this funding, Florida will serve every remaining unserved and underserved location in the state.



What's Next?

BEAD Program

- ❑ \$1.1 billion in total funding
 - ❑ \$900 million – infrastructure
 - ❑ \$110 million – workforce development
 - ❑ \$30 million – digital literacy/cybersecurity

Digital Capacity Grant Program

- ❑ \$71 million in total funding across 3 tranches
- ❑ Digital literacy, devices, digital navigators and other adoption activities



Contacts

If you have questions or comments about this presentation, please contact us or visit www.FloridaJobs.org/Broadband



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Closing the Digital Divide

Presented by:



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Lynn Nobles
Extension Director
UF/IFAS Marion
County

Moderator



Katie Smith
VP for Broadband & Community Partnerships
GrantWorks

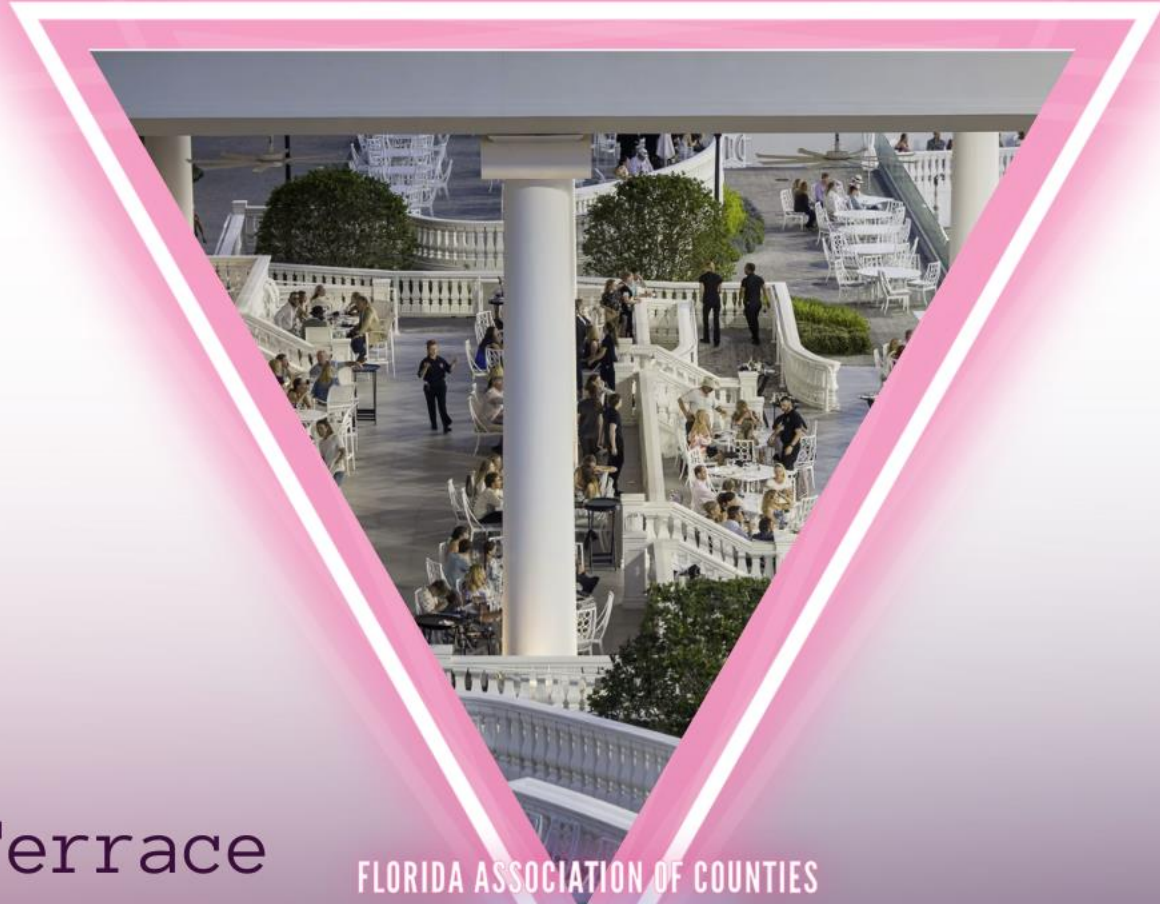


Connections & Cocktails

5:30 PM

Equestrian Hotel – Stirrups Terrace

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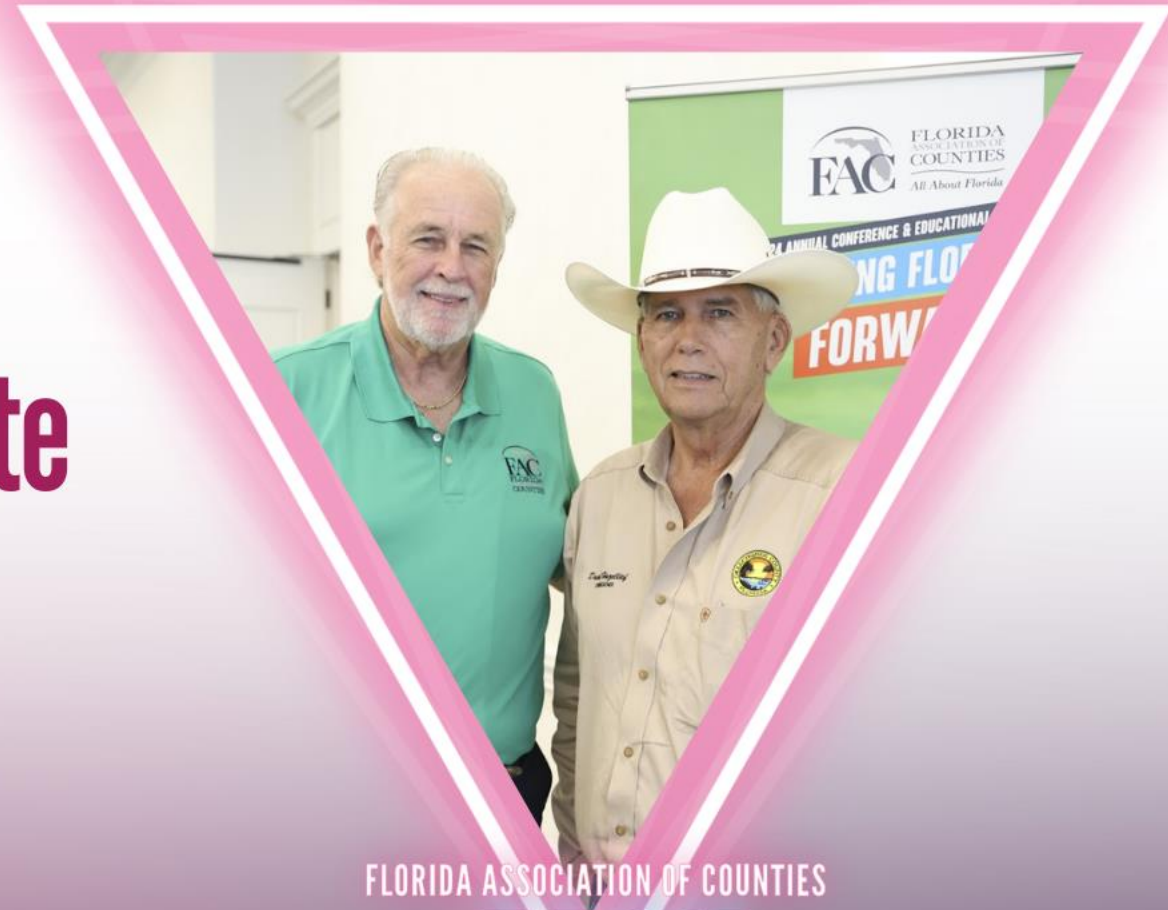
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Broadband Expansion Best Practices with Public - Private Partnerships

8:05 – 8:55 AM

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