

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: October 2, 2023

SUBJECT: Broadband Discussion

PRESENTER: Christopher Todd, Business and Community Development Director

ATTACHMENTS: Yes
1. Broadband Overview PowerPoint

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

The North Carolina Budget appropriated \$350 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for the GREAT Grant program. The current 2021-2022 funding round may award up to \$350 million in federal ARPA funding. The application window opened January 31, 2022 and applications were due April 4, 2022.

Awards can be made within eligible economically-distressed counties in areas unserved with broadband at speeds of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload. Project deployments must provide minimum speeds of 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload, scalable to 100 Mbps symmetrical. The program encourages partnerships with counties, nonprofits or other internet service providers. Grants require matching investments from private broadband provider grantees, leveraging funding to deploy infrastructure to N.C. households, businesses and farms in the most rural and remote areas of the state.

The County Commissioners may wish to schedule a special called meeting in order to review any broadband provider's GREAT Grant application in order to determine the appropriateness in supporting the provider's application.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested to schedule a special meeting to review and discuss supporting broadband provider GREAT Grant applications.

Suggested Motion:

I move to schedule a special meeting on _____ to review and discuss supporting broadband provider GREAT Grant applications.

GREAT Grant Update

Broadband Taskforce

October 2, 2023



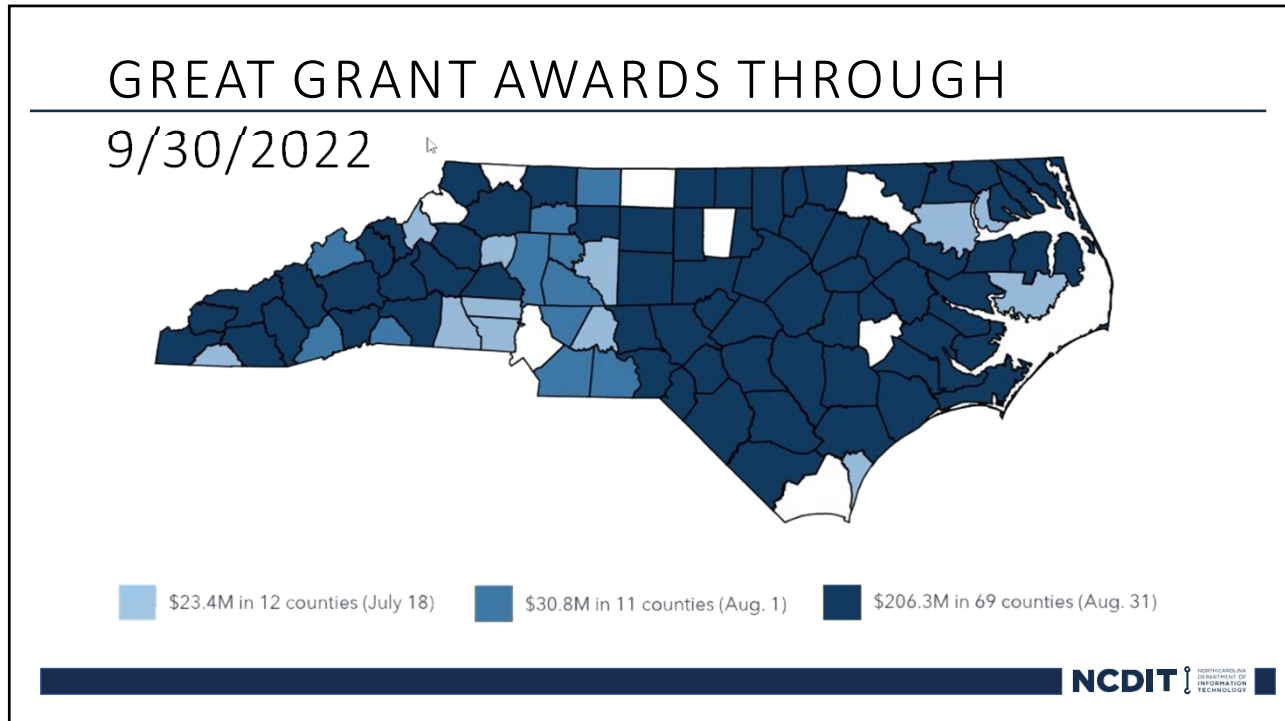
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NORTH CAROLINA MAJOR PROGRAMS

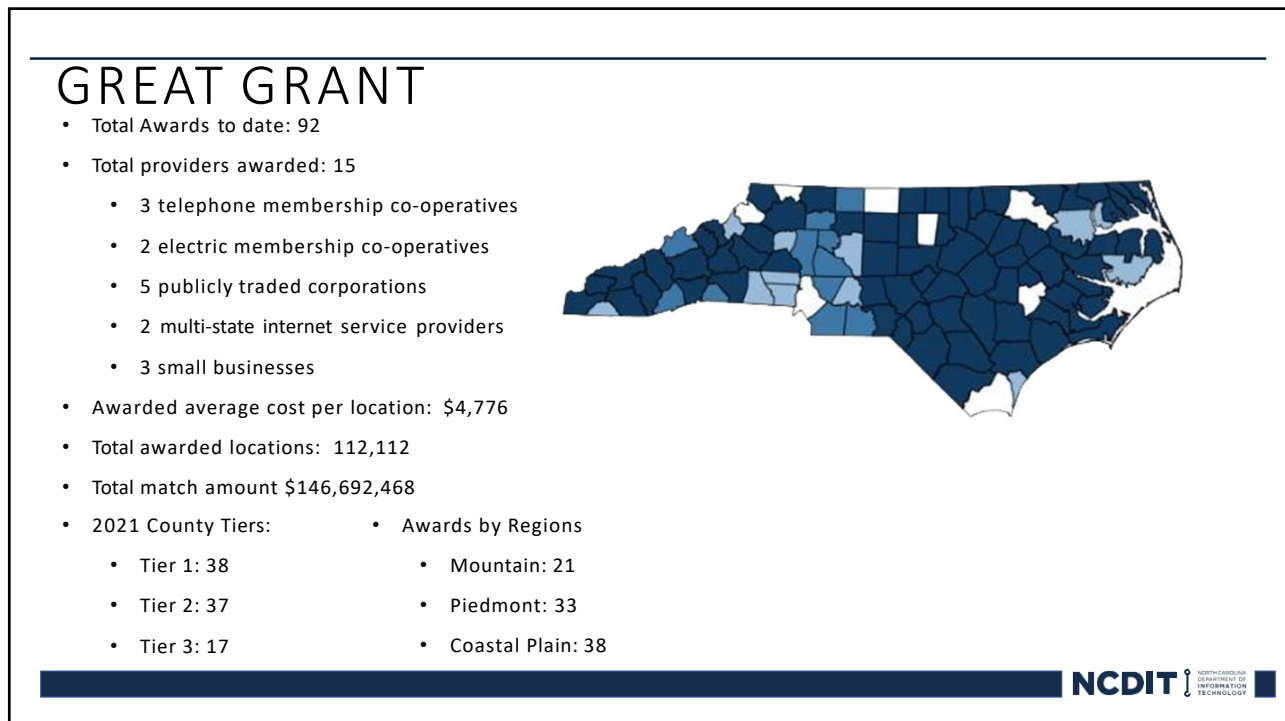
- GREAT
 - Total of 305 applications received
 - Requested \$1.77B in total project costs
 - Three rounds completed – fourth round in process
- Infrastructure Solutions
 - Completing Access to Broadband (CAB)
 - Stop Gap Solutions
 - Pole Replace
- Digital Equity & Literacy Programs
- [Future] BEAD Program participation



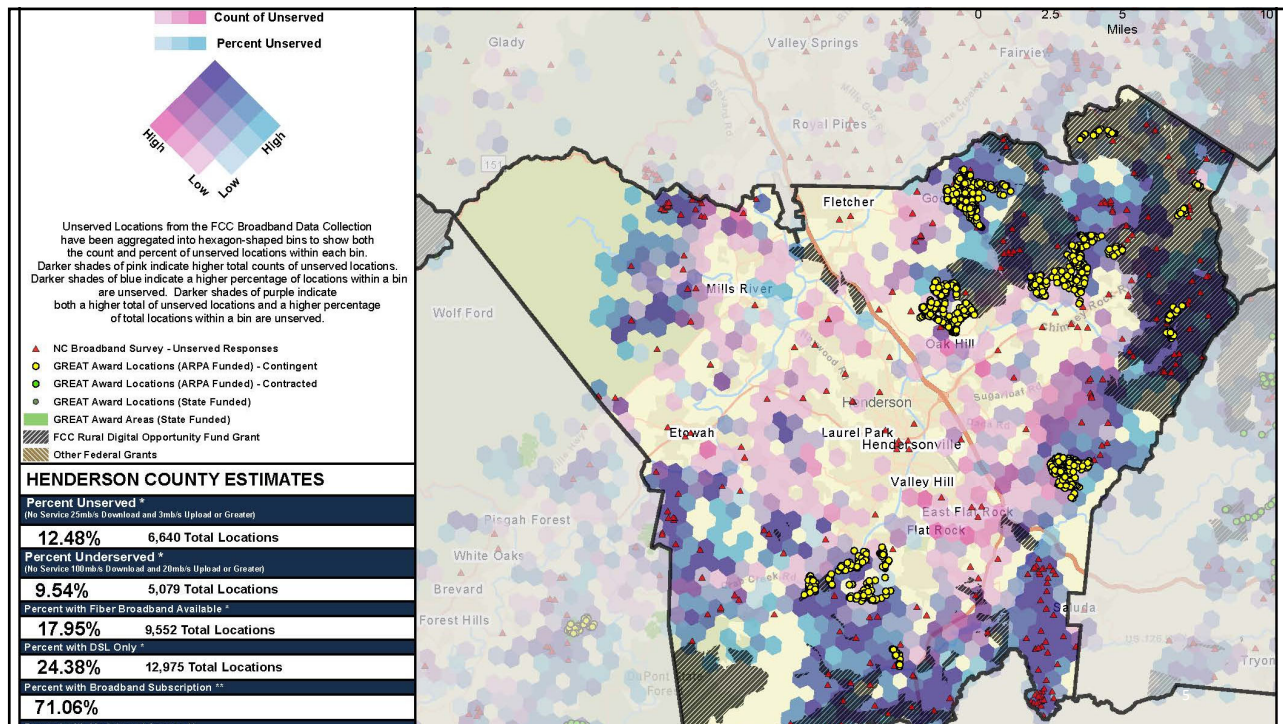
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CAB PROJECT FUNDING & ELIGIBILITY

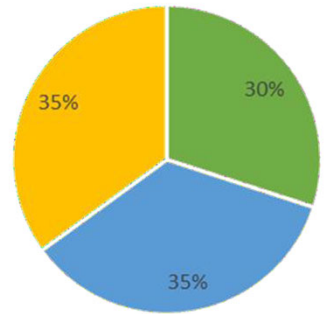
- Designed as three-way partnership between service provider, counties and the State
- Required reviews of financial, operational & technical viability
- A county is considered ineligible to participate in either the North Carolina GREAT or CAB programs:
 - If a county has entered into a contract with an ISP on or after May 1 2021, and,
 - has used federal funds for a broadband infrastructure project unsupported by a State program
- CAB represents a potential opportunity to advance locally focused projects not funded in the current round of GREAT grants

6

CAB EXAMPLE PROJECT FUNDING

Funding Sources - Example Project

- Maximum State contribution is \$4M
- Example graph is for a county which received more than \$8M in ARPA funding
- Funding Sources
 - Provider – up to 30% of the total project cost
 - County – At least 35% of the total project cost
 - NC BIO – Up to 35% of the total project cost
- Differing percentages for ARPA funding received
 - More than \$8M in ARPA funding, or
 - Less than \$8M in ARPA funding
 - \$4M to \$8M
 - \$250K to \$4M



■ PROVIDER ■ COUNTY ■ STATE

7

Questions

8