

**REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

**HENDERSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MEETING DATE:** February 21, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Broadband Task Force Update

**PRESENTER:** Christopher Todd, Business and Community Development Director

**ATTACHMENTS:** Yes  
1. Broadband Overview PowerPoint

**SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

Christopher Todd will provide the Board of Commissioners with an update on the status of the Broadband projects in Henderson County.

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

No specific Board Action is requested, this item is for informational purposes only.

**Suggested Motion:**

*No motion suggested.*

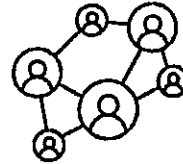
A decorative graphic consisting of two overlapping, semi-transparent blue circular arcs that form a partial circle around the central text.

# Broadband Taskforce Update

CAB Program Resources & Updates

2.21.2024

# A Quick Refresher on CAB



- CAB is one of 3 programs using federal ARPA funds to connect 'last mile' broadband infrastructure to unserved/underserved households and businesses in NC.
- CAB is a partnership between NCDIT and NC county governments.
- Prequalified service providers have been selected and may participate in CAB with Convenience Contracts.
- Unlike GREAT grants, these are a procurement process with individual scopes of work for each county, so once award is made, project is contracted right away.
- Counties may submit "high priority areas" that help form the scope of work for service providers' proposals.
- CAB is currently requiring broadband to have download speeds of 100 mbps and upload speeds of 20 mbps at minimum, scalable to 100 mbps symmetrical.
- The Stop-Gap Program will be following CAB to continue completing access to widely spread unserved areas that are harder to reach.



## NCDIT & County Collaboration Process

- Will work with counties individually.
- NCDIT has sent the *County Commitment Form* with an “up to” amount of funding we plan to have available and the source of funds.
- County-level Scope of Work document & evaluation criteria for projects will be sent soon by NCDIT for county feedback. This will be like a procurement document.
- HC needs to submit eligible locations & prioritization areas to NCDIT (Counties may submit CSV file of broadband serviceable location IDs OR map hexagons of interest OR provide narrative describing priority areas).
- Selection of County Evaluation Team members (up to 2 members). Send names to NCDIT.
- CAB will be awarded on a rolling basis, but NCDIT hopes to get County Commitment Forms in as soon as possible.

# Identifying Eligible Locations & Priority Areas



Counties participating in CAB may have a defined eligible project area identified in partnership with NCDIT. May not include Protected Areas (already funded locations). Template available from NCDIT.

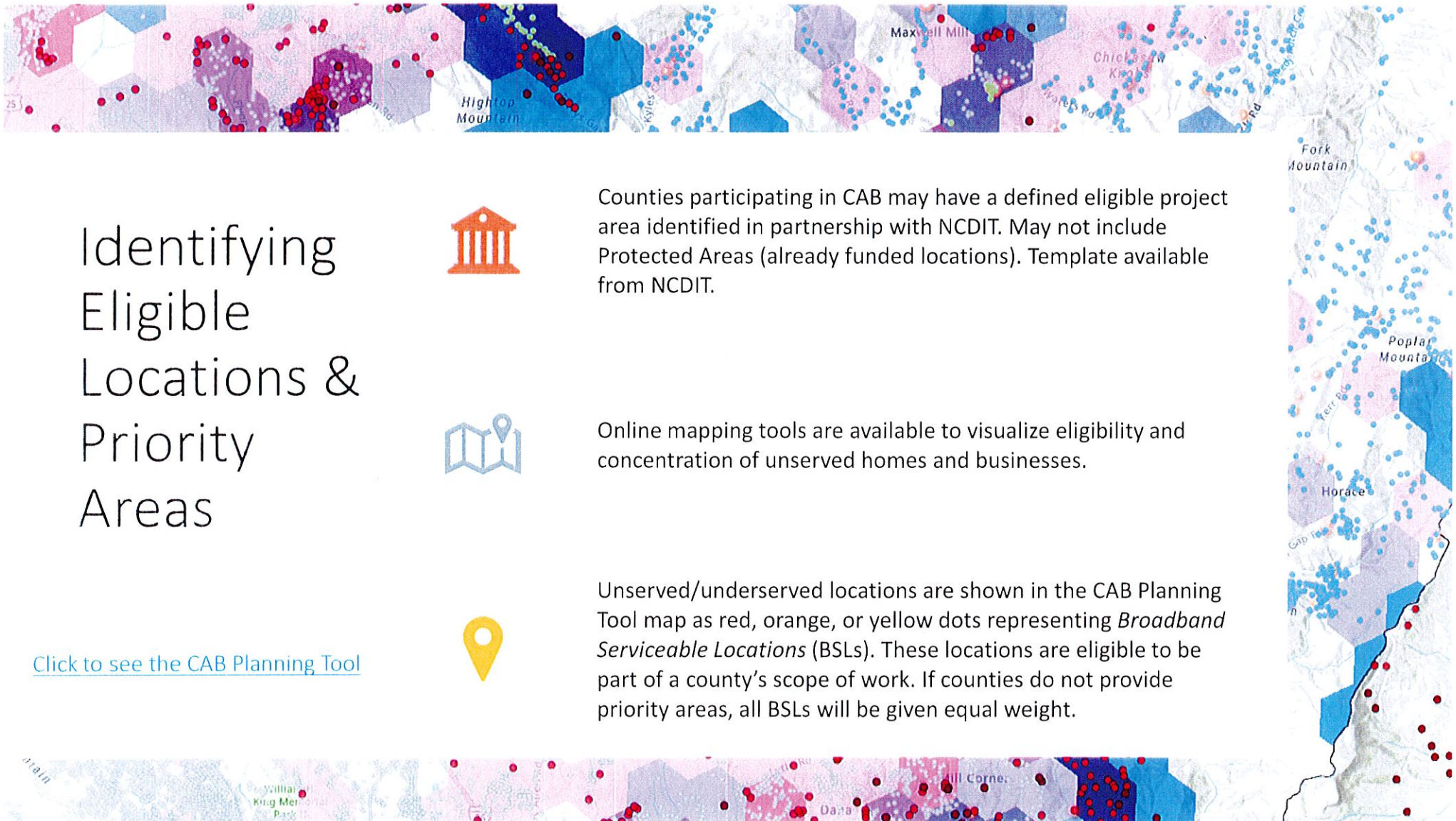


Online mapping tools are available to visualize eligibility and concentration of unserved homes and businesses.



Unserved/underserved locations are shown in the CAB Planning Tool map as red, orange, or yellow dots representing *Broadband Serviceable Locations* (BSLs). These locations are eligible to be part of a county's scope of work. If counties do not provide priority areas, all BSLs will be given equal weight.

[Click to see the CAB Planning Tool](#)





# CAB Program Timeline

## December

Funding map published.

CAB Eligible Locations map layer published.

Collaboration process & instructions emailed out to all counties.

## January

CAB Guidance updated.

Protected Areas data submission window: Jan 8 – 29.

Service providers may protest any mapping data: Jan 8 – 29.

Mapping needs to finish before bids process begins.

## February

Counties submit priority areas (wait until protest period is done).

Commitment Form for HC needs to be submitted with funding amount.

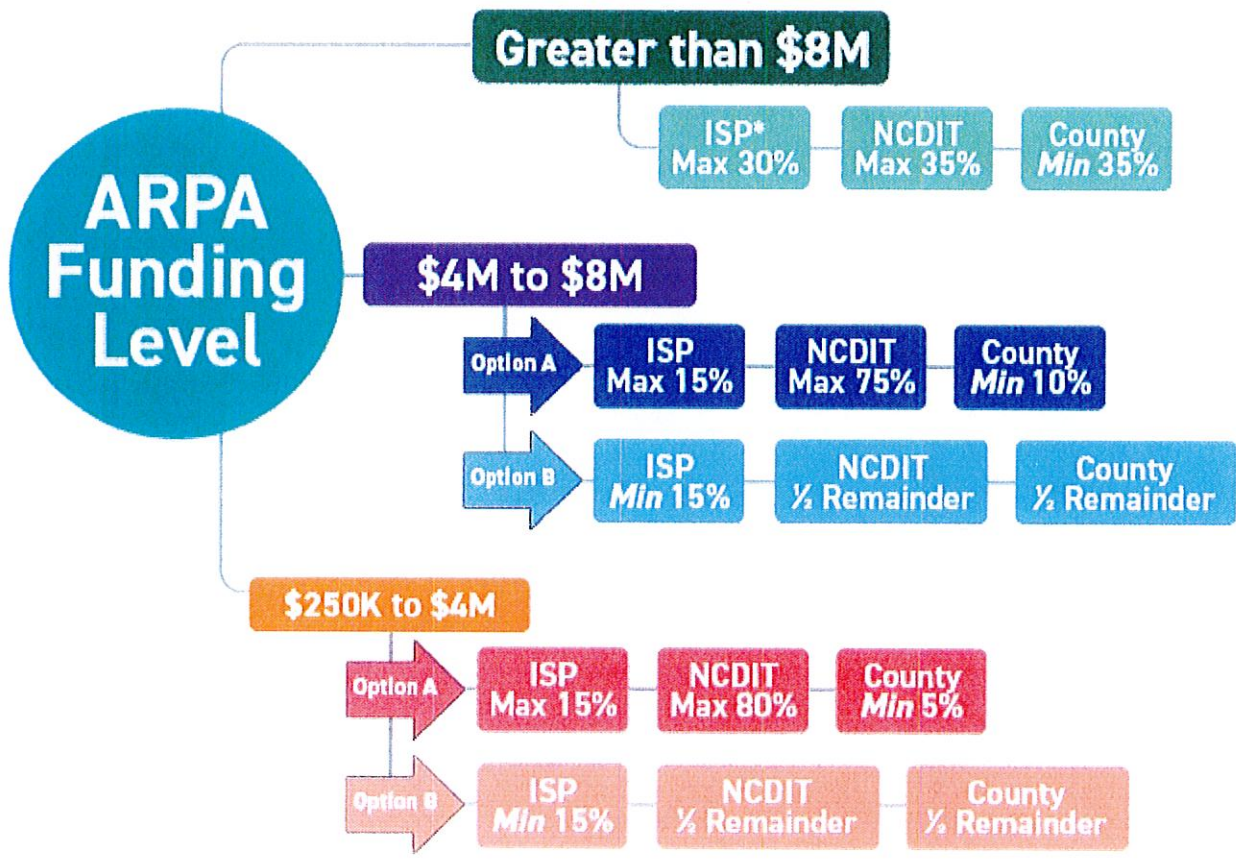
NCDIT will begin to post the first bids for counties who have completed all steps.

## Ongoing

Bids for each county will continue on a rolling basis as they become available.

Each county will have their own funding round, so data needs frequent updates so that providers understand the BSL landscape before each bid.

***NCDIT is focused on how many CAB projects they can identify, what bids they can roll out, and how many awards they can make between January and May. Award timing is based on how quickly map can be finished, and how quickly counties can get Commitment Forms and Scopes of Work completed and returned.***

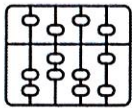


# CAB Funding Algorithm

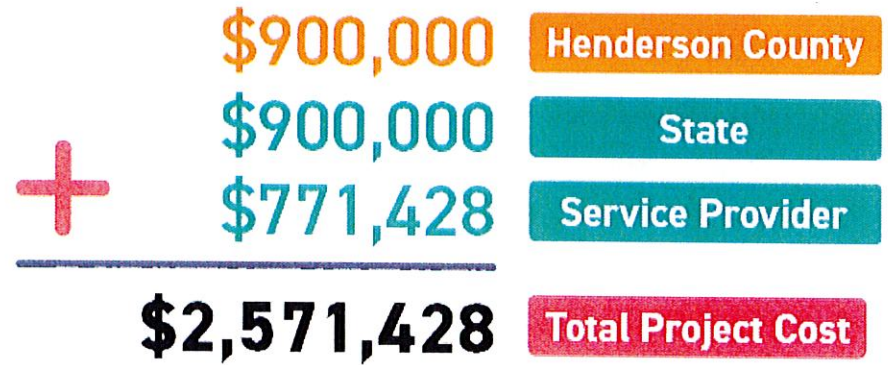
\*ISP: Internet Service Provider  
 County Contributions can be drawn from American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds or from a county's General Fund

Henderson County has \$900,000 in ARPA Funds allocated to finance broadband

# Henderson County Budget



5.5k unserved locations in HC





# Project Examples

ERC Example:

\$1,392,185.62	County Match 35%
\$1,392,185.62	State Match 35%
+ \$1,193,301.96	Provider Match 30%
<hr/>	
<b>\$3,977,673.20</b>	<b>Total Project Cost</b>

Funds  
able to  
serve 766  
locations

Saluda Mountain Telephone Company Example:

\$1,829,212.70	County Match 35%
\$1,829,212.70	State Match 35%
+ \$1,567,896.60	Provider Match 30%
<hr/>	
<b>\$5,226,322.00</b>	<b>Total Project Cost</b>

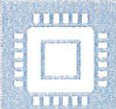
Funds  
able to  
serve 1,176  
locations

# Broadband Taskforce

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Broadband Taskforce voted to recommend myself and another staff at the County Managers choosing to be on the committee with the state employees to develop the CAB RFP's



The Broadband Taskforce is currently reviewing the information to recommend if the CAB should be geographically focused or the county as a whole



The next Broadband Taskforce meeting is March 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 located in the Board of Commissioners meeting room