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.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>December</th>
<th>January</th>
<th>February</th>
<th>Ongoing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funding map published.</td>
<td>CAB Guidance updated.</td>
<td>Counties submit priority areas (wait until protest period is done).</td>
<td>Bids for each county will continue on a rolling basis as they become available.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAB Eligible Locations map layer published.</td>
<td>Protected Areas data submission window: Jan 8 – 29.</td>
<td>Commitment Form for HC needs to be submitted with funding amount.</td>
<td>Each county will have their own funding round, so data needs frequent updates so that providers understand the BSL landscape before each bid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaboration process &amp; instructions emailed out to all counties.</td>
<td>Service providers may protest any mapping data: Jan 8 – 29.</td>
<td>NCDIT will begin to post the first bids for counties who have completed all steps.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mapping needs to finish before bids process begins.</td>
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</tbody>
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**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.**
ARPA Funding Level

Greater than $8M
- ISP Max 30%
- NCDIT Max 35%
- County Min 35%

$4M to $8M
- Option A
  - ISP Max 15%
  - NCDIT Max 75%
  - County Min 10%
- Option B
  - ISP Min 15%
  - NCDIT % Remainder
  - County % Remainder

$250K to $4M
- Option A
  - ISP Max 15%
  - NCDIT Max 80%
  - County Min 5%
- Option B
  - ISP Min 15%
  - NCDIT % Remainder
  - County % Remainder

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
$900,000
State
$900,000
Service Provider
$771,428

Total Project Cost
$2,571,428

5.5k unserved locations in HC
Project Examples

ERC Example:

\[ \text{County Match 35%} \]
\[ \text{State Match 35%} \]
\[ \text{Provider Match 30%} \]
\[ \text{Total Project Cost} \]
\[ \$1,392,185.62 \]
\[ \$1,392,185.62 \]
\[ \$1,193,301.96 \]
\[ \$3,977,673.20 \]

Funds able to serve 766 locations

Saluda Mountain Telephone Company Example:

\[ \text{County Match 35%} \]
\[ \text{State Match 35%} \]
\[ \text{Provider Match 30%} \]
\[ \text{Total Project Cost} \]
\[ \$1,829,212.70 \]
\[ \$1,829,212.70 \]
\[ \$1,567,896.60 \]
\[ \$5,226,322.00 \]

Funds able to serve 1,176 locations
Broadband Taskforce

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 6th at 6:00 located in the Board of Commissioners meeting room