REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: April 1, 2024

SUBJECT: Henderson County Broadband Access – Funding Options

PRESENTER: Amy Brantley, Assistant County Manager
Chris Todd, Business and Community Development Director

ATTACHMENTS: Yes
1. PowerPoint Presentation

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

At the March 20, 2024 meeting, the Board heard an update from the Broadband Taskforce on the program guidance for the North Carolina Department of Information Technology (NCDIT) broadband funding programs, including the GREAT grant (Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology), RDOF (the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund), and CAB (Completing Access to Broadband). The CAB program is currently seeking funding commitment forms and county priority areas for broadband access. These items will be included in a Scope of Work from counties across the state, and internet service providers will bid for each contract.

Staff have identified areas without broadband access and have mapped those locations alongside Census data, emergency response data, cell service data, and other broadband funded locations to help select potential priority areas. Staff have also estimated how many addresses could be served by different levels of committed funds under CAB’s program rules.

The Board is requested to discuss the total funding allocation to be provided by Henderson County and direct Staff accordingly.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested to discuss the funding allocation to be obligated to broadband for the CAB (Completing Access to Broadband) program, and direct Staff accordingly.

Suggested Motion(s):

No motion suggested.
Henderson County & Broadband Access
Priority Areas & Funding for the Completing Access to Broadband Program

Completing Access to Broadband (CAB)

Program Overview

- CAB is a partnership between NCDIT and NC county governments using ARPA funds to connect households and businesses to broadband.
- Procurement process with individual Scopes of Work for each county that may include “high priority areas.” Once award is made, the project is contracted right away to a pre-qualified service provider.
- A County Commitment Form with an “up to” amount of funding we plan to commit is required by the program.
- The Stop-Gap Program and BEAD will be following CAB to continue completing access to widely spread unserved areas that are harder to reach.
Focus Area 2: NW of County

Census Data

Population Under 18 By Block Group

- 407 - 725
- 389 - 647
- 366 - 389
- 233 - 306
- 133 - 230
- 63 - 138
- 0 - 63

Focus Area 2: NW of County

Emergency Response

Emergency Response & CAB

Cell Service Coverage

- High Concentration of CAB Locations
- Low Concentration of CAB Locations
**Project Examples**

**ERC Example:**

- **Funds reached:** 766 units
- **Rate of $5,193 per location served**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Project Cost</th>
<th>County Match 35%</th>
<th>State Match 35%</th>
<th>Provider Match 30%</th>
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**Saluda Mountain Telephone Company Example:**

- **Funds reached:** 1,176 units
- **Rate of $4,445 per location served**

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<th>County Match 35%</th>
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*ISP: Internet Service Provider*

County Contributions can be drawn from American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds or from a county’s General Fund
Henderson County currently has $900,000 in ARPA Funds earmarked to finance broadband.

Funding Levels & Locations Reached

At a rate of $4,500 per address*, the total cost to provide broadband to all of Henderson County's unserved locations would be an estimated $24.7 Million with an $8.6 Million match.

Here are estimates for how many locations we could reach at different funding levels:

*Cost per address estimated based on other projects already completed in the County, see previous slide.
## AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN
### Funding Plan - Approved Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project #</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>ARPA Eligibility</th>
<th>State Eligibility</th>
<th>ARPA-Derived Projects</th>
<th>ARPA Eligible</th>
<th>Actual Expenditure As of March 28, 2024</th>
<th>Remaining Encumbrance As of March 28, 2024</th>
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**Note:** Accrued interest to date = $1,355,751.76

https://www.hhs.gov/ash/assistance-center/index.html

### Remaining Balance
- **Total:** $10,000,000
- **Funding Total:** $12,000,000
- **Remaining Encumbrance:** $2,000,000
- **Amount Remaining:** $4,000,000
- **Remaining Balance:** $14,799,999