



**INTERNET
FOR ALL**

Internet for All Program Highlights Webinar: Stories from NTIA's Broadband Infrastructure Program

January 17, 2024



Housekeeping

Questions

- Type questions in the Q&A box on the right-hand side of the screen.

Presentation

- The presentation along with a transcript and recording will be available on the BroadbandUSA website under Events/Past Events
- [Past Events](#)



Presenters

Moderator:

- Julia Pulidindi, Broadband Program Specialist, NTIA

Presenters:

- Geoff Jordan, Director, Broadband Infrastructure Program, NTIA
- Kendra Jo Grindle, Senior Manager for Community & Regional Partnerships, Maine Connectivity Authority
- BJ Tanksley, Director, Office of Broadband Development, Missouri Department of Economic Development
- Kyle Brown, Deputy Director, Broadband Expansion and Accessibility of Mississippi



Agenda

- 1. Broadband Infrastructure Program Overview and Update**
- 2. ConnectMaine Authority 2021 Mountains to Sea Award**
- 3. 2021 Missouri's NTIA Covered Partnership**
- 4. State of Mississippi's Application for NTIA Grant Funding**
- 5. Q&A**



Broadband Infrastructure Program Update and Overview

BIP Program

The Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP) is a \$288 million broadband deployment program directed to partnerships between a state, or one or more political subdivisions of a state, and providers of fixed broadband service to support broadband infrastructure deployment (fiber and fixed wireless networks with speeds of 25/3 mbps) to areas lacking broadband, especially rural areas.

BIP Received 240 applications totaling of \$2.8B. \$282M in grants were awarded in March 2022 to 13 States and 1 Territory

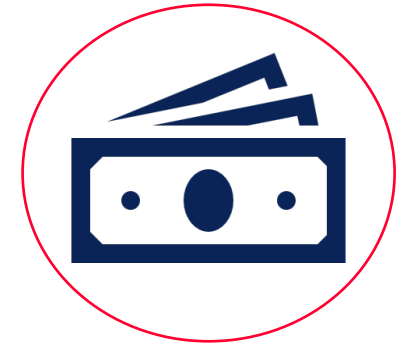
Applications were prioritized based on:



Greatest number of unserved households



Service areas in populations <50K



Cost effectiveness in most rural areas

BIP Grant Recipients & Projects

14 Grant Recipients

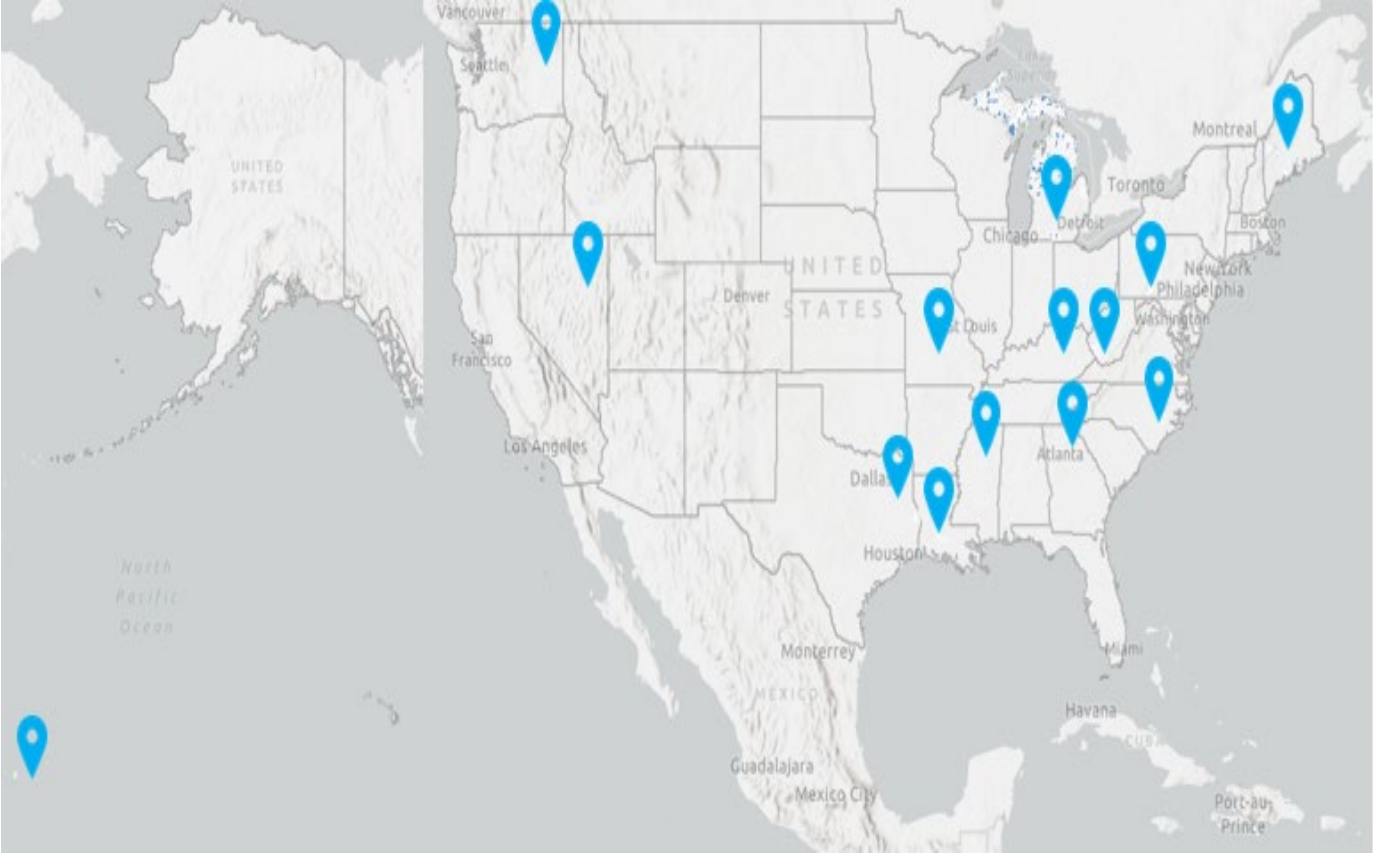
64 Projects

42 Projects Under Construction

32.9 K Households Passed

700 Households Served

1,179 Route Miles of Fiber Laid



As of Oct. 31, 2023 Semi-Annual Reports

ConnectMaine Authority 2021
Mountains to Sea Award



**MAINE
CONNECTIVITY
AUTHORITY**

ConnectMaine Authority 2021 Mountains to Sea Award

Managed by: Maine Connectivity Authority

Kendra Jo Grindle, Senior Manager, Communities & Regional Partnerships

All-In to Connect Everyone. We CAN get there from here!

NTIA BIP Overview



Presentation Focus

- Maine Connectivity Authority
- Funding Integration
- Project Status
- Community Spotlight
 - Blue Hill Peninsula
 - Isle au Haut
 - Washington

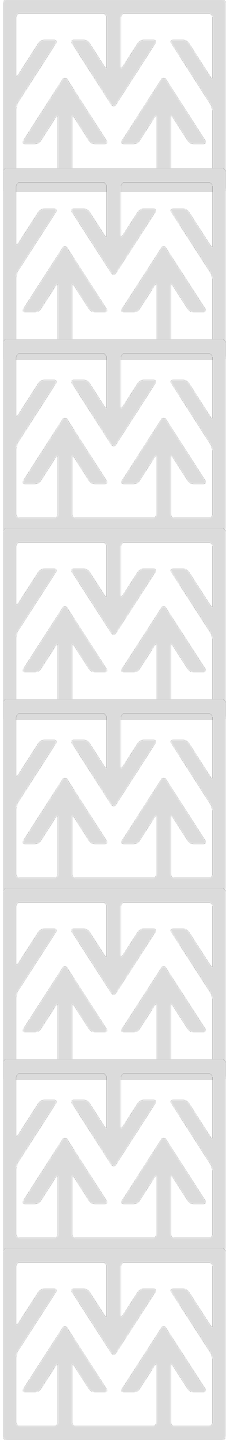
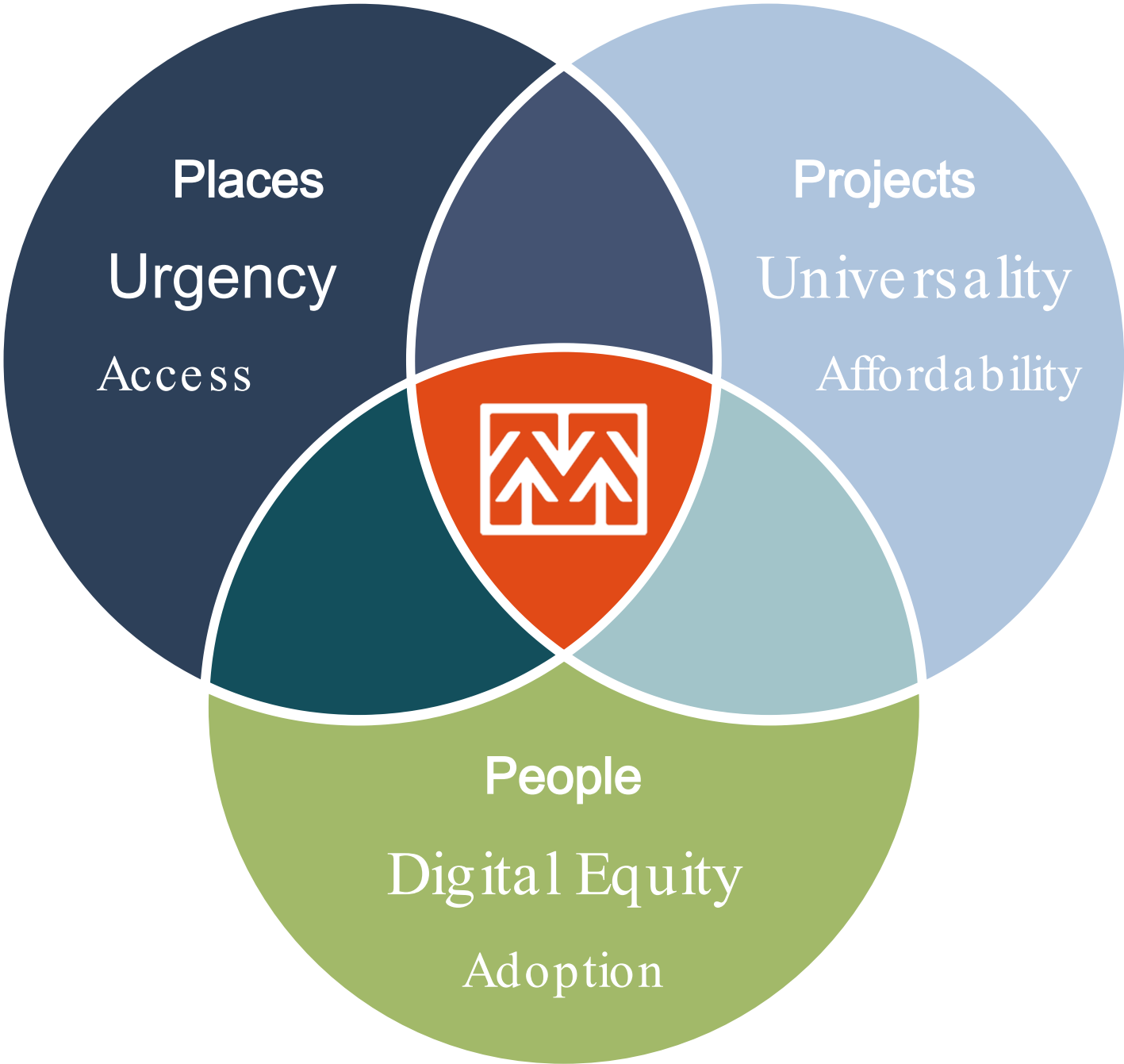


About MCA

- MCA was founded in 2021 as a quasi-governmental entity to be the primary broadband agency for the state of Maine.
- MCA has three goals:
 - That effective, accessible connectivity be universally available in the state.
 - That Maine has secure, affordable, reliable, competitive, sustainable and forward-looking infrastructure that can meet future needs.
 - That all residents, businesses and institutions in Maine be able to take full advantage of the economic, health, educational and other opportunities available through connectivity services.
- MCA is designed to be nimble to meet the opportunity presented by this generational investment from the federal government and as we plan and deploy the digital infrastructure of Maine's future.

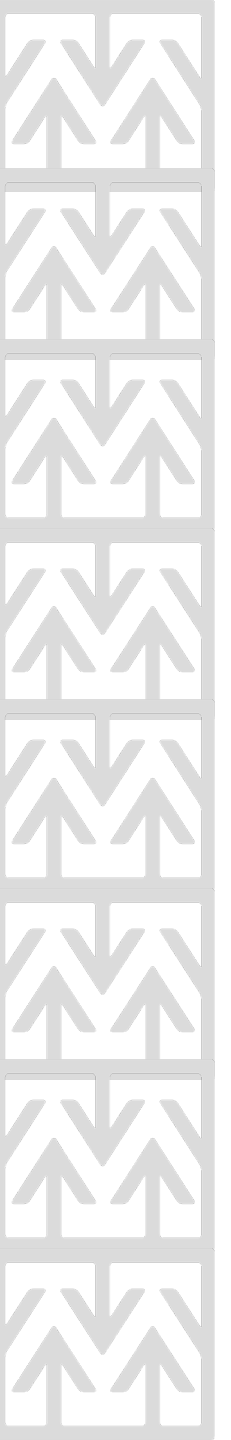


**MCA's
Competing
Priorities**



MCA's Historical Context

- MCA is standing on the shoulders of those who have been doing the work at ConnectMaine, Maine Broadband Coalition, and at the local and regional level.
- MCA has some abilities that did not exist previously with ConnectMaine, such as owning and financing infrastructure and utilizing more robust data collection for proactive decision making to solve connectivity challenges. ConnectMaine was focused on planning and minimal grantmaking.
- In July 2022, an agreement was developed to assign duties, responsibilities and funding from CME to MCA to ensure a “single door” for broadband planning, development, funding, and sustainability.
- ConnectMaine statute and functions remain critical and are being executed by MCA to streamline operations and increase efficiency.



Critical Funding Integration



Program	Connections	Funding	Leveraged Investment	Scale	Award Dates
Connect the Ready: Cohort 2 <i>Public Private Partnerships</i>	6,500	\$21M	\$11M	5 Projects	December 2023
Partnerships Enabling Middle Mile <i>Leverage Middle Mile for Last Mile</i>	18,000	\$16M	\$14M	3 Projects	December 2023
Reach Me <i>Line Extension Incentives</i>	6,300	\$20M	\$13M	10 Projects	April 2023
Connect the Ready <i>Public Private Partnerships</i>	18,300	\$40M	\$20M	14 Projects	January 2023
Jumpstart Connectivity <i>Wireless Trial Projects</i>	1,470	\$1M	\$1M	3 Projects	December 2022
NTIA BIP Mountains to Sea <i>Public Private Partnerships</i>	14,400	\$28M	\$5M	7 Projects	2022
CME Bond + CPF Infrastructure <i>Public Private Partnerships</i>	12,900	\$21M	\$20M	22 Projects	2021 & 2022
Total	77,870	\$147M	\$84M	64 Projects	

Mountains to Sea Project Status



Communities / Region	Provider	# of Connections	Funding	Leveraged Investment	Status
Blue Hill Peninsula	Consolidated Communications	4,534	\$9.83M	\$1.5M	Closing
Rangley Lakes Region		3,869	\$3.65M	\$1.6M	Closing
Farmington Area		4,445	\$4.88M	\$1.4M	Closing
Jefferson	LCI	625	\$3.15M	\$354K	V&V
Isle au Haut	Axiom	205	\$1.1M	\$123K	Build in Progress
Somerville		334	\$1.44M	\$160K	Make-ready
Washington		826	\$2.69M	\$298K	Make-ready
Total		14,400	\$28M	\$5M	

Program Learnings

- Short-term project successes and deployment have spurred critical private-public partnerships and sustained engagement
- Community partnerships are **KEY**
- Field validation standardization and grant closure process development
- Barrier reduction strategies are critical to statewide connectivity
- Mountains to Sea communities leading the charge on digital equity implementation!



Blue Hill Peninsula & CCI

- All connections made and project is entering closure
- Innovative learnings on end-user deployment as workforce and number connections scale up rapidly

As Shelley Borrer, current head of Blue Hill's regional academy shared,

"Simply put, schools cannot function without reliable, fast internet. All communications between families and students are electronic. Students receive schedules and grades that way. They read online. Many textbooks are no longer published in hard copy. Papers are submitted and graded online. This is today's school, and our improved internet is indeed real cause for celebration."



Isle au Haut & Axiom

- All on-island plant is complete!
- 94% take-rate (pre-subscriptions)
- Innovative shift from tower to subsea cable backhaul for multi-generational sustainability
- Conquering challenges: seasonality, barging infrastructure & resources, adapting to climate resilient infrastructure



“Without this funding and strong partnership with the state, we’d still be planning and dreaming of the day we could connect to the rest of the world”

Town of Washington &

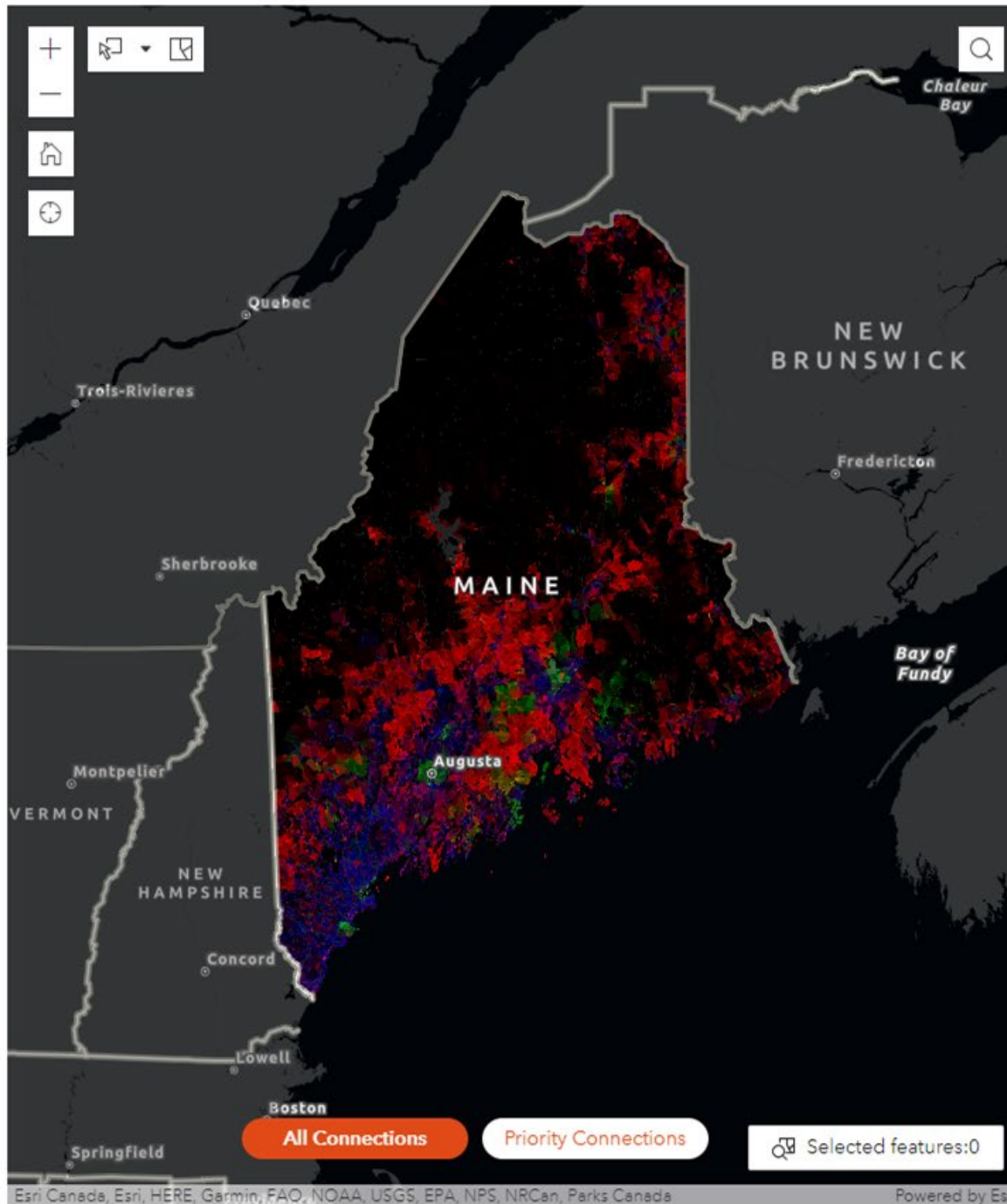
Axiom

- Innovative approach to community engaged adoption and end-user preparedness activities
 - Increased pre-subscription take-rate from 3% to ~40% take-rate
- Demonstrates the ongoing barriers of make-ready and pole infrastructure readiness across Maine
- Ongoing collaboration with “sister-community” Somerville for efficiency and digital equity

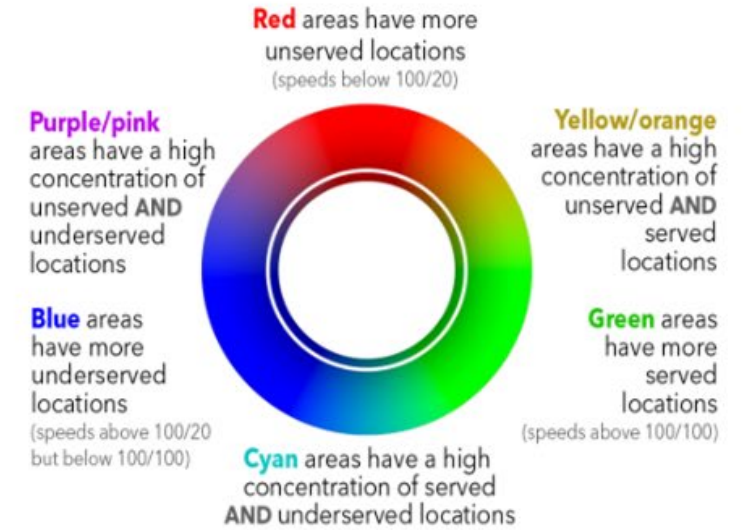


For Washington, this is absolutely a once in a lifetime opportunity and a classic case of government working.”

Where Is the Problem?



This map shows the concentrations of locations by service availability



Color intensity represents the concentration of the service types. Areas in gray and black have fewer locations.

Connectivity Comparison

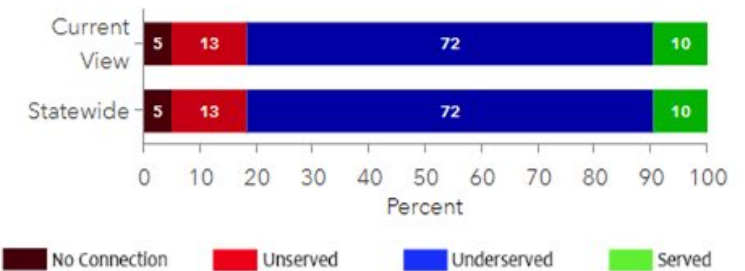


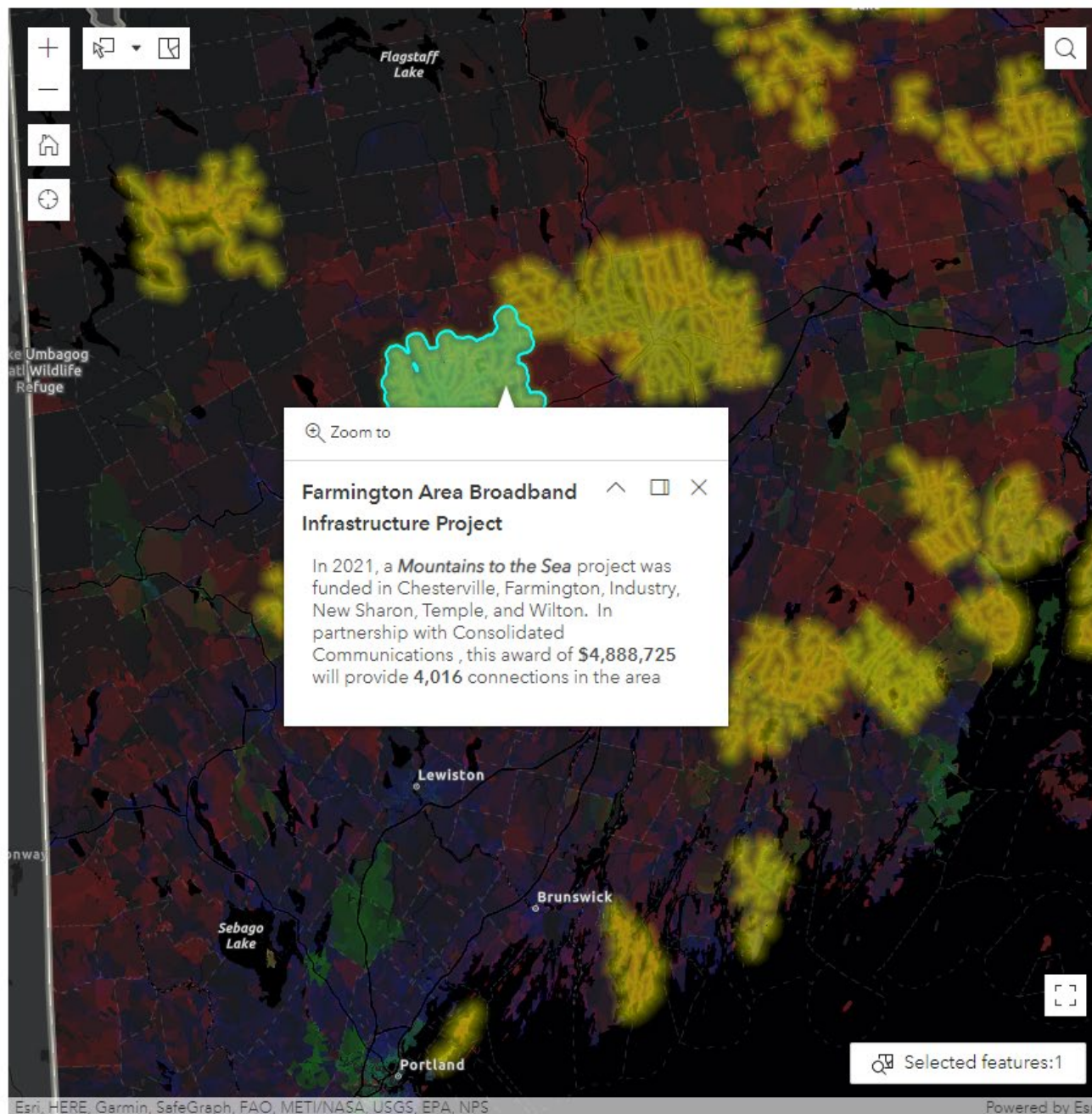
Chart compares connectivity rates of the current map view to statewide connectivity rates.

Sharing Progress To Date

Broadband Service

Funding Awards

Internet Service Providers



This map shows the location of ConnectMaine and MCA funding awards in 2021 and 2022.

Current Map View Metrics:

1

Projects Awarded

\$4,888,725
in Funding Awarded

4,016
Potential Subscribers Awaiting
Connections

Farmington Area Broadband Infrastructure Project

In 2021, a *Mountains to the Sea* project was funded in Chesterville, Farmington, Industry, New Sharon, Temple, and Wilton. In partnership with Consolidated Communications, this award of **\$4,888,725** will provide **4,016** connections in the area



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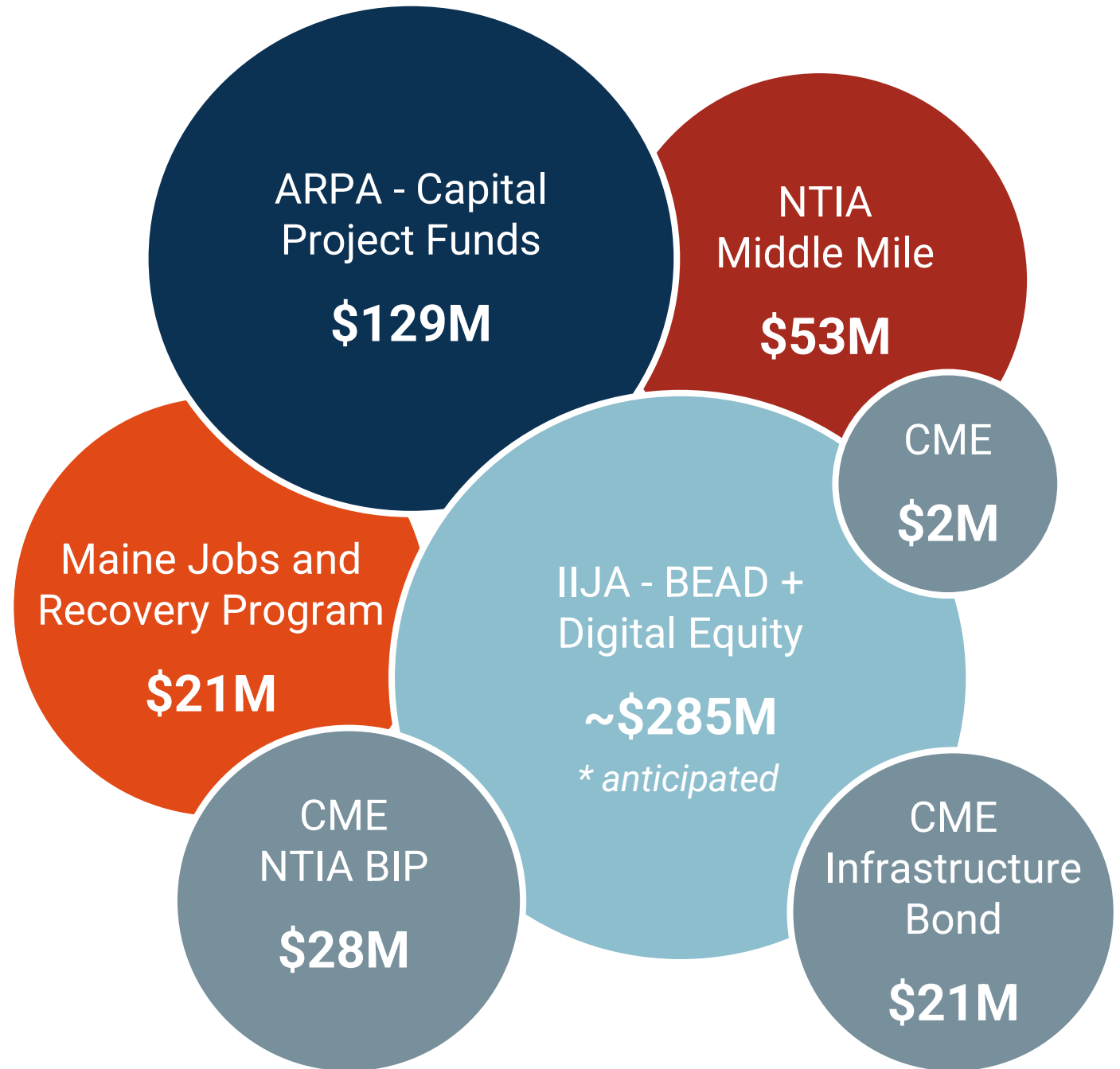
BULLPEN SLIDES

More information to support understanding & informing

We CAN get there from here!

Sources of Funding

- \$200M currently under management
- Additional \$338M through BIL
- 94% of received funds will be deployed for program expenses
- **Key to success: Braid Funds + Maximize Impact**



2021 Missouri's NTIA Covered Partnership

Missouri NTIA BIP



Missouri Department of
Economic Development

Overview

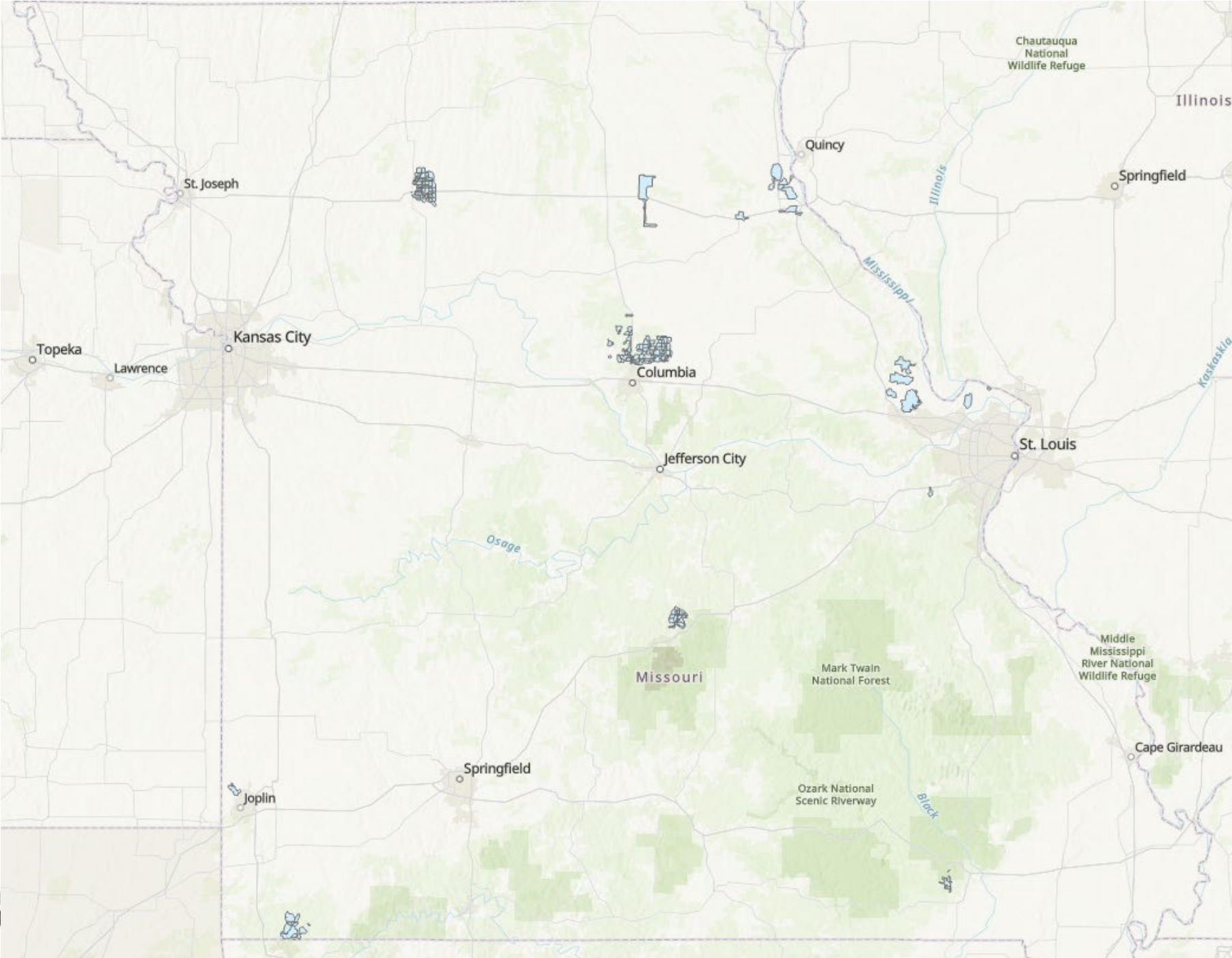
- Missouri awarded \$42.2 million
- Projects – 16 around the state
- Subrecipients – 8
 - Boycom Cablevision
 - Chariton Valley Communication Corporation
 - Columbus Telephone
 - Gascoage Electric Cooperative
 - Gateway Fiber
 - Green Hills Communications
 - Le- Ru Telephone
 - Socket Telecom



Community Impact

- Connections – 13,000+ new connections to unserved and underserved locations.





Missouri De
Economic I

Progress

- Projects w/ construction 100% complete – 10
- Projects w/ construction 50%+ complete – 14
- Reimbursements processed – 104
- 7 projects ready for grant closeout!!!



**State of Mississippi's
Application for NTIA Grant
Funding**



BEAM

BROADBAND EXPANSION AND
ACCESSIBILITY OF MISSISSIPPI

Broadband Infrastructure Program

\$32 Million

BIP Projects

- 12 projects in 10 counties
- Will all be complete by September 2024





BEAM

BROADBAND EXPANSION AND
ACCESSIBILITY OF MISSISSIPPI

Q & A