



NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY

**Division of Broadband and Digital Equity**

# BROADBAND UPDATE

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CAROLINAS PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS TASK  
FORCE

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NCDIT DIVISION OF BROADBAND AND DIGITAL EQUITY

**Approximately 1.1 million North Carolina households lack access to high-speed internet in their homes<sup>2</sup> and cannot afford it. Many residents also lack the skills to effectively use it. We can achieve digital equity in North Carolina by addressing the following factors:**



### **INFRASTRUCTURE**

At least 266,000 North Carolina households, likely much higher, currently do not have access to high-speed internet of 100/10+ due to lack of infrastructure.<sup>3</sup>



### **AFFORDABILITY**

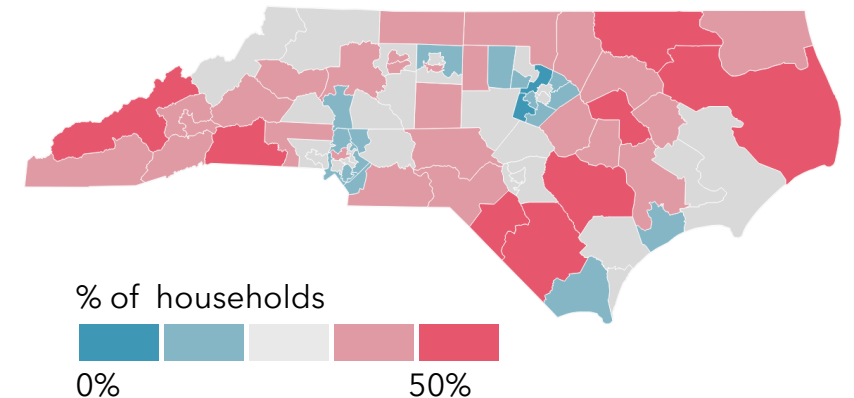
Approximately 1.3 million households would have to pay more than 2% of their annual income to afford a broadband cost of \$60/month.<sup>4</sup>



### **DIGITAL LITERACY AND ENABLEMENT**

An estimated 430,000 households are without a home laptop or desktop computer. Of those, approximately 180,000 do not have a smartphone.<sup>5</sup> As many as 1.2 million adults may lack the digital literacy required to begin taking advantage of digital services.<sup>6</sup>

Percent of Households Without a High-Speed Internet Subscription (2019)<sup>7</sup>



1. Data on this slide is based on a 2021 study by McKinsey & Company. | 2. U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) Microdata | 3. FCC Form 477, FCC 2019 block demographic estimates | 4. U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) Microdata | 5. U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) Microdata; 2021 Census Pulse Survey | 6. National Center for Education Statistics | 7. U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey (ASC) Microdata, for respondents who don't have an internet subscription or that only have cellular data or only have dial-up, satellite or other.

# Key Success Metrics



Households with broadband internet access



Households with broadband internet subscriptions



Households with children with broadband internet subscriptions



Adoption rates across racial subgroups

- Native American
- Black
- Latinx
- White

**N.C. Today**

**N.C. 2025**

**"95.5%"**

**98%**

**73%**

**80%**

**81%**

**100%**

**57%**

**80%**

**64%**

**80%**

**68%**

**80%**

**76%**

**80%**

**Governor Cooper's plan invests about \$1 billion of American Rescue Plan funds (and \$30 million of state funds) in the following areas to achieve digital equity in North Carolina.** We will also leverage significant private sector investment.



## INFRASTRUCTURE

\$971M

Ensure availability of internet service at speeds of at least 100/20 Mbps for more than 98% of North Carolina households.

\$380M

- GREAT Grant

\$400M

- Completing Access to Broadband (CAB)

\$90M

- Stop Gap Solutions

\$100M

- Broadband Make Ready Accelerator (Pole Replacement Fund)

\$1M

- Broadband Mapping



## AWARENESS AND DIGITAL LITERACY

\$50M

Improve awareness and enable North Carolinians to realize the benefits of high-speed internet through digital literacy and upskilling aimed at accessing the digital economy.



## ADMINISTRATIVE

\$15M

Supplement existing state administrative capacity to support high-speed internet efforts.

## Additional federal funding

### Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA)

Program	Funding
<b>FCC Affordable Connectivity Program</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transitioned from Emergency Broadband Benefit Program on Dec. 31</li><li>• Reduces subsidy from \$50 to \$30 per month for qualifying households</li><li>• Up to \$75 subsidy for households on Tribal lands</li><li>• One-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, tablet or desktop computer (with a co-payment of more than \$10 but less than \$50)</li></ul>	\$14.2 billion
<b>Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• High-cost areas (\$4.245B), Formula grants (\$37.356B)</li><li>• Initial minimum allocation of \$100M per state or territory</li><li>• Must include affordability component; prohibits exclusion of municipal networks</li></ul>	\$42.45 billion
<b>Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program</b>	\$1 billion
<b>Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program</b>	\$2 billion
<b>State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program</b>	\$60 million
<b>State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program</b>	\$1.44 billion
<b>Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program</b>	\$1.25 billion