

## REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

### HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**MEETING DATE:** March 16, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Broadband Discussion

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

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

#### **SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

The North Carolina Budget has appropriated \$350 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for the GREAT Grant program. The current 2021-2022 funding round may award up to \$350 million in federal ARPA funding. The application window opened January 31st, and applications are due April 4th.

Awards can be made within eligible economically-distressed counties in areas unserved with broadband at speeds of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload. Project deployments must provide minimum speeds of 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload, scalable to 100 Mbps symmetrical. The program encourages partnerships with counties, nonprofits or other internet service providers. Grants require matching investments from private broadband provider grantees, leveraging funding to deploy infrastructure to N.C. households, businesses and farms in the most rural and remote areas of the state.

The County Commissioners may wish to schedule a special called meeting in order to review any broadband provider's GREAT Grant application in order to determine the appropriateness in supporting the provider's application.

#### **BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

The Board is requested to schedule a special meeting to review and discuss supporting broadband provider GREAT Grant applications.

#### **Suggested Motion:**

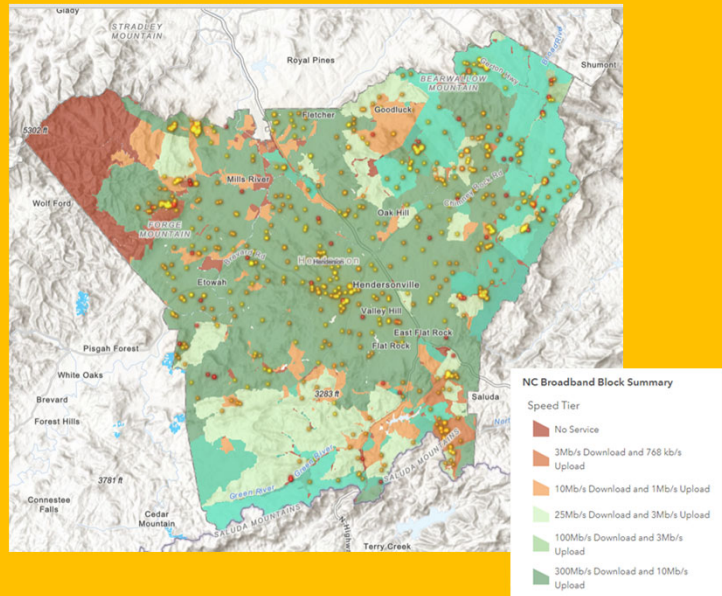
*I move to schedule a special meeting on \_\_\_\_\_ to review and discuss supporting broadband provider GREAT Grant applications.*

# Henderson County- Broadband funding updates

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## Henderson County

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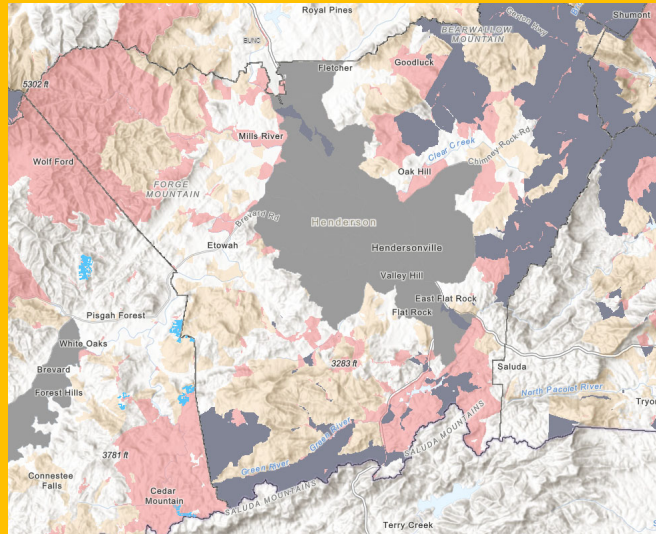
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# GREAT Eligibility

Grey areas ineligible

Red areas high priority

Tan areas- potentially eligible by address



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• Infrastructure

- GREAT Grant- \$350M
- Completing Access to Broadband (CAB)- \$400M
- Stop Gap Solutions- \$90M
- Make Ready Accelerator (Pole Replacement)- \$100M

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## GREAT GRANT- Federal

- [N.C. Session Law 2021-180](#) appropriates \$350 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for the GREAT Grant program. The current 2021-2022 funding round may award up to \$350 million in federal ARPA funding. The application window opens Jan. 31, and applications are due April 4.
- Awards can be made within eligible economically-distressed counties in areas unserved with broadband at speeds of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload. Project deployments must provide minimum speeds of 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload, scalable to 100 Mbps symmetrical. The program encourages partnerships with counties, nonprofits or other internet service providers. Grants require matching investments from private broadband provider grantees, leveraging funding to deploy infrastructure to N.C. households, businesses and farms in the most rural and remote areas of the state.
- A single grant award shall not exceed \$4 million. No combination of grant awards involving any single county may exceed \$8 million in a fiscal year. The maximum matching requirement is 50 percent.

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## Questions?

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