

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: September 3, 2024

SUBJECT: Broadband Taskforce Grant Funding

PRESENTER: Christopher Todd, Assistant County Manager
Lee Stevens, Planner III

ATTACHMENTS: 1. PowerPoint Presentation

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

On June 3, 2024, the BOC voted to approve \$2,500,000 in ARPA funds for the County's match to the Continuing Access to Broadband (CAB) program giving a total project budget of \$7,142,857 to expand access to the internet for Henderson County.

Due to the lower participation rate in the CAB Program, the North Carolina Department of Information Technology (NCDIT) has introduced Stop-Gap funds to help counties leverage additional state funding for their broadband access programs. Stop-Gap funding of \$500,000 can be leveraged to increase the County's total program budget by \$1,428,571 while maintaining the original, Board of Commissioner-approved local match of \$2,500,000.

Staff will present information on this opportunity and request that the Board of Commissioners direct staff to apply for the additional Stop-Gap funding. This will increase the number of community members we can serve through this project without increasing our local match.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested to direct staff to apply for an additional \$500,000 in Stop-Gap funds to increase the County's matching funds for its CAB application.

Suggested Motion:

I move to direct staff to apply for an additional \$500,000 in Stop-Gap funds to increase the County's matching funds for its CAB application.

CAB + Stop-Gap Project Budget

Increasing the Reach of Broadband
Access

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Completing Access to Broadband (CAB)

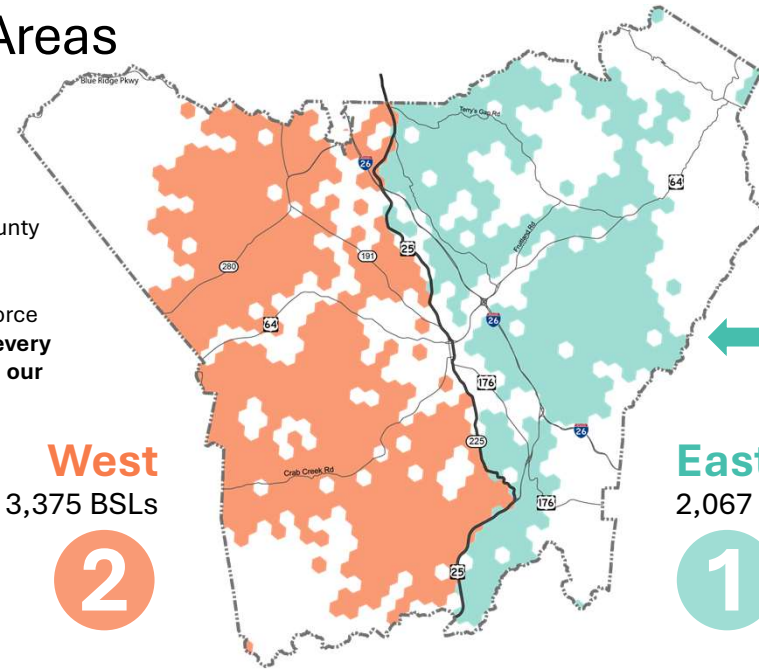
Program Overview

- 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 can now be used as match for the CAB program, with an opportunity for counties to receive \$500,000 in matching funds.

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Priority Areas

Everyone in our County deserves access to reliable internet, therefore the Taskforce recommends that **every BSL** be included in our **Scope of Work**



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CAB + Stop Gap Funds

BOC Original Approved Budget

	\$2,500,000	Henderson County
	\$2,500,000	State Match
+	\$2,142,857	Service Provider
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	\$7,142,857	Total Project Cost



Proposed Budget with Stop-Gap

	\$2,500,000	Henderson County
	\$500,000	Stop-Gap Addition
	\$3,000,000	State Match
+	\$2,571,428	Service Provider
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	\$8,571,428	Total Project Cost

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Leveraging More in Match

Without increasing the original BOC-approved County Match, we can leverage \$1.4 million in additional funding by applying for \$500,000 Stop-Gap funds, reaching even more unserved locations in Henderson County.

Additional Funds Leveraged with Stop-Gap

\$500,000	Stop-Gap
\$500,000	State Match
+ \$428,571	Service Provider
\$1,428,571	Total Project Cost