

The Florida Strategic Plan for Broadband

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FLORIDA OFFICE OF BROADBAND

Established: July 1, 2020, at the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity

Statutory Authority: Sections 288.9961, 288.9962, and 288.9963, Florida Statutes.

The Office of Broadband is responsible for:

- Developing, marketing, and promoting broadband internet services in the state.
- Creating a strategic plan to increase the use of broadband internet services in the state.
- Reviewing and verifying public input regarding transmission speeds and availability of broadband internet services throughout the state.
- Building and facilitating local technology planning teams or partnerships.
- Participating in the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) proceedings that are related to the geographic availability and deployment of broadband internet in Florida.
- Establishing the Broadband Opportunity Program and rulemaking for the program to award grants to applicants who seek to expand broadband to unserved areas.
- Developing a map of broadband internet service availability throughout the state.

FLORIDA STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BROADBAND

The *Florida Strategic Plan for Broadband* was delivered to the Governor, Florida Senate President, and the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives on June 30, 2022.

The document includes:

- Public input received during broadband Workshops held in February 2021.
- Results and public comments received from the survey conducted in March 2021.
- Information and data collected from the Local Technology Planning Team meetings held around the state.
- Input and comments collected through stakeholder interviews conducted by the University of Florida, Public Utilities Research Center in 2022.
- Public input received through broadband map.

WHY THE STRATEGIC PLAN IS IMPORTANT

The **Florida Strategic Plan for Broadband** is vital to the state's goals of expanding and improving access to broadband internet service throughout Florida and outlines (25) specific Strategies for a Connected Economy.

The Plan:

- Makes Florida eligible to apply for federal broadband funding opportunities.
- Provides a roadmap for state decisionmakers on short and long-term implementation strategies.
- Informs units of local government what the state's priorities are for broadband infrastructure implementation.
- Informs private industry sectors about the opportunities for potential growth from the expansion of technology networks.

HOW COMMUNITIES CAN USE THE STRATEGIC PLAN

The [Florida Strategic Plan for Broadband](#) can be a valuable guide for communities as they seek state and federal broadband funding opportunities.

By following the guidance of the Plan, communities will be able to prepare and submit strong broadband project applications which:

- Document community engagement and activities coordinated with the Local Technology Planning Teams.
- Document that broadband needs are not being met by other resources.
- Explain how their proposed projects align with the strategies outlined in the Plan.
- Prioritize providing service to unserved and underserved communities.
- Explain expected, measurable economic development impacts on their communities.

INTEGRAL PARTNERS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN

Implementation of the strategies outlined in the Plan will require the Department of Economic Opportunity to partner with:

- Local Technology Planning Teams.
- Units of local government.
- The Florida Department of Transportation.
- The Florida Department of Education.
- The Florida Department of State.
- Many others.

FLORIDA'S BROADBAND AVAILABILITY MAP

Section 288.9961, Florida Statutes, directs the Office of Broadband to develop a map of broadband internet service availability throughout this state that identifies:

- Where broadband-capable networks exist.
- Where service is available to end users.
- Gaps in rural areas.
- Download and upload speeds.

The Florida Broadband Availability Map involves crowdsourcing. Crowdsourcing is the process to empower individuals to participate and upload the data they have created. This will mobilize every Floridian and provide them with the opportunity to engage and provide input to the state about their internet service access and availability.

The Office of Broadband launched a statewide marketing campaign to encourage individuals statewide to take the speed test as part of the crowdsourcing initiative.

FLORIDA'S BROADBAND AVAILABILITY MAP AND SPEED TEST

FloridaJobs.org/Broadband

[Take the Speed Test](#)

About Us

The Office of Broadband works with local and state government agencies, community organizations and private businesses to increase the availability and effectiveness of broadband internet throughout the state, specifically in small and rural communities. Through these partnerships, the Office of Broadband encourages investment in grant funding opportunities for the broadband program that focus on the expansion of broadband.

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Florida Strategic Plan for Broadband

The Florida Broadband Strategic Plan lays out the vision of the Office of Broadband, the roles for state and local participants, and the strategies to undertake as Florida works towards a fully connected citizenry, both economically and socially.

[The Florida Broadband Strategic Plan](#)

BROADBAND SPEED TEST

[Español](#)

Take Florida's Broadband Speed Test

Note: Before you answer the questions below, *please* make sure no other internet or streaming devices are being used in your household while you take the test. If you are connected to a network in a public place for *school or work*, if applicable, please turn off your *Virtual Private Network (VPN)* during this test. VPN provides a secure (private) connection over the internet from a device to a network often used in an educational or professional setting.

Please provide the address where you are taking the test, unless you would like to provide an address where there is no internet service available.

Select the action you wish to take below:


- Provide my exact address
- Provide part of my address due to privacy concerns
- Provide an address with no available service

Your contact email (optional)

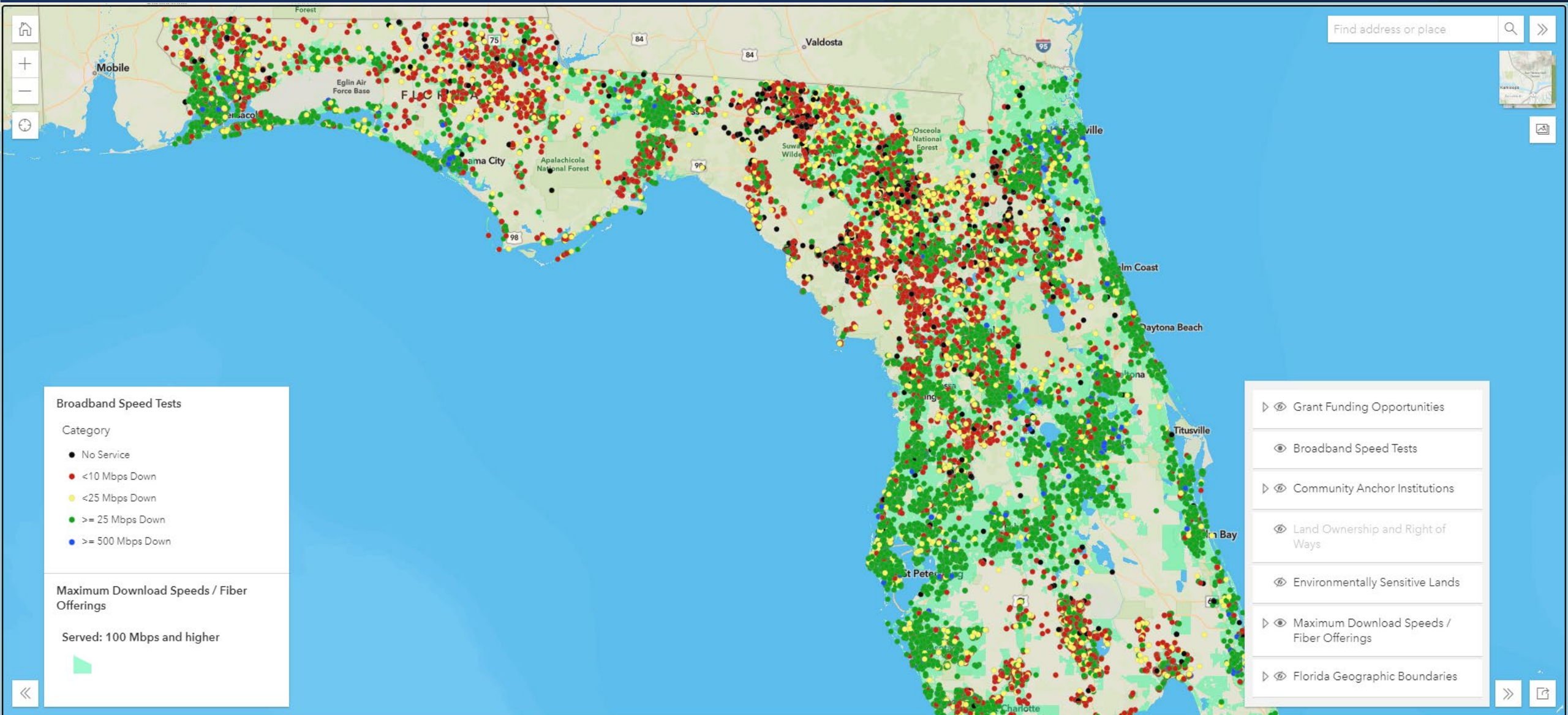
[Start](#)

We **do not** use tracking cookies, which transfers information from your web browser to your computer. We **will not** store your address; however, We **will** store your location and speed test results

[Please review this Disclaimer.](#)



FASTER FLORIDA BROADBAND MAP



LOCAL TECHNOLOGY PLANNING TEAMS

Section 288.9961, Florida Statutes, directs the Office of Broadband to build and facilitate Local Technology Planning Teams, which shall work with communities to:

- Understand their current broadband availability.
- Locate unserved and underserved businesses and residents.
- Identify assets relevant to broadband deployment.
- Build partnerships with broadband service providers.
- Identify opportunities to leverage assets and reduce barriers to the deployment of broadband Internet services in the community.

**The teams or partnerships must be proactive in fiscally constrained counties with identifying grant opportunities and applying for federal grants for broadband internet service.*

BROADBAND OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

The **Broadband Opportunity Program** was established in Section 288.9962, F.S. for the installation and deployment of broadband infrastructure expansion. During the 2021-2022 Legislative Session, \$400 million was appropriated for the program using American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF).

- The Office was granted rule making authority and is currently drafting the rule for the program. The Office is also preparing for statewide workshops for public input on the drafted rule.
- The grant program has a 50% match requirement, and each grant will be no more than \$5 million.

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

The Capital Projects Fund (CPF) was established in the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021. ARPA appropriated \$10 billion to provide payments to states to “carry out capital improvement projects”. Florida was allocated **\$366,036,869**. The CPF funding was included in the Governor’s FY 2022-2023 Freedom First Budget.

Period of Performance: All funds must be expended by December 31, 2026.

For a Capital Project to be eligible to utilize Capital Projects Fund grant funds, it must meet all of the following criteria:

1. The Capital Project invests in capital assets **designed to directly enable work, education, and health monitoring.**
2. The Capital Project is designed to address a **critical need that resulted from, was made apparent, or exacerbated by the pandemic.**
3. The Capital Project is designed to address a **critical need of the community to be served by it.**

BROADBAND EQUITY, ACCESS AND DEPLOYMENT (BEAD)

The Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Grant Program was established in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021.

Period of Performance: All funds must be expended within four years of the date of award.

Purpose:

- Broadband planning, deployment, mapping, and adoption activities related primarily to unserved locations.
- Priority placed on providing last mile infrastructure designed to provide connectivity directly to the end user.

DIGITAL ADOPTION AND USE PROGRAM

The State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program was established in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021.

Period of Performance: All funds must be expended within 270 days of the date of award.

Purpose:

- To identify barriers to digital adoption and use within the state and create strategies for overcoming them.
- Support digital inclusive activities and build capacities for efforts related to the adoption of broadband.
- Activities will mesh with BEAD and the 5-year Strategic Plan for BEAD, and the Florida Strategic Plan for Broadband.

MIDDLE MILE PROGRAM

The Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program was established in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021.

Period of Performance: All funds must be expended by five years of the date of award.

Purpose:

- To expand and extend Middle Mile infrastructure to reduce the cost of connecting areas that are unserved or underserved to the backbone of the internet.
- Promote broadband connection resiliency through creation of alternative network connection paths that can be designed to prevent single points of failure on a broadband network.

LINKS TO IMPORTANT RESOURCES

The Florida Office of Broadband website (www.floridajobs.org/Broadband) hosts the following resources:

- The Florida Strategic Plan for Broadband.
- The Faster Florida Broadband Map.
- Florida's Broadband Availability Map and Internet Speed Test.
- Local Technology Planning Teams Broadband Planning Toolkit.
- State and federal broadband funding opportunities.

Thank You



If you have questions about this presentation or need to discuss a future project, please contact our office.

www.FloridaJobs.org/Broadband



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