



NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF
INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY

Division of Broadband and Digital Equity

BROADBAND UPDATE

CAROLINAS PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS TASK
FORCE

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Approximately 1.1 million North Carolina households lack access to high-speed internet in their homes² 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.³



AFFORDABILITY

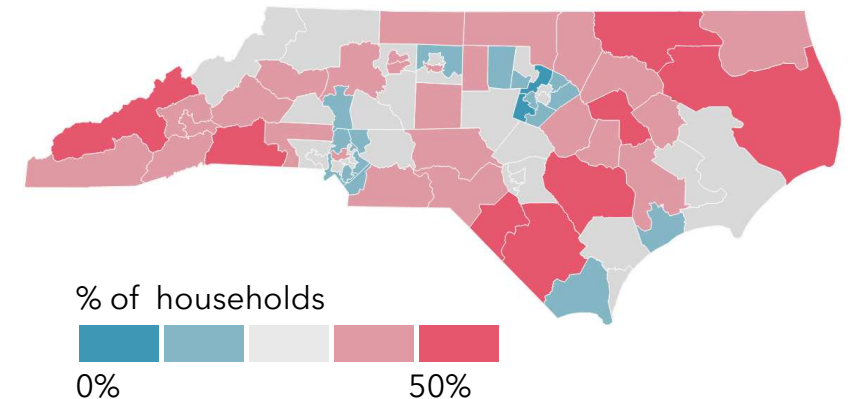
Approximately 1.3 million households would have to pay more than 2% of their annual income to afford a broadband cost of \$60/month.⁴



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.⁵ As many as 1.2 million adults may lack the digital literacy required to begin taking advantage of digital services.⁶

Percent of Households Without a High-Speed Internet Subscription (2019)⁷



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

N.C. Today

N.C. 2025

"95.5%"

98%



Households with broadband internet subscriptions

73%

80%



Households with children with broadband internet subscriptions

81%

100%



Adoption rates across racial subgroups

- Native American
- Black
- Latinx
- White

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