

# BROADBAND IN WARREN COUNTY



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WORKSHOP  
JUNE 10 2024



# COLLABORATIVE APPROACH





# ACTIONS TO DATE

2014

First Analysis of Countywide  
Broadband Availability

2020

- Pandemic brings broadband needs to the fore
- Updated mapping/resident survey
- SLIC expansion – 1,700 homes in Johnsborg, Thurman and Stony Creek connected

State begins New NY  
Broadband Program  
focused on expanding  
availability

2015

- EDC begins hosting weekly North Country Broadband Alliance calls
- Planning Department continues mapping
- LCLGRP/EDC/Planning Department apply for NTIA funding
- **Federal \$42.5B BEAD (Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment) program is signed into law**

2021



# ACTIONS TO DATE

2022

- State establishes ConnectAll Program
- FCC's first step in allocating BEAD money: **accurate mapping** of serviceable locations (BSLs) and provider coverage. Lengthy and complex "challenge" process is undertaken by Planning Dept and LCLGRP
- LCLGRP is provided with \$220,000 grant from NBRC to conduct planning in its 5 County region

- Challenge process continues
- ConnectAll Office releases 5-year BEAD Action Plan

2023

- LCLGRP launches development of **Regional Broadband Deployment Plan**
- Challenge process continues and finally concludes
- State develops draft grant areas for BEAD funding

2024

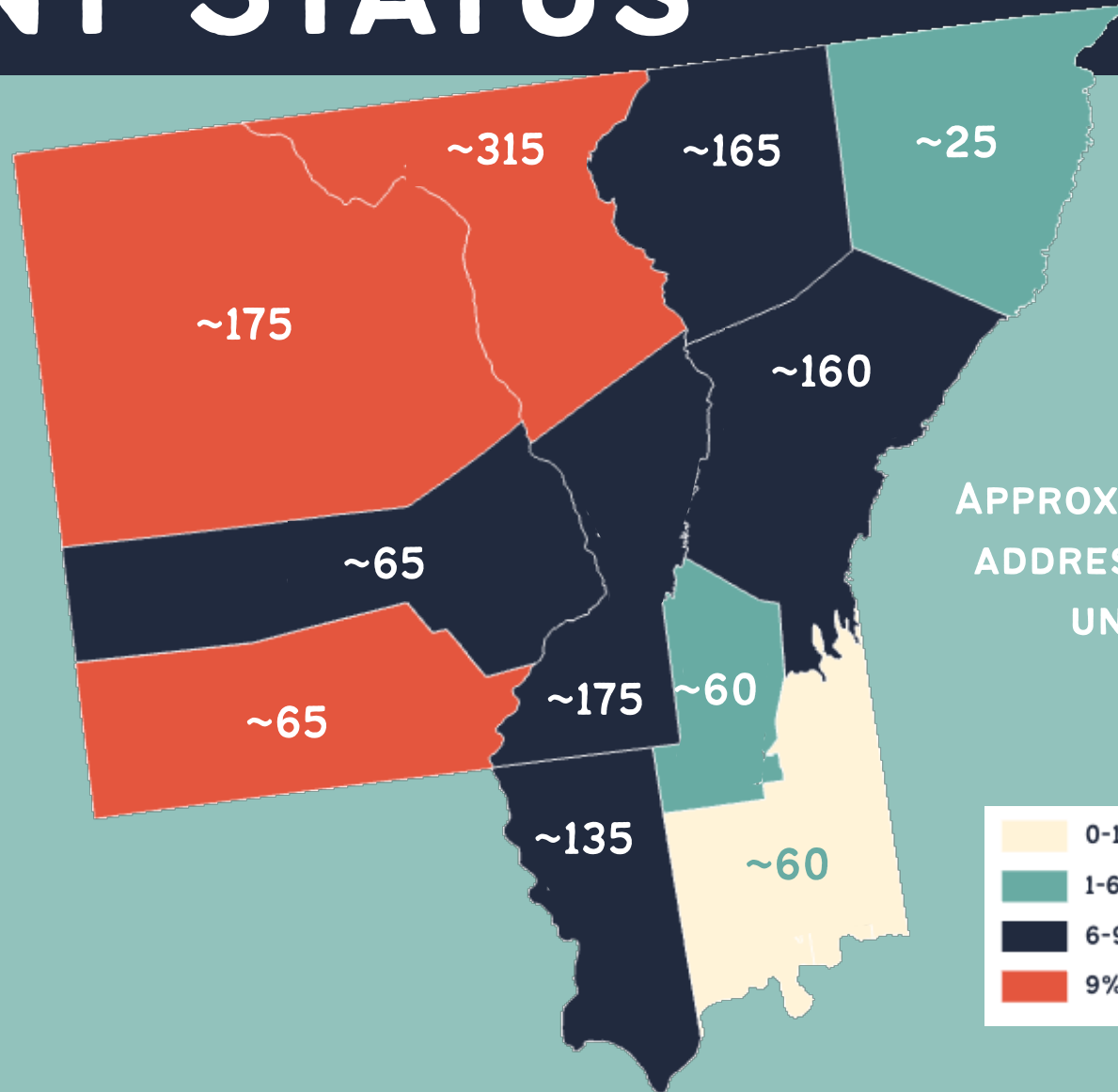


# CURRENT STATUS

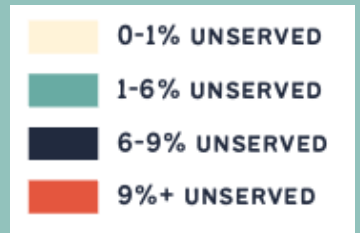
**96%** OF HOUSEHOLDS IN WARREN COUNTY HAVE BROADBAND AVAILABILITY

BUT AS LIFE GETS MORE AND MORE DIGITAL, THE **DIVIDE** FOR THOSE **4%** THAT ARE UNCONNECTED GROWS LARGER

REMAINING ADDRESSES ARE DIFFICULT AND EXPENSIVE TO CONNECT



APPROXIMATELY 1400 ADDRESSES REMAIN UNSERVED





# ACTIVITIES



## **NORTH COUNTRY BROADBAND ALLIANCE**

Host virtual calls every week –  
initiated in July 2021

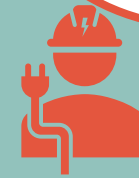
**NCBA Participants:** Local & State Officials,  
Non-Profits, Econ Development, &  
Providers

NCBA Calls Provide Latest Info Exchange  
& Access to Expertise for Technical,  
Industry, NYS & Fed Regulations,  
Legislative



## **INTERFACE WITH STATE CONNECTALL OFFICE**

Provide Ongoing  
Feedback to CAO - Ex:  
Organized & Submitted  
Comments to the CAO's  
Draft Initial Plan for  
BEAD



## **CONNECT WITH PROVIDERS**

Work with Providers to Extend  
Footprint to Unserved Areas  
Encourage Multiple Providers Where  
Feasible to Create Competition &  
Increase Fiber Capacity



# ADVOCACY



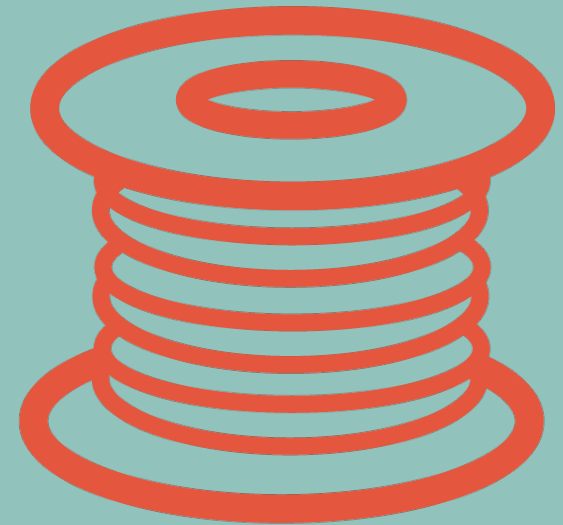
**EDC AND NCBA ADVOCATE FOR PRO-DEPLOYMENT POLICIES, INCLUDING:**

**“MAKE READY” REFORMS TO ENCOURAGE PRIVATE INVESTMENT**

**POLE ACCESS REGULATIONS, PERMITTING DELAYS,  
EXCESSIVE FEES & ROW REGS & ADDED COSTS IN NYS ROUTES**

**PROMOTE INTEGRATION OF BROADBAND & CELLULAR  
COVERAGE GAP STRATEGY: CAO NOW HAS STAFF  
DEDICATED TO CELL**

**FEEDBACK ON PROPOSED CAO COUNTY GRANT AREAS**





# ADVOCACY



**EDC AND NCBA ADVOCATE FOR PRO-DEPLOYMENT POLICIES, INCLUDING:**

**FIXED WIRELESS/FIBER HYBRID SOLUTION IN REMOTE AREAS**

**ADDED OPEN ACCESS "MIDDLE MILE" FIBER**

**FIGHT AGAINST \$15/MONTH PROVIDER MANDATE LAW IN  
NYS**

**CONTINUATION OF FCC'S AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM (ACP)**







# TWO SIMULTANEOUS ACTIVITIES

NEW YORK STATE  
**BEAD**  
FUNDING PROCESS



BROADBAND  
DEPLOYMENT  
PLANNING



# NYS CHALLENGE PROCESS



- RECEIVED \$75,000 IN PLANNING FUNDING FROM EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT TO COMPLETE THE CHALLENGE PROCESS
- WARREN COUNTY: 13 BSL CHALLENGES AND 41 PROVIDER CHALLENGES
- DRAFTED GRANT AREAS FOR BEAD FUNDING
- DISCUSSING INTEREST IN BEAD IN EACH COUNTY WITH ISPs

**TOO EARLY TO AGREE TO SUPPORT  
ISP BEAD APPLICATIONS**

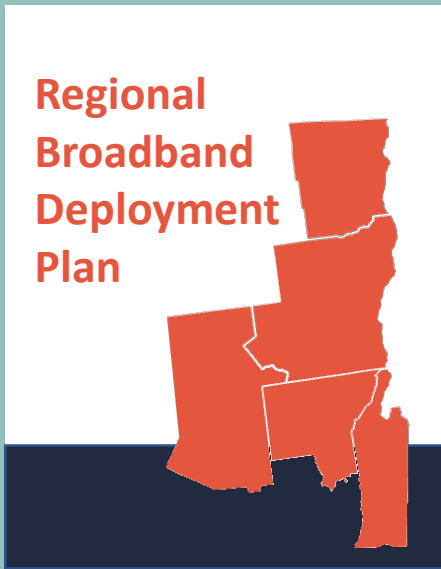




# NBRC FUNDING



\$440,000 TOTAL THROUGH 12/31/2025



1. REGULARLY COORDINATE WITH THE NYS CONNECTALL OFFICE
2. ONE-ON-ONE WORK WITH COUNTY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, NPOs, AND ISPs
3. CONSOLIDATED FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL BROADBAND MAP
4. **REGIONAL BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT PLAN**
5. GRANT APPLICATIONS
6. PRE-DEVELOPMENT/MAKE READY WORK FOR FIBER/FIXED WIRELESS INSTALLATION



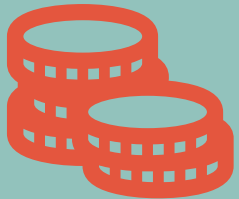
# REGIONAL BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT PLAN



**IDENTIFY AND MAP UNDERSERVED AND UNSERVED BSL'S**



**REGIONAL DEPLOYMENT OF FIBER  
AND FIXED-WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY**



**ROUGH ORDER OF MAGNITUDE (ROM) COST  
ESTIMATES FOR INDIVIDUAL BUILDOUTS**



# NEXT 1-2 MONTHS



1. Deployment Plan will be complete by end of June 2024

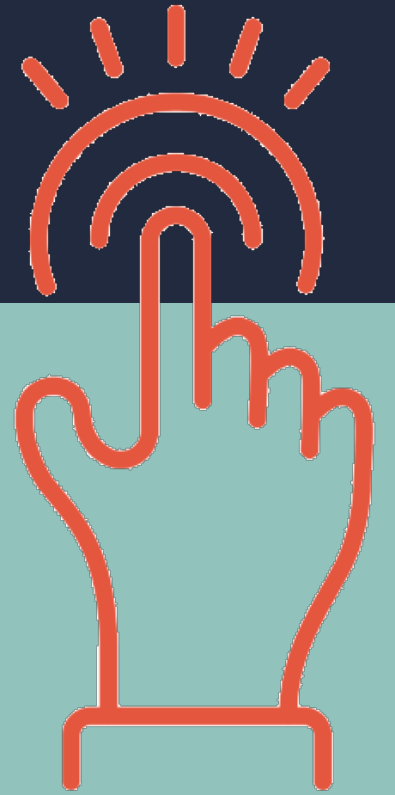
3. Track ISP interest in county grant areas

2. Go through plan one-on-one with supervisors that have areas for deployment identified

4. NYS Challenge – final decisions are with the ConnectALL Office



# ACTION ITEMS



## WHAT CAN SUPERVISORS DO RIGHT NOW?

1. **ATTEND NORTH COUNTRY REGIONAL BROADBAND ALLIANCE WEEKLY CALLS – FRIDAY MORNINGS 9AM. CONTACT JOHN WHEATLEY FOR DETAILS**
2. **CONTACT PROVIDERS AND ASK THEM WHETHER THEY PLAN TO BID ON BEAD GRANT AREAS. PROVIDE FEEDBACK TO BETH.**
3. **IF YOU ARE NOT ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH AREAS IN YOUR TOWN THAT ARE UNDERSERVED AND UNSERVED, MEET WITH SARA TO REVIEW MAPS IN PREPARATION FOR CONVERSATIONS ABOUT DEPLOYMENT PLANS WITH BETH.**