

# Broadband in Rural Georgia

Bill Price

Digital Georgia Program



# The Digital Georgia Program

## Purpose

Investing in Projects to Increase Georgia's Participation in the Digital Economy

## Priorities

Rural Georgia

The Economy, Infrastructure, Workforce

Business and Government Collaboration

## What We are Funding

Technical Assistance and Information Development Resources

Regional Planning for Digital Economic Strategies (12 Regions)

Telemedicine Project

Education Broadband Project

Digital Infrastructure Mapping

Digital Summits (3)

# @Home, @Work The World is ...Smarter...Smaller...Faster



Smart traffic systems



Intelligent oil field technologies



Smart food systems



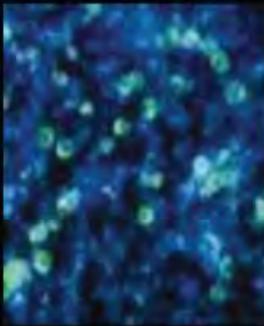
Smart healthcare



Smart energy grids



Smart retail



Smart water management



Smart supply chains



Smart countries



Smart weather



Smart regions



Smart cities

**“High speed Internet is as important to today’s young adults as electric lines and paved highways were for their parents and grandparents,”**

**- Dr. Paul Lasley, ISU sociologist**



# 14-29 Year Olds Say I Cannot Imaging life Without...

My Mobile Phone



97%

The Internet



84%

A Car



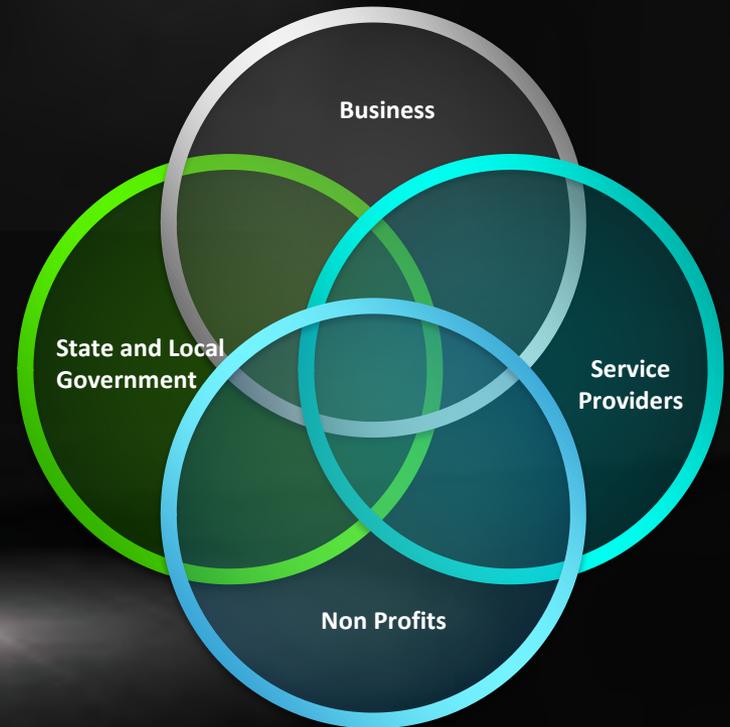
64%

My Current Partner



43%

# Digital Economy Planning



# Develop a Digital Economy Strategy In 12 Georgia Regions

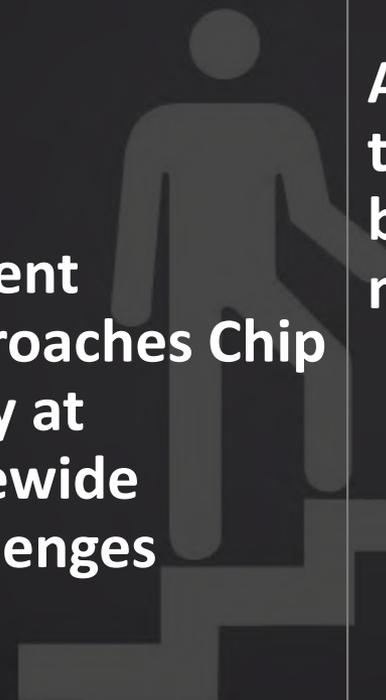
A black and white photograph of a young child standing in a field of tall grass and small white flowers. The child is wearing a light-colored long-sleeved shirt and dark pants, and is holding binoculars to their eyes, looking towards the camera. The background shows a hazy landscape with rolling hills under a cloudy sky.

Develop Collaboration and Partnerships  
Determine Broadband Supply and Demand  
Determine Workforce Supply and Demand  
Determine Opportunities and Threats  
Find Resources and Assets  
Identify Gaps and Priorities  
Create Action

# Business and Government Collaboration is Critical

**We Have More  
Resources than  
we are aware of**

**Current  
Approaches Chip  
away at  
statewide  
challenges**



**Accurate Data  
to enable fact  
based decision  
making**

**Requires  
Business and  
Government to  
partner to  
solve our  
challenges**

A dark, almost black background with a spotlight effect. A bright, oval-shaped light source is positioned in the upper right corner, casting a soft, white glow that tapers towards the center. The word "Broadband" is written in a clean, white, sans-serif font, centered horizontally and slightly below the vertical center. The lighting creates a sense of focus and depth, highlighting the text against the dark backdrop.

Broadband

Digital Transportation Network  
Enables the Digital Economy  
Education, Health, Public Safety



# Rural Georgia Innovates

## Drones in Georgia Agriculture

“Drones tested to help Georgia farmers see crops from above”

Moultrie Georgia: Private, Government and Universities







# Georgia's Rural Broadband

# Broadband Research, Analysis and Mapping

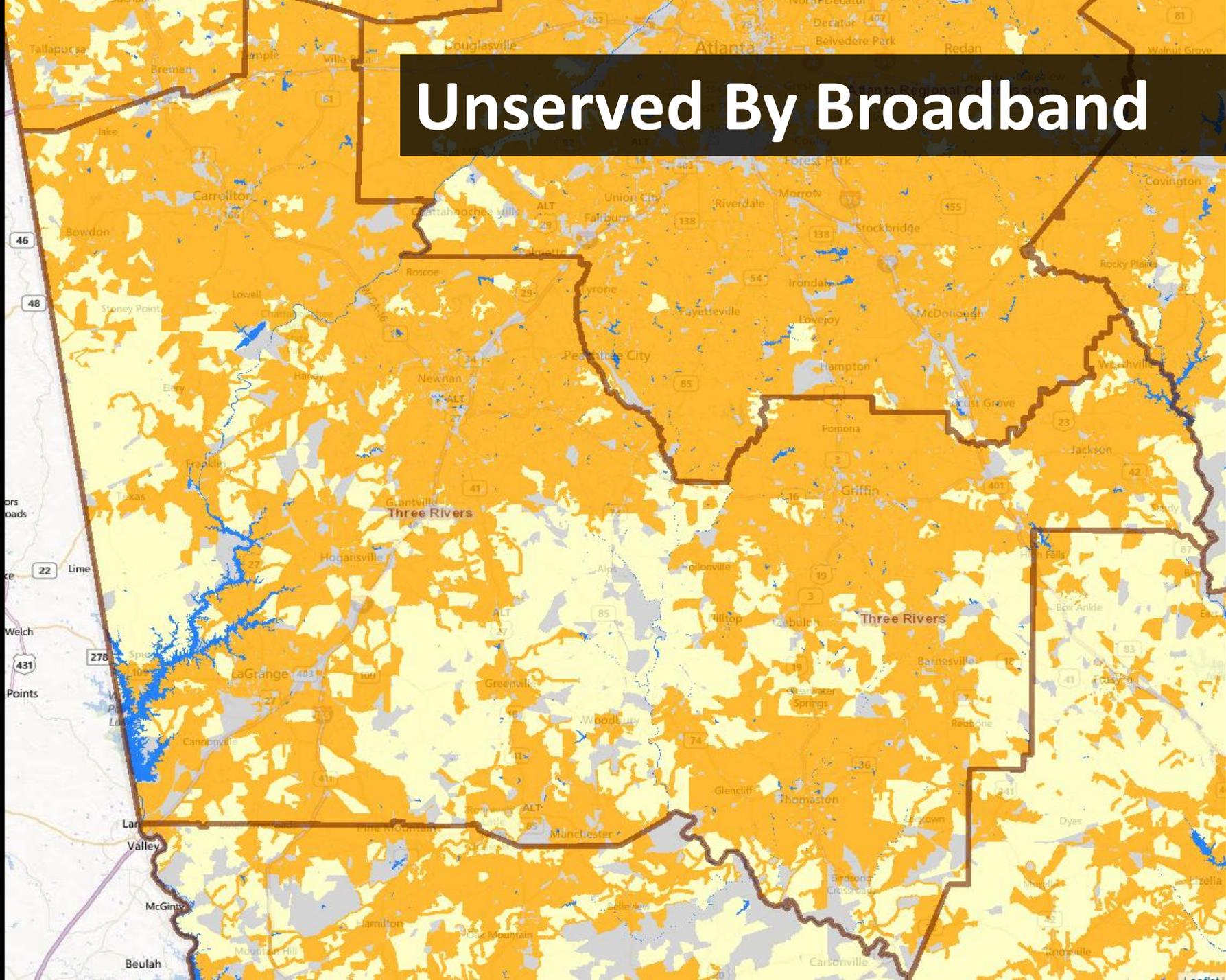
**No Broadband Access**  
**167,696 Households**  
**429,872 People**

**With Wireline Access**  
**9,257,781**

Partners with  
Cable  
Telco  
Municipal



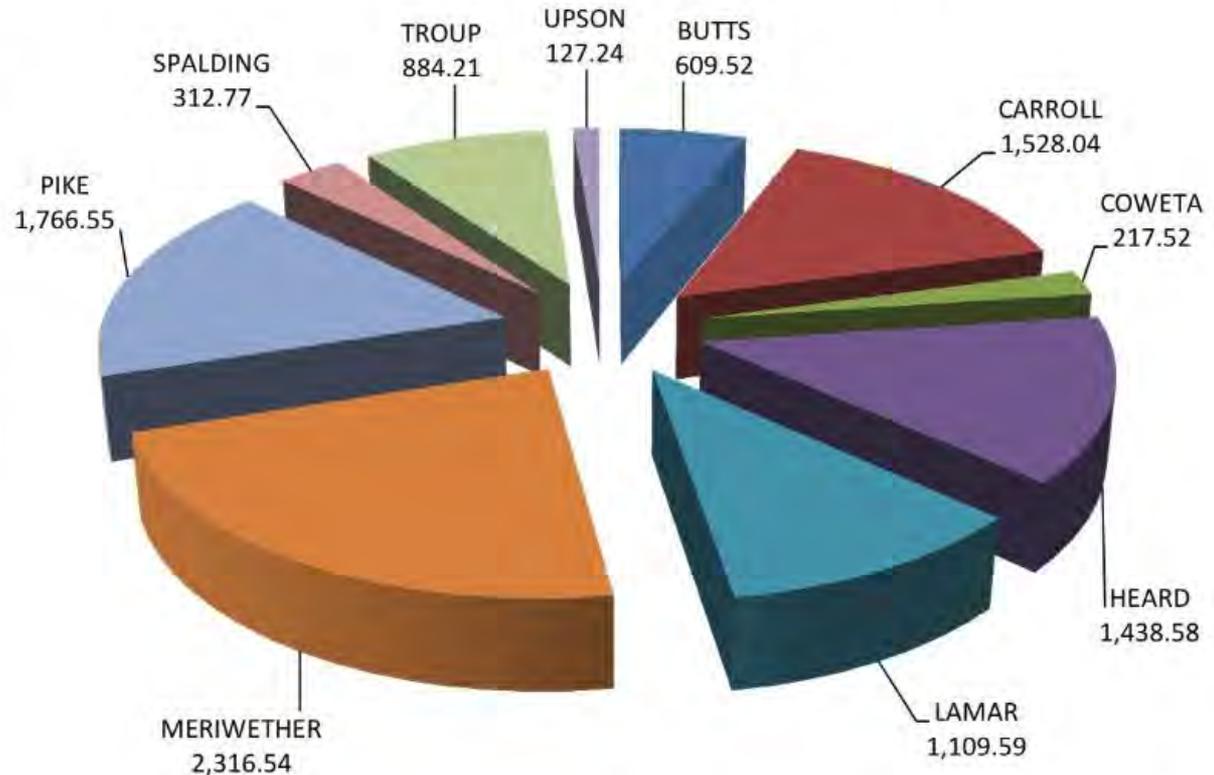
# Unserved By Broadband



# Three Rivers: County Households Unserved by WIRELINE Technology

Unserved is defined by the GTA as those U.S. Census blocks that DO NOT have access to at least 3 mbps download or 768 kbps upload speeds

County	Households Unserved
BUTTS	609.52
CARROLL	1528.04
COWETA	217.52
HEARD	1438.58
LAMAR	1109.59
MERIWETHER	2316.54
PIKE	1766.55
SPALDING	312.77
TROUP	884.21
UPSON	127.24
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,311</b>

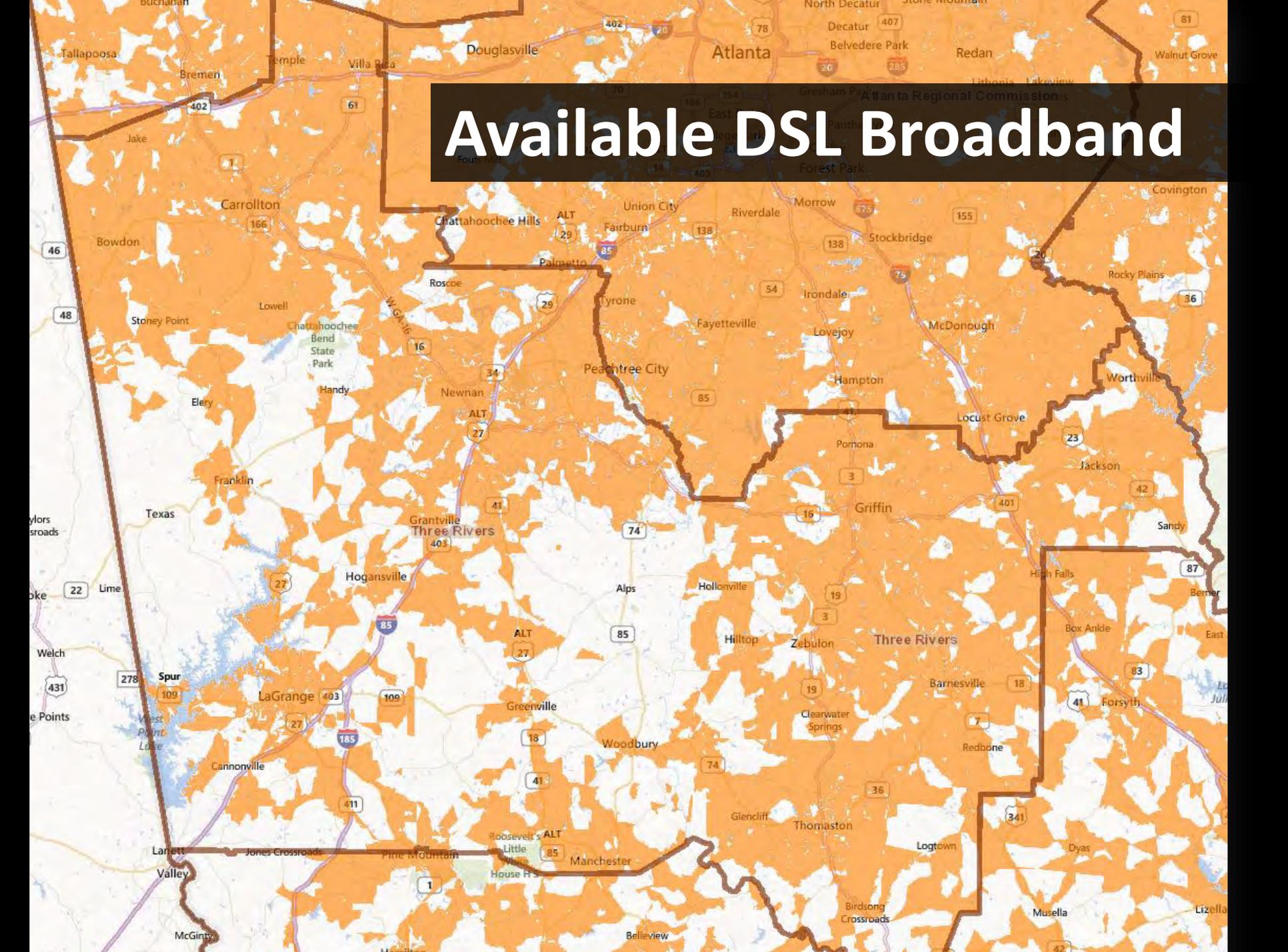


County Households Unserved by WIRELINE Technology

Broadband data are based on April 1, 2013 delivery to the NTIA, & population data are based on 2010 U.S. Census statistics

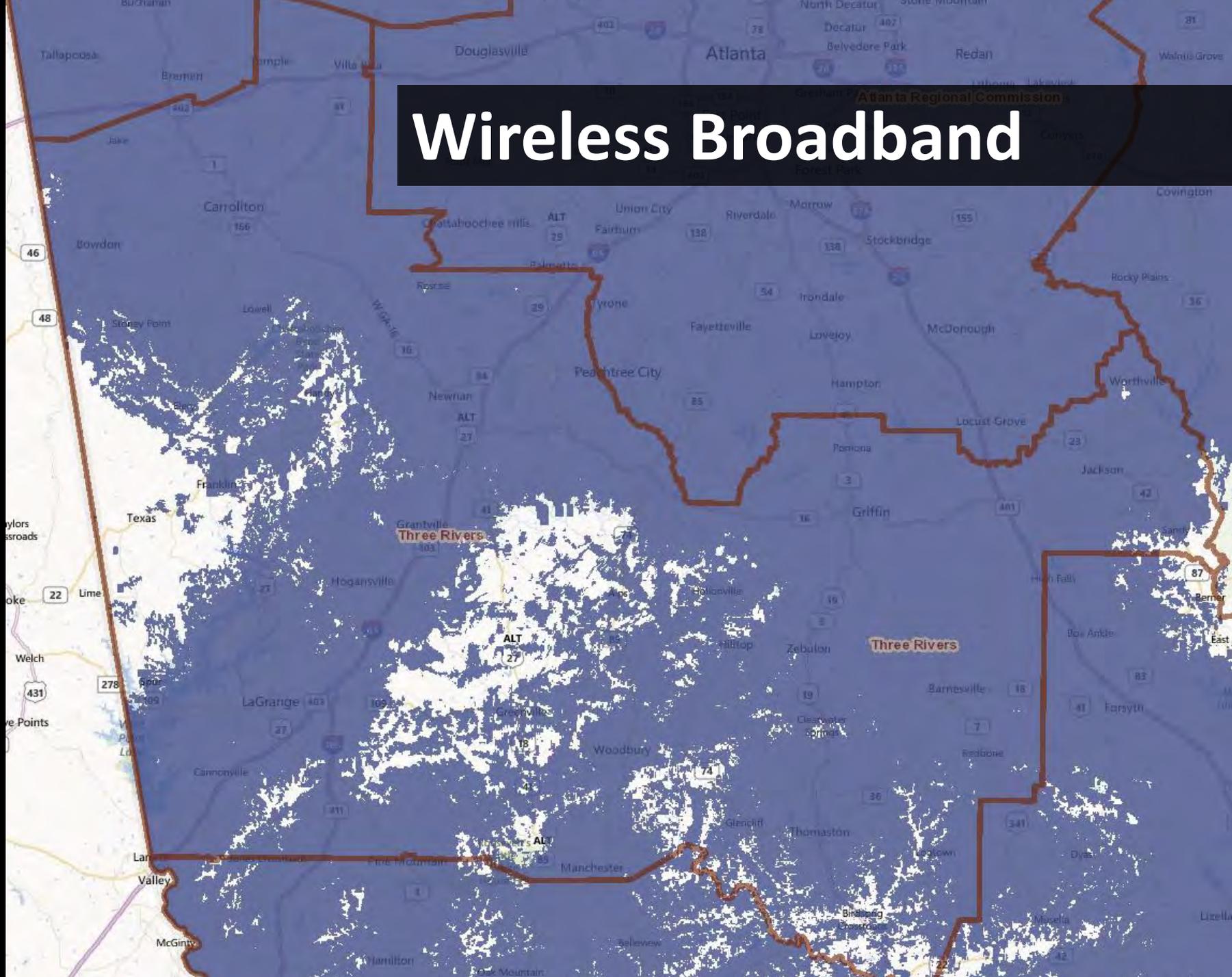


# Available DSL Broadband





# Wireless Broadband



# Broadband Investments

## Private Sector:

100+ Broadband Service Providers Invest Billions in Georgia

## Federal Funding: Residential

FCC Connect America Fund Phase I = \$348M for Unserved

FCC Connect America Fund to Unserved \$4.5 Billion a Year 5 Yrs

## Public Safety Broadband “FirstNet”

\$7 Billion for National Mobile Broadband Network

\$3.3M to Georgia for FirstNet Planning

## Education and Health Care:

E-Rate Funds \$2.5 Billion a Year for Schools and Libraries

Rural Health Care Funds \$400M a Year for Hospitals and Clinics



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# Connect America Fund Impact to Georgia

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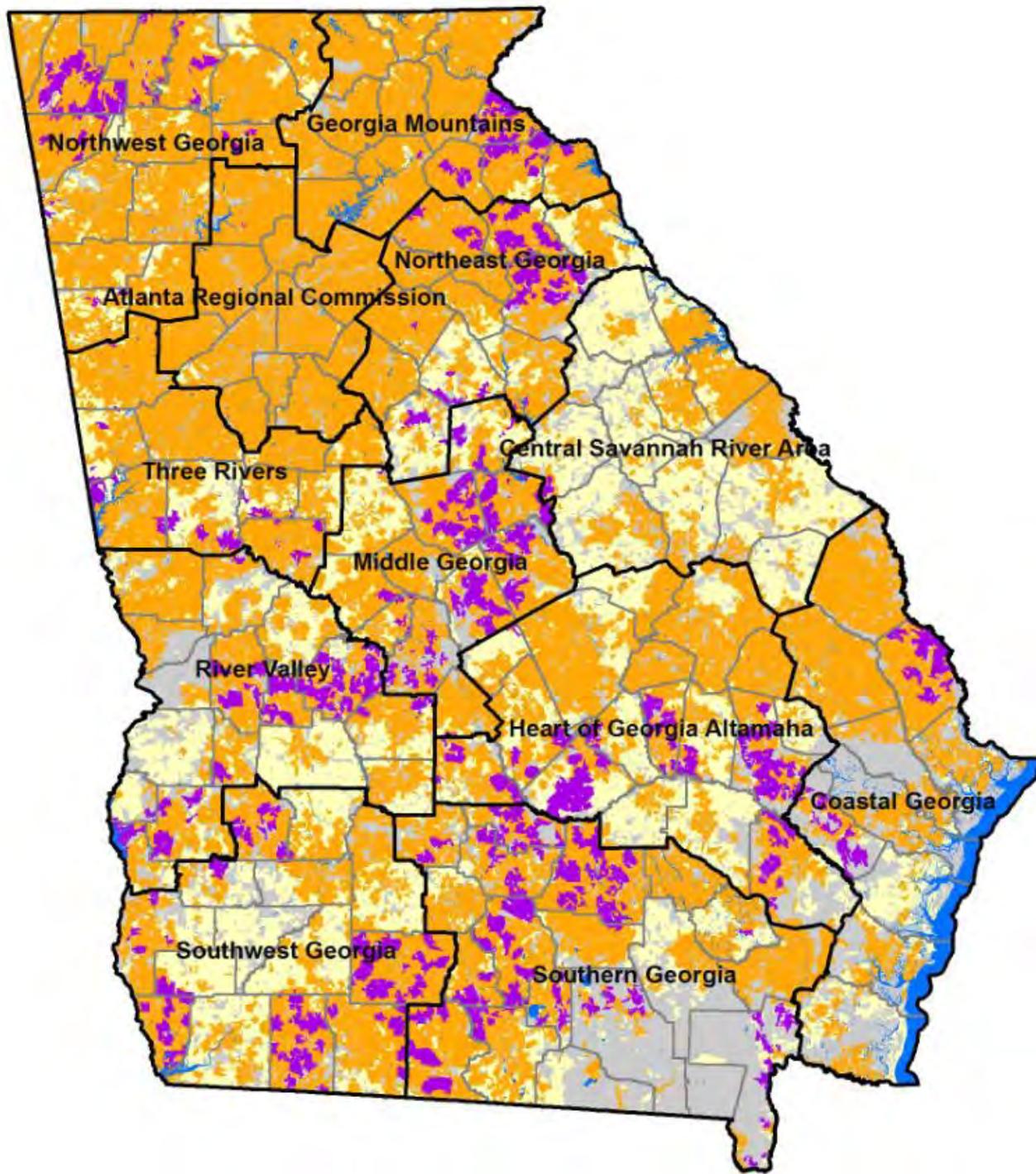
## Connect America Fund (CAF)

Broadband is increasingly important for full participation in our society but many Americans still lack access.

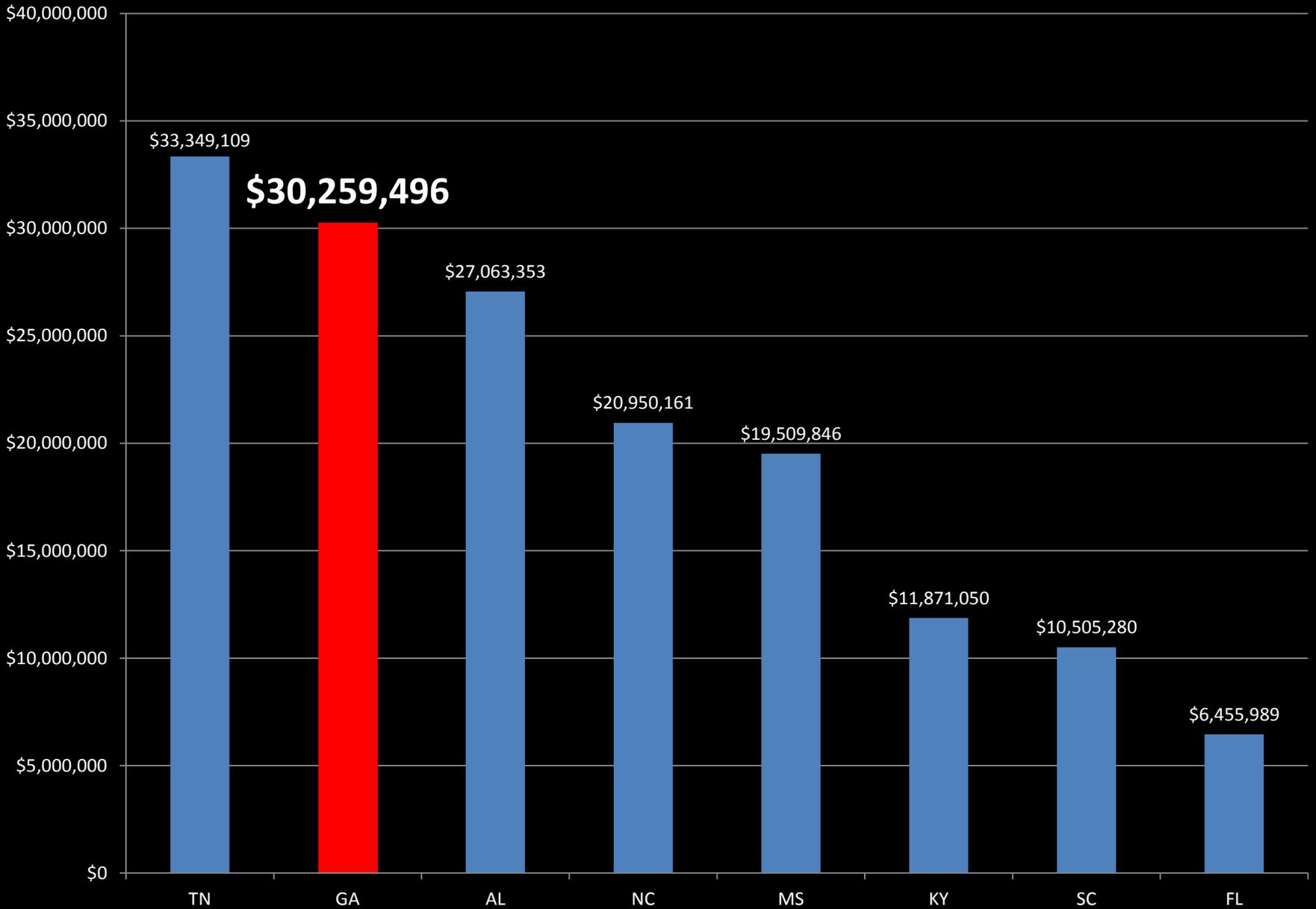
Learn about our path to reform

**CONNECTING AMERICA**

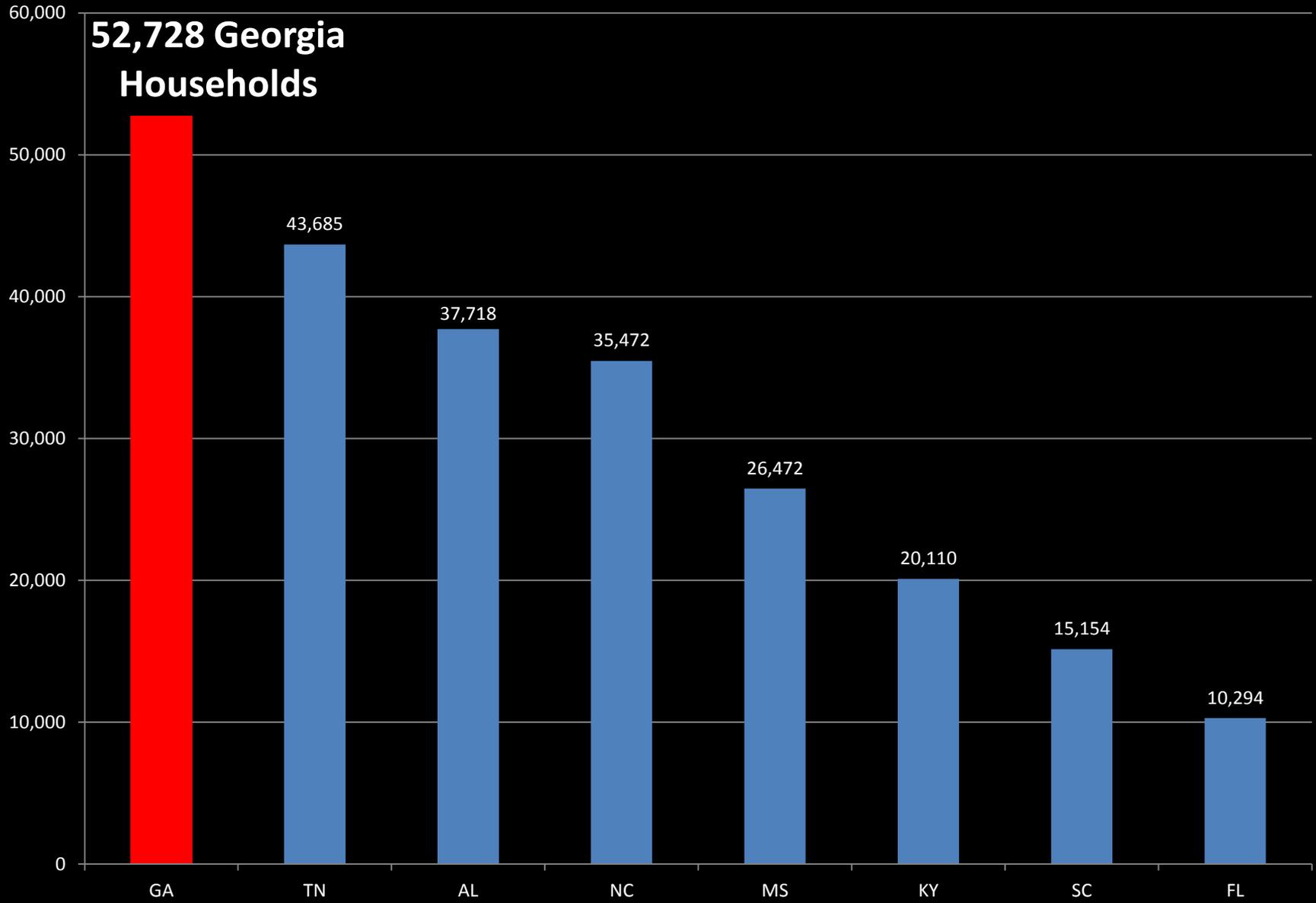
Phase I  
\$30 Million for  
55,723 Homes



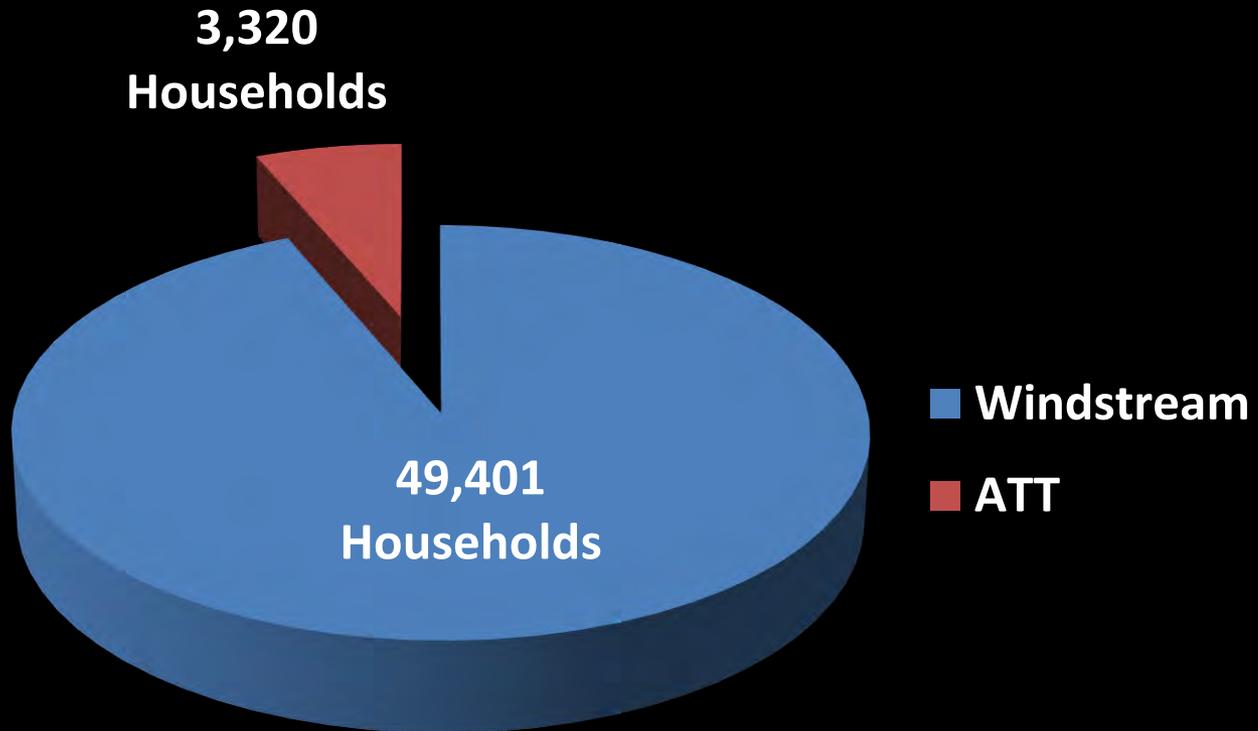
# FCC Connect America Funds for Broadband: Phase I

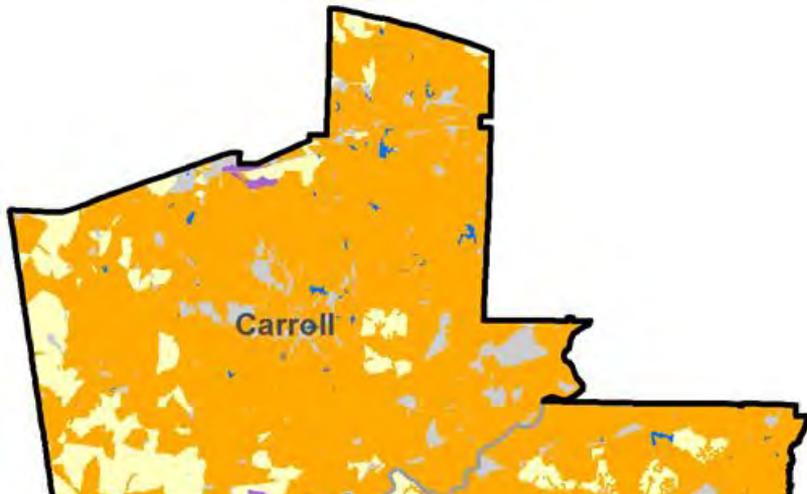


# \$30,259,000 Funds Broadband to 52,728 Georgia Households

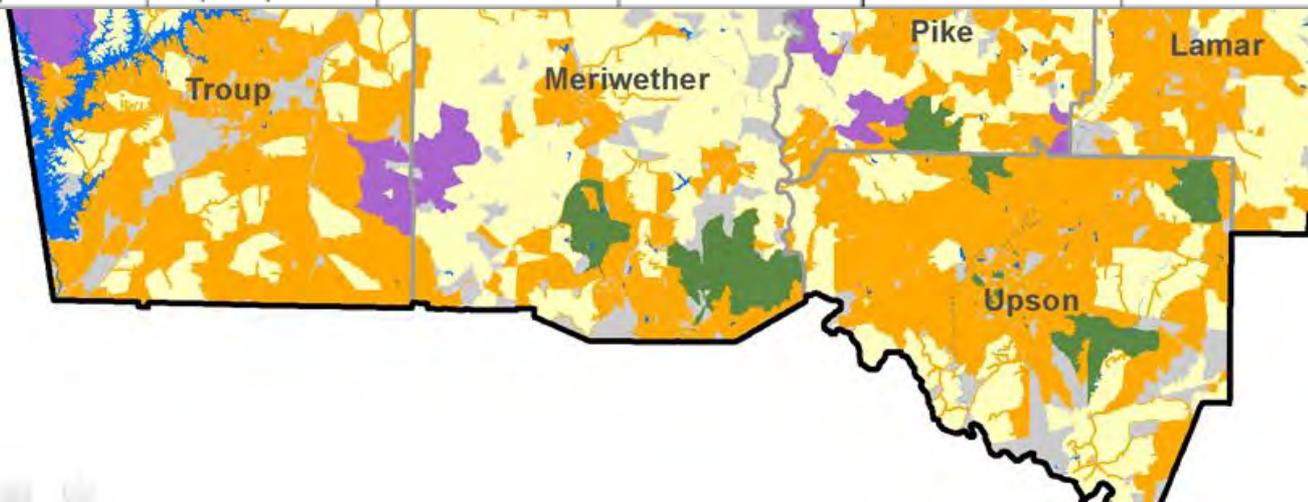


# Connect America Fund Phase I Georgia Households by Broadband Provider





County Name	Total Dollars per County	Newly Served Households per County	Faster Speed Households per County	RC Name	Total Dollars per RC	Total Households per RC
Butts	\$17,566	23	0	Three Rivers	\$1,407,049	2007
Carroll	\$70,262	91	0			
Heard	\$184,438	238	0			
Meriwether	\$351,054	261	271			
Pike	\$315,733	340	95			
Troup	\$298,614	385	0			
Upson	\$169,383	11	292			



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# Connect America Fund Phase I

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## Connect America Fund (CAF)

Broadband is increasingly important for full participation in our society but many Americans still lack access.

Learn about our path to reform

[CONNECTING AMERICA](#)

# \$4.5 Billion Per Year for 5 Years

# Challenges Remain

Employment and Ability to Buy a Computer and Broadband  
Rural Broadband Access and Speeds Lag Georgia Metros  
Rural Prices Can be 2-3 Times Higher  
Rural Broadband Capacity Limitations  
Fewer Technical Support and Assistance Resources

# Options to Improve

Develop Public Private Partnerships  
Develop Ways to lower Broadband Investment Costs  
Identify Ways to Grow Rural Broadband Markets  
Develop Technical Assistance Programs and Resources  
Increase Awareness of Broadband Programs to Lower Cost



To Use Our Resources

To Participate, Contribute and Collaborate

Contact: Regional Commissions

Bill Price, [bill.price@gta.ga.gov](mailto:bill.price@gta.ga.gov)

Questions?