

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

COMMERCE AND TOURISM
Senator Trumbull, Chair
Senator Wright, Vice Chair

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, October 18, 2023
TIME: 2:00—3:30 p.m.
PLACE: *Toni Jennings Committee Room*, 110 Senate Building

MEMBERS: Senator Trumbull, Chair; Senator Wright, Vice Chair; Senators Gruters, Rodriguez, Stewart, and Torres

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
		Presentation on Broadband by the Department of Commerce	Presented
	Other Related Meeting Documents		

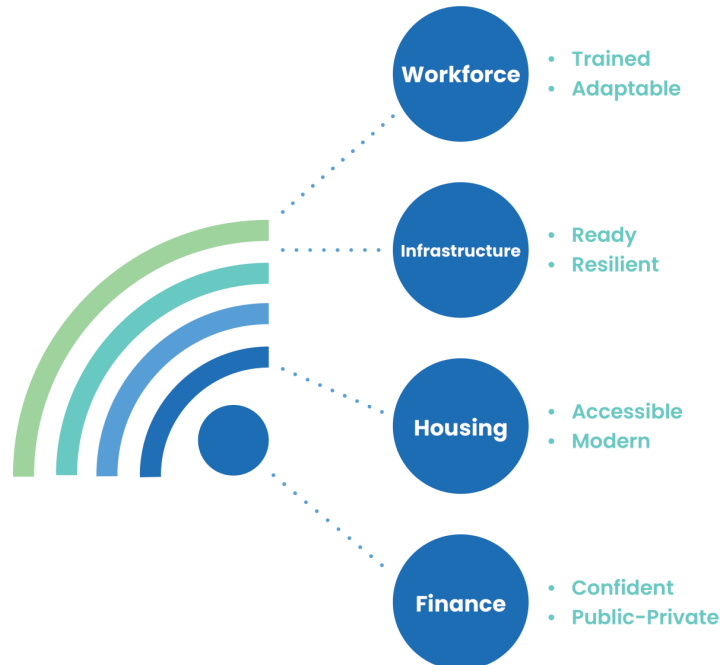


Florida Office of Broadband Overview

Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee

Meredith Ivey, Deputy Secretary
Division of Community Development

Broadband Impacts ALL Components of Economic Development in Florida



The Office of Broadband

- Established in July 2020 through HB 969 to increase the availability and accessibility of broadband Internet throughout the state.
- Widespread broadband access unlocks potential for expanded telemedicine, educational opportunities, workforce development, business development and community growth.
- Florida's Strategic Plan for Broadband outlines the steps to a connected economy:
 1. Availability
 2. Adoption
 3. Use of Digital Content



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Local Technology Planning Teams

- Pursuant to s. 288.9961(4), F.S., the Office of Broadband has established Local Technology Planning Teams in all 67 counties to:
 - Provide information on broadband availability.
 - Identify unserved and underserved residents.
 - Assist with broadband deployment, building partnerships with service providers, and providing feedback on grant applications for their community.
- Local Planning Technology Teams include representatives from education, healthcare, workforce, local government, business, and other sectors.



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Mapping Florida's Connectivity

- **Florida's Broadband Availability Map & Internet Speed Test:** Identifies broadband internet service availability throughout the state by highlighting a location's speed, connectivity, and access to broadband services.
- **Faster Florida Broadband Map:** Identifies census blocks as unserved, underserved, served, and no fixed internet service. The map also identifies Florida geographic boundaries, community anchor institutions, grant funding opportunities, and information on the speed tests taken through the Florida Broadband Availability Map.
- **ConnectedFlorida Map:** Identifies project areas submitted in grant applications and project areas that were awarded grant funding.

To view our maps, please visit FloridaJobs.org/Broadband



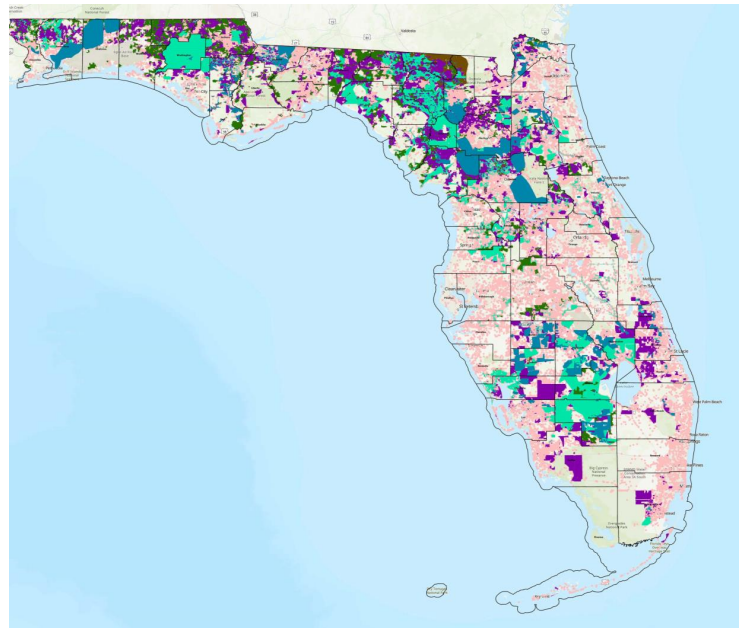
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Federally Administered Programs Underway

- Rural Digital Opportunity Fund
- Connect America Fund
- ReConnect America Program

Office of Broadband Programs

- Broadband Opportunity Program
- Capital Projects Fund – Broadband Infrastructure Program

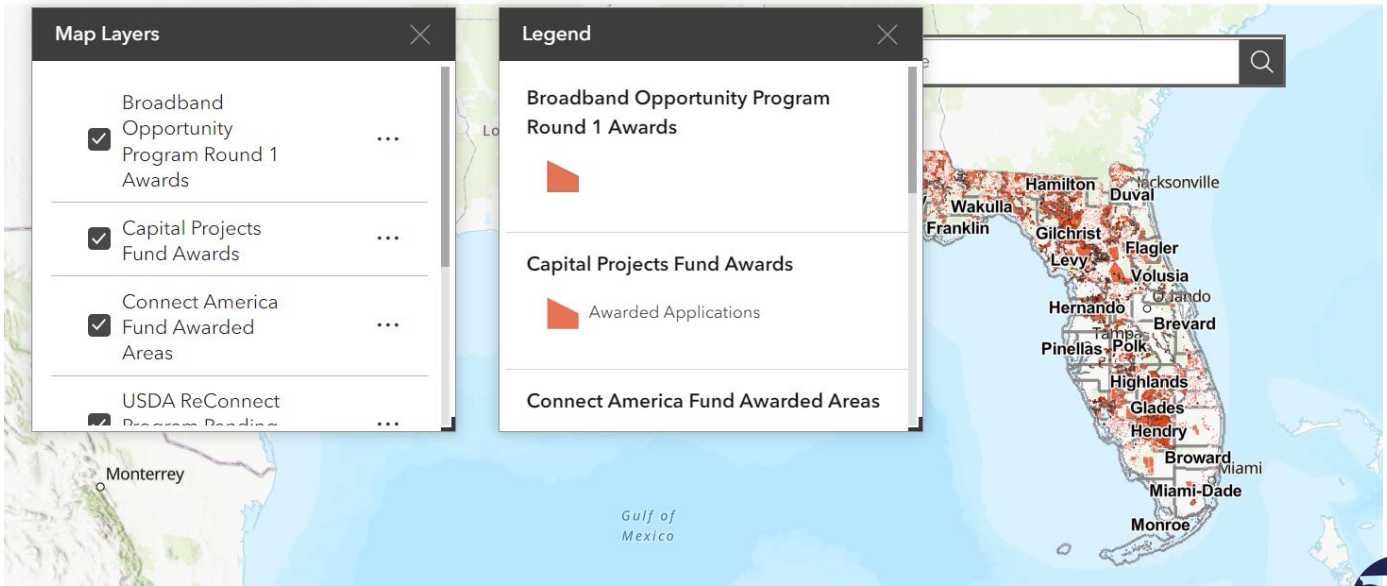


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ConnectedFlorida Map

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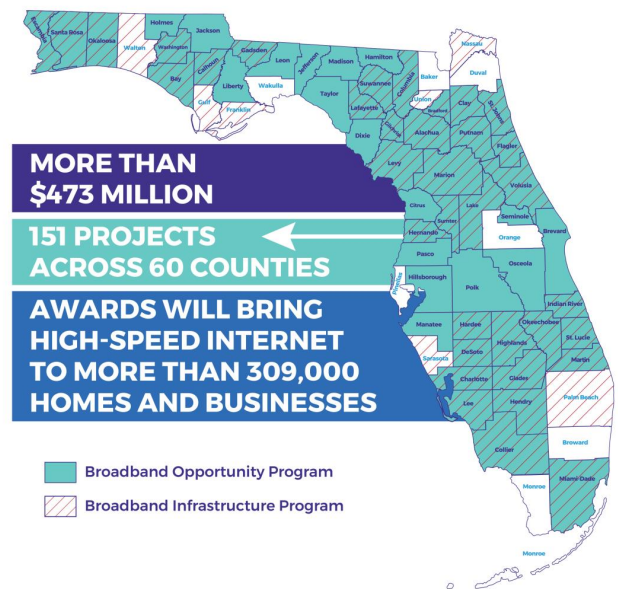
ConnectedFlorida



Active Grant Programs

Under the leadership of Governor DeSantis, FloridaCommerce is investing in high-speed broadband internet for unserved and underserved businesses, homes, farms and anchor institutions like hospitals and libraries.

- **Broadband Opportunity Program (\$400 million – State of Florida)**
 - Established by s. 288.9962, F.S., to provide funding for the installation and deployment of broadband Internet infrastructure in unserved communities.
- **Capital Projects Fund (\$366 million – U.S. Treasury)**
 - **Infrastructure Program:** to deploy broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas throughout the state, with a priority on rural areas.
 - **Multi-Purpose Community Facilities Program:** to renovate or build community centers to provide access and health, work, and education resources to rural communities.
 - **Digital Connectivity Technology Program:** to purchase and install devices and equipment in areas where affordability is a barrier to adoption and use.



Commitment to Community Engagement

- This summer, FloridaCommerce hosted six public workshops across the state and three webinars to hear directly from Floridians about their barriers to accessing broadband Internet service.
- In July, FloridaCommerce leadership met with the Seminole Tribe and Miccosukee Tribe to discuss their unique perspective in preparation for the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program (BEAD).



Alex Kelly, Secretary of the Florida Department of Commerce, addresses those gathered at a broadband workshop July 7. [Wendy Weitzel | The Star]



Upcoming – Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD)

- \$1.1 billion in federal funding was allocated to Florida for broadband planning, deployment, mapping, and adoption and use activities.
- Florida's BEAD 5-Year Action Plan and Initial Proposal are due to the federal government this calendar year.



Preparing Florida's Workforce for BEAD

- FloridaCommerce hosted the state's first broadband summit in Orlando on September 21 & 22, 2023.
- The Florida Broadband Summit featured panels on topics including Cybersecurity Programs for communities, Broadband Workforce, Local Workforce Development Boards, and Federal Regulations & Compliance.
- Earlier this month, the Office of Broadband attended a roundtable on workforce development hosted by Miami Dade College. The discussion focused on identifying skills, credentials, and pathways needed to support the industry.



Questions & Answers



Contact Us

Thank You.

If you have questions or comments about this presentation, please contact us.



Office of Broadband

Email: Broadband@Commerce.fl.gov



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<u>10/18/23</u> Meeting Date	The Florida Senate	DUPLICATE
<u>Commerce Tourism</u> Committee	APPEARANCE RECORD	<u>Office of Broadband</u> Bill Number or Topic
Deliver both copies of this form to Senate professional staff conducting the meeting		Amendment Barcode (if applicable)
Name <u>Meredith Ivey</u>	Phone <u>850-245-7125</u>	
Address <u>101 E Madison St</u> Street	Email <u>meredith.ivey@commerce.fl.gov</u>	
<u>Tallahassee</u> City	<u>FL</u> State	<u>32399</u> Zip

Speaking: For Against Information **OR** Waive Speaking: In Support Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.

I am a registered lobbyist, representing:

I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. [2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

