

Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Information Technology Meeting

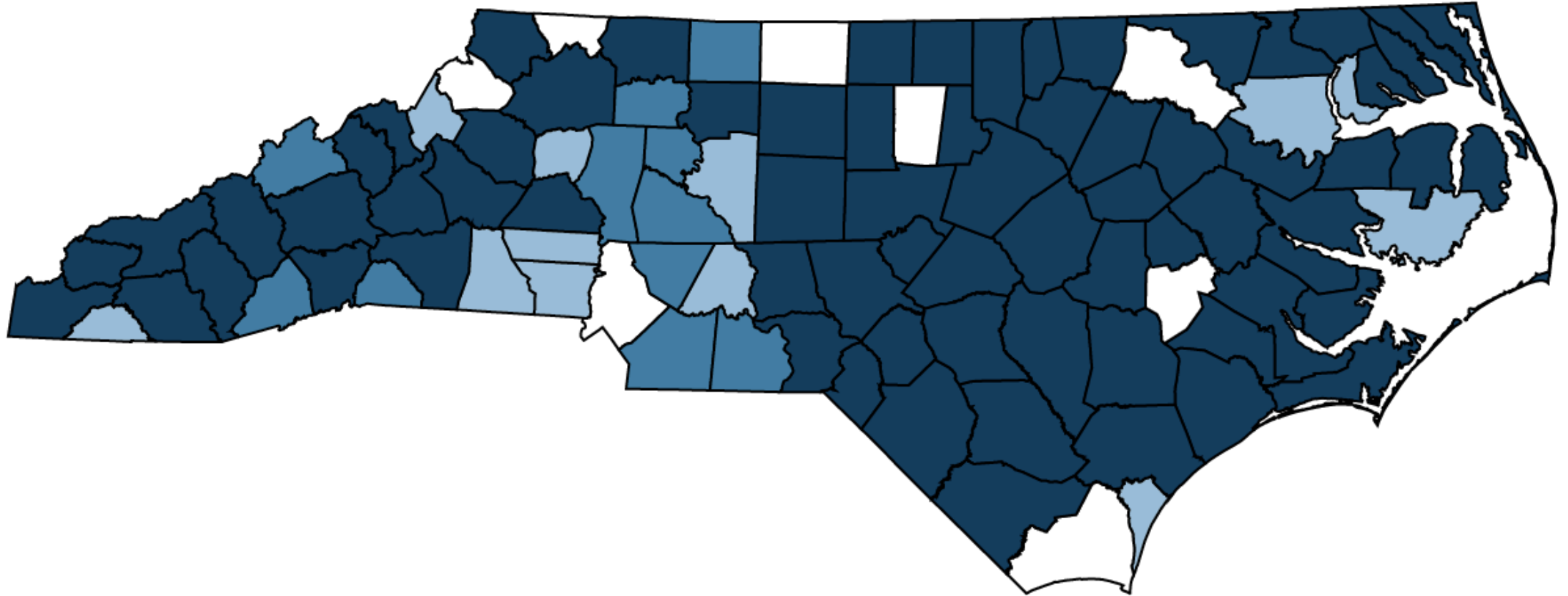
Sept. 8, 2022

N.C. Department of Information Technology
Division of Broadband and Digital Equity



Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) Grant Awards

More than \$260 Million Awarded in 2022



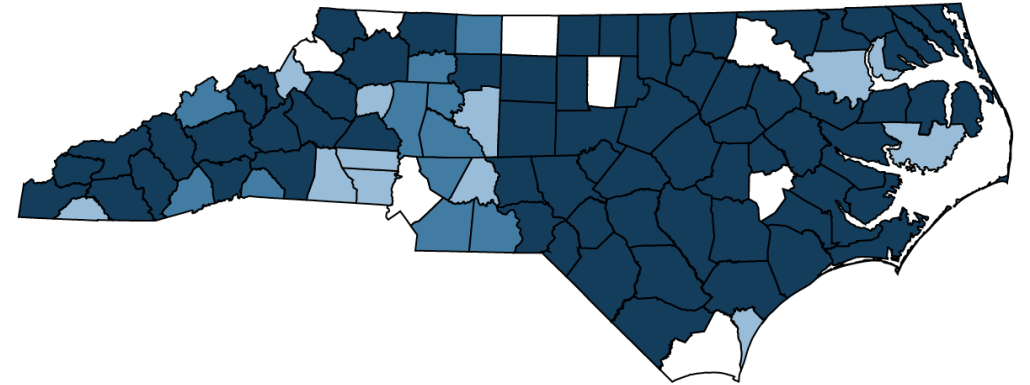
\$23.4M in 12 counties (July 18)

\$30.8M in 11 counties (Aug. 1)

\$206.3M in 69 counties (Aug. 31)

2022 GREAT Grant Award Details

- Total awards to date: 92
- Total providers awarded: 15
 - 3 telephone membership co-operatives
 - 2 electric membership co-operatives
 - 5 publicly traded corporations
 - 2 multi-state internet service providers
 - 3 small businesses
- Awarded average cost per location: \$4,775.49
- Total awarded locations: 112,112
- Total match amount: \$146,692,467.78
- 2021 county tiers:
 - Tier 1: 34
 - Tier 2: 35
 - Tier 3: 17
- Awards by region:
 - Mountain: 19
 - Piedmont: 32
 - Coastal Plain: 35



How Did We Get to the \$267 Million?

Jan. 31, 2022	Application window opened
May 4, 2022	Application deadline
May 31 - June 20, 2022	Public posting period for protests
June 21 - Aug. 10, 2022	Protest review and decisions
Aug, 12 - 22, 2022	Application revisions (post protest)
July 18, 2022	Rolling award round 1
Aug. 1, 2022	Rolling award round 2
Aug. 31, 2022	Rolling award round 3

Protests of Eligible Locations

- 216 protests received
- More than 200,000 location points
- Protesting internet service provider can only submit a protest if the:
 - Proposed project covers an area that is protected area as defined in our Guidance Document**OR**
 - Proposed project area contains 10% or more of total households with access to broadband service

Protests of Eligible Locations

Protest Analysis

- Each protest is review individually
- Data submitted by protester is analyzed for the following:
 - Granularity of information submitted by the protesters
 - Protected areas
 - 10% threshold
 - “Self-protests”
 - Comparison with FCC Form 477 Data
 - Comparison with Speed Test Data (N.C. Broadband Survey)
- Protest decisions are exempt from the contested case provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act
- Some protest information is deemed confidential per statute

Potential Program Revisions for Future GREAT Grant Rounds

- Adjustments to county partnership process
 - Consider engaging counties after vetting and initial scoring of projects
 - Simplify matching fund calculations
 - (ARPA funds won't be applicable in future years)

Identifying Eligible Areas Moving Forward

- New FCC Broadband Data Collection Process
 - Serviceable Location Fabric - September
 - Broadband Availability Data - November
 - Challenge Processes
- Collection of availability data directly by the state
- Continuation of N.C. Broadband Survey
- Consider receiving protests/challenges to map prior to future rounds (GREAT grant and Completing Access to Broadband)