

# Completing Access to Broadband (CAB) Update

Presentation to the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

September 3rd, 2024



# Overview and Request

## Overview

- County participated in an initial round of CAB funding this Spring
  - Received 5 proposals from 3 providers
  - Reviewed by NCDIT and Buncombe County Representatives
- Announced award of Bellsouth Telecommunications project – July 2024
  - Matching requirement

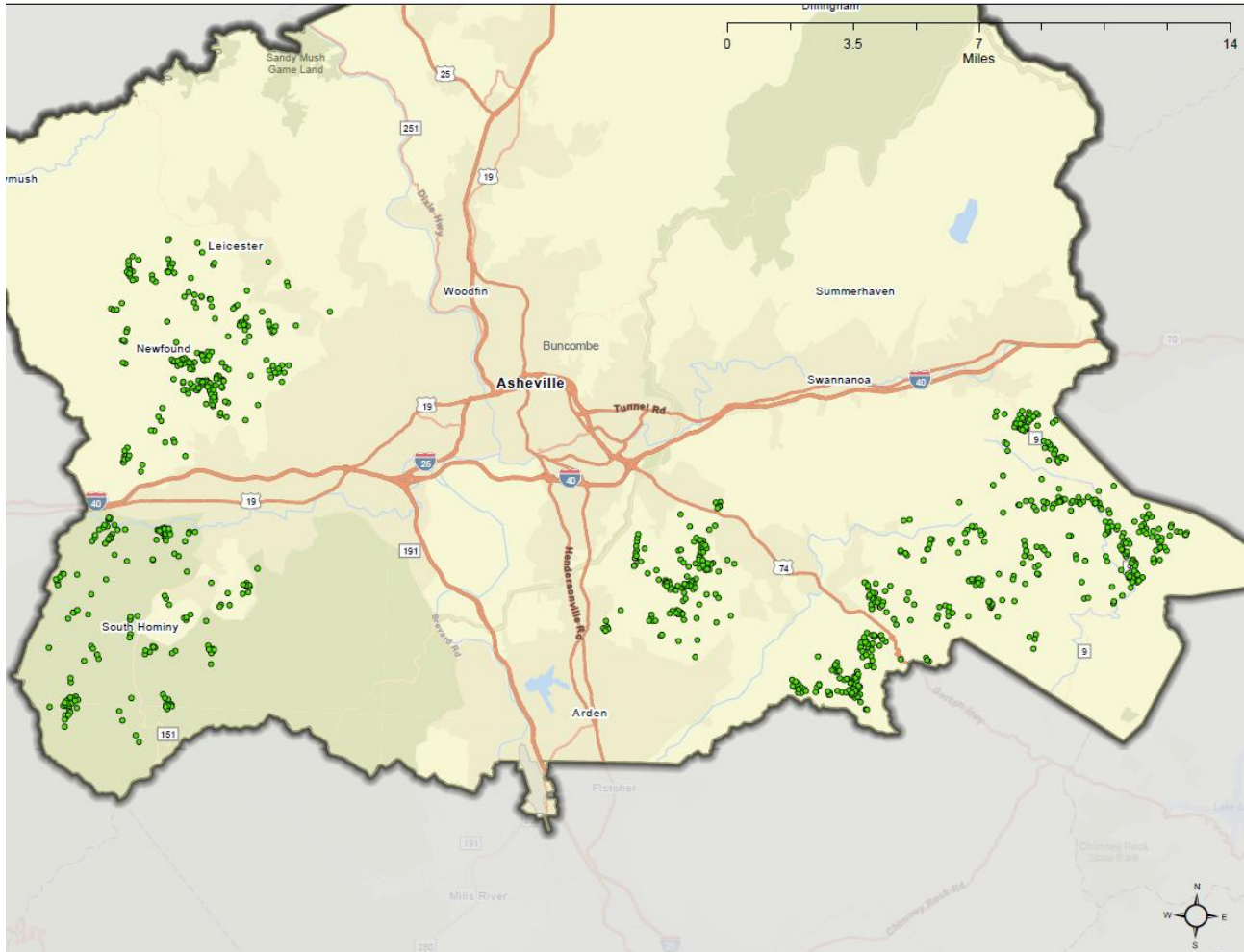
## Request

- Approve Reallocation of ARPA funds for Broadband Match
- Approve Budget Amendment for Broadband Match
- Authorize County Manager to execute NCDIT CAB MOU for Buncombe-Bellsouth Project



# CAB Award Service Area

## BUNCOMBE COUNTY CAB AWARD



## Project Details:

- Bring high-speed internet access to **967 locations**
  - **40%** of county's 2,394 eligible locations
- Areas Impacted: **Broad River, Upper Hominy, and Fairview**



# Bellsouth CAB Project Budget

County Match	\$3,605,513.80
NCDIT Contribution	\$3,605,513.80
Provider Contribution	\$3,090,440.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,301,468.00</b>



# Buncombe County CAB Match

<b>Total Broadband Project Budget</b>	<b>\$3,500,000</b>
Obligated/spent so far	\$604,284.32
Amount available	\$2,895,715.68
<b>Amount needed for CAB</b>	<b>\$3,605,513.80</b>
Amount available	\$2,895,715.68
ARPA Reallocation*	\$298,391.00
<b>Shortage</b>	<b>\$411,407.12</b>

\*Reallocation of ARPA funds from Renewable Energy for Fire Districts program.



# Offsetting Revenue Budget

- The source of the remaining \$411,407.12 will be from Medicaid Hold-Harmless Funds
- Previously Article 44 Sales Tax > State Medicaid Expenses
  - Preliminary calculation is estimated in the Spring ~\$212K
  - Reconciliations are completed in the Fall ~\$411K
- Unrestricted Dollars



# Requested Action

## Request

- Approve Reallocation of ARPA funds for Broadband Match
- Approve Budget Amendment for Broadband Match
- Authorize County Manager to execute NCDIT CAB MOU for Buncombe-Bellsouth Project

## Next Steps

- Execute CAB MOU for Bellsouth Project
- Complete Stop Gap County participation form
- Continue public awareness on CAB implementation



# Questions





# Appendix



# Statutory Requirements

- S.L. 2011-163: Authorized counties to provide grants to providers for the purpose of expanding service in unserved areas.
- The act specifically states that the County cannot provide High Speed Internet Service. Only applicable to Nash County.
- In 2012, the General Assembly expanded SL 2011-163 to all Counties with some additional requirements regarding the awarding of the grant.
- The prohibition of Counties not becoming an internet provider remained.
- Effective January 1, 2021, this session law becomes codified as N.C. Gen. Stat. 153A-459.



# Buncombe CAB Priority Areas

