

**Briefing**

**MEMORANDUM**

June 10, 2021

TO: Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee

FROM: Dr. Costis Toregas, Council IT Adviser

SUBJECT: Federal and State Programs for Digital Equity

PURPOSE: The Executive branch will provide a briefing on the status of federal and state programs that can provide resources to ease the digital divide

The following are expected to attend:

Kathleen Boucher, Office of Intergovernmental Relations  
Gail Roper, Director, Department of Technology and Enterprise Business Solutions (TEBS)  
Alison Dollar, Chief Budget Officer, Department of Technology and Enterprise Business Solutions (TEBS)

**Background**

The Committee requested a briefing regarding current and future funding programs that the County is pursuing to supplement tax dollars for making broadband both available and affordable for all County residents. This briefing builds on two prior Committee sessions that heard from government agencies and internet providers, and is intended to focus on two basic dimensions:

- new funding from external sources; and
- processes that will ensure such funds will impact the underprivileged of our residents who still do not have this most essential of resources, broadband access.

On top of the basic imbalances of broadband availability, the pandemic has challenged all County residents to reimagine their daily lives. During confinement periods, most activities must be handled from home, so all family members, including students and remote workers, have to organize a new set of tasks using the internet, computers, and software to participate in educational and work activities from home. This has put a premium on internet access, and its impact has exacerbated the digital divide.

The policy issues on the affordability question are complex. The County could initiate a subsidy program to permit qualifying families to purchase high quality, needed services. Funding for such a program could come from possible monetization of the broadband system already in service for government units. The County could also launch its own service model that can provide direct internet access as a public good, starting from an expansion of service from HOC properties to other private homes, targeting needed population groups. Public/private partnership models could also be explored with the current or future service providers as technologies and physical access requirements change.

Making sure that bandwidth at these levels is received by those who need it the most is a challenge. Steps that could address this challenge might include:

- identifying gaps between required and available bandwidth at a home level (including an explicit analysis from a Racial Equity perspective);
- identifying possible marketplace solutions and their cost envelope (including current and future internet service providers – ISPs – as well as other creative partnerships to offer broadband);
- defining governmental strategies and a road map to help close these gaps to targeted populations.

There are two sources of external funding that could be tapped in FY22:

- federal programs dealing with the pandemic and organizational resilience; and
- state efforts expressly targeting broadband availability.

The Department of Technology and Enterprise Business Solutions (TEBS) through its Office of Broadband Programs is using all options to expand an equitable and effective infrastructure for broadband, and the Office of Intergovernmental Relations is providing support in Annapolis and beyond. A report summarizing current and future achievements and opportunities is on ©1-12.

Questions the Committee may want to raise include the following:

1. What are the explicit mechanisms that exist or will be developed to ensure that new broadband resources will indeed impact the most needy?
2. Will the federal and state funds require additional management resources to execute broadband programs, or are such funds already included in the approved FY22 TEBS budget?
3. Is there a role for existing internet service providers (ISPs) in this effort to target the digital divide? The Committee heard from industry regarding their own programs, but is there a chance to create a Public/Private Partnership (PPP) to accomplish more than with market forces alone?
4. Will some of these federal or state funds allow an offsetting reduction of tax-supported expenditures in the FY22 budget? In FY23?

Attachment:

1. Federal and State funding briefing report

©1-12



**DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY & ENTERPRISE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS**

*Marc Elrich*  
County Executive

*Gail M. Roper*  
Chief Information Officer/Director

**BRIEFING MEMORANDUM**

**June 9, 2021**

- TO: GO Committee**
- FR: Department of Technology & Enterprise Business Solutions, Office of Broadband Programs; and Office of Intergovernmental Relations**
- RE: Federal and State Broadband Digital Equity Opportunities**

The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA, December 2020) and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA, March 2021), which may also be known as the third and fourth Covid relief stimulus bills, provide significant broadband digital equity funding and grant opportunities for state and local governments. In April 2021, Maryland enacted the [Digital Connectivity Act of 2021](#) (HB97/SB66), that turns the existing Office of Rural Broadband in the Department of Housing and Community Development into the Office of Statewide Broadband (OSB), with responsibility for ensuring that every resident in the State has access to reliable, high-quality, broadband Internet service at an affordable price and the devices and training necessary to use Internet resources. The General Assembly also appropriated approximately \$300 million of federal COVID-19 relief funds to support these goals in fiscal 2022 through fiscal 2024.

- The federal funding for state and local governments may be used for broadband infrastructure, internet access or digital literacy access, and the digital equity broadband initiatives listed below. Funds may also be broadly used for other Covid-related purposes. OMB and Council staff are creating a process to request use of County ARPA funding.
- Some federal and state grant programs are designed to support digital equity broadband and device programs, and Montgomery County may or may not be competitive depending on grant eligibility requirements. The Maryland program eligibility requirements have not yet been formally created, but based on initial federal and state guidance, the Department of Technology & Enterprise Business Solutions (TEBS), Office of Broadband Programs (OBP) is doing research to prepare information needed to position the County to apply for grants.

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Maryland Relay 711

- Grant activities are being planned and evaluated to address Racial Equity and Social Justice interests. A significant focus for Montgomery County will be to:
  - Obtain infrastructure funding to support low and no-cost residential MoCoNet broadband in affordable housing, especially in areas of the County with the lowest home internet adoption, or where low-income residents may not be eligible for federal broadband subsidies because they receive local housing assistance rather than federal, or earn more than 135% of the federal poverty guideline (\$29,322 for a family of 3) but less than 60% to 80% of area median income (\$64,912 to \$86,550). MoCoNet has been deployed at Main Street Apartments, is under construction at HOC Upton II, and planning and prioritization is underway at 116 additional affordable housing developments.
  - Focus efforts to enroll 10,000 residents in internet and computer subsidy programs on residents that statistically lag furthest behind in internet adoption and computer ownership (e.g., low-income, African American, Latino, seniors, and people over 25 without high school degrees, and specific areas of the County based on American Communities Survey Census data). OBP is also working with MNCPPC's Equity Emphasis Mapping team to align digital equity broadband mapping data.
- TEBS and OIR are engaging federal and state agencies and working with our federal delegation to make Montgomery County and other urban digital equity programs eligible for federal grant funds. TEBS and OIR will also be working with the state delegation to ensure that the needs of the urban areas are prioritized as the State implements the Digital Connectivity Act.
- EBS and OIR are strategizing on how best to engage other urban counties in Maryland to leverage funding opportunities to address digital equity in urban areas. As part of the Digital Connectivity Act, the OSB must create a Statewide Broadband Plan to ensure broadband connectivity for 100% of residents by December 31, 2026. OSB must consult with local governments, libraries, industry, and other stakeholders to develop the plan.
- In anticipation of efforts to address the lack of broadband during the pandemic, the Abell Foundation in Baltimore commissioned a study in Spring 2021, [\*Disconnected in Maryland\*](#), to emphasize the need for digital equity support in urban area. The report analyzed Census data to determine that 57% of Maryland households without home wireline broadband are in the following four jurisdictions: Baltimore City (19%), Baltimore County (14%), Prince George's County (13%) and Montgomery County (11%). The shared magnitude of the challenge in these jurisdictions creates an incentive to work together to influence decisions at the State level.
- The \$300 million for Maryland broadband programs are listed separately below. OSB will administer almost all state funds. TEBS OBP will lead efforts to request funding on the County's behalf, except as noted below. OBP has been meeting with MCPL, HHS, and REC

to prepare funding requests. OBP’s working goal is design applications to seek 10% or more of non-rural State funding, find funding to connect 85 remaining unserved occupied rural Agricultural Reserve properties, connect 10,000 families to the Internet, distribute 10,000 computers, and find funding to support deployment of MoCoNet to unserved residents consistent with the County’s Racial Equity and Social Justice priorities.

**PRIMARY FEDERAL AND STATE GRANT PROGRAMS FOR BROADBAND DIGITAL EQUITY**

AGENCY	PROGRAM	PROGRAM FUNDING & OBJECTIVES	DATES	COUNTY INITIATIVE
FCC	<b>Emergency Broadband Benefit</b>	\$3.2 billion nationwide. Provides temporary discount up to \$50/month on home internet service for low-income households and households experiencing income loss due to Covid. MoCoNet not eligible. Major broadband and wireless carriers participating. No major carriers participating in additional program that provides \$100 subsidy for computers. DCM is not eligible. County is promoting program with multiple organizations, including outreach to communities speaking languages other than English, food distribution organizations, affordable housing, Minority Health Initiative, faith-based organizations, CEC (including ethnic community liaisons), HHS, REC and MCPL. More info at <a href="http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/EBB">www.montgomerycountymd.gov/EBB</a>	Opened May 12, 2021. Continues until federal funds run out. At current ~325,000 new enrollments per week, program will exhaust \$3.2 billion fund near January 2022	<b>No direct funding.</b> Potential cost avoidance value to subscribers is \$1 million to \$1.7 million (3000 to 5000 subscribers, \$50/month x 7 mos)
FCC	<b>Emergency Connectivity Fund (supplemental home E-Rate)</b>	\$7.1 billion nationwide. Allows schools and libraries to purchase computers to use at home (\$400 maximum per device; 1 device per library patron, student, or school/library staffer) and to purchase home internet subscription (1 per household) for students or libraries. MCPL would need to be official applicant and we need to address policy issue of MCPL limiting this benefit to some (low-income), but not all library card holders. TEBS can work with MCPL to support E-Rate filing. Cases and headsets are not eligible for ECF funding; mice for laptops may be eligible.  NOTE: MCPS is also eligible for this funding and is expected to apply separately from the County.	Application window will open mid-June 2021 for devices purchased 7/1/21 to 6/30/22	~\$4 million for computers (10,000 computers x \$400)  ~\$1.2 million for home internet for people not eligible for EBB (2000 internet subscriptions x \$50/mo x 12 months)

AGENCY	PROGRAM	PROGRAM FUNDING & OBJECTIVES	DATES	COUNTY INITIATIVE
Md OSB	<b>Municipal Broadband</b>	<p>\$45 million statewide for municipal networks; likely to be awarded as 18 separate \$2.5 million awards. County may submit more than one request and is working to geographically group MoCoNet requests with requests to expand outdoor WiFi at neighborhood libraries and recreation centers. Additional information is being gathered to determine if HHS sites needing expanded networking to provide services to low-income residents, Minority Health Initiatives, and Consolidated Services Hubs should also be included in grant proposals. (NOTE: CARES Act funding was used to expand outdoor WiFi to 14 of 22 libraries.) Estimated \$24 million for eligible projects: \$18 million for MoCoNet at 116 affordable housing properties; \$4 million for HHS sites and Consolidated Service Hubs; and \$2 million for REC remaining indoor and outdoor WiFi, and FiberNet connectivity. Priority will be placed on projects serving areas and properties with most residents without home internet.</p>	<p>FY22 award; complete project by Dec 31, 2024</p>	<p><b>\$10 to \$15 million request</b> (prepare 4-6 grant applications; might only be awarded 1-3 grants depending on how state determines funding should be shared geographically)</p>
Md OSB	<b>Gap Networks</b>	<p>\$5 million statewide for Gap Networks, which are networks providing free internet service. MoCoNet projects and outdoor WiFi at libraries and recreation centers may also be eligible for these awards.</p>	<p>FY22 award; complete project by Dec 31, 2024</p>	<p><b>~\$250,000 to \$500,000</b> (5% to 10% of funding; grant rules are unknown at this time)</p>
Md OSB	<b>Technology Devices</b>	<p>\$30 million statewide for computers, likely 1 per low-income household. State is seeking to purchase devices in bulk at discounted rates. County is working with other urban counties to submit proposal to request that State offer reimbursement option for counties with existing device purchase contracts. Computers purchased through TEBS DCM program come with set up, repair, and warehouse distribution support. County would have to handle all this separately if the State were to deliver 10,000 computers purchased by the State. County needs to better understand how FCC ECF will work with State program. Not clear if State will disqualify or de-prioritize households that receive ECF library patron or student computer.</p>	<p>FY22 award; likely must be purchased and distributed in FY22.</p>	<p><b>~\$3 Million goal</b> (10% of state fund; 7,500 computers x \$400). Alternatively seek subsidy for tablets for seniors or more expensive Windows computers. State may want to fund less than \$400 per device. DCM recommends Chromebooks because they auto-update security and operating system updates.</p>

AGENCY	PROGRAM	PROGRAM FUNDING & OBJECTIVES	DATES	COUNTY INITIATIVE
UM Ext	<b>Digital Equity Curriculum, Training, Education and Awareness</b>	\$4 million to University of Maryland Extension for a new division “focused explicitly on supporting, training, developing curriculum, and disseminating awareness and educational opportunities to bridge the digital divide and support adoption state-wide.” Office of Broadband Programs is co-hosting a one-day Maryland Digital Inclusion Education Summit June 23, 2021, with the Office of Statewide Broadband and the University of Maryland Extension to bring together digital equity providers, libraries, community organizations, and UM faculty and staff to raise awareness of current programs, facilitate collaboration, and create an action plan for this funding.	Likely awarded to UME in FY22; may be able to spend through Dec 31, 2024	<b>No direct funding.</b> (It seems unlikely that this funding will support grants – see Digital Navigator and Digital Inclusion Fund below). County will advocate for training resources in Montgomery County and for curriculum and enrollment platforms responsive to need, including in Spanish and other languages.
TBD	<b>Digital Navigator Program</b>	\$2 million statewide. Among other digital equity and healthcare advocates, “navigators” are often people who help people navigate and sign up for benefit programs. However, Maryland seems to intend this to fund trainers providing digital inclusion education. This program may not be launched until after OSB launches rural grant program or UME completes work.	Late FY22; may be able to spend through Dec 31, 2024;	<b>\$200,000 goal</b> (10% of total; may be for County or organizations in County providing training)
Md OSB	<b>Digital Inclusion Fund</b>	\$4 million statewide. No specific information in state budget but appears to be intended to support non-profits, including local governments, providing digital inclusion work. It might be a source of funding to support VR/AR and maker spaces as well; or potential grants to help people enroll in subsidy programs.	Late FY22; same note as for Digital Navigator program	<b>\$400,000 goal</b> (10% of total; may be for County or organizations in County providing training)
Md OSB	<b>Monthly Broadband Subsidy</b>	\$45 million. State will likely offer home broadband subsidy after EBB program ends. (State concept is \$15 x 12 months x 250,000 subscribers; as of 6/7/21, 46,874 Marylanders had enrolled in EBB and may be on pace to reach 250,000 by Jan 2022; County-level data is not available as of now.) Funding to help people enroll in subsidy program may be available through this program. State is working to leverage enrollment in EBB because it does not have resources to vet applications. Program enrollment will likely be limited to low-income families. County would like to expand enrollment	Late FY22; Funding for 1 year.	<b>TBD.</b> Either no direct funding, or State may be willing to reimburse County entering into bulk Internet service contracts.

AGENCY	PROGRAM	PROGRAM FUNDING & OBJECTIVES	DATES	COUNTY INITIATIVE
		to low-income families that may be ineligible for federal EBB (likely people qualifying for low-income or affordable housing who do not qualify for Medicaid or SNAP)		
<b>Md OSB</b>	<b>Rural Broadband</b>	\$166 million statewide. State’s goal is to solve rural broadband issue and focus in later years on digital adoption. Not clear whether State will require any match (previously they required 100% match, or 50% of total project cost). Estimated unserved properties in the rural Agriculture Reserve have been reduced from 327 in March 2019 to 109 in June 2021 (85 occupied). These properties are also eligible for service from SpaceX’s Starlink satellite service. See mapping below.	FY22. Likely will have until Dec 31, 2024 to complete. Is likely to be State’s first priority.	<b>TBD.</b> The County is actively working with private partners to put together a rural broadband Maryland grant proposal and lobbying for low to no match requirements.

**SECONDARY FEDERAL AND STATE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR BROADBAND DIGITAL EQUITY**

AGENCY	PROGRAM	PROGRAM FUNDING & OBJECTIVES	DATES	COUNTY INITIATIVE
<b>US Dept of Ed</b>	<b>Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER I, II, III)</b>	\$389 Million to MCPS (estimated). MCPS may use funding to support FiberNet upgrades to expand school WiFi capacity, devices for students, and other digital STEM/STEAM enrichment programs for MCPS students.		<b>\$1.65 million</b> reimbursement for FiberNet 3 capacity upgrades
<b>US Dept of Ed</b>	<b>Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools (EANS)</b>	\$49 million for Maryland non-public schools to provide support for low-income students. TEBS received inquiries from low-income private school families requesting support for computers for students (all public school students received computers upon request from MCPS). Need to determine if County will support program to provide computers for private school students and to determine whether and how to support home-schooled students.		<b>TBD.</b>
	<b>AmeriCorps and Senior Corps</b>	Additional funding is provided for these programs in ARPA. TEBS may need support from County Departments (possible HHS or CEC) that have experience with AmeriCorps and Senior Corps programs in Maryland, or with REC youth employment programs. A program partner contribution may be required to support	TBD	<b>TBD.</b>



AGENCY	PROGRAM	PROGRAM FUNDING & OBJECTIVES	DATES	COUNTY INITIATIVE
		<p>positions. One concept is to hire workers with ability to provide services in 7 primary languages to enroll eligible low-income families in FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit and various low-cost broadband programs, similar to the 24 Covid Corps placements with TEBS in Summer 2020 for the MontgomeryConnects! tech help for seniors' program.</p>		

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION ON FUNDING REQUESTS BY SOURCE OF FUNDING**

**1. Local Fiscal Recovery Fund – \$204 million to Montgomery County**

Subject to the requirements of the American Rescue Plan and guidance issued by the US Treasury Department, this funding can be spent for a number of purposes, including to broadly mitigate the Covid public health emergency or negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, nonprofits; aid for tourism, travel, and hospitality; and “to make necessary investments in water, sewer and broadband.” Funds may be used to cover costs beginning March 3, 2021 through December 31, 2024. Permitted uses include to provide 100 Mbps service to “unserved or underserved households,” and “internet access or digital literacy assistance.” Tangential digital equity permitted purposes include public health data or technology infrastructure, facilities costs, impact evaluation, data analysis, telemedicine capabilities, consumer outreach, and public benefit navigators. While there may be many demands on this funding, broadband has been essential for County teleworkers, small businesses, and residents during the pandemic. Covid, however, has also widened the digital divide and increased the need for the County to strengthen its cybersecurity protections for systems being accessed by teleworkers and the public.

**2. Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) – \$389 Million for MCPS**

\$1.756 billion for ESSER for 24 Maryland school districts to be distributed by formula. MCPS will receive \$389.063 million in ESSER funding through CARES Act (ESSER I), December 2020 Supplemental Appropriation (ESSER II), and ARPA (ESSER III). ESSER funding can be used for school improvements, addressing learning loss, afterschool programs and summer enrichment.

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION ON FEDERAL EFFORTS TO ACCELERATE BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT**

- The Leading Infrastructure For Tomorrow’s America Act, or LIFT America Act (H.R. 1848), was introduced on March 11, 2021 and is pending before the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Sponsored by all 32 Democratic Committee members (including Congressman John

Sarbanes), the bill includes language to provide more than \$100 billion to expand nationwide broadband internet access. ([Section-by-section summary of H.R. 1848](#)). The bill could be included in a larger infrastructure package being considered by Congress.

- Included in President Biden’s \$6 trillion budget proposal released on May 29, 2021, is a call for a \$100 billion investment in high-quality and reliable broadband internet. Congress uses the budget as a blueprint for FY22 discretionary funding.

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION ABOUT DIGITAL EQUITY IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

Montgomery County, MD 2019 US Census American Community Survey	Households	%	Without Broadband*	% of subgroup	Without Computer	% of subgroup
All Households	368,898		58,190	16%	35,191	10%
Income less than \$50,000	79,056	21%	28,325	36%	21,041	27%
Income \$50,000 to \$75,000	47,033	13%	7,943	17%	4,669	10%
Income more than \$75,000	242,809	66%	13,630	6%	6,229	3%

\*Broadband does not include cell phone Internet or dial, but does include DSL

Issue is more acute in 3 of the County’s 7 Census PUMAs (Public Microdata Use Areas).  
 Among households earning less than \$50,000 per year:

- East Central (Wheaton, Aspen Hill, Glenmont): 42% No Broadband; 34% No Computer
- East (Fairland, Calverton, White Oak, Burtonsville): 42% No Broadband; 29% No Computer
- Southeast (Takoma Park, Silver Spring): 41% No Broadband; 41% No Computer

Montgomery County, MD 2019 US Census American Community Survey	Households	%	Without Broadband*	% of subgroup	Without Computer	% of subgroup
All Households	368,898		58,190	16%	35,191	10%
White	221,966	60%	28,634	13%	16,150	7%
African American	73,442	20%	16,150	22%	9,545	13%
Hispanic	49,420	13%	12,493	25%	9,661	20%
Asian	58,263	16%	7,702	13%	4,085	7%

Issue is more acute for Latinos in 4 PUMAs and for African Americans in 2 PUMAs.  
 Among households earning less than \$50,000 per year:

- West Central (Germantown & Montgomery Village): Latinos 31% No Broadband

- Central (Rockville, Gaithersburg, N. Potomac): Latinos 30% No Broadband
- East Central (Wheaton, Aspen Hill, Glenmont): Latinos 27% No Broadband, 30% No Computer; African Americans 31% No Broadband
- Southeast (Takoma Park, Silver Spring): Latinos 26% No Broadband, 24% No Computer; African Americans 30% No Broadband

Montgomery County, MD 2019 US Census American Community Survey	Population	%	Without Broadband*	% of subgroup	Without Computer	% of subgroup
Population (2019)	1,042,173		46,751	4%	15,702	2%
Under 18	241,716	23%	13,584	6%	2,158	1%
Age 18-64	636,203	61%	25,008	4%	6,753	1%
65 and over	164,254	16%	8,159	5%	6,791	4%

Issue of older adults without home broadband is more acute in 3 PUMAs:

- East (Fairland, Calverton, White Oak, Burtonsville): 16% No Broadband
- East Central (Wheaton, Aspen Hill, Glenmont): 18% No Broadband
- Southeast (Takoma Park, Silver Spring): 19% No Broadband

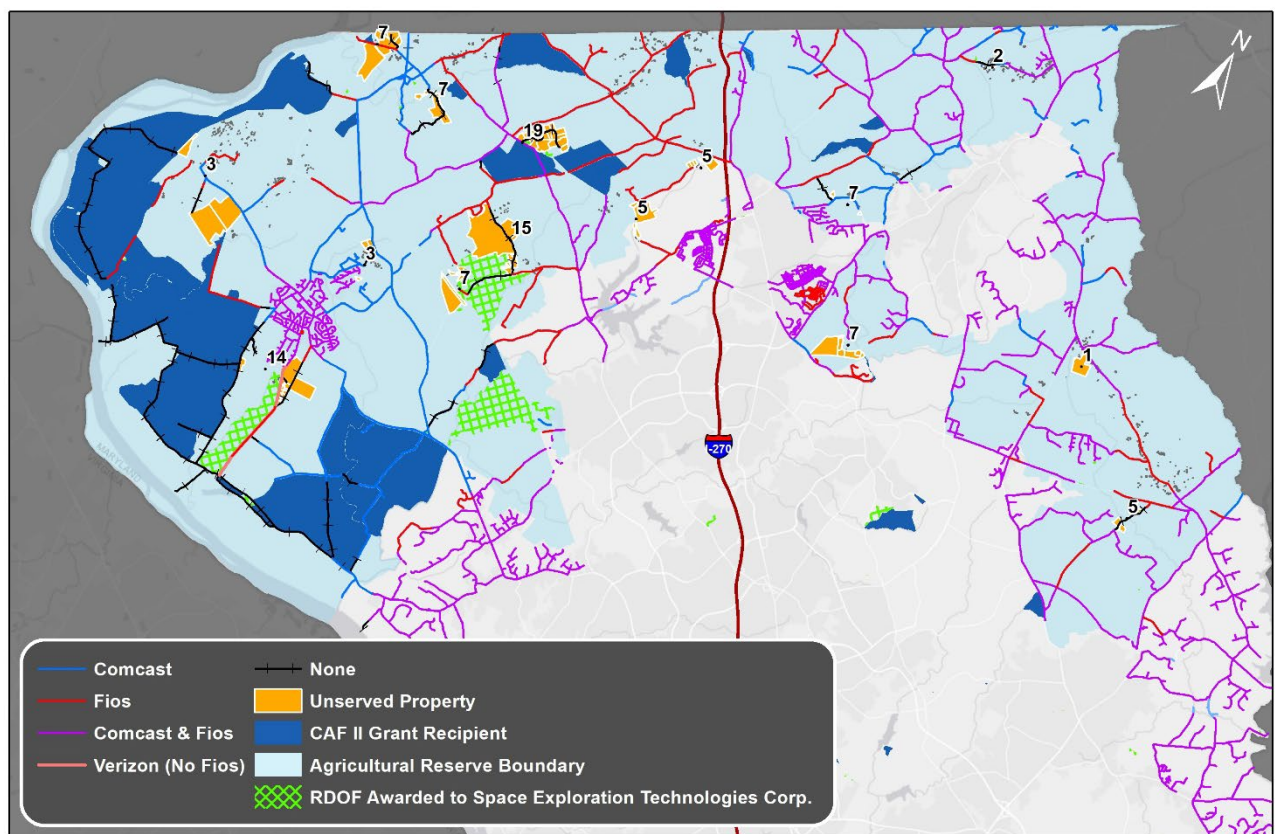
### **RURAL BROADBAND**

In the rural Agriculture Reserve, in March 2020, OBP determined through a field survey and two postal surveys that 327 properties were not served by wireline broadband. OBP has worked during the pandemic to request broadband and cable service from Comcast and Verizon on behalf of rural residents, to enforce requirements in the Verizon cable franchise, to develop Maryland broadband grant requests, and to publicize the availability of soon-to-be-deployed Starlink next generation satellite service. Verizon and Comcast were both responsive to requests to connect residents during Covid.

Based on June 2021 field surveys and data verification by Comcast, OBP has determined that there are 109 remaining unserved properties. 24 properties are unoccupied. Of the remaining 85 occupied properties:

- 30 are within 1,000 feet of Verizon (20 in Verizon Extended Service Area) and 8 additional properties are within one-half mile (2,640 ft) of Verizon (2 in Extended Service Area) (red lines show where only Verizon facilities are visible)

- 21 are within 1,000 feet of Comcast (Comcast is surveying 16 of these located on a private road), and 1 additional property is within one-half mile of Comcast (blue lines show where only Comcast facilities are visible)
- 8 are within 1,000 feet of Comcast and 7 are within one-half mile of both (4 in Extended Service Area) (purple lines on map show where both providers' service is available)
- Starlink can provide service to all address but has no legal obligation (green areas show locations where Starlink has a federal grant to provide service within 10 years)
- Number of underserved properties (including vacant properties) are shown on map



OBP will continue to work with Comcast and Verizon to determine if Maryland rural broadband funding is available to finish buildout for rural Montgomery County. The Office of Statewide Broadband has stated that it does not support funding the cost to construct fiber on long driveways. The County may want to consider a program to allow residents to repay costs to build on long driveways over a 5-year or 10-year period through a fee assessment program.

**DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN MARYLAND WITHOUT HOME BROADBAND OR COMPUTERS**

	Households	Without Wireline Broadband	% of MD Households Without Broadband	Without Computer (desktop or laptop)	% of MD Households Without Computer
<b>State of Maryland</b>	<b>2,226,767</b>	<b>521,063</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>391,911</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>Big Four</b>	<b>1,240,418</b>	<b>296,574</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>229,599</b>	<b>44%</b>
<b>Baltimore City</b>	<b>242,694</b>	<b>100,233</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>78,876</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Baltimore County</b>	<b>312,466</b>	<b>70,617</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>55,306</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>Prince George's</b>	<b>316,361</b>	<b>69,283</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>60,741</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>Montgomery</b>	<b>368,897</b>	<b>56,441</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>34,676</b>	<b>7%</b>
Anne Arundel	216,200	33,079	6%	25,512	5%
Howard	115,772	13,198	3%	10,998	2%
Queen Anne's, Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester & Kent	68,186	24,683	5%	15,819	3%
Wicomico, Worcester & Somerset	70,210	24,784	5%	16,429	3%
Frederick County	93,768	20,816	4%	12,190	2%
Carroll	60,617	21,943	4%	10,244	2%
Harford	96,203	15,970	3%	13,468	3%
Cecil	38,547	10,292	2%	7,671	1%
Allegany & Garrett	39,789	16,353	3%	12,772	2%
Washington	56,225	17,205	3%	16,643	3%
St. Mary's & Calvert	73,100	15,205	3%	11,477	2%
Charles	57,732	11,027	2%	8,025	2%

Source: "Disconnected in Maryland", Abell Foundation, US Census 2019 American Communities Survey

## **ENROLLMENT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY HOUSEHOLDS IN LOW-INCOME PROGRAMS**

- 36,784 families receiving SNAP (food stamp) benefits (EBB-eligible)
- 27,402 families receiving Medicaid (EBB-eligible)
- 8,105 families in HOC properties and 8,033 receiving housing vouchers (only recipients of federal housing subsidies are EBB-eligible)
- 8,000 Pell Grant recipients in Montgomery College (EBB-eligible)
- 5,823 approved for emergency assistance relief payments
- 3,238 residents approved for emergency rental relief
- 2,130 families in Infants and Toddlers Program
- 1,151 families receiving Temporary Cash Assistance
- 973 childcare subsidies for school-aged children remote learning
- 55,825 MCPS students enrolled in Free and Reduced Meal System (FARMS)(33.8%) (EBB-Eligible)

OBP's goal is to work to enroll 10,000 low-income families in the EBB program and acquire funding to support deployment of 10,000 computers to low-income families, based on 28,325 families earning less than \$50,000 year without home Internet and 21,041 families earning less than \$50,000 year without a home computer. However, OBP is still working to find a means to measure EBB enrollments other than through assisting with individual sign-ups.

CC: Gail M. Roper, Director/CIO, Department of Technology and Enterprise Business Solutions  
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Marjorie Williams, Franchise Manager, OBP  
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