

Local Technology Planning Team (LTPT)

Broadband Gap Analysis, Funding, and Digital Equity Program Summary Report

June 24th, 2024



Lee County
Southwest Florida



Disruptive Innovation Solutions SM

Process Utilized:

- Form Local Technology Planning Team
- Data Collection
- Citizen / Business Survey
- Departmental and Community Agency Discussions (~70 mtgs to date)
- Mapping (Flat and Digital)
- County Fiber Network Evaluation
- ISP Planning Discussions (~25 mtgs to date)
- Needs and Growth Assessment
- Funding Review
- Action Plan

Local Technology Planning Team (LTPT) Goals:

- Work with Federal, State, and Local agencies to assess high-speed internet service needs in the community
- Locate residents and businesses that do not have access to high-speed internet services
- Work with County departments and County agencies to develop programs that address digital equity, literacy, telehealth, and workforce development; and that are eligible for grant funding
- Build partnerships with internet service providers to:
 - Reduce barriers to the deployment of high-speed internet services in the community
 - Provide high-speed internet services to unserved areas of the community



Keys to successful LTPT and Community Engagement

Received support from County leadership, LTPT members and external partners

Focused on how broadband could serve the community and the individual

Collaborated with internet service providers to fill broadband service gaps

Conducted small group and individual discussions to identify strengths and opportunities

Engaged the community with the survey and the Lee County Broadband website

Projects focus on the needs of unserved individuals

- Work
- Education
- Health
- Safety

Residential and Business Surveys

Responses received from July 1st, 2022 – August 1st, 2022

Total number of Residential responses: 1,659

Total number of Business responses: 70

Total number of Responses: 1,729

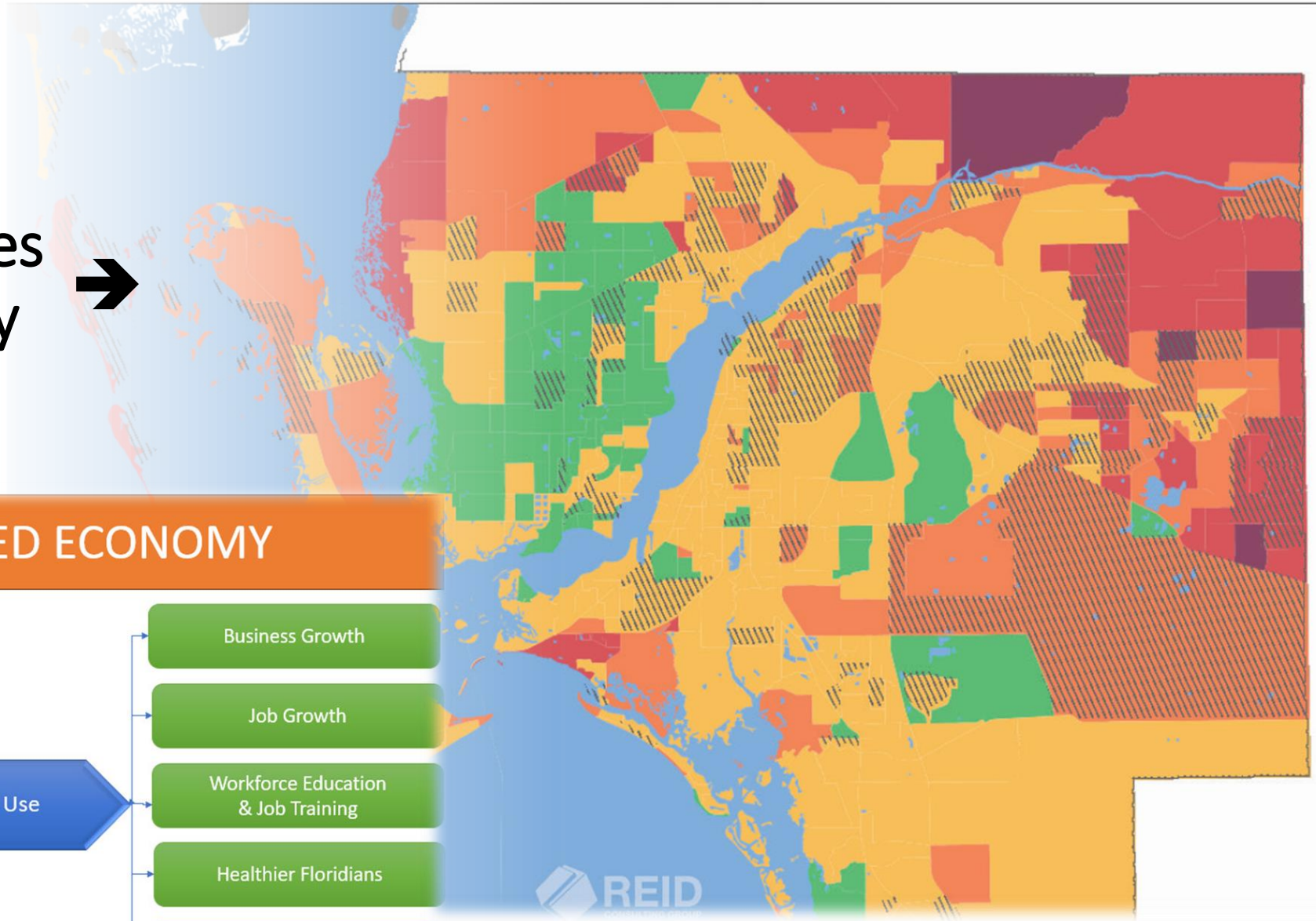
Total number of Online responses: 1,515

Total number of Paper responses: 214

Please note – Responses were not required for all questions.

Please note that for a population of 783,000 (current Lee County estimate), to achieve a 95% Confidence level with a Margin of Error +/- 3%, you will need a sample size of at least 1,066. Residential Survey submittals are above that threshold.

Poverty Zones Digital Equity



STEPS TO A CONNECTED ECONOMY

Availability

Affordability

Adoption

Use

Business Growth

Job Growth

Workforce Education
& Job Training

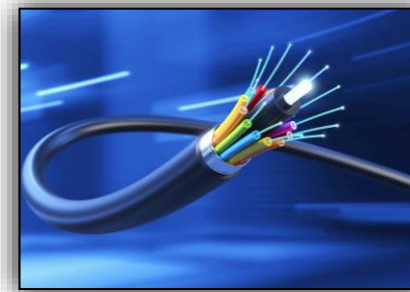
Healthier Floridians

Workforce Housing

ACCOUNTABILITY

Three Focus Areas

to determine fundability



Unserved Areas – Residential Focus

Broadband Service Provider

- Availability
- Affordability
- Adoption
- Use

Programs – Digital Equity, Telehealth, Workforce Development, and Education

Enablement through Broadband

- Devices
- Literacy and skills
- Wireless
- Fiber optic infrastructure

County Anchor Institutions

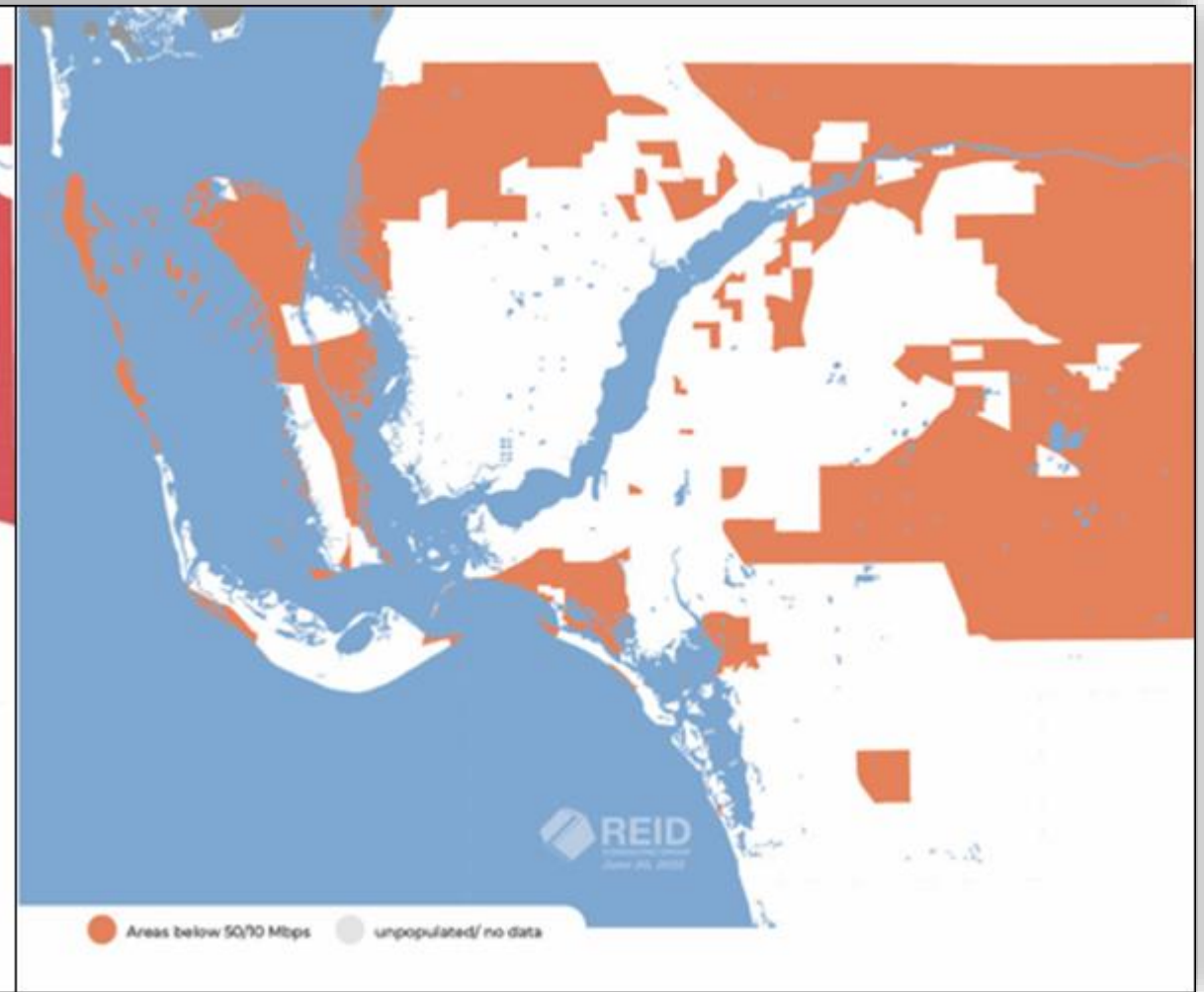
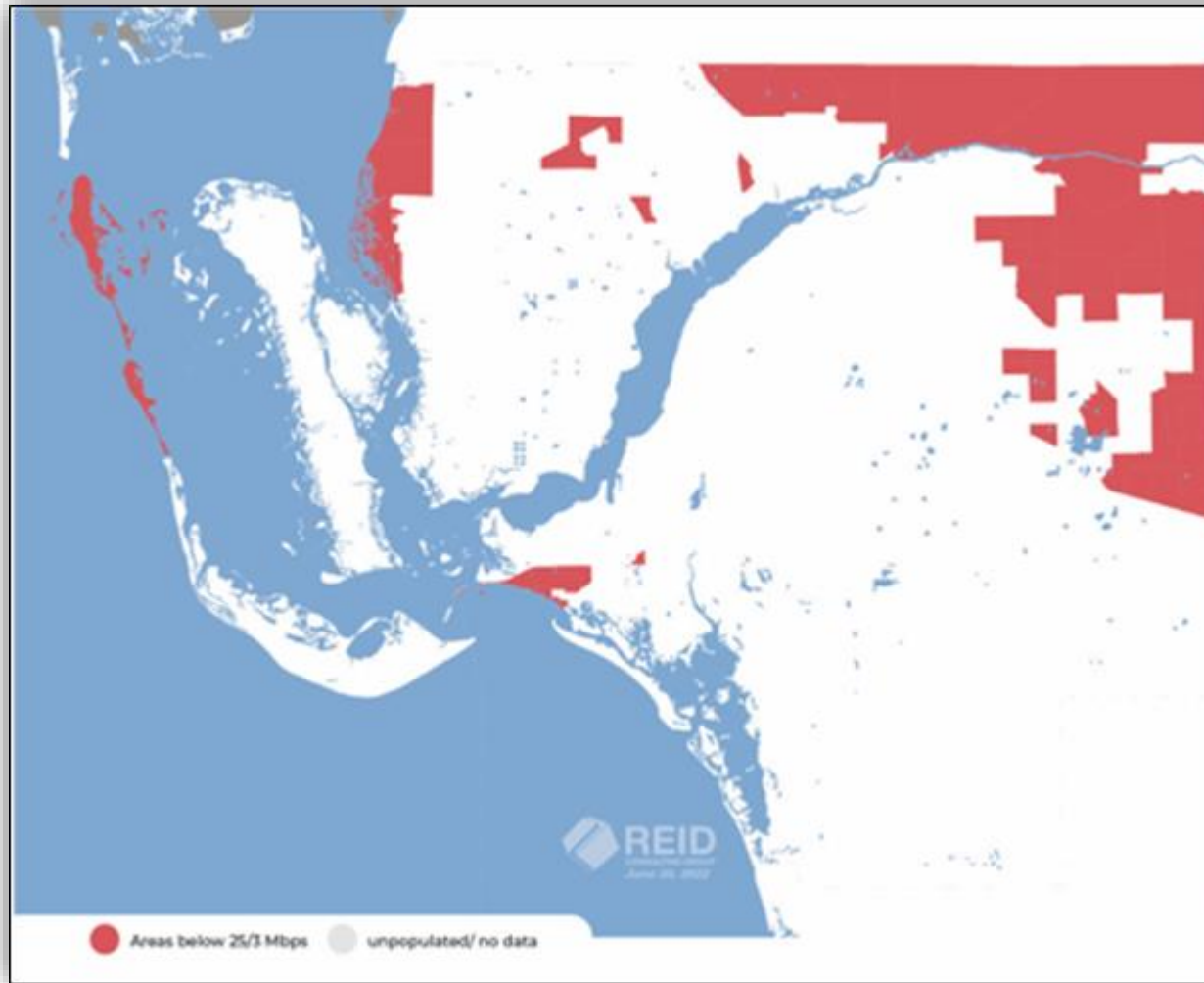
County or Provider's

- Fiber Optic
- Wireless

LTPT – Residential Broadband Map

Unserved <25/3




Underserved <50/10



FROM THE OFFICE OF
**GOVERNOR
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Governor DeSantis has announced Broadband Grant Awards for the 1st and 2nd Rounds of the Broadband Opportunity Program (BOP) Grant, and for the Capital Projects Fund's Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP) and Multi-Purpose Community Facility (MPCF) Grants:

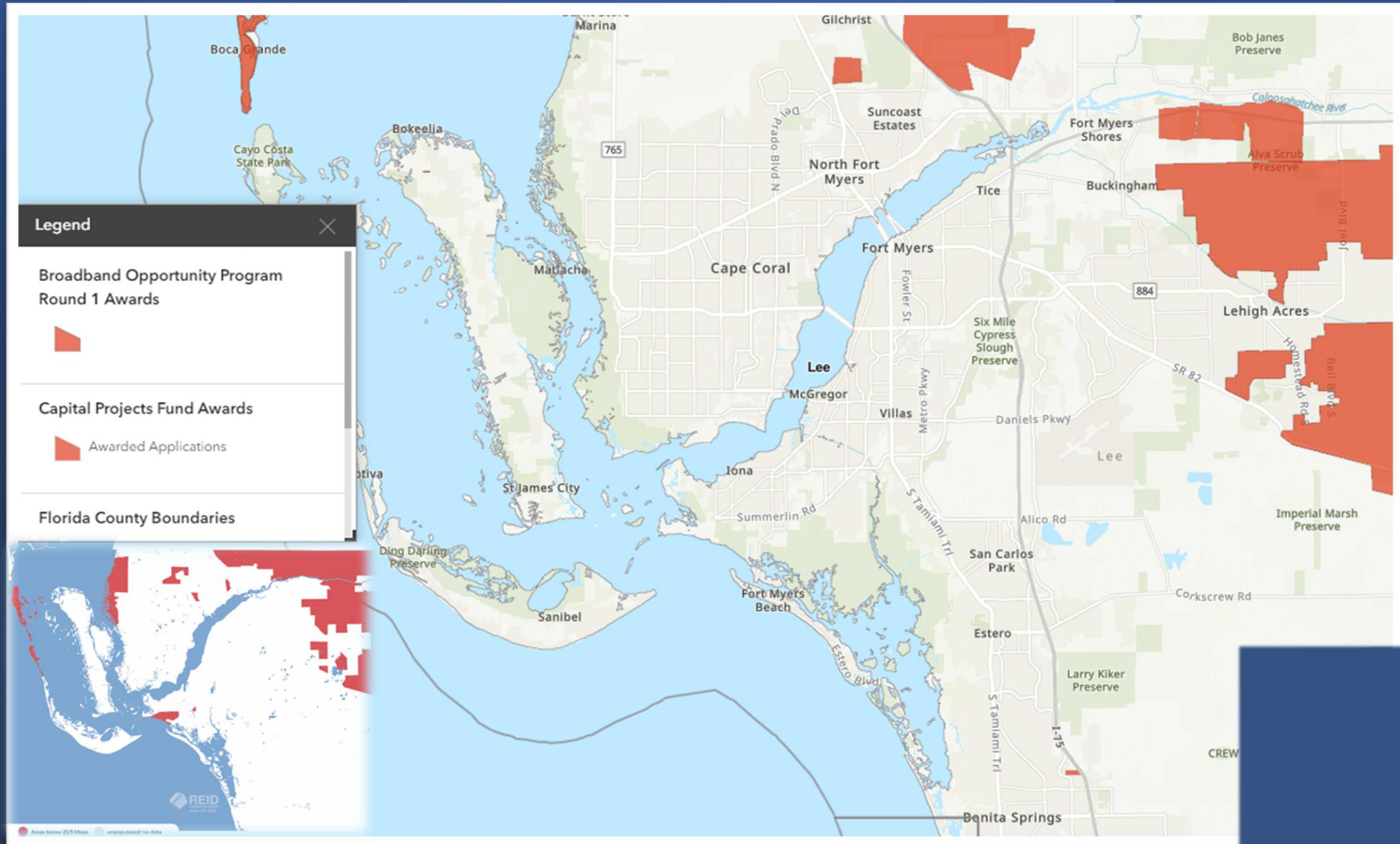
Grant Recipient	BOP Awards	CPF (BIP/MPCF) Awards
	-----	NFM Rec Center – \$1,110,756
	Lehigh Acres #1 - \$3,988,532 Lehigh Acres #2 - \$4,111,225 NE Lee County - \$625,000	Lehigh Acres, Alva, Olga, NFM – \$2,050,000
	Bokeelia – \$63,311	Bonita Springs – \$612,830

LTPT – Total Broadband Investment in Lee County

Here is a breakdown of the Broadband Grants awarded in Lee County. Grant 'Match' information is included where applicable. The total Broadband investment value from these grants is ~ \$21,350,000.

Grant Name	Grantee	Location(s) Served	Grant Award	Req'd Match (from ISP)	Total Investment
CPF - MPCF	Lee County - Parks & Rec	North Fort Myers (NFM) Rec Center	\$1,110,756.00		\$1,110,756.00
BOP - Round 1	Comcast	Lehigh Acres	\$8,099,757.00	\$8,099,757.00	\$16,199,514.00
BOP - Round 2	Comcast	Northeast Unincorporated Lee County	\$625,000.00	\$625,000.00	\$1,250,000.00
CPF - BIP	Comcast	Lehigh Acres, Alva, Olga, and NFM	\$2,050,000.00		\$2,050,000.00
BOP - Round 1	Lumen	Bokeelia	\$63,311.00	\$63,311.00	\$126,622.00
CPF - BIP	Lumen	Bonita Springs	\$612,830.00		\$612,830.00
Totals			\$12,561,654.00	\$8,788,068.00	\$21,349,722.00

ISPs BOP & BIP Grant Award Areas – Lee County



ISPs BOP Round 2 Grant Award Areas – Lee County



What Grant Opportunities are Next?

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD):

- \$1.1 Billion allocated to Florida.
- For ISPs such as Comcast and Lumen to complete delivery of broadband services to unserved residences in Lee County.
- Evaluating the number of residences in need of broadband and sharing this data with the ISPs.
- This grant is likely to be issued in two parts, with the first wave of applications accepted during the 4th Qtr of 2024 and the second wave of applications accepted during the 3rd Qtr of 2025.

Digital Equity, Adoption, and Use – ‘Capacity’ Program (from State):

- Florida will allocate a total of \$75M over the next couple of years for this grant.
- These grants will focus on digital navigator programs that support computers, tablets, wi-fi, computer labs, digital skills training and support services.
- Prime candidates for this grant are Libraries, Community Centers, and Non-profits such as Goodwill, United Way, and Boys & Girls Clubs.
- Phase I in late 2024 (\$40M) and Phase II in late 2025 (\$35M)

Digital Equity, Adoption, and Use – ‘Competitive’ Program (from NTIA):

- Similar goals as the ‘Capacity’ grant above but will award from a \$1.25B bucket that will be administered by the NTIA.
- These grants will begin after the 1st Phase of the ‘Capacity’ grants, most likely starting in early 2025. Two phases are expected, to incentivize specific types of solutions and use cases. Phase I in Winter 2024/Spring 2025 and Phase II in Winter 2025/Spring 2026.
- Key eligibility factors will focus on digital navigator programs that support computers, tablets, wi-fi, computer labs, digital skills training and support services. Larger projects that require building construction and/or fiber optic networks between strategic sites will also be eligible.

What is Next for the LTPT?

Conduct Quarterly Extended LTPT Meetings via Microsoft Teams

Communication:

- Enhance Lee County's Broadband website (www.leegov.com/broadband)
- Issue Monthly Email Communications to the extended LTPT
 - Provide Summary of the State's Office of Broadband Monthly LTPT Meetings
 - Update on Broadband Topics that Impact Lee County

BEAD Preparation:

- Work with ISPs and the State's Office of Broadband to identify remaining unserved/underserved residences. Lee County GIS has been very helpful in this area.
- The initial Gap Analysis showed 24,500 residents without access to hi-speed internet services. After factoring in the ISPs existing project build-outs that have since been completed, and the BOP and CPF BIP grant funds awarded to ISPs to service unserved areas, the current estimate is that ~8,900 residences remain unserved.

Digital Equity, Adoption, and Use Grant Preparation:

- Work with Lee County's Human & Veteran Services, Libraries, and Parks & Rec Departments, Lee Health, Goodwill, and United Way to identify digital needs of the populations served and to develop potential grant fundable project applications for submission. Project focus will be on affordable Internet Access, New and Re-purposed Devices, Skills Training, Digital Navigator and Virtual Support Options, and expansion of the developing Ecosystem of Support Resources.