**Alabama Broadband Accessibility Act**

**2018-2019 Program Year Report**

**Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs**

**Kenneth W. Boswell, Director**

**March 28, 2019**

**Alabama Broadband Accessibility Act**

On March 28, 2018, Governor Kay Ivey signed the Alabama Broadband Accessibility Act (Act). The purpose of the Act is to encourage high-speed broadband services in unserved, rural areas of Alabama to promote economic development, to improve education, to enhance health care, and to support emergency services.

**Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund**

The Act established the Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund (Fund).

The Fund establishes a Minimum Service Threshold – “A connection to the Internet that provides capacity for transmission at an average speed per customer of at least 10 megabits per second (Mbps) downstream and at least one Mbps upstream.”

Additionally, Rural Area is defined as – “Any area within this state not included within the boundaries of any incorporated city or town having a population in excess of 25,000 inhabitants, according to the last federal census.

Furthermore, Unserved Area is defined as – “Any rural area in which there is not at least one provider of terrestrial broadband service that is either: (1) offering a connection to the Internet meeting the minimum service threshold; or (2) is required, under the terms of the Federal Universal Service Fund or other federal or state grant, to provide a connection to the internet at speeds meeting the minimum service threshold within five years of the effective date of this act.”

Finally, award requirements include that no more than 20 percent of project costs may come from the Fund. Additionally, the grant ceiling is capped at $750,000 or $1,400,000, based on the broadband speed provided. Furthermore, at least 40 percent of awards will be in unincorporated areas and all funds must be used in rural areas. Lastly, all funds are for current, non-governmental providers.

**Program Status and Broadband Availability**

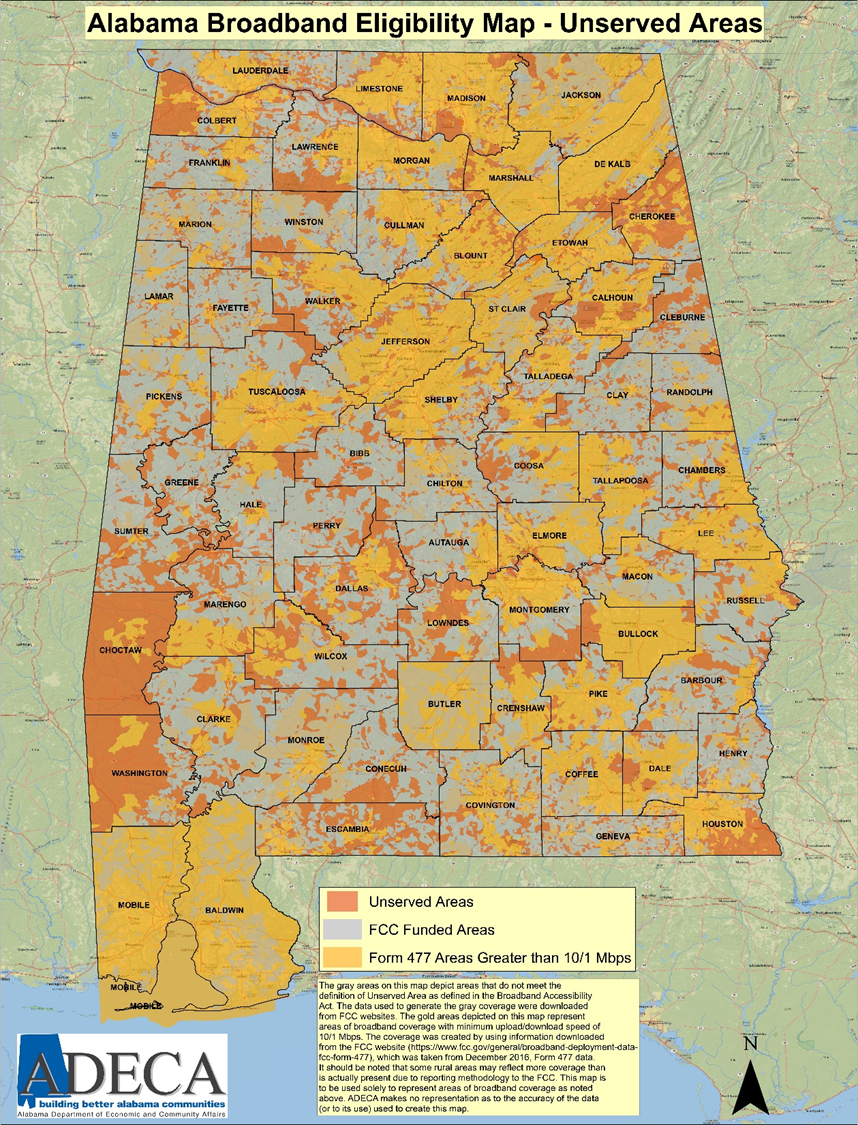
As required by the Legislation, the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) is providing the following information regarding program status and broadband availability in the state.

The legislature provided $7.4 million to use for these grants. ADECA has held two application workshops (one for the 2018 program year and one for the 2019 program year). Additionally, ADECA has developed and published on its website an application guide and program information.

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| **Project Name** | **Total Project** | **Amount Requested** | **Provider/Applicant** | **Primary County** | **Total Potential Customers** |
| Choctaw County Project 1 | $4,691,530.52 | $938,306.10 | Millry | Choctaw | 760 |
| East Wood Point | $55,110.00 | $11,022.00 | Charter | Lawrence | 40 |
| Emerald Ridge | $55,316.40 | $11,063.28 | Charter | Shelby | 41 |
| Glen Ridge | $147,835.00 | $29,567.00 | Charter | Tuscaloosa | 94 |
| Grace Haven | $30,086.00 | $6,017.20 | Charter | Marshall | 29 |
| Pea Ridge | $372,932.00 | $74,586.00 | FTC | DeKalb | 62 |
| Vickey Lane | $42,076.00 | $8,415.20 | Charter | Etowah | 44 |
| **Subtotal** | **$5,394,885.92** | **$1,078,976.78** |  |  | **1,070** |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Project Name** | **Total Project** | **Amount Requested** | **Provider/Applicant** | **Primary County** | **Total Potential Customers** |
| Dixie Area | $273,140.55 | $218,512.44 | R.M. Green | Russell | 238 |
| Fabius | $443,340.55 | $88,668.11 | FTC | Jackson | 48 |
| Fiber to Premise | $165,000.00 | $33,000.00 | Otelco | Morgan | 79 |
| Five Points Community Broadband Project | $396,198.00 | $79,239.60 | Roanoke/TEC/National Telephone | Chambers | 153 |
| Pittsview Area | $21,602.87 | $17,828.30 | R.M. Green | Russell | 23 |
| Southeast Alabama Project 1 | $6,251,457.10 | $1,250,291.42 | Troy | Geneva | 2,272 |
| Southeast Alabama Project 2 | $3,331,633.03 | $666,326.61 | Troy | Pike | 1,189 |
| **Subtotal** | **$10,882,372.10** | **$2,353,866.48** |  |  | **4,002** |

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| **Project Name** | **Total Project** | **Amount Requested** | **Provider/Applicant** | **Primary County** | **Total Potential Customers** |
| Padgett Rd. Area | $50,594.65 | $40,475.72 | R.M. Green | Russell | 49 |
| Patterson Rd. Area | $37,110.10 | $29,688.08 | R.M. Green | Russell | 21 |
| Red Rock Community Broadband Project | $447,822.00 | $89,564.40 | Roanoke/TEC/National Telephone | Colbert | 124 |
| Rural Hackleburg | $3,539,443.00 | $707,889.00 | Tombigbee | Marion | 637 |
| Southeast Marion County | $1,646,778.00 | $329,356.00 | Tombigbee | Marion | 432 |
| Tin Shop Community Broadband Project | $749,130.00 | $149,130.00 | Roanoke/TEC/National Telephone | Randolph | 163 |
| Whitehouse Community | $1,128,876.00 | $225,776.00 | Tombigbee | Marion | 404 |
| Paladin Coosa Fixed Wireless Solution | $7,000,000.00 | $1,400,000.00 | Paladin | Coosa | 12,000 |
| **Subtotal** | **$14,599,753.75** | **$2,971,879.20** |  |  | **13,830** |



Additional information regarding broadband availability and program status can be found at <http://adeca.alabama.gov/Divisions/energy/broadband/Pages/default.aspx>