

BROADBAND UPDATE

APRIL 9TH, 2024

JACKSON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Tiffany Henry
Director of Economic Development

Current Funded Broadband Projects.....

- Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF)
- NC Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (NC GREAT) Grant Program





Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF)

- FCC Program – awards determined through reverse auction
- \$16.9M Award to Charter/Spectrum
- 11,128 locations awarded in Jackson County
- 6-year total project timeframe

NC GREAT Grant

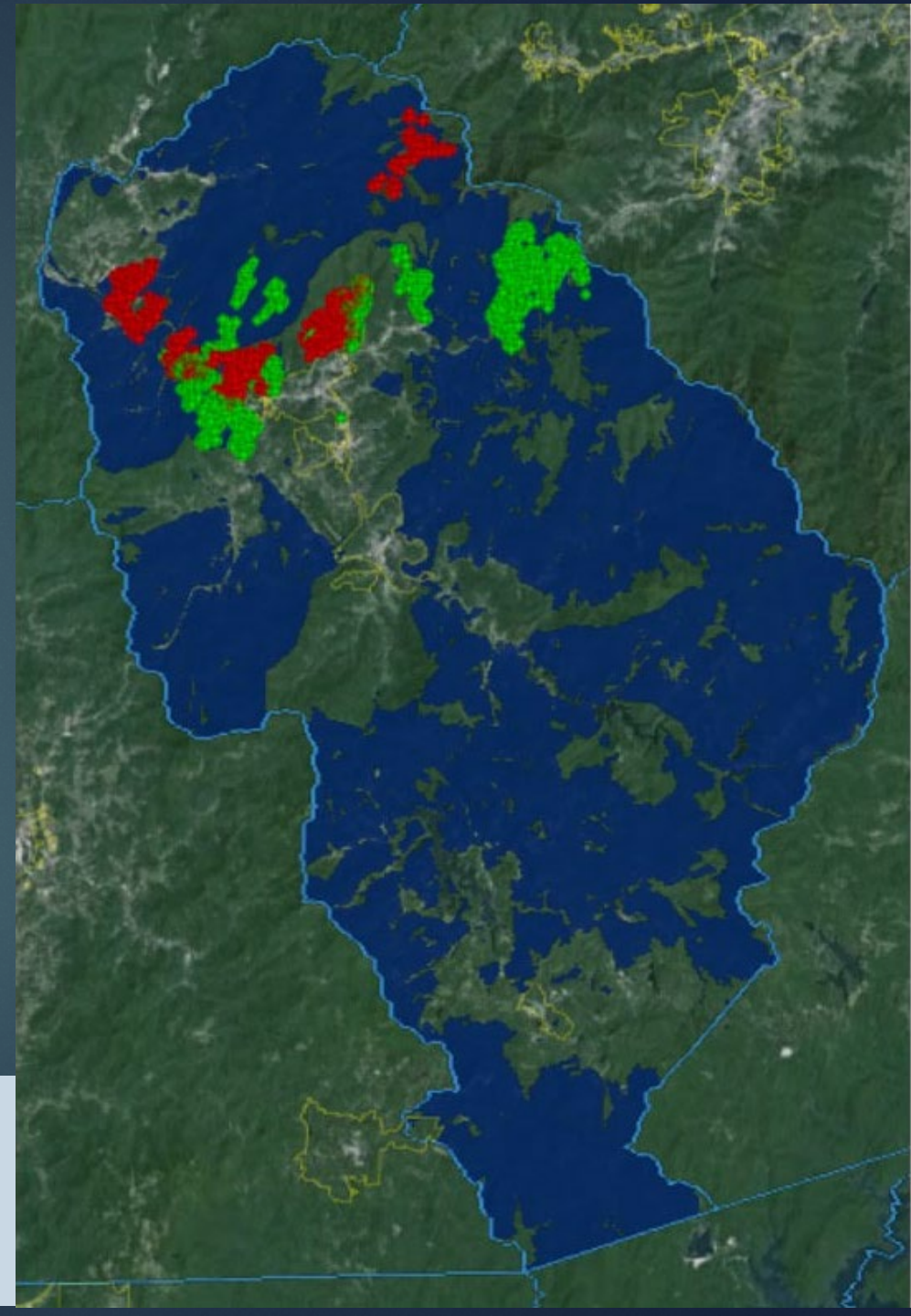
- NC Program managed through NCDIT Office
- Jackson County had 2 awards
 - 1,156 locations awarded to Charter/Spectrum - \$4,497,486
 - 636 locations awarded to Balsam West - \$2,431,130.90
- 2 year total project timeframe



Charter/Spectrum Progress Update

- RDOF – 1,223 Addresses Activated
- NC GREAT – 330 Addresses Activated
- They reported some initial delays with permitting but are back on track.
- RDOF – Completion projected by 1Q28

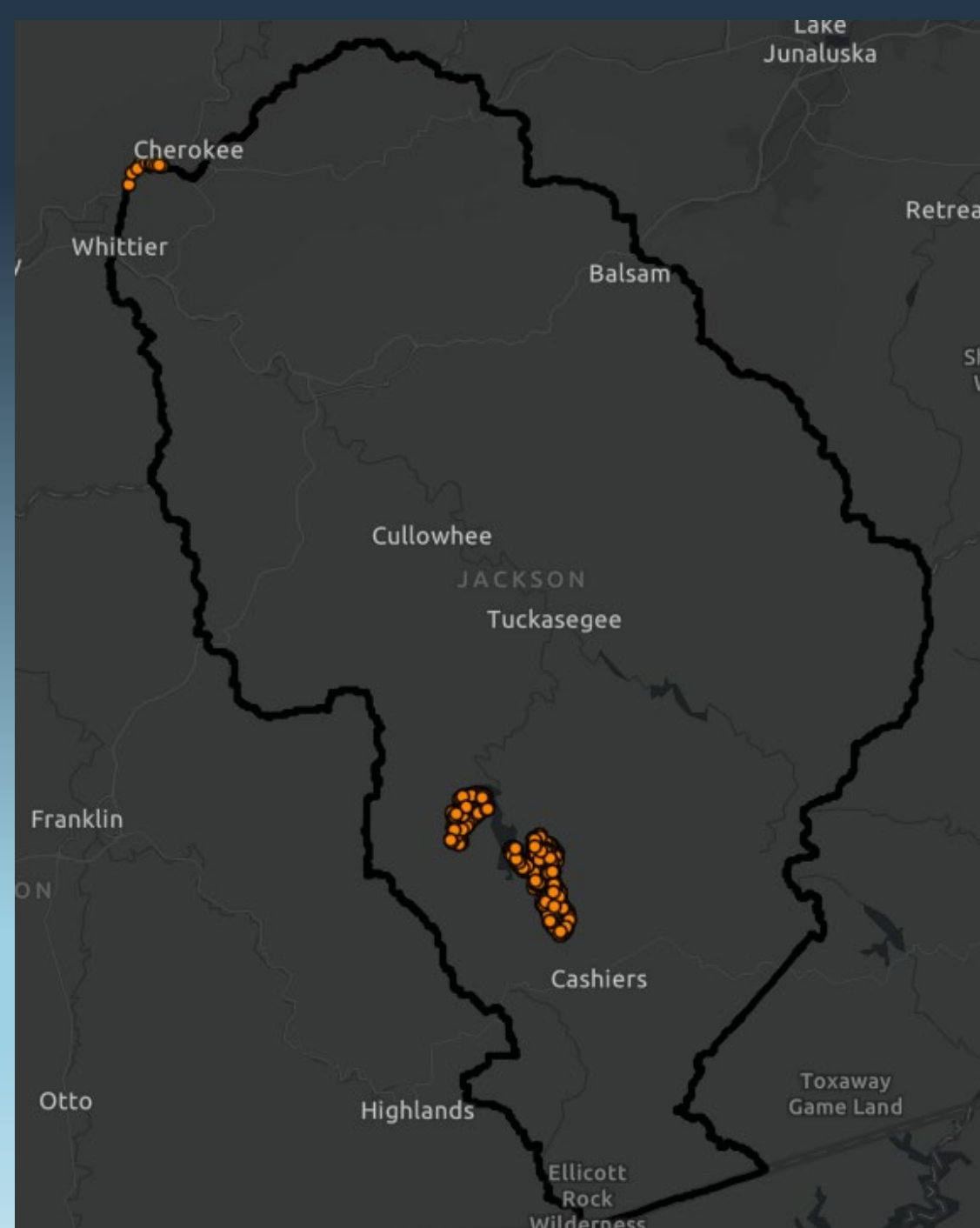
- Blue = RDOF Award Addresses
- Red Dots = GREAT Award Addresses
- Green Dots = RDOF/GREAT Activated Addresses



Balsam West GREAT Grant Update

- Currently in the Engineering Development/Build Phase
- On track to meet 2 year timeline

● Orange Dots = GREAT Award Addresses



NEXT BROADBAND GRANT PROGRAM



Completing Access to Broadband (CAB) Grant Program

- Program kickoff by NCDIT in January 2024
- County collaborates with NCDIT to identify project area and scope
- Project is posted on NCDIT website as an RFP
- Qualified providers respond and compete for project
- County reviews responses with NCDIT and selects provider
- Max of \$8M grant per county per year
- CAB represents a potential opportunity to advance projects not funded in the current round of GREAT grants

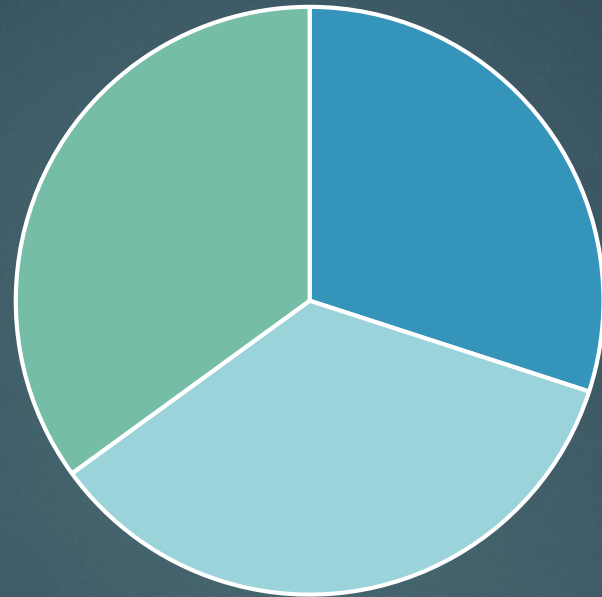


CAB PROJECT MATCHING FUNDS

Direct ARPA Funds Received by County	Broadband Provider Responsibility	County Responsibility	State Responsibility
\$8 million or more	Up to 30%	At least 35%	Up to 35%

CAB EXAMPLE PROJECT FUNDING

Funding Sources Example Project



■ PROVIDER ■ COUNTY ■ STATE

	ISP Responsibility	County Responsibility	State Responsibility
Required %:	Up to 30%	At least 35%	Up to 35%
Amount Contributed:	\$3.6 million	\$4.2 million	\$4.2 million
Actual Percentage:	30%	35%	35%



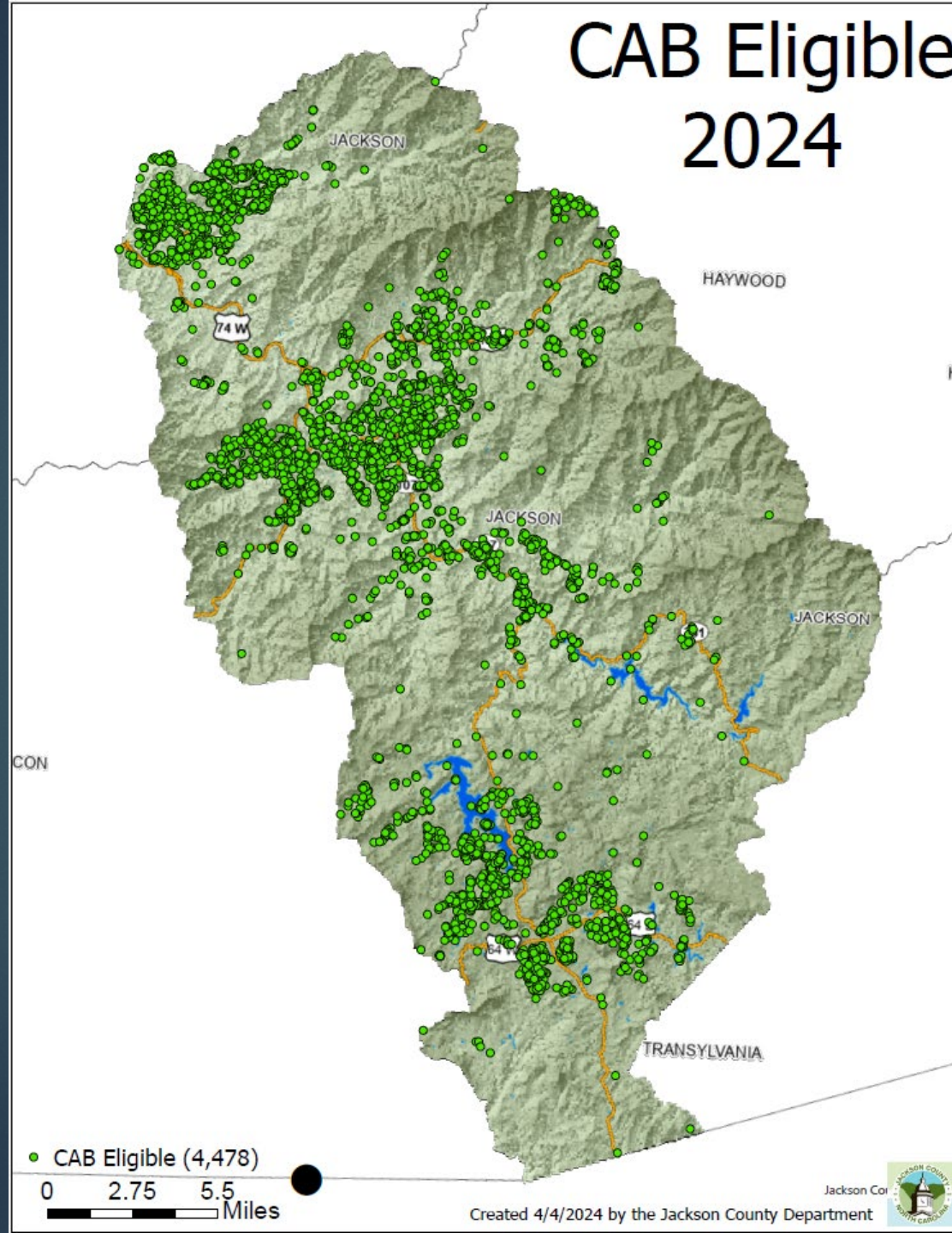
JACKSON COUNTY CAB ELIGIBILITY

- County must review eligible locations established by NCDIT
- Select priority areas or grouping
- Work with NCDIT to develop project Scope
- 4,675 total eligible locations in Jackson County



Jackson County CAB Eligibility

CAB Eligible 2024



Summary of broadband service in the county based on FCC reported unserved areas compared with current funding programs focusing on improving broadband in the county.

FCC Reported Unserved & Underserved Locations***

Count of Unserved/Underserved
Percent Unserved/Underserved



***Unserved & Underserved Locations from the FCC Broadband Data Collection have been aggregated into hexagon-shaped bins to show both the count and percent of unserved & underserved locations within each bin. Locations that have had funds obligated through previous Federal, State or Local broadband expansion programs have been removed from the hexagonal aggregations and county estimates. Darker shades of pink indicate higher total counts of unserved & underserved locations. Darker shades of blue indicate a higher percentage of locations within a bin are unserved & underserved locations. Darker shades of purple indicate both a higher total of unserved & underserved locations and a higher percentage of total locations within a bin are unserved & underserved locations.

Unserved locations for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funded programs in NC are defined as locations without access to fixed terrestrial internet service, through Fiber, Cable, or non-mobile Licensed Fixed Wireless technologies, of at least 25mb/s Download and 3mb/s Upload speeds. Underserved locations are defined as locations without access to fixed terrestrial internet service of at least 100mb/s Download and 20mb/s Upload speeds, but greater than 25mb/s Download and 3mb/s Upload speeds.

- Local Award Locations (ARPA Funded)
- GREAT Award Locations (ARPA Funded) - Contracted
- GREAT Award Locations (ARPA Funded) - Contingent
- CAB Award Locations (ARPA Funded) - Contingent
- GREAT Award Locations (State Funded)
- GREAT Award Areas (State Funded)
- ▨ FCC Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Grant
- ▨ Other Federal Grants

JACKSON COUNTY ESTIMATES

Percent Unserved *
(No Service 25mb/s Download and 3mb/s Upload or Greater)

17.45% 4,675 Total Locations

Percent Underserved *
(No Service 100mb/s Download and 20mb/s Upload or Greater)

0% 0 Total Locations

Percent with Fiber Broadband Available *

11.87% 3,181 Total Locations

Percent with DSL Only *

36.33% 9,735 Total Locations

Percent with Broadband Subscription **

52.65%

Percent with No Internet Access **

17.52%

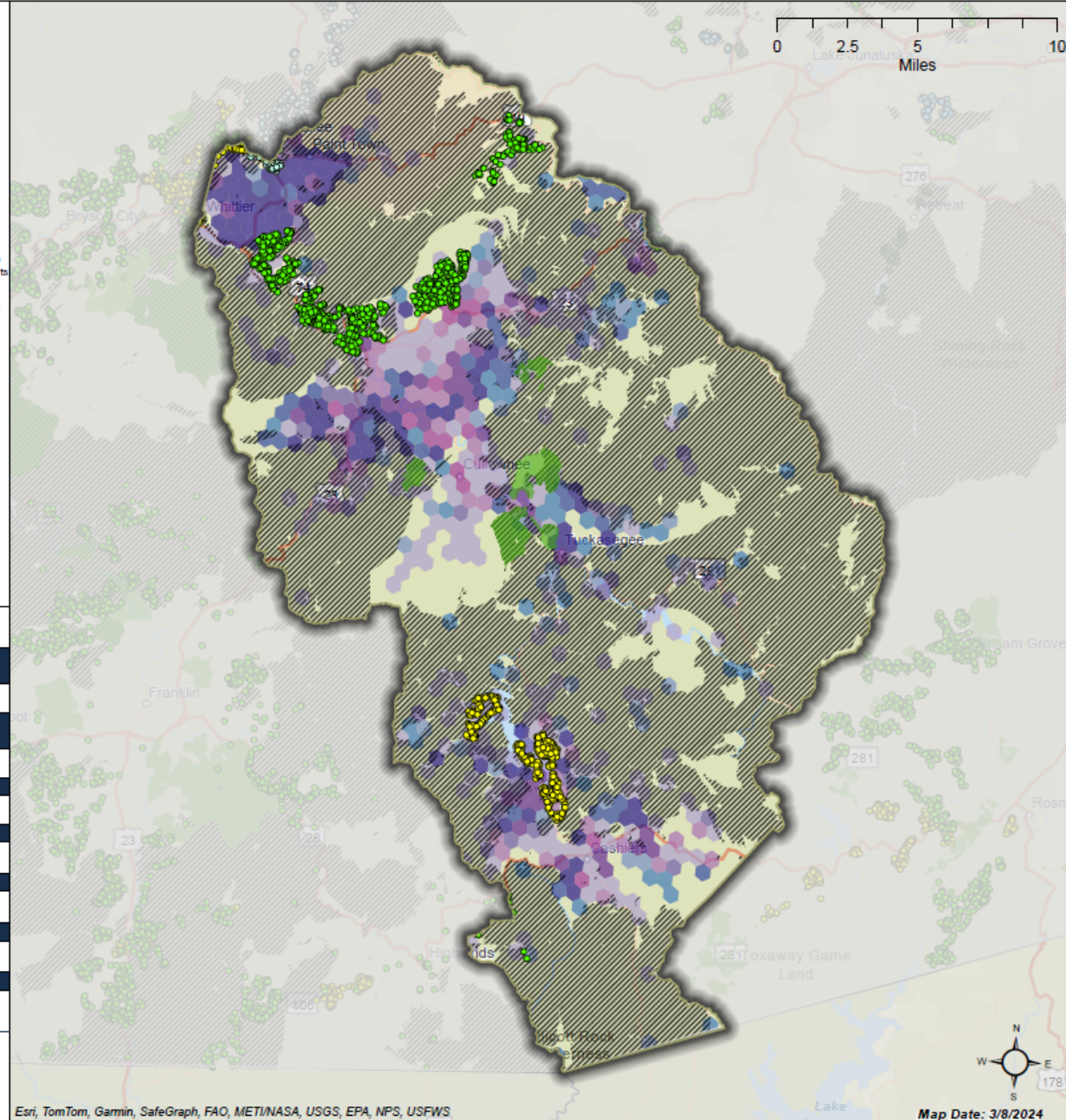
Percent with No Internet Devices **

8.39%

DATA SOURCES:

*FCC BDC - Federal Communication Commission Broadband Data Collection Version 3 Published November 2023 (Provider Reported as of June 30, 2023) Previously funded Unserved & Underserved locations have been removed.

**ACS - U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2017-2021 5-Year Estimates



Next Steps...

- BOC to provide formal match funds commitment to NCDIT
 - Identify an “up to” amount
- Once match amount is determined proposed project scope can be identified.
- NCDIT will prepare the Scope of Work and publish RFP
- County to identify up to two representatives to serve on the Evaluation Team to review responses to RFP
- Funds only utilized if grant awarded and final grant agreement executed.





Next Steps Continued...

- Take the NC Broadband Survey – www.jacksonnc.org
- [NC Broadband Home Page](#)
- [NC Broadband Map Data](#)
- A broadband landing page is in the works for Jackson County.



QUESTIONS

