



JACKSON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Director's Report



**"STOP DREAMING
AND START
DOING"**



MISSION STATEMENT

Economic development activities in Jackson County are focused on the improvement of economic condition, increased opportunities for improving wealth, and a betterment of the overall quality of life of the people of Jackson County.

DEPARTMENT PRIORITIES

Broadband

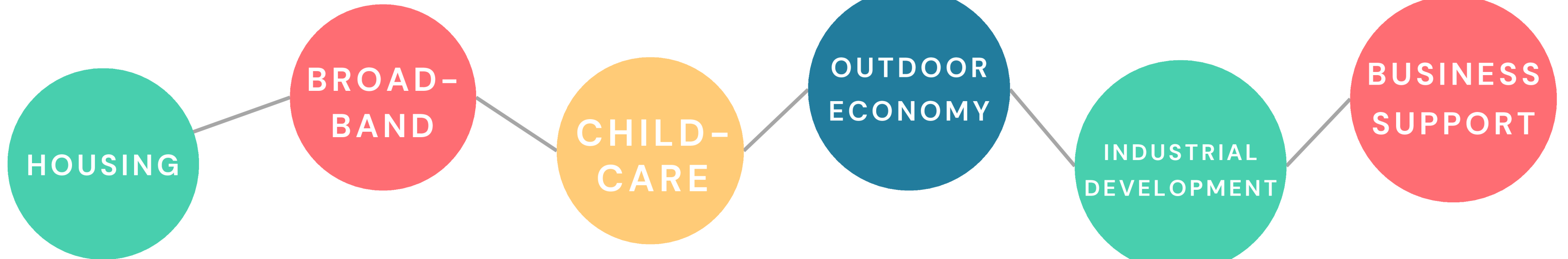
Substantial work on broadband has been underway including work with digital equity and full connectivity planning for all of Jackson County.

Outdoor Economy

Led stakeholders through 2 different programs, Creating Outdoor Recreation Economies and Building Outdoor Communities to develop strategic plans for Jackson County, as well as Greenway Expansion efforts.

Retention & Expansion

Supporting our existing businesses to help them retain workforce, expand or relocate their business. In addition, creation of a Business Retention and Expansion Program to support our businesses.



Housing

Over the past year some of our work has included Webster Village, Housing Needs Assessment, Site Identification with Development Finance Initiative

Childcare

Core team of providers and resources have been working to support one another. We've also been fortunate to hold Community Listening Sessions recently to come up with a WHOLE Community Approach.

Industrial Development

Awarded a grant through GoldenLeaf Site Program to identify potential sites and work with existing industry to provide support.

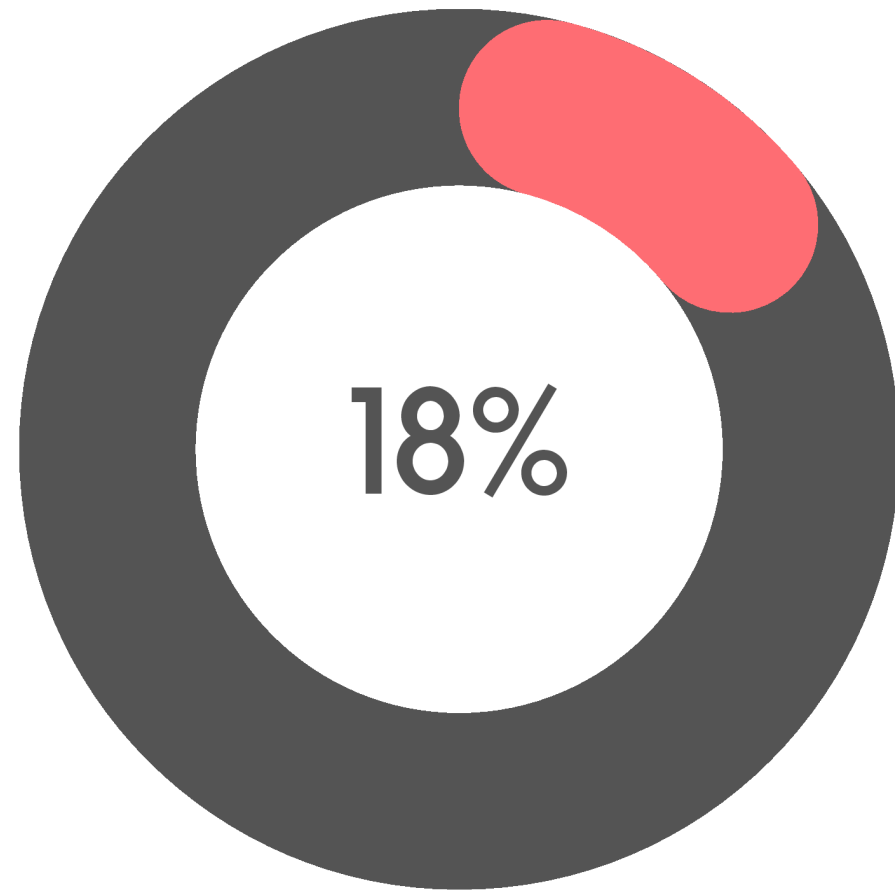
BUSINESS SUPPORT



BROADBAND

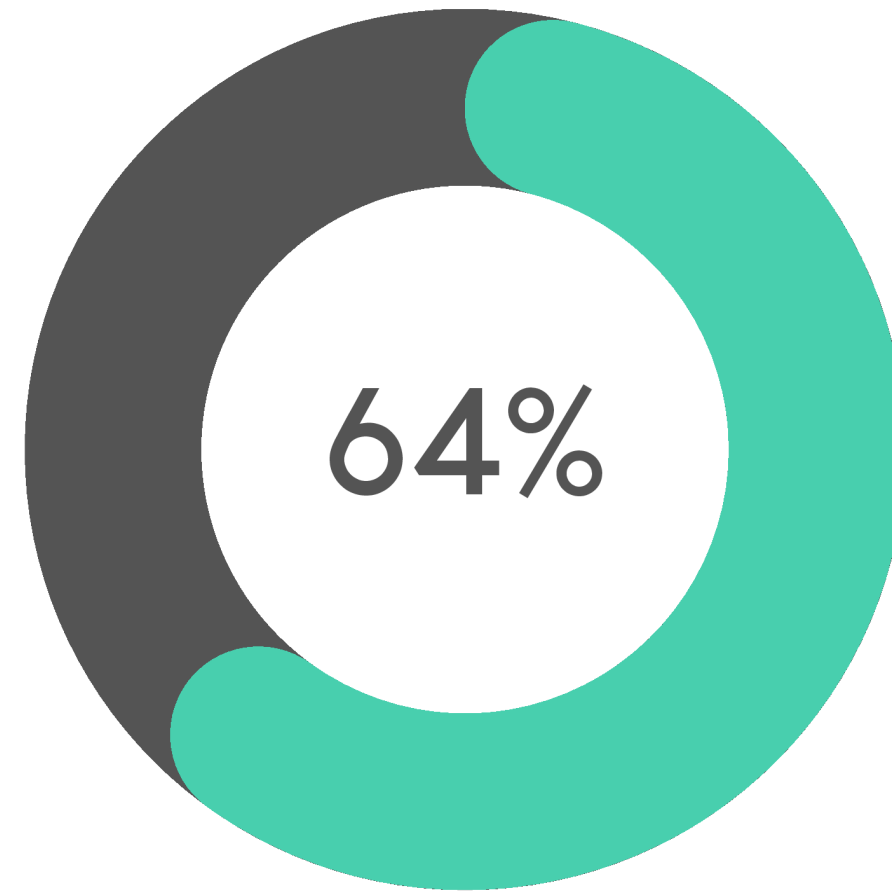
Goal: Countywide high-speed broadband availability

BROADBAND UPDATE



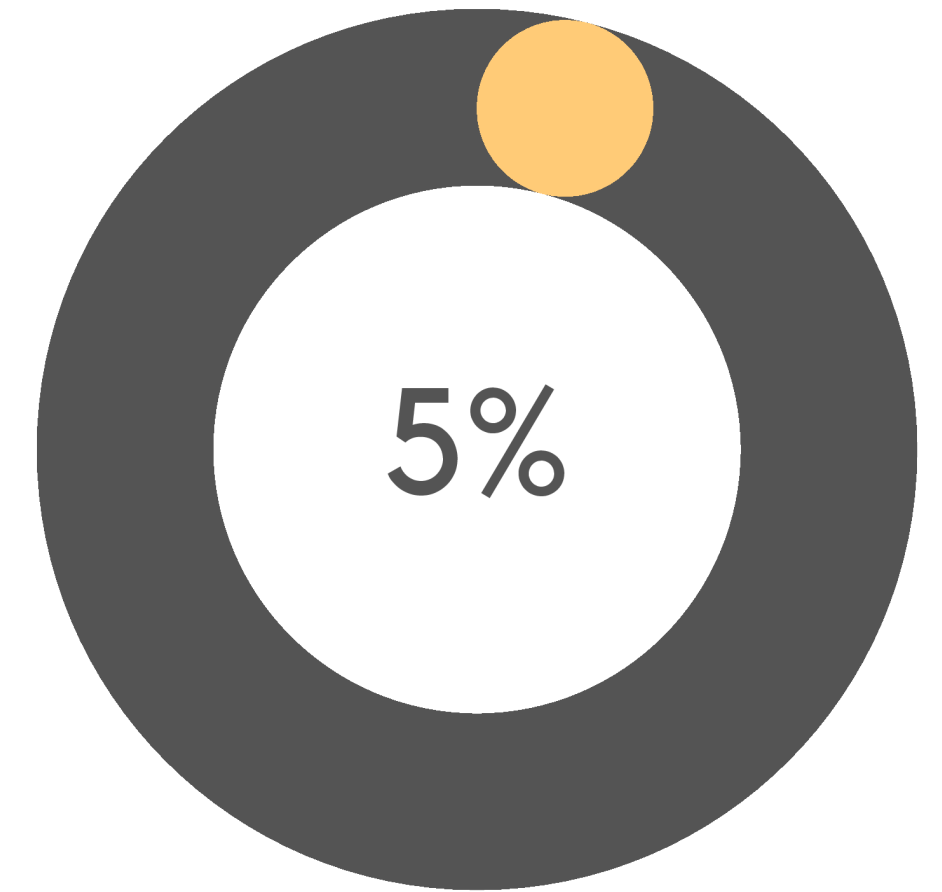
RDOF - CHARTER

1,952 ACTIVATED



GREAT - CHARTER

742 ACTIVATED



GREAT - BALSAMWEST

28 ACTIVATED

BROADBAND GRANT BREAKDOWN

RDOF

11,128 LOCATIONS – FEDERAL
GRANT AWARDED TO
CHARTER/SPECTRUM

GREAT GRANT - #1

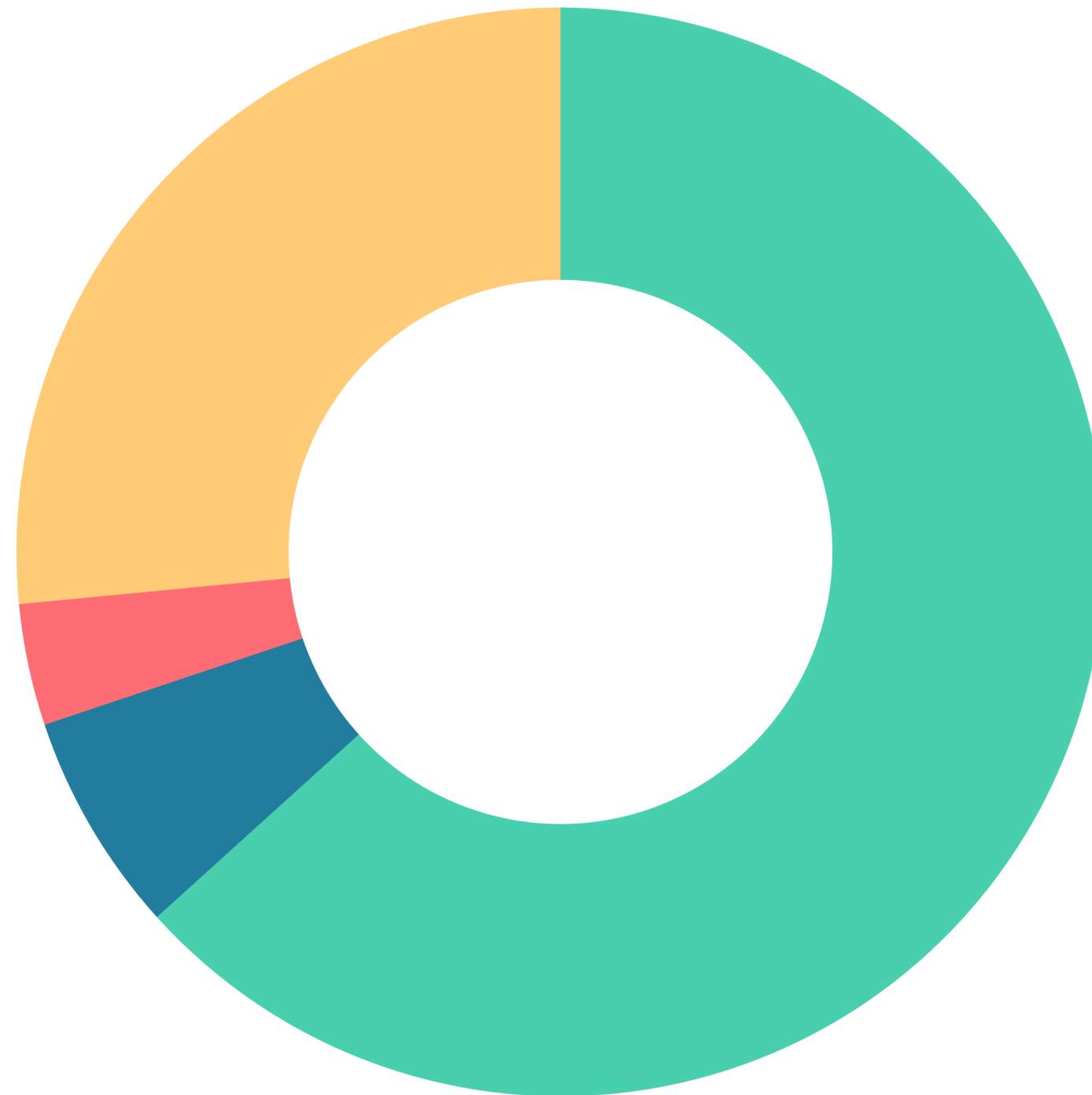
1,156 LOCATIONS – STATE
GRANT AWARDED TO
CHARTER/SPECTRUM
COUNTY MATCH – \$300,000

GREAT GRANT #2

636 LOCATIONS – STATE
GRANT AWARDED TO
BALSAM WEST
COUNTY MATCH \$182,000

UNFUNDED

4,675 CURRENTLY UNSERVED
LOCATIONS





STAY UP TO DATE

A landing page will give residents a way to access up to date information about broadband initiatives in Jackson County and provide details and FAQ.

<https://www.jacksonnc.org/broadband-initiatives>



BUSINESS SUPPORT

Goal: Commit to becoming an entrepreneurial/small business capital



R5600 IMPACT UPDATE

DOESN'T HAVE TO MOVE

DUE TO IMPACT HAVE BEEN OFFERED BENEFITS FROM NCDOT BUT DON'T HAVE TO RELOCATE IF THEY CHOOSE TO STAY IN THEIR CURRENT LOCATION

CLOSED

BUSINESSES THAT HAVE CLOSED AND DON'T HAVE PLANS TO REOPEN

MOVED

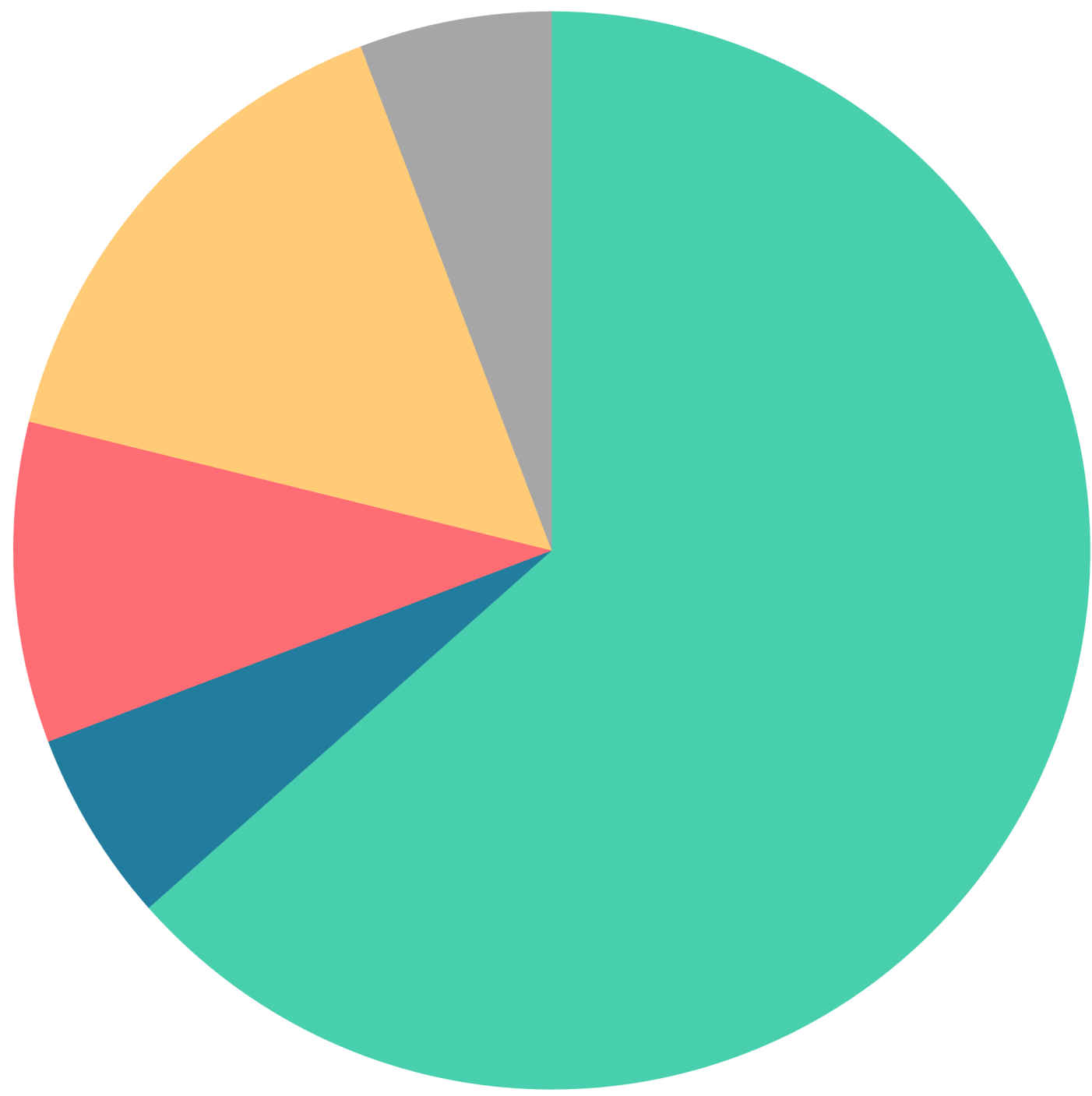
IMPACTED BUSINESSES THAT HAVE RELOCATED IN JACKSON COUNTY

FUTURE SITE FOUND

FUTURE SITE IDENTIFIED AND SECURED

PLAN TO REOPEN

CLOSED BUT PLAN TO REOPEN IN SYLVA



BUSINESS RETENTION & EXPANSION

- Survey to get a good baseline of support needed
- Creation of our BRE Program
- Review and update our Incentive Policy

- Update our Revolving Loan Fund Program
- Host a Business Appreciation Event in Spring 2025



AmeriCorps
North Carolina

GRANT APPLICATIONS

Based on our mission we have been able to secure the following funding to further various initiatives, including housing, childcare, industrial, business expansion and broadband.

FUNDED

PENDING

