

Partnerships in action: Expanding broadband access

Whitney Duffey Jones, Department of Commerce



Strategic alliance across the Department of Commerce

- Department of Commerce, Commerce Implementation and Coordination Office
- National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)
- U.S. Census Bureau

Expand broadband access



- **Program Objective:** Expand equitable broadband access to connect every American to reliable, high speed, affordable broadband.
- **Census Data Sources:** ACS data on broadband adoption, demographic data across different geographic areas, educational and labor force data
- Notional data products:
 - Use places and/or clusters of census blocks to identify areas that are completely outside of coverage areas or are outside of 25/3 coverage areas. This could help identify areas where extending infrastructure would service a larger number of households.
 - Use household level modeling to identify households that do not have access to broadband and/or have not adopted broadband. Identify categories based on analysis of variables like income, age, and race.
 - Develop a broadband subsidy index that would identify areas where 25/3 broadband access is available but is not being adopted, likely due to the cost of the service relative to income levels.
 - Develop a set of broadband need indexes that differentiate between broadband availability vs. adoption.



NTIA Partnership: Digital Equity Act Population Viewer

- Phase 1 (May 2022):
 - Released Digital Equity Act
 Population Viewer
- Phase 2 (November 2022):
 - Update Digital Equity Act Population Viewer to include Covered Population for counties and census tracts, as well as Puerto Rico

• Future work:

- Revisions/Enhancements to the Digital Equity Act Population Viewer
- Incorporation of more granular geographic area data that may include small area modeling techniques, alternative broadband measures, and demographic and socioeconomic measures, etc.





Next steps from Chief Data Officer's Perspective

Oliver Wise, Chief Data Officer, Department of Commerce





- Develop standing Metrics Working Group to arrive at a methodology for calculating department-wide metrics
- Identify data standards to facilitate data linkage
- Develop common frameworks for providing an equity lens in program monitoring and evaluation





Discussion