

**STATUS OF VARIOUS BROADBAND MASTER PLAN UPDATE PROJECT TASKS
COMPLETED AND IN PROCESS -- AS OF 4/27/2023**

Concerning Broadband Infrastructure and Service Availability in Lake County:

- Broadband Availability Maps -- All the maps in the current Plan have been updated with data from the latest FCC Broadband Maps/Fabric Data. This also includes in tabular form:
 - Broadband providers' advertised speeds.
 - Other data is being reviewed from the CPUC, Microsoft, Ookla and others to develop delivered speed data to compare with advertised speeds.
- Modifications have been made to the list of broadband providers, based on those that are currently reporting availability.
 - Inquiries are continuing to be made to fine-tune the list of providers and their broadband/sub-broadband service provision capabilities.
 - Discussions are being held with ISPs and a "boots on the ground" engineering site visit is being planned for early June. It will be coordinated with the provider community to test end points, review provider infrastructure and maps (where made available) and similar activities.
- CBG is beginning to utilize this data and data obtained in interviews (described further below) to identify broadband service availability gaps currently existing, that are in line with current definitions of minimum broadband speeds and near-term broadband goals.
 - Specifically, gaps are now being evaluated on multiple levels:
 - Areas that fall below 25 Mbps download/3 Mbps upload,
 - Areas that fall below 100 Mbps download/20 Mbps upload,
 - Areas that fall below 100 Mbps download/100 Mbps upload, and
 - Community anchor institution connections that fall below 1 Gbps download/1 Gbps upload.
 - Maps, as well as Plan narrative, will illustrate and describe these gaps which will serve as one basis for the development of the Implementation Plan to expand and provide high-capacity broadband services to these "gap" areas.
- Existing and emerging technologies are being evaluated regarding their capabilities to serve as the foundation for expanding infrastructure and services to facilitate high-capacity broadband for the gap areas.

Concerning Broadband Adoption:

- The Federal and State governments have identified a number of “Covered Populations” that are known to face digital inequities and therefore are prioritized regarding funding for digital equity/inclusion programs and projects that focus on these populations. These populations include:
 - Individuals living in low-income households,
 - Aging individuals,
 - Incarcerated individuals,
 - Veterans,
 - Individuals with disabilities,
 - English language learners,
 - Individuals with low levels of literacy,
 - Individuals who are members of racial or ethnic minorities,
 - Individuals who primarily reside in a rural area,
 - Children and youth, and
 - Individuals experiencing housing instability.
- Additionally, there is a substantial focus on small businesses which struggle to obtain affordable broadband and to utilize its capabilities to the fullest.
- Accordingly, CBG and the County have been working to identify institutions and organizations that respond to the needs of these Covered Populations and others with broadband adoption challenges in order to obtain information from them that will be used to develop broadband adoption-spurring initiatives in Lake County.
- This includes a variety of:
 - Lake County departments and agencies,
 - County Boards and Commissions,
 - Community organizations,
 - Tribal organizations,
 - Educational organizations, such as the County Office of Education, Public School Districts, and higher education institutions, and
 - Municipalities and their agencies.

To date, CBG has:

- Met with Community Development officials and will participate in an upcoming meeting with the Planning Commission,

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- Met with the Lake County EDC and will participate in an upcoming EDC Board meeting,
 - Met with the Lake County Library, and
 - Met with the City Managers of Clearlake and Lakeport.
- These early meetings and additional upcoming ones in May and anticipated in early June will enable CBG to focus on adoption issues to identify in the Master Plan Update and address in the follow-on Broadband Implementation Plan.

Upcoming Other Critical Activities include:

- The CPUC will be releasing its Federal Funding Account (FFA) Map User Guide in May which will enable us to view information and provide comments on potential FFA project areas. Lake County has been allocated \$28.4 million for broadband infrastructure deployment projects using FFA funds.
 - The Federal Funding Account application portal is slated to open in June. CBG will be evaluating potential project areas as part of its gap analysis and will advise the County on potential deployment partners and opportunities, even prior to the development of the Broadband Implementation Plan.
- Work on the Lake County Local Agency Technical Assistance (LATA) grant:
 - CBG anticipates having discussions with Tilson Technologies and UTOPIA, who are working on the County's LATA grant, also focusing on unserved/ underserved areas, to obtain an early indication of where their focus lies so that the priority project areas dovetail, at least for the portion of the unserved/underserved areas that Tilson/UTOPIA will be focusing on.

Remaining Broadband Master Plan Update Timeline:

- CBG anticipates completing the information gathering portion of the project in early June and then completing an initial draft of the Updated Broadband Master Plan in late June/early July.