EXHIBIT D

ARConnect
The Arkansas State Broadband Office

Update on Broadband Deployment

Joint Committee on Advanced Communications and Information Technology

April 23, 2024

The Arkansas State Broadband Office

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The Arkansas State Broadband Office

The Arkansas State Broadband Office was established in 2019 and has administered broadband infrastructure grants since 2020.

Glen Howie
State Broadband Director

Lane Bailey
Deputy Director

Kamelle Gomez
Digital Opportunity Manager

Joseph Givens
Project Manager

Kimberly Young
Business Operations

Emma French
Program Operations

Pravallika Kotharu
Project Manager

Andrew Marecki
AmeriCorps Fellow

Vision
Eliminate the digital divide and establish an era of efficient, next-generation opportunity, society, and government

Three Pillars of Broadband
Access, Affordability, and Opportunity

Everyday Mission
Deploy broadband to as many unserved and underserved Arkansans as possible

Historic Moment for Arkansas

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ARKANSAS TO RECEIVE OVER $1B TO EXPAND BROADBAND IN STATE

BACK TO ALL NEWS

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (June 26, 2023) – Today, the Arkansas Department of Commerce, along with Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders, announced that Arkansas will receive $1,024,303,993.86 from the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The funds will be used to expand broadband access in Arkansas and address affordability and digital skills needs throughout the state.

2023: A Year of Organizing and Planning

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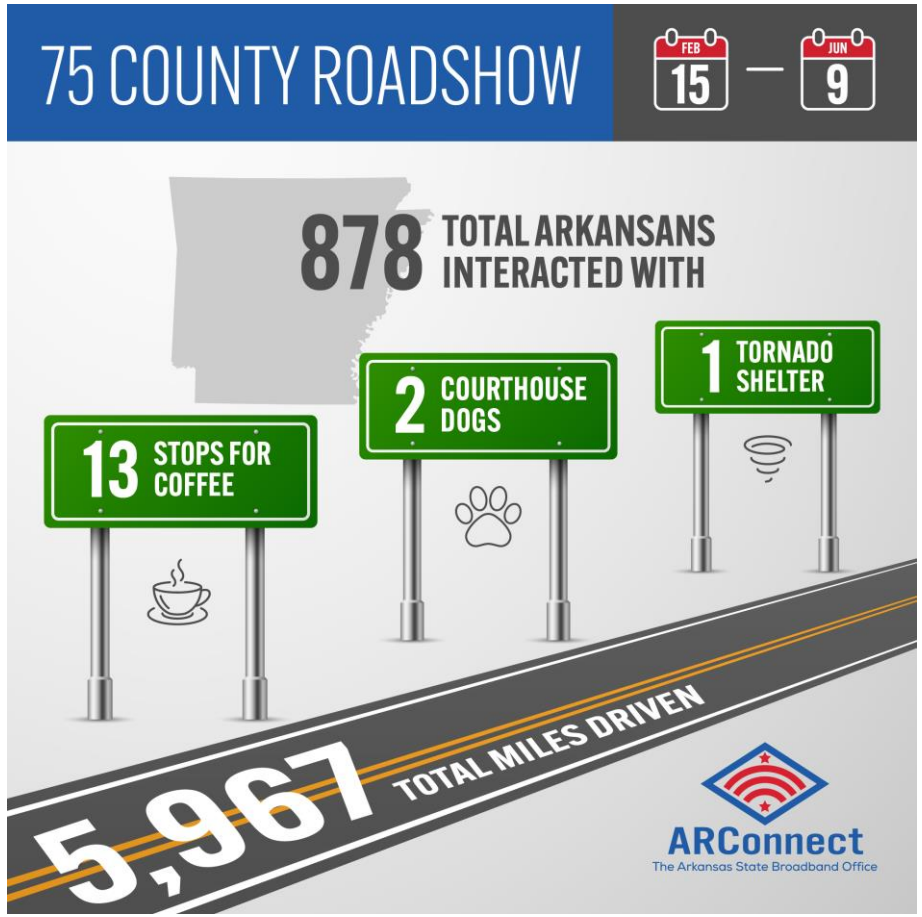

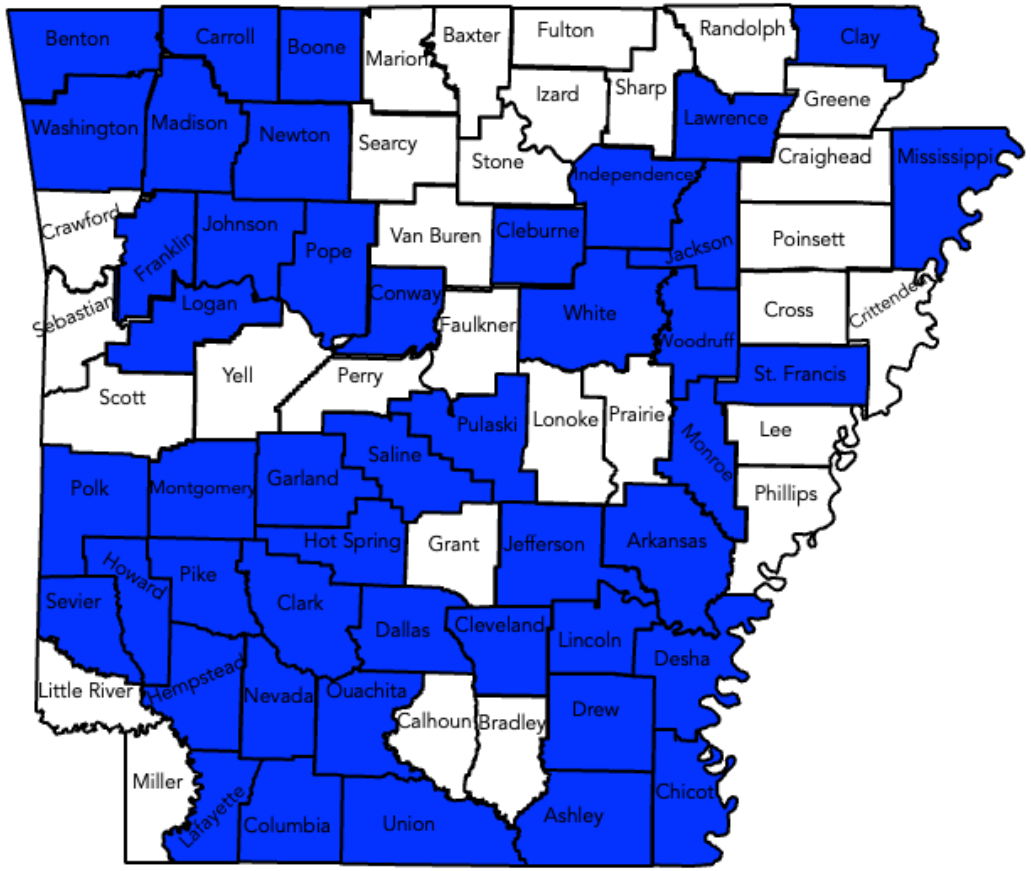

Vision for Arkansas

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~~Digital divide~~ by 2030

Three Pillars of Broadband

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Access

Affordability

Opportunity

Three Pillars in Arkansas

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Access

~1,360,000
Total Locations

~1,242,000
Grant-ineligible Locations
Served: 892,000 | Funded: 350,000

~118,000
Grant-eligible Locations

Affordability

~600,00
Households
0

Opportunity

~274,00
Residents, aged 18-64, may lack basic digital skills
0

ARC Projects Awarded To Date

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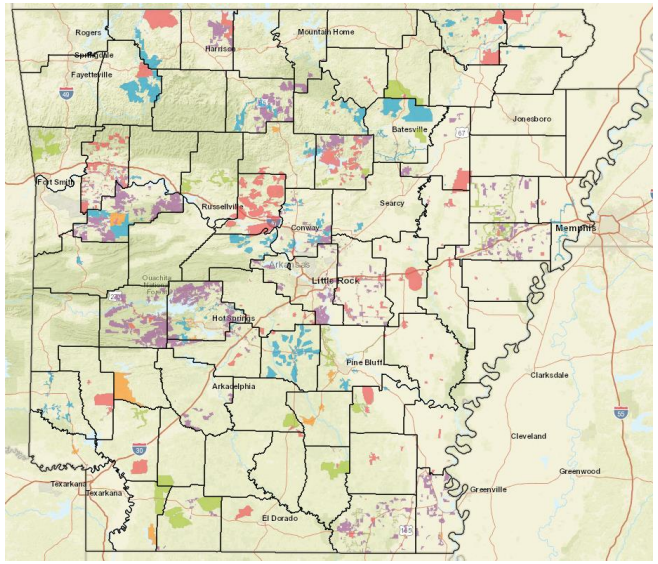
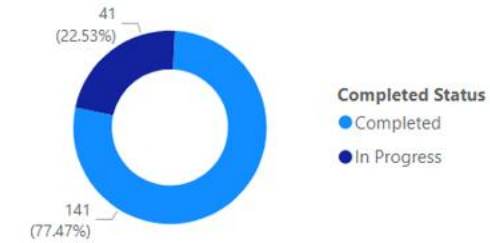
182
Projects

$533.2M
Total Grants

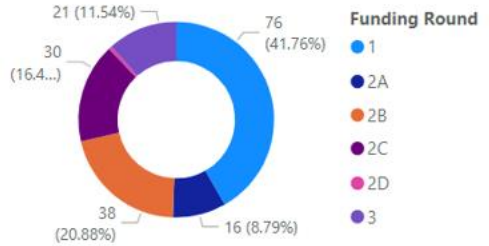
129K
Households



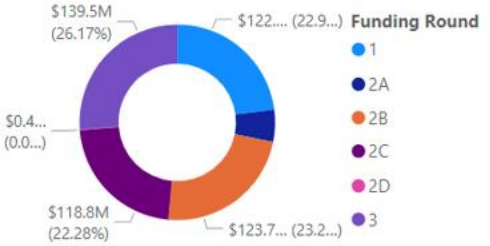
Projects by Completed Status



Projects by Funding Round



Dollars Awarded by Funding Round



ARC Projects Completed

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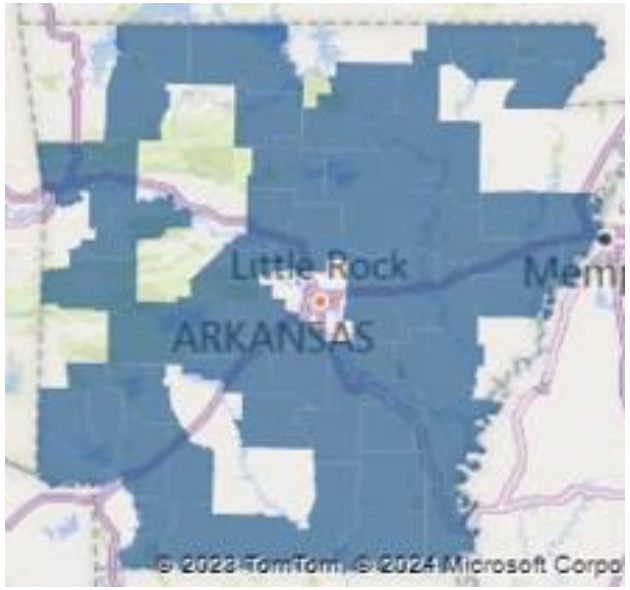
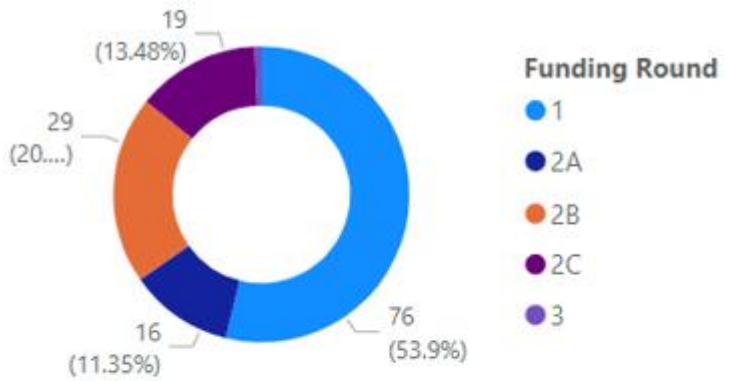
141
Projects

$321.7M
Total Grants

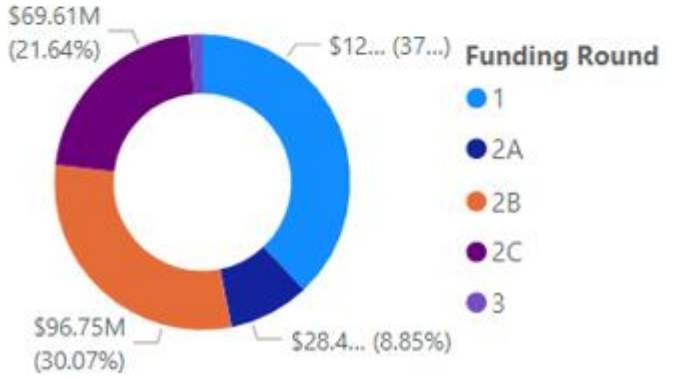
99K
Households



Projects by Funding Round



Dollars Awarded by Funding Round



ARC Projects in Progress

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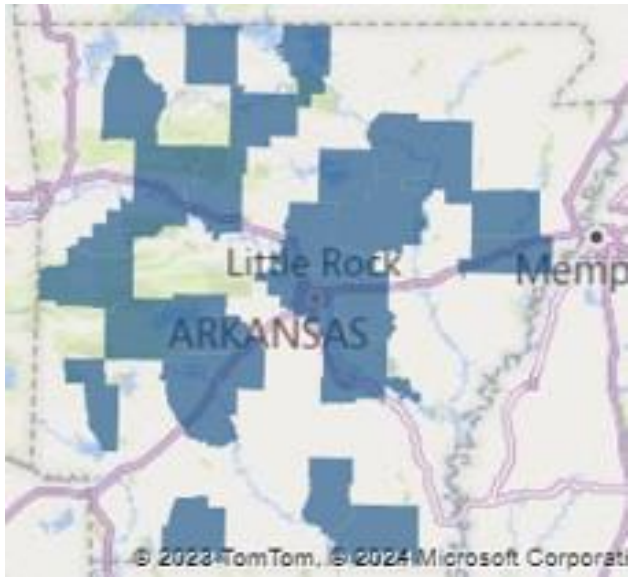
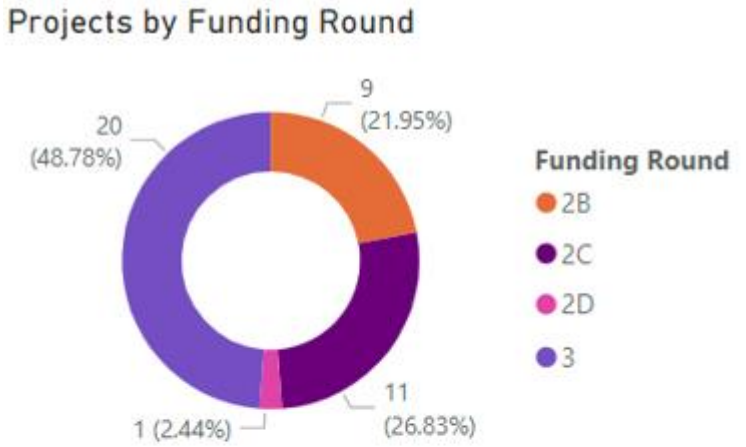
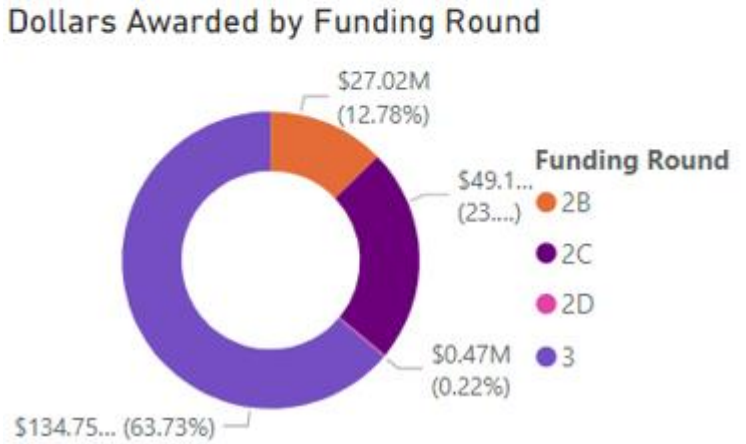
41
Projects

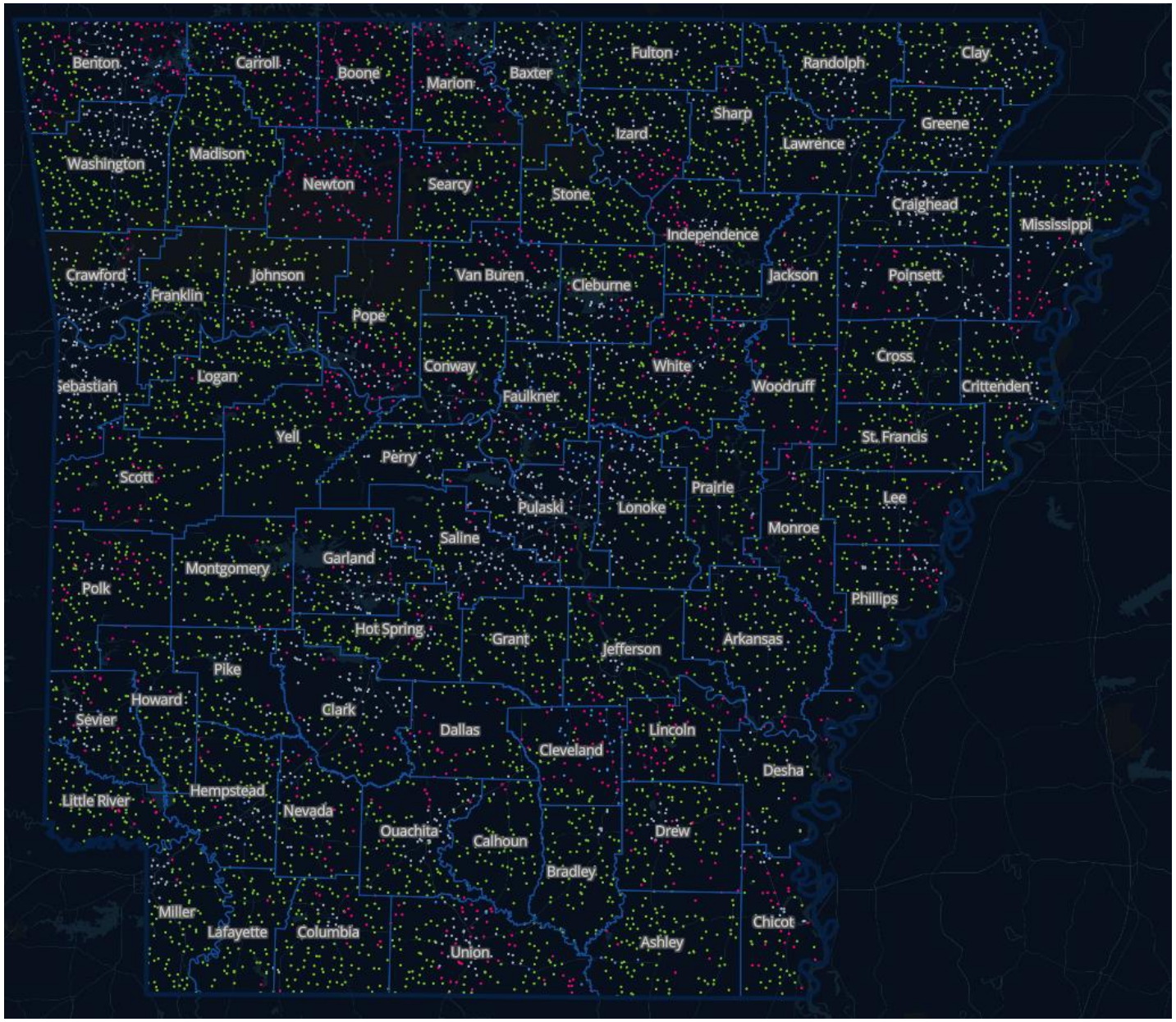
$211.4M
Total Grants

31K
Households









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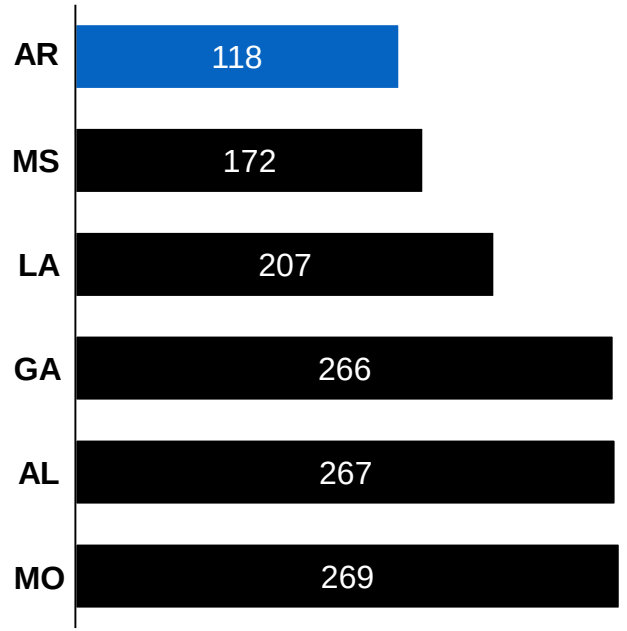
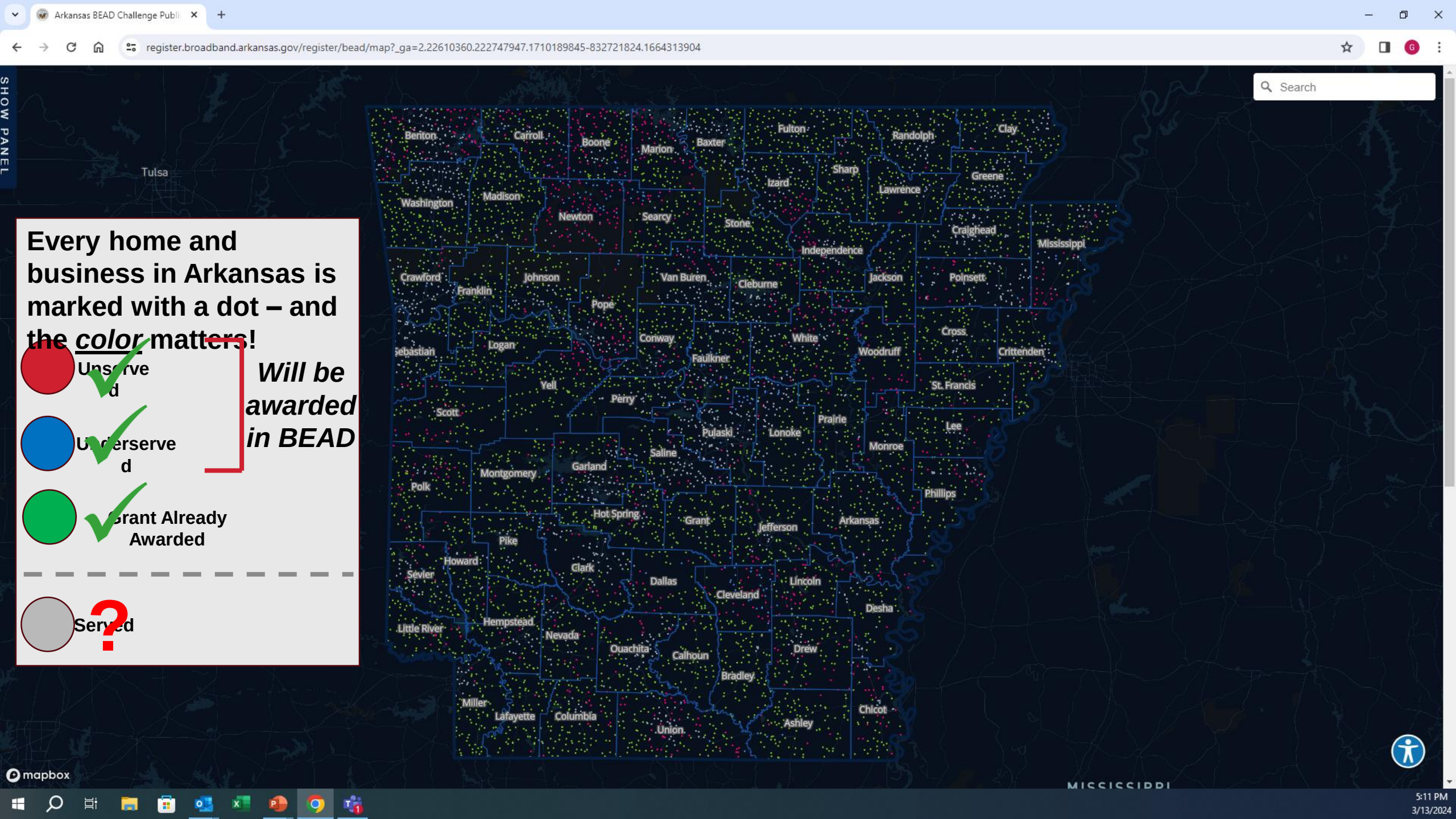
~118,000

Locations remain unserved or underserved



New State Broadband Map


Arkansas BEAD Challenge Publi
register.broadband.arkansas.gov/register/bead/map?_ga=2.22610360.222747947.1710189845-832721824.1664313904
SHOW PANEL
Search
Every home and business in Arkansas is marked with a dot – and the color matters!
Unserved
Underserved
Will be awarded in BEAD
Grant Already Awarded
Served
?
Tulsa
Benton
Carroll
Boone
Marion
Baxter
Fulton
Randolph
Clay
Izard
Sharp
Greene
Lawrence
Washington
Madison
Newton
Searcy
Stone
Craighead
Mississippi
Independence
Crawford
Franklin
Johnson
Van Buren
Cleburne
Jackson
Poinsett
Pope
Logan
Conway
White
Cross
Woodruff
Crittenden
Faulkner
Yell
Perry
St. Francis
Scott
Prairie
Lee
Pulaski
Lonoke
Monroe
Saline
Montgomery
Garland
Polk
Phillips
Hot Spring
Grant
Jefferson
Arkansas
Pike
Howard
Clark
Sevier
Dallas
Lincoln
Cleveland
Desha
Hempstead
Little River
Nevada
Ouachita
Calhoun
Drew
Bradley
Miller
Lafayette
Columbia
Union
Ashley
Chicot
mapbox
MISSISSIPPI
5:11 PM
3/13/2024

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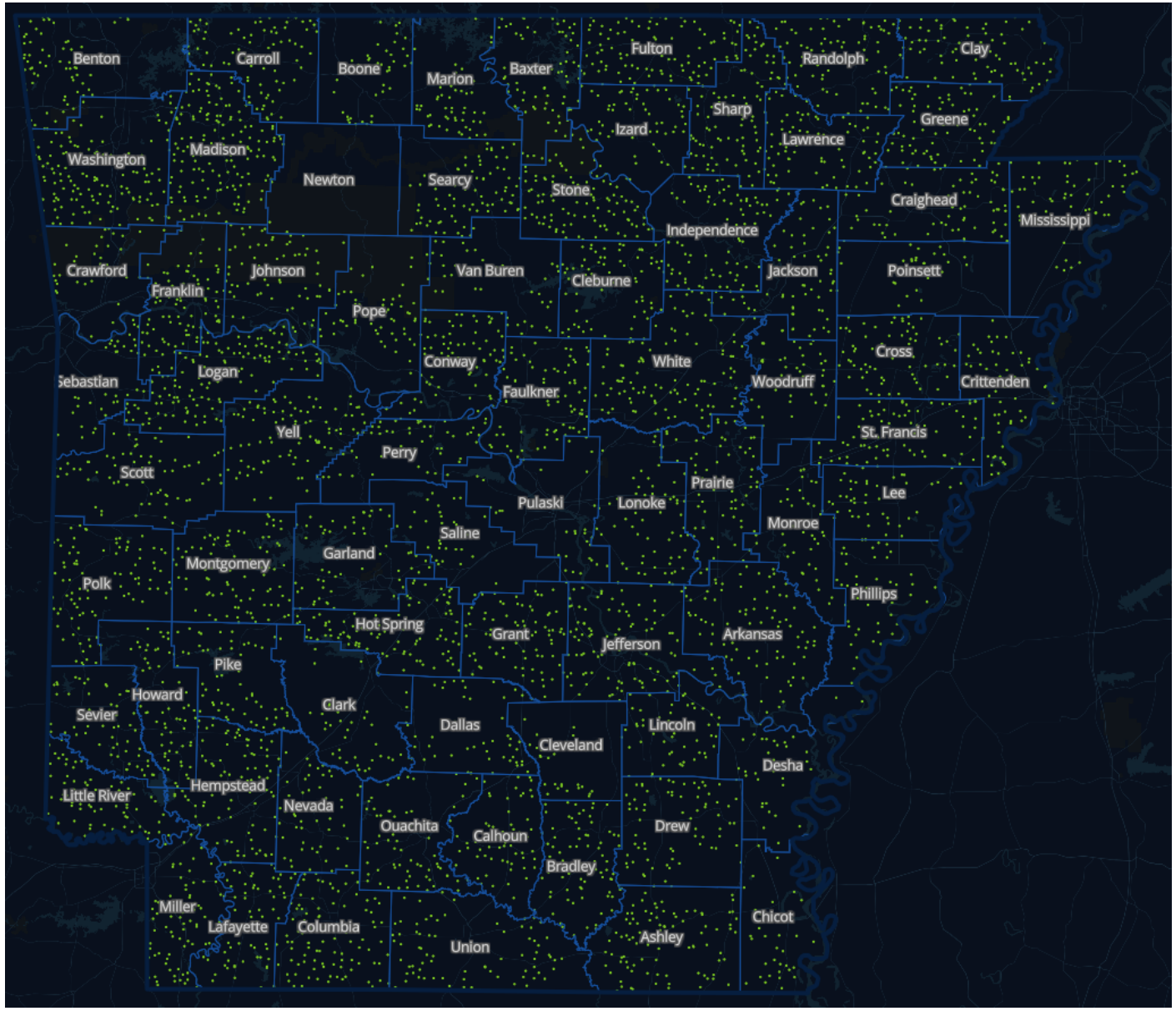
~118,000

Locations remain unserved or underserved



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~350,000

Locations have received a grant

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~892,000

Locations reported as served by ISPs

The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program

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~118,000

Locations remain unserved or underserved

Potential of the BEAD Program

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Now is a historic moment for broadband in Arkansas…we must seize it!

$1.024B in funding

- **1/19 states to receive $1B+**
- **9th per capita**

Mandate to reach **~118,000 locations**

- **Goal of 90% or more fiber build**

Challenging execution

- **Double the work, in a quarter of the time**
- **Labor, supply chain, and inflation** could slow progress

Non-deployment

Education, healthcare, small business, agriculture

Complexity of the BEAD Program

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1	**Unprecedented in size**	$1B in 365 days
2	**Higher level of state planning required**	Multiple phases of planning documents requiring approval by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA); emphasis on mapping and analytics; entire state will go up for bid at one time
3	**Less flexibility to "customize" planning and deployment**	Prescriptive process design (e.g., subgrantee selection) and specificity in use of funds (all to deployment until certification of ability to reach 100% connectivity)

Where Arkansas "customized" (to a degree)	**Planning & deployment timelines** **Non-deployment activities** **Scoring methodology** (e.g., weighting of certain criteria) **Subgrant selection process** design **Technology mix** for broadband infrastructure
Where states cannot "customize"	Order of **funding priorities** (e.g., unserved first) Overall **process components** (e.g., challenge process) **Certain scoring criteria** (must include specific elements, e.g., subsidy level & affordability metrics) **Total allocation** level

Arkansas Has Met or Exceeded NTIA Timelines

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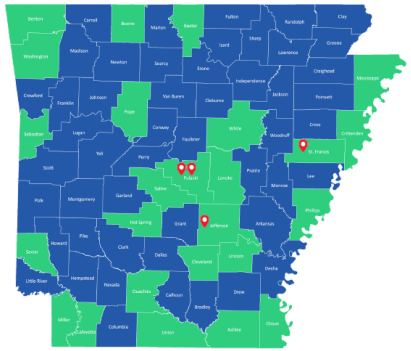
Gathering input from Arkansans



County visit

County visit + focus group

Regional meeting locations

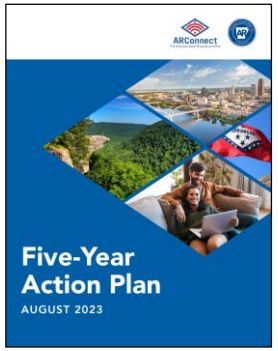
Statewide tour of all 75 counties

Launch of County Broadband Committees (48)

Established industry roundtables across workforce and infrastructure, with more to come

Gathered survey feedback from over 12,500 Arkansans

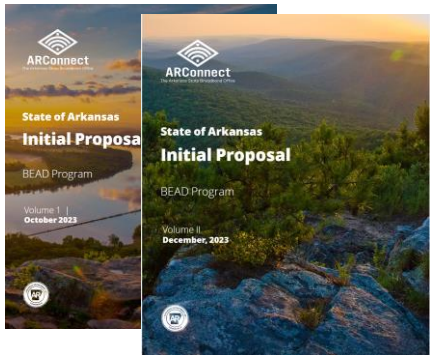
Defining a vision for BEAD



Organized input into a Five-Year Action Plan

Analyzed current state of broadband in Arkansas

Drafting detailed proposals



Compiled list of ~118K residential and business locations and Community Anchor Institutions (e.g., libraries, fire departments)

BEAD Initial Proposals Volume I & II submitted for public comments and to NTIA for approval, ahead of deadlines

All required BEAD planning document milestones have been met. The documents have entered the “curing process” with NTIA.

Preliminary Timeline for BEAD Implementation

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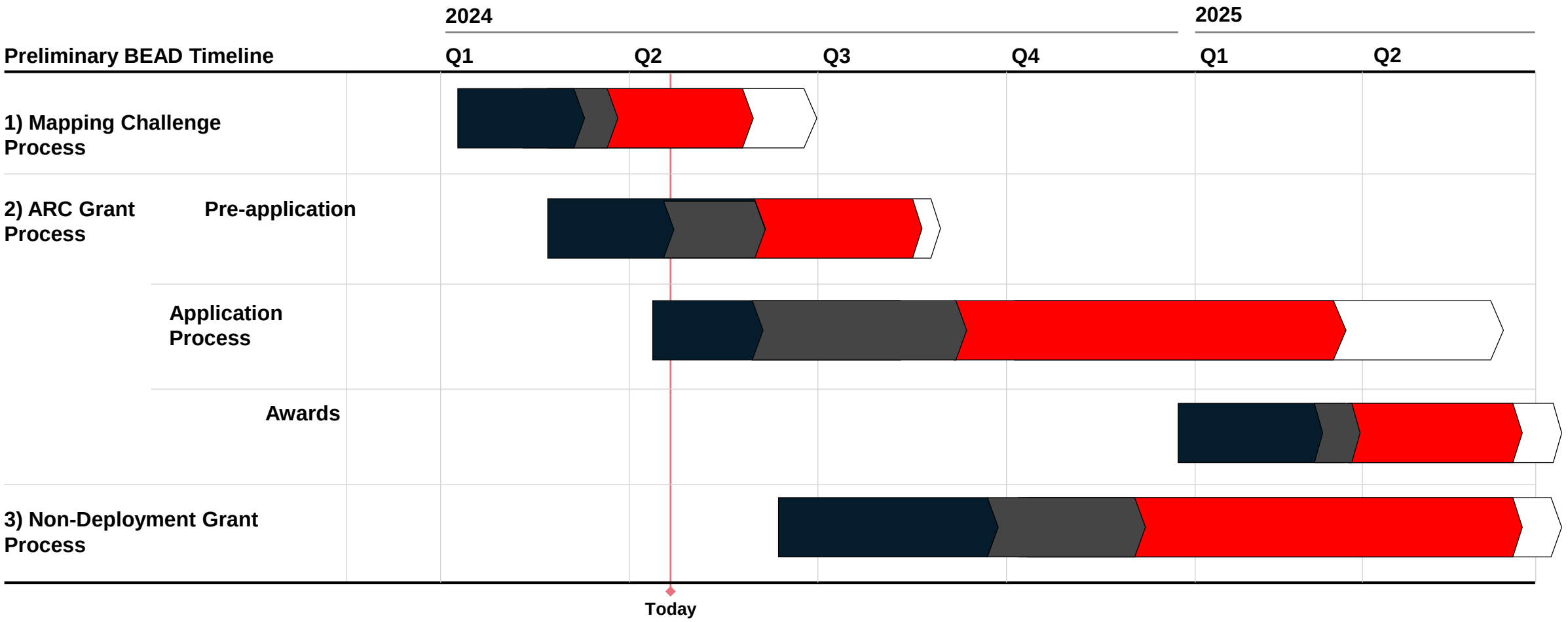

Non-Deployment Priorities

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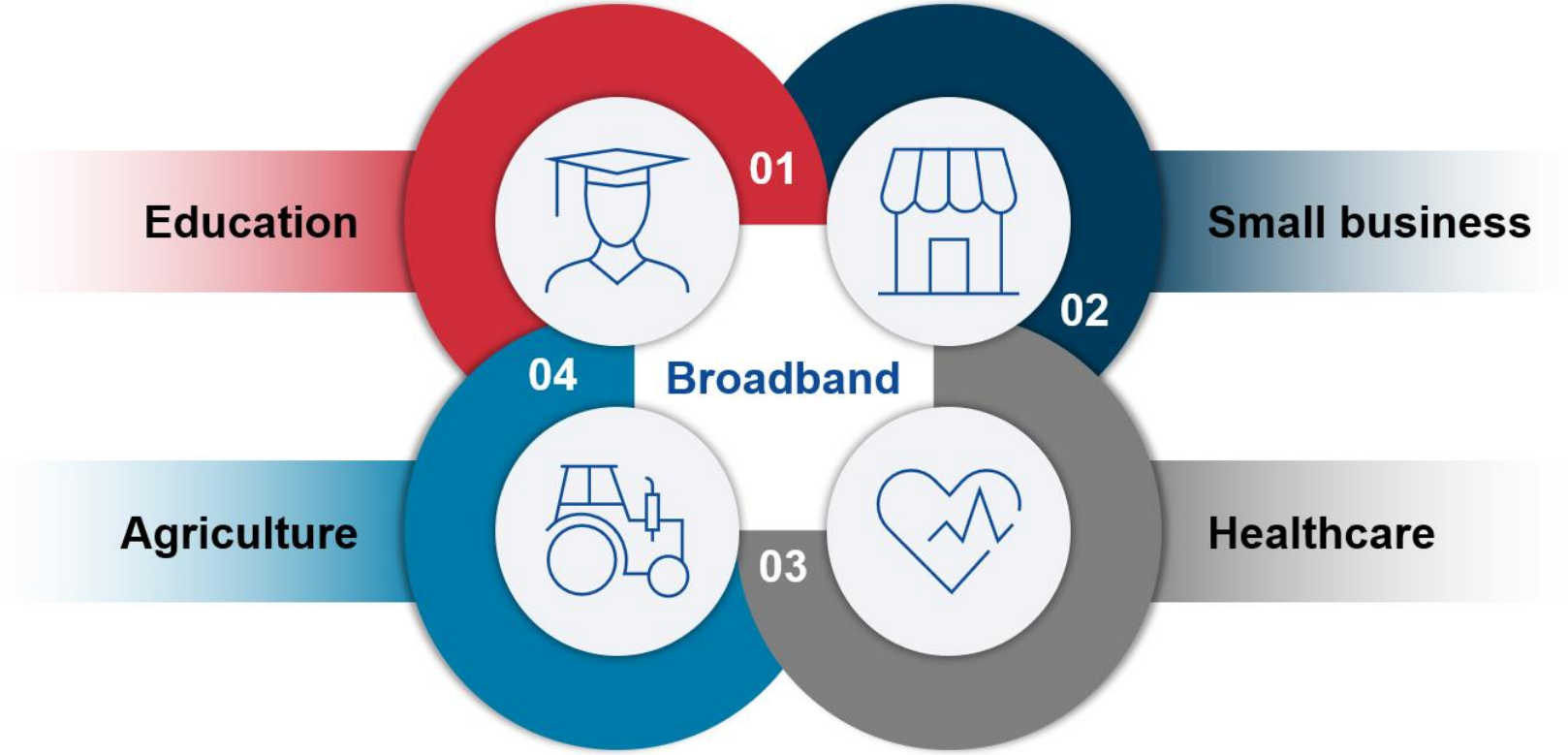

Discussion

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broadband.arkansas.gov
broadband@arkansas.gov
@ARConnectASBO