OHIO BROADBAND AND DIGITAL EQUITY
WHERE WE STARTED

• December 2019- InnovateOhio releases a comprehensive plan to expand broadband access across the state of Ohio called the Ohio Broadband Strategy.

• March 2020- Governor DeWine announces the creation of BroadbandOhio.
OHIO RESIDENTIAL BROADBAND EXPANSION GRANT

- Blue: Ohioans without access to high-speed internet
- Yellow: Areas to be covered by new broadband projects
The Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program was created as part of the IIJA in November of 2021. The program was allocated 42.3 billion dollars for broadband expansion and digital equity across the country. Each state has now been allocated a portion of this funding based on a formula allocation using unserved and underserved locations in each state.
OHIO’S BEAD PROCESS

• The state of Ohio was allocated 793 million dollars this past June.

• Funds released through the BEAD program will be disbursed to “unserved” and “underserved” communities using the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant process.
PREPARING FOR BEAD

• Changes to eligible locations
• BEAD Initial Proposal Volume I and II
• High Cost Area Designations
DIGITAL EQUITY EFFORTS
HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

• Advocate
• Organize a local coalition
• Educate stakeholders
• Establish relationships
• Stay Informed
QUESTIONS?
BROADBAND IN RURAL FLORIDA

Apalachee Regional Planning Council
NADO ATC 2023
WHERE WE WORK
RECENT PROJECTS & KEY EFFORTS
WHAT WE’VE BEEN UP TO

• Broadband feasibility studies
• Regional broadband plan and dashboard
• Regional / local technology planning team support
• ISP conversations
• State Office of Broadband
• Applications for grants and state appropriation
LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024 (AND BEYOND)
OUR NEXT STEPS

DASHBOARD ADOPTION AS TOOL

SATELLITE STATE APPROPRIATION

BROADBAND STAFF EXPANSION VIA GRANTS

KEEPING AN EYE ON ACP
Q&A / THANK YOU