



BROADBAND INITIATIVE

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12/11/2019

TN Broadband Accessibility Act (TBAA)

Investment – TBAA commits to three years of grants and tax credits that focus on unserved areas.

Deregulation – TBAA permits the state’s private, nonprofit electric cooperatives to provide broadband service.

Education – Through the Rural Task Force and other efforts, existing programs and resources will be evaluated and leveraged to drive broadband adoption.

- TBAA provides grant funding opportunities to the state’s local libraries to help residents improve their digital literacy skills and maximize the benefits of broadband.

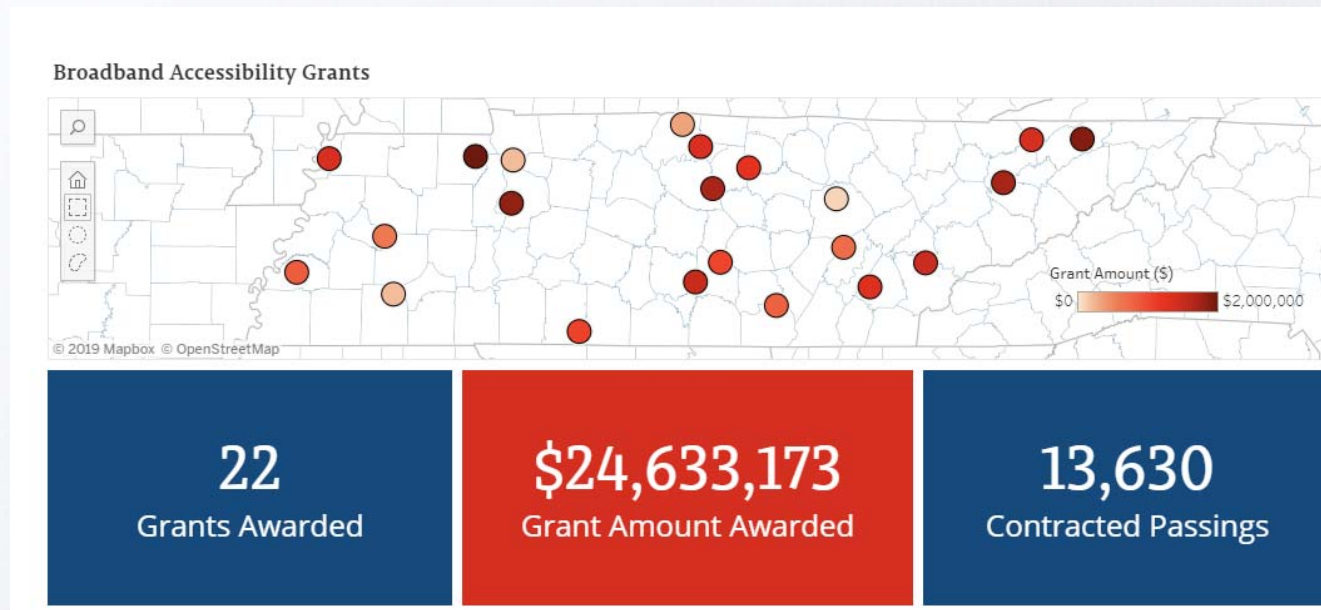
Tennessee Broadband Accessibility Grant

Program details:

- Applicants: Any entity legally authorized to provide broadband in Tennessee can apply.
- Proposed Service Areas: currently lacking fixed, terrestrial 25/3 Mbps internet speed based on FCC Form 477 data or supplemental information provided by applicants
- Technology: Technology neutral program with speed, scalability, and affordability included in the scoring.

Tennessee Broadband Accessibility Grant

Years 1 and 2





Tennessee Broadband Accessibility Grant

Grant Applications – Round 3

- \$20M in available funding
- Application period: July 22, 2019– November 20, 2019; Announce in March 2020
- \$62M in requests received on 50 applications from all nine regions
- 50% increase in applications for projects in distressed counties
- Evaluation Criteria:
 - Eligibility
 - Need for grant funding
 - Sustainability and implementation readiness of applicant
 - Speed, scalability, and affordability
 - Community and economic development impact
- Scoring conducted by
 - TNECD internal team consisting of the Broadband team and members from the Community and Rural Development and Research divisions
 - External broadband consultant provided technical expertise

Electric Cooperatives

TENNESSEE'S ELECTRIC CO-OPS ARE INVESTING MORE THAN
1.2 BILLION DOLLARS
TO EXPAND CONNECTIVITY IN RURAL AND SUBURBAN TENNESSEE

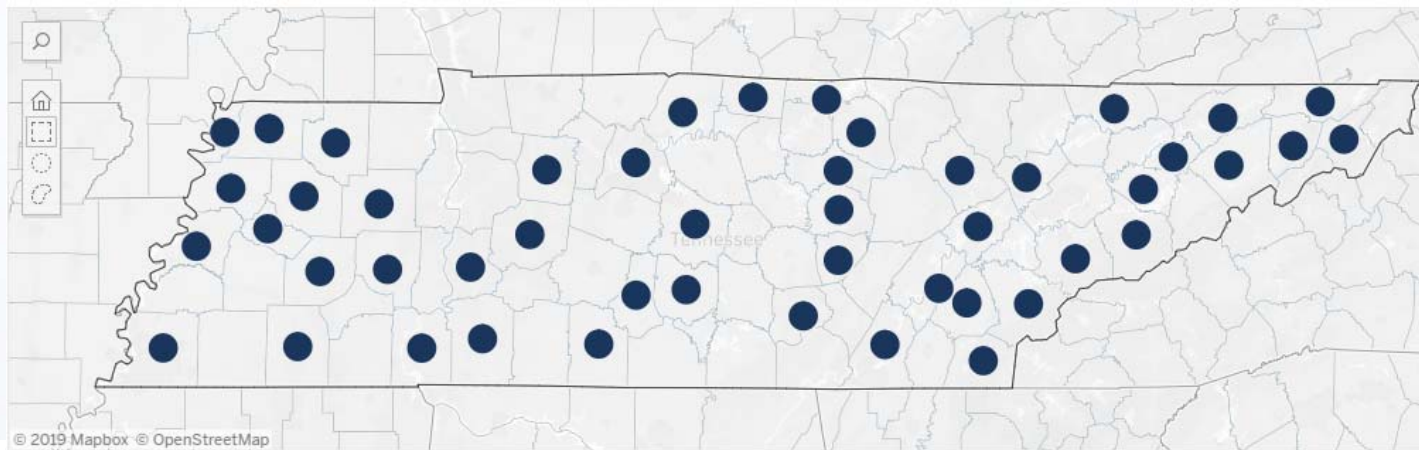
13 OF 23 CO-OPS
HAVE ACTIVE BROADBAND PROJECTS

790,000
POTENTIAL LOCATIONS

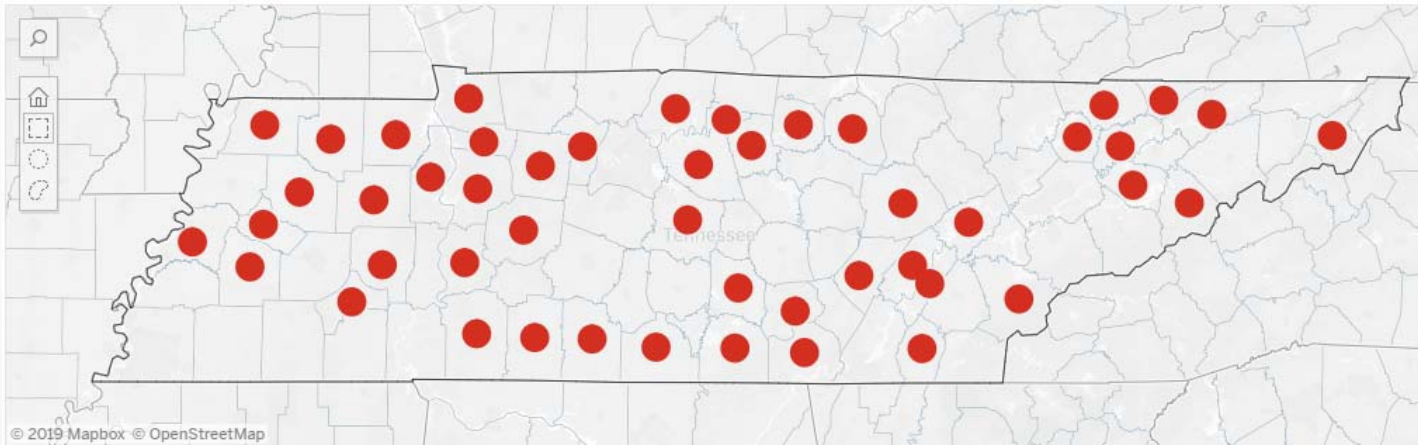
\$187 MILLION
ALREADY INVESTED



Digital Literacy Grants



Broadband Ready Communities



54
Broadband Ready
Communities
(2017 - 2019)

TBAA: What's Next

- Year 3 of recipients will be announced in March for the \$20M appropriated for FY20.
- Monitoring efforts will continue including quarterly project status reports and in-person monitoring.
- ECD's FY2021 budget request includes \$25M to continue the grant program



THANK YOU