



Office of the Texas Governor | Greg Abbott

Governor's Broadband Development Council Meeting

August 27, 2020

AGENDA
Governor's Broadband Development Council

August 27, 2020
1:30 PM

VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING

Governor's Broadband Development Council (" Council " or "GBDC") members will be meeting via videoconference. Members of the public who would like to attend the meeting may join by videoconference using the following information:

Free Web Link for Videoconference:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_M2FhYzQyZWMTNDNjOS00OGVjLWEwMWEtNDZmZDU3Mjk0NzE1%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2254cb5da6-c734-4242-bbc2-5c947e85fb2c%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22cdb0f7cb-fec3-45b3-bee8-c349e50e5cb2%22%7d

Members of the public attending the meeting via the videoconference information provided will be able to hear audio of the meeting and can provide comments during the Public Comment portion of the meeting. The Council will also record the meeting, which will be made available to members of the public.

All agenda items are subject to possible discussion, questions, consideration, and action by the Council. Agenda item numbers are assigned for ease of reference only and do not necessarily reflect the order of their consideration by the Council. Presentations may be made by the identified staff or Council member or others as needed.

ITEM

I. Call to Order

II. Chair welcome, remarks and roll call

III. Discussion and Possible Action on Approval of Minutes from the Council meeting on July 22, 2020 (Tab 1).

IV. Comments by Texas Representative Doc Anderson and/or his staff providing information relating to Council's areas of research, identification, study, and analysis under Tex. Gov't Code § 490H.006, including analysis of how statewide access to broadband would benefit the items identified in Tex. Gov't Code § 490H.006(a)(4), and Council review, discussion, consideration and/or possible action regarding same.

V. Comments by Federal Communications Commission staff providing information relating to Council's areas of research, identification, study, and analysis under Tex. Gov't Code § 490H.006, including barriers to residential and commercial broadband deployment in unserved areas, and Council review, discussion, consideration and/or possible action regarding same (Tab 2).

VI. Comments by The Pew Charitable Trusts staff providing information relating to Council's areas of research, identification, study, and analysis under Tex. Gov't Code § 490H.006, including information relating to distribution of broadband in unserved areas of Texas, and Council review, discussion, consideration and/or possible action regarding same (Tab 3).

VII. Update from Council subcommittee focused on researching the progress of broadband development in unserved areas, regarding information gathered and observations made to date, and Council review, discussion, consideration and/or possible action regarding same (Tab 4).

VIII. Update from Council subcommittee focused on identifying barriers to residential and commercial broadband deployment in unserved areas, regarding information gathered and observations made to date, and Council review, discussion, consideration and/or possible action regarding same.

IX. Update from Council subcommittee focused on studying technology-neutral solutions to overcome barriers to residential and commercial broadband deployment in unserved areas, regarding information gathered and observations made to date, and Council review, discussion, consideration and/or possible action regarding same.

X. Update from Council subcommittee focused on analyzing how statewide access to broadband would benefit: (A) economic development; (B) the delivery of educational opportunities in higher education and public education; (C) state and local law enforcement; (D) state emergency preparedness; and (E) the delivery of health care services, including telemedicine and telehealth, regarding information gathered and observations made to date, and Council review, discussion, consideration and/or possible action regarding same.

XI. Discuss proposed draft outline for the GBDC report (Tab 5)

XII. Review, Discussion, Consideration and/or Possible Action on Council Next Steps for Following Meeting(s) - Chairman Sproull

XIII. Comments without Deliberation:

Public comment may be received on any matter under the Council's jurisdiction without regard to whether the item was posted on the agenda.

XIV. Adjournment

Link to August 27, 2020, Council meeting documents:

<https://gov.texas.gov/business/page/governors-broadband-development-council>

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting, who may need auxiliary aids or services, or who need assistance in having English translated into Spanish, should contact Philip Rocha at 512-936-0246 at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Personas con discapacidades que asistirán a esta reunión y requieren servicios o instrumentos especiales, o necesitaran traducción al español, por favor de comunicarse con Philip Rocha al 512-936-0246 por lo menos 2 días antes de la reunión para hacer los arreglos necesarios.

Tab

1

GOVERNOR'S BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Minutes of July 22, 2020 Meeting

Videoconference Meeting

1:30 PM

VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

William "Bill" Sproull (Chair), Juli Blanda, Frank Moreno, Lindsey Lee, Marshall Harrison, Marty Lucke, Kirk Petty, Thomas Kim, M.D., Greg Pittman, Jennifer K. Harris, Kenny Scudder, Mike Easley, Edward Smith, Steven Johnson, Ph.D., Saurin Patel, M.D., Kirk Petty

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Lindsey Aston, Philip Rocha, Annie Calandruccio, Abby Austin, Mary York, Fauye Bennett, Michael Treyger, Joe Magruder, Larry McManus, Kim LeBlanc

The Council proceeded on posted agenda items in the order as follows:

Agenda Item I. CALL TO ORDER

Bill Sproull, Chairman of the Governor's Broadband Development Council, called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM. A quorum was present online.

Agenda Item II. CHAIR WELCOME AND REMARKS

Chairman Sproull welcomed the council for their third meeting and briefly outlined the agenda for the meeting.

Agenda Item III. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING ON MAY 13, 2020

The Council reviewed minutes from the meeting held on May 13, 2020.

ACTION: Motion to approve the May 13 meeting minutes by Marty Lucke, second by Greg Pittman. Motion to approve the minutes carried unanimously.

Agenda Item IV. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING ON JUNE 10, 2020

The Council reviewed minutes from the meeting on June 10, 2020.

ACTION: Motion to approve the June 10 meeting minutes by Greg Pittman, second by Steven Johnson. Motion to approve the minutes carried unanimously, with the following change offered by Chairman Sproull: Page 1 Agenda Item 2 – change the "Boston Consulting Group" to the "Texas Education Agency."

Agenda Item V. COMMENTS BY TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY STAFF PROVIDING INFORMATION RELATING TO COUNCIL'S AREAS OF RESEARCH, IDENTIFICATION, STUDY, AND ANALYSIS UNDER TEX. GOV'T CODE 490H.006, INCLUDING INFORMATION RELATING TO DISTRIBUTION OF BROADBAND IN UNSERVED AREAS OF TEXAS, AND COUNCIL REVIEW, DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND/OR POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SAME

Melody Parrish, Deputy Director and CIO of the Texas Education Agency, provided an update on the progress and implementation of Operation Connectivity. Ms. Parrish explained the structure and goals of the Executive Committee of Operation Connectivity and how the committee has addressed issues that students in lower socioeconomic standing have experienced with broadband connectivity in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

Ms. Parrish shared that a third of Texas children do not have access to a device or broadband connection and explained that a large goal of the Executive Committee is to have every child in Texas have access to a device with connectivity and outlined how they plan to do that with the funds and resources available.

Agenda Item VI. COMMENTS BY TEXAS TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION STAFF PROVIDING INFORMATION RELATING TO COUNCIL'S AREAS OF RESEARCH, IDENTIFICATION, STUDY, AND ANALYSIS UNDER TEX. GOV'T CODE 490H.006, INCLUDING INFORMATION RELATING TO DISTRIBUTION OF BROADBAND IN UNSERVED AREAS OF TEXAS, AND COUNCIL REVIEW, DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND/OR POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SAME

Wes Robinson, the Director of Regulatory Affairs at Eastex Telephone Cooperative and Chair to the Regulatory Committee at the Texas Telephone Association, provided an explanation of the structure and function of the Texas Telephone Association in rural areas in East Texas. Mr. Robinson shared the history of The Texas Universal Service Fund and the ways in which it has improved connectivity in the east Texas region.

Mr. Robinson also presented information on the federally funded, Federal Rural Digital Opportunity Fund.

Agenda Item VII. COMMENTS BY US TELECOM ASSOCIATION STAFF PROVIDING INFORMATION RELATING TO COUNCIL'S AREAS OF RESEARCH, IDENTIFICATION, STUDY, AND ANALYSIS UNDER TEX. GOV'T CODE 490H.006, INCLUDING INFORMATION RELATING TO DISTRIBUTION OF BROADBAND IN UNSERVED AREAS OF TEXAS, AND COUNCIL REVIEW, DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND/OR POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SAME

Michael Saperstein, representing the US Telecom Association, presented the questions, trends, and issues facing broadband connectivity on the federal level that have been highlighted due to the coronavirus pandemic. Mr. Saperstein explained the history of mapping unserved areas and how the FCC is moving forward with it.

Mr. Saperstein noted that more funding from Congress could further connectivity in unserved areas.

Agenda Item VIII. UPDATE FROM COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE FOCUSED ON RESEARCHING THE PROGRESS OF BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT IN UNSERVED AREAS, REGARDING INITIAL STEPS, AND COUNCIL REVIEW, DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND/OR POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SAME

Jennifer Harris provided the Council with an update on the broadband access maps availability, which are expected to be completed and released by July 31, 2020. Ms. Harris indicated there could be future discussions within the subcommittee, and then with the Council in their August meeting.

Ms. Harris described the research request to compile data on federal programs that Texas would be able to participate in and how communities in Texas might be able to do so. Ms. Harris also reported that Dr. Sharon Strover, from the Moody School of Communications, and Dr. Kenneth Flamm, from the LBJ School of Public Affairs, offered to assist the subcommittee with their research. The other council members did not have feedback for the research request.

Agenda Item IX. UPDATE FROM COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE FOCUSED ON IDENTIFYING BARRIERS TO RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT IN UNSERVED AREAS, REGARDING INITIAL STEPS, AND COUNCIL REVIEW, DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND/OR POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SAME

Greg Pittman indicated that the subcommittee will continue working on a research plan and filtering data that is most relevant to Texas.

Agenda Item X. UPDATE FROM COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE FOCUSED ON STUDYING TECHNOLOGY-NEUTRAL SOLUTIONS TO OVERCOME BARRIERS TO RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT IN UNSERVED AREAS, REGARDING INITIAL STEPS, AND COUNCIL REVIEW, DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND/OR POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SAME

Saurin Patel, M.D., announced that he will hand over his role as the head of the subcommittee to Steven Johnson, Ph.D.

Dr. Patel indicated that they will be working with the subcommittees focused on the barriers to residential and commercial broadband deployment and the progress of broadband development in unserved areas in order to offer the most appropriate and innovative solutions.

Agenda Item XI. UPDATE FROM COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE FOCUSED ON ANALYZING HOW STATEWIDE ACCESS TO BROADBAND WOULD BENEFIT: (A) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; (B) THE DELIVERY OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION; (C) STATE AND LOCAL LAW

ENFORCEMENT; (D) STATE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS; AND (E) THE DELIVERY OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES, INCLUDING TELEMEDICINE AND TELEHEALTH, REGARDING INITIAL STEPS, AND COUNCIL REVIEW, DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND/OR POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SAME

Marty Lucke provided an update on the benefits of the statewide access to broadband connectivity from the perspective of smaller communities. Mr. Lucke looks to have his subcommittee's report draft finished by mid-August.

Agenda Item XII. REVIEW, DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND/OR POSSIBLE ACTION ON COUNCIL NEXT STEPS FOR FOLLOWING MEETING(S) – CHAIRMAN SPROULL

Chairman Sproull indicated that he would like to request for an outline of the report to be completed for presentation by the next Council meeting in August.

Chairman Sproull discussed with the council members their comments and opinions on the presentations in the meeting.

Julie Blanda requested to hear an update from the Texas Cable Association in a future meeting.

Agenda Item XIII. COMMENTS WITHOUT DELIBERATION

Mr. Weldon Gray, CEO of the Texas Statewide Telephone Cooperative, thanked the council for their work and expressed his interest in broadband development.

Lindsey Aston, Assistant General Counsel within the Office of the Governor, noted for the record that the meeting packet that had been posted online had been updated prior to meeting.

Agenda Item XIV. ADJOURNMENT

No further agenda items were discussed or deliberated and no other action was taken. Meeting adjourned at 3:38 PM.

Bill Sproull, Chair

Date

Tab

2



FCC Universal Service Fund High Cost Program

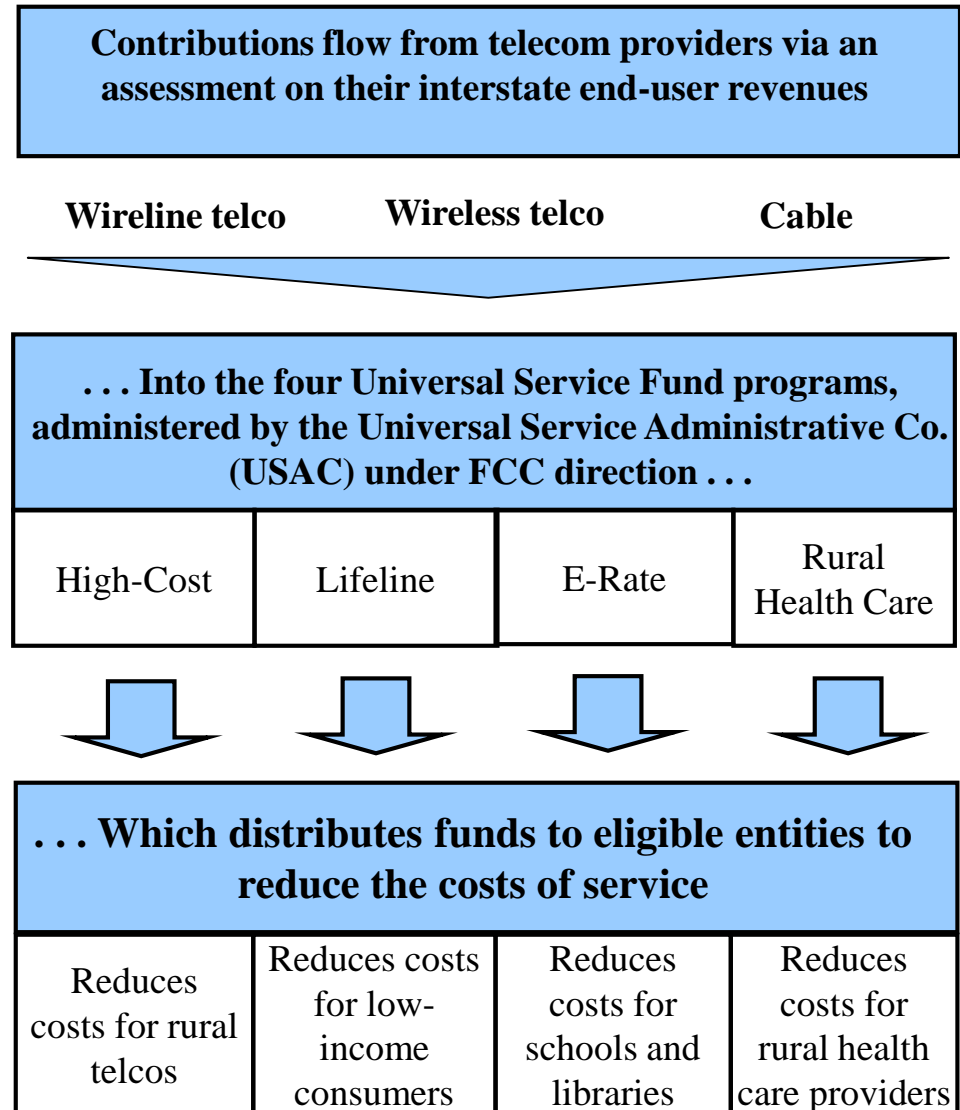
TEXAS GOVERNOR'S BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

August 27, 2020

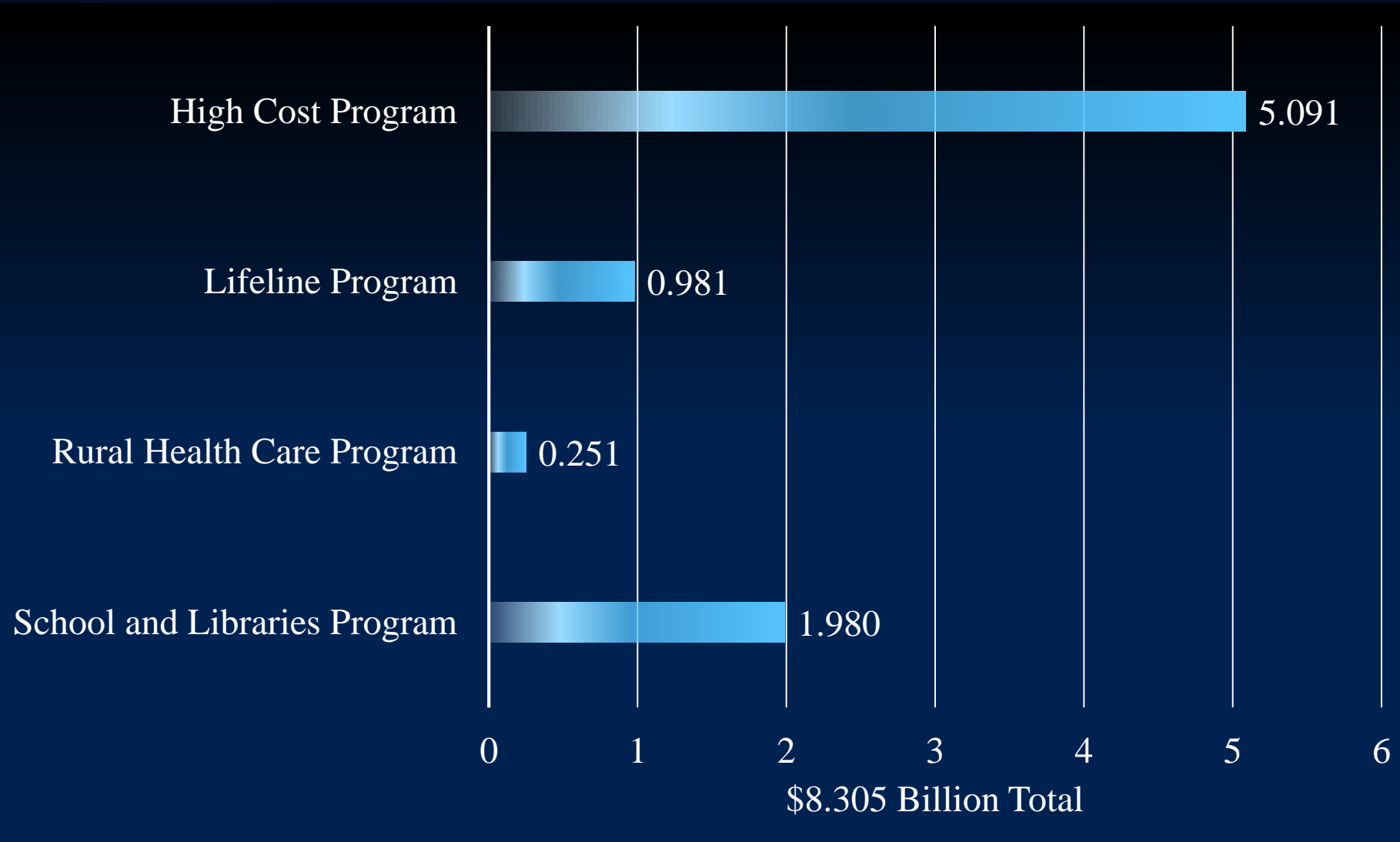
Universal Service Fund (USF)

“Universal service” – the availability of affordable, reliable telecommunications service throughout the nation – is a fundamental goal of federal telecom law.

Pursuant to Section 254 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the FCC established the Universal Service Fund in 1997 to subsidize telecom services for low-income consumers, rural health care providers, schools and libraries, and consumers in high-cost areas.



2019 Authorized USF Support



USF Reform Objectives

- Reorienting USF away from supporting telephone service and toward supporting modern broadband communications
- Promoting efficiency, accountability, and fiscal responsibility
- Eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse
- Closing the digital divide between urban and rural America

“At every stop, what will be front and center of my mind is the FCC’s central mission under my chairmanship— closing the divide, and extending digital opportunity to every American.” – Chairman Ajit Pai

High Cost Principles

Universal service: Deliver, expand, and maintain voice and broadband service in high-cost areas that is reasonably comparable to urban areas

Fiscal responsibility: Eliminate inefficiency and control costs to manage ratepayers' burdens

Regulatory Goals

- No subsidy for areas served by unsubsidized competitor
- Avoid duplicate subsidies
- Dedicated support for highest cost areas
- Competitive bidding (reverse auctions)
- Explicit, accountable public interest obligations, including mandatory build-out obligations for all carriers
- Budget for CAF support

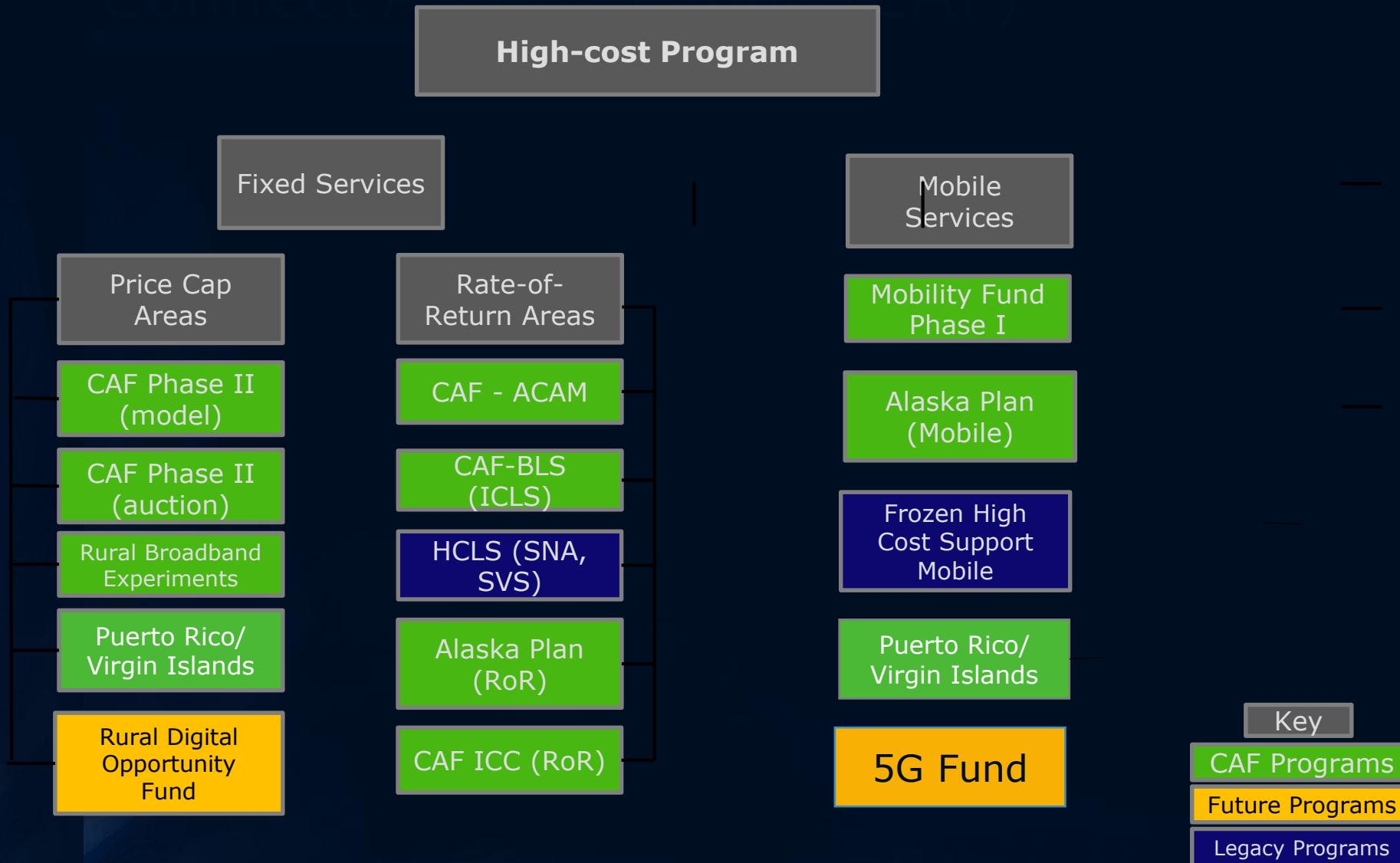
Support Mechanisms

Fixed carriers: support is determined in one of three ways depending on the type of fixed carrier.

- One – carriers compete in an auction to serve an area, and support is awarded to the lowest bidder
- Two – support is determined based on a model that estimates the cost to construct and maintain a voice and broadband network
- Three – recover a portion of their costs to provide service

Mobile carriers: compete in an auction to serve an area, and support is awarded to the lowest bidder.

Connect America Fund (CAF)



Tab

3

Agenda Item VI

<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/reports/2020/02/how-states-are-expanding-broadband-access>

<https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/fact-sheets/2020/05/key-elements-of-state-broadband-programs>

Tab

4



BROADBAND MAPS

Broadband Maps



STATE MAPS

The map products available here are in a statewide format. Broadband data are analyzed and these maps have been developed for public review and feedback.

COUNTY MAPS

Maps are available here for each county in the state. The maps developed at the statewide level are also available for each county.

Interactive Map

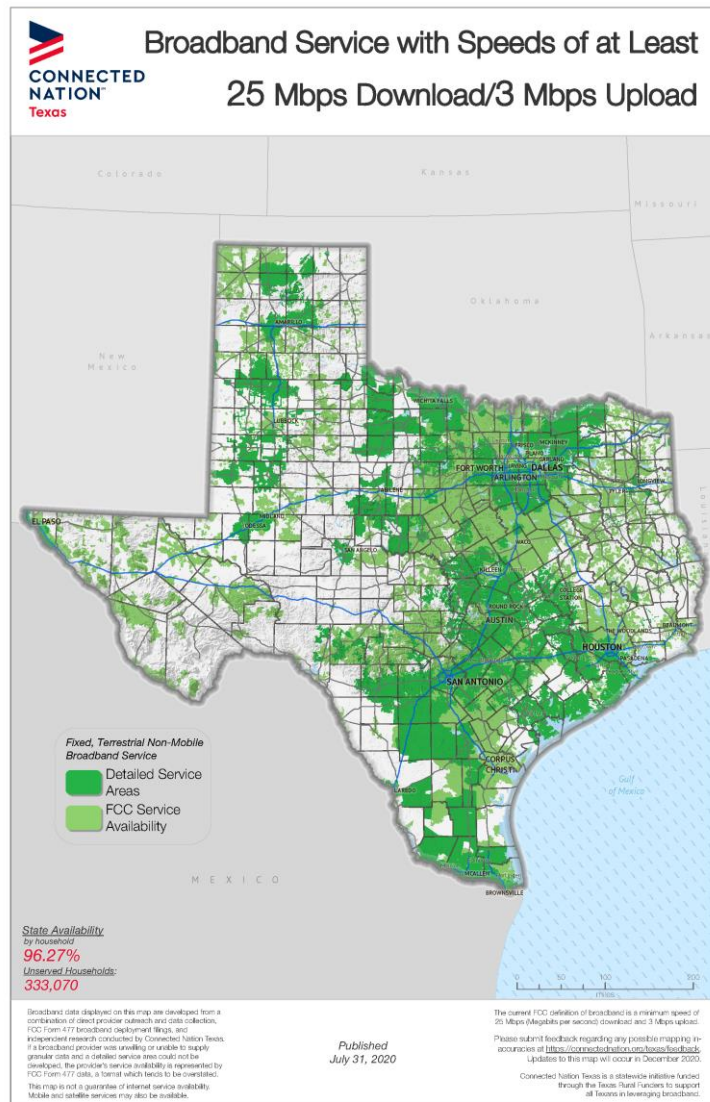
An interactive mapping application is available for users to create customized map displays of broadband availability.

Broadband Statistics

Access charts and maps can be found here, showing the status of broadband access in Texas.

www.connectednation.org/texas/mapping-

Statewide Broadband Maps & Data



Texas Statewide Broadband Availability Estimates by Speed Tier			
Among Fixed Technologies: Cable, DSL, Fiber, Fixed Wireless			
Speeds	Unserved Households	Served Households	Percent of Households Served
10 Mbps Download x 1 Mbps Upload	121,134	8,801,799	98.64%
25 Mbps Download x 3 Mbps Upload	333,071	8,589,862	96.27%
50 Mbps Download x 5 Mbps Upload	566,253	8,356,680	93.65%
100 Mbps Download x 10 Mbps Upload	1,026,071	7,896,862	88.5%

The current FCC definition of broadband is a minimum speed of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload.

Help improve the maps: <https://connectednation.org/texas/feedback>

Source: *Connected Nation Texas, July 2020.*

RURAL Texas Statewide Broadband Availability Estimates by Speed Tier			
Among Fixed Technologies: Cable, DSL, Fiber, Fixed Wireless			
Speeds	Unserved Rural Households	Served Rural Households	Percent of Rural Households Served
10 Mbps Download x 1 Mbps Upload	90,431	2,816,192	96.89%
25 Mbps Download x 3 Mbps Upload	297,032	2,609,591	89.78%
50 Mbps Download x 5 Mbps Upload	524,174	2,382,449	81.97%
100 Mbps Download x 10 Mbps Upload	908,484	1,998,139	68.74%

The current FCC definition of broadband is a minimum speed of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload.

Help improve the maps: <https://connectednation.org/texas/feedback>

Source: *Connected Nation Texas, July 2020.*

County Level Broadband Maps



Texas County Maps

EXPLORE YOUR COMMUNITY

The broadband maps and statistics were initially published in January 2020 and were updated on July 31 following public feedback, field validation, and provider input.

These updated maps (linked below) now include additional input from residents, businesses, and communities, as well as new, more granular data from internet service providers (ISPs). Texans are encouraged to submit feedback on the accuracy of the maps: <https://connectednation.org/texas/feedback>.

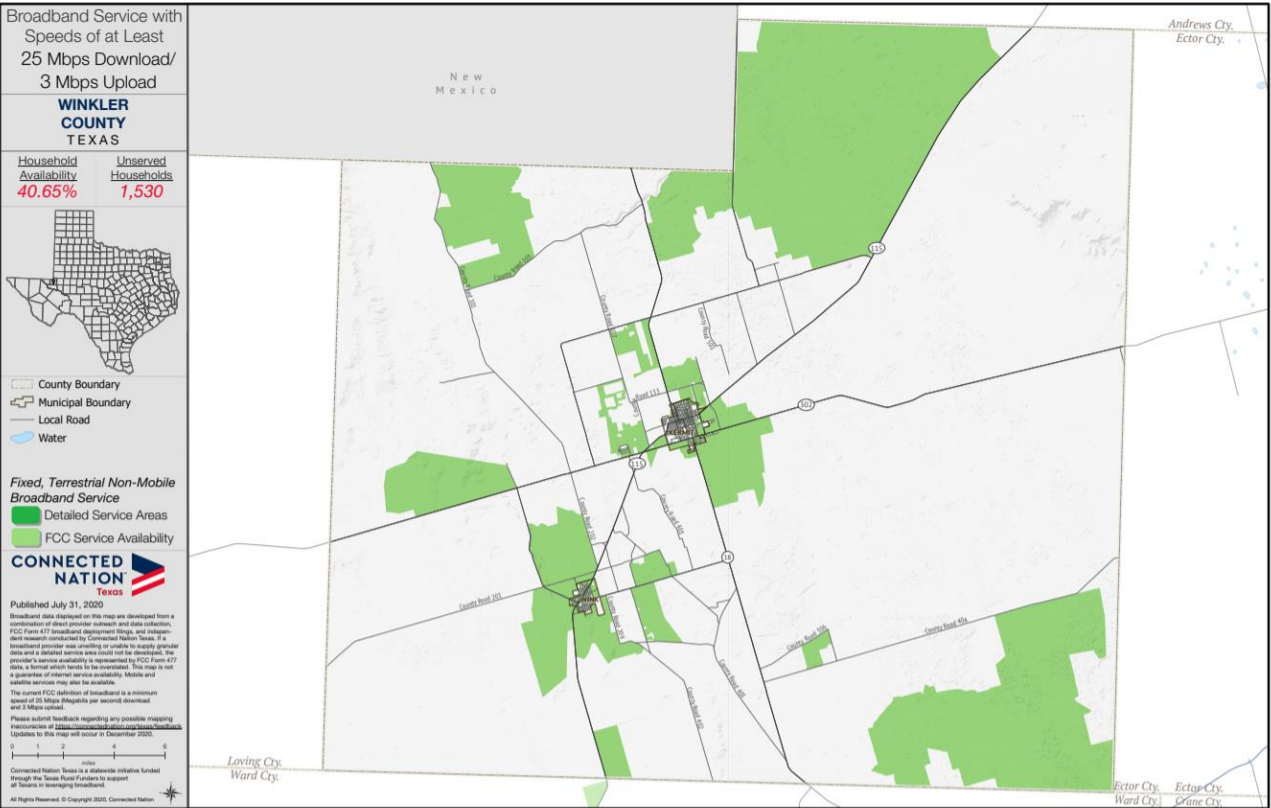
FIND YOUR COUNTY!

Brazos County



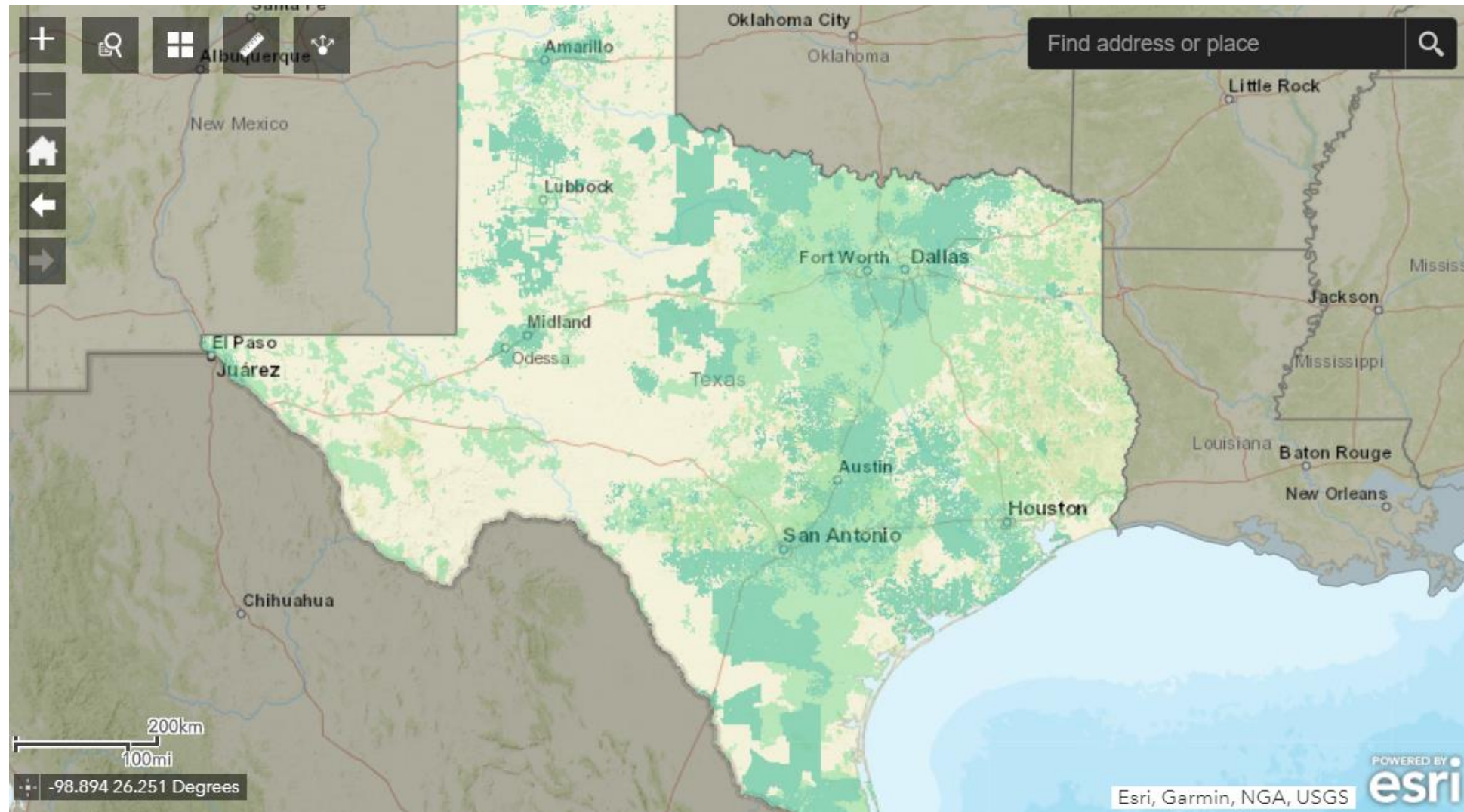
Brazos County - 10x1
Brazos County - 25x3
Brazos County - 50x5
Brazos County - 100x10

County Broadband Maps & Data



Texas County-Level Broadband Availability Estimates by Speed Tier					
Among Fixed Technologies: Cable, DSL, Fiber, Fixed Wireless					
County	Number of Households	Percent of Households Served			
		10 x 1 Mbps	25 x 3 Mbps	50 x 5 Mbps	100 x 10 Mbps
Anderson	17,218	97.15%	87.32%	85.28%	33.22%
Andrews	5,259	98.99%	98.52%	98.08%	97.55%
Angelina	31,090	98.17%	87.77%	86.2%	78.33%
Aransas	9,795	97.32%	97.32%	97.3%	97.3%
Archer	3,538	99.8%	99.79%	96.9%	76.21%
Armstrong	751	96.11%	61.74%	56.46%	27.03%
Atascosa	15,246	100%	98.71%	57.81%	57.81%
Austin	10,837	96.24%	88.21%	55.84%	52.77%
Bailey	2,468	99.09%	81.27%	81.27%	81.27%
Bandera	8,564	98.98%	57.57%	56.33%	52.88%
Bastrop	25,840	100%	100%	79.74%	68.31%
Baylor	1,669	99.16%	99.14%	28.7%	6.23%
Bee	9,042	98.97%	98.44%	75.07%	75.07%
Bell	114,035	99.88%	99.27%	98.04%	95.18%
Bexar	608,931	99.98%	99.95%	99.64%	98.96%
Blanco	4,309	70.56%	64.39%	52.64%	49.33%
Borden	264	75.34%	19.41%	19.41%	19.41%
Bosque	7,254	100%	100%	100%	11.81%

Statewide Interactive Broadband Map



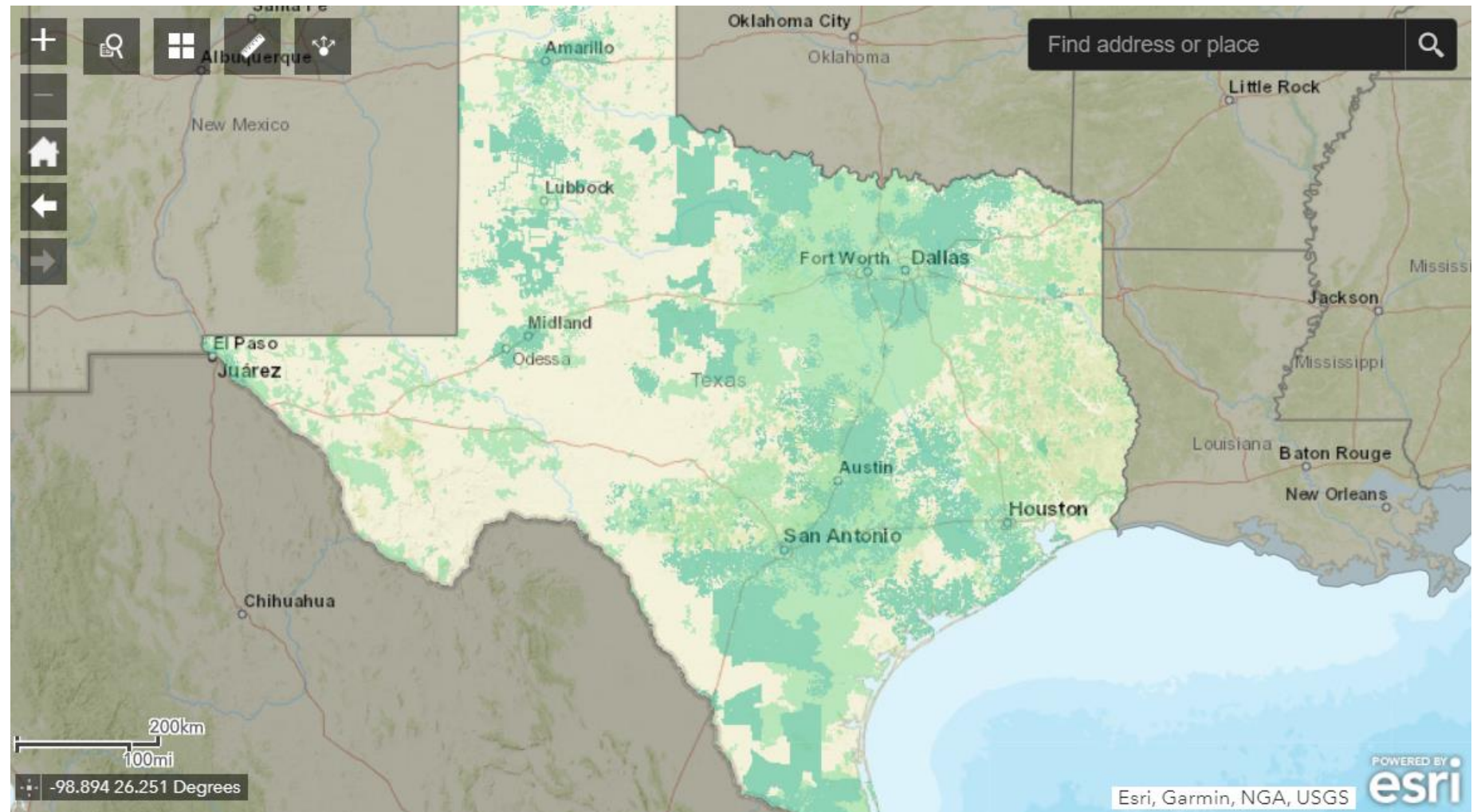
Broadband Availability



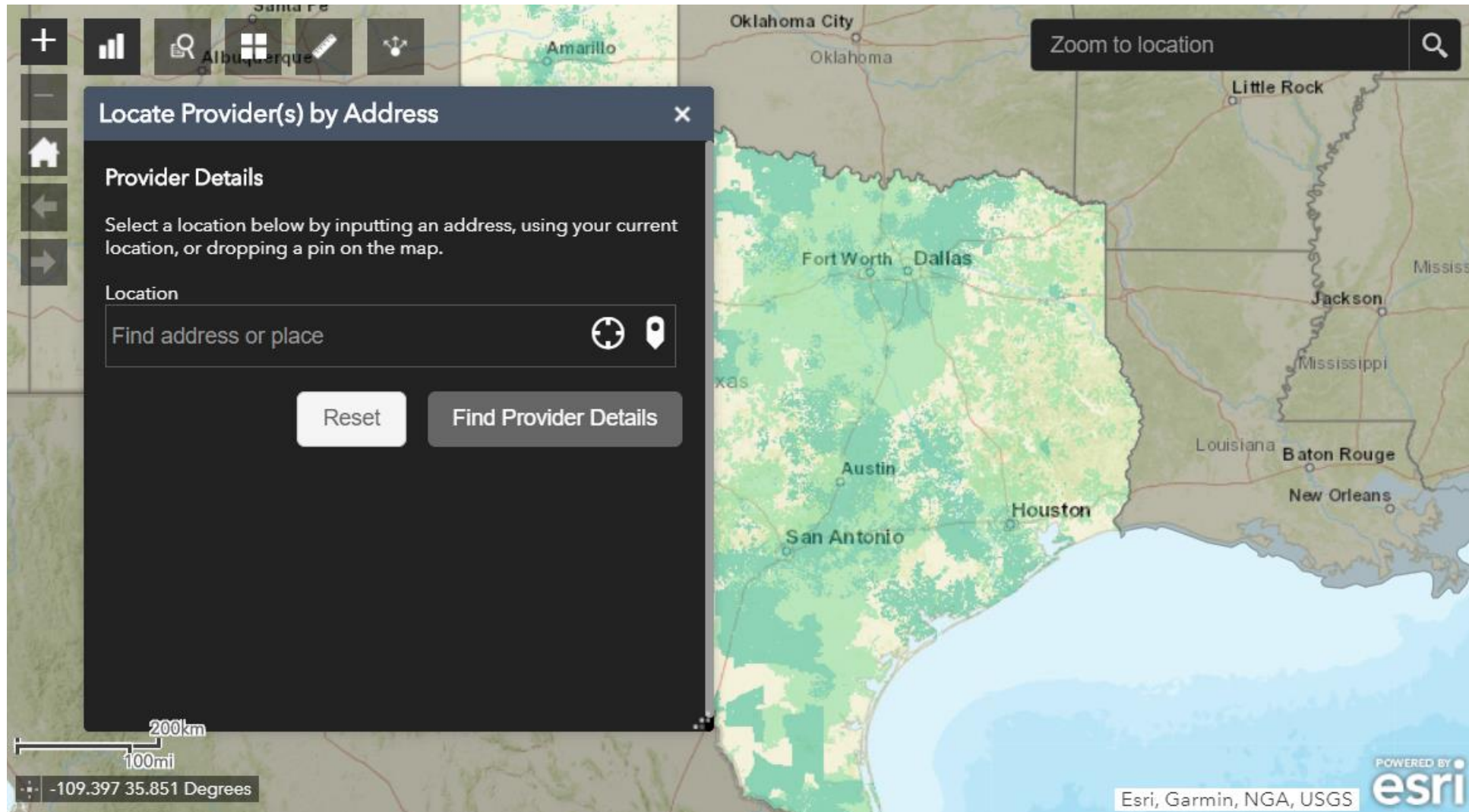
Broadband Service Other Layers

Layers

- ☐ 100M/10M Broadband by Granularity
 - 100M/10M
 - Detailed Service Areas
 - FCC Service Availability
- ☐ 50M/5M Broadband by Granularity
 - 50M/5M
 - Detailed Service Areas
 - FCC Service Availability
- ☒ 25M/3M Broadband by Granularity
 - 25M/3M
 - Detailed Service Areas
 - FCC Service Availability
- ☐ 10M/1M Broadband by Granularity
 - 10M/1M
 - Detailed Service Areas
 - FCC Service Availability



Provider Locator Tool



Provider Density



☒

Density of Providers by Area (25M/3M)

...

◆

Count of Providers

...

5 or More Providers

4 Providers

3 Providers

2 Providers

1 Provider

☐

Density of Providers by Area (10M/1M)

...

◆

Count of Providers

...

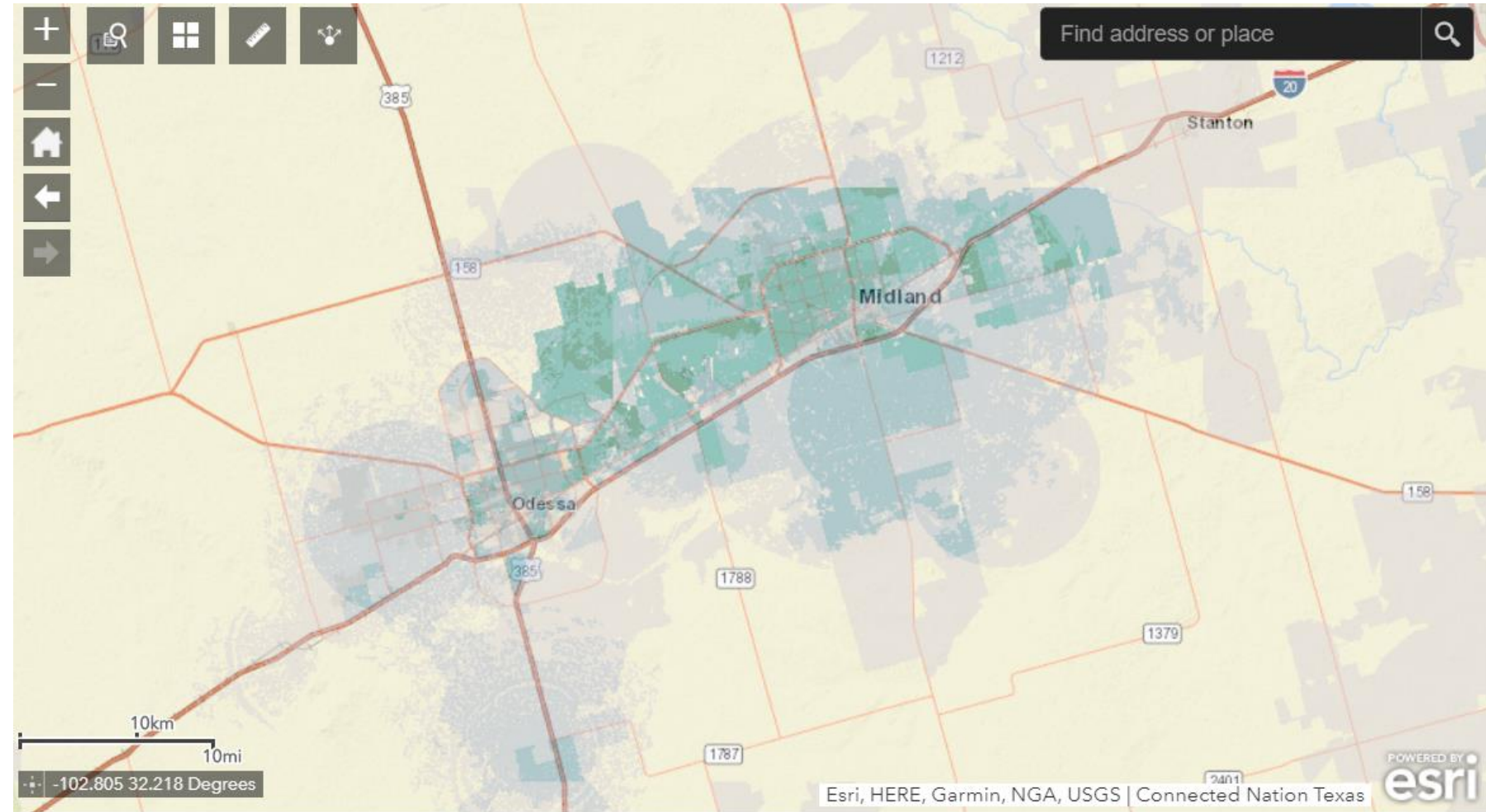
5 or More Providers

4 Providers

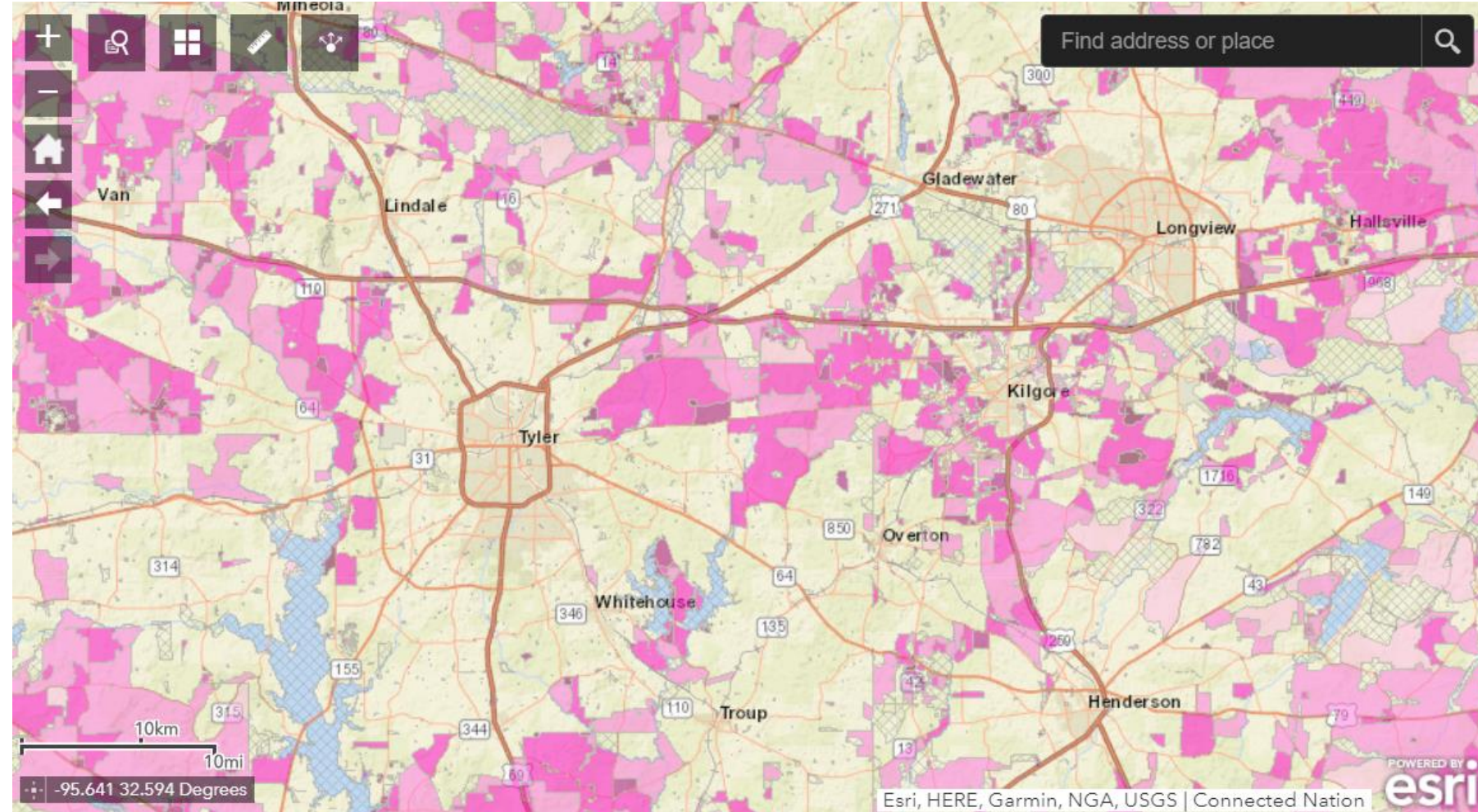
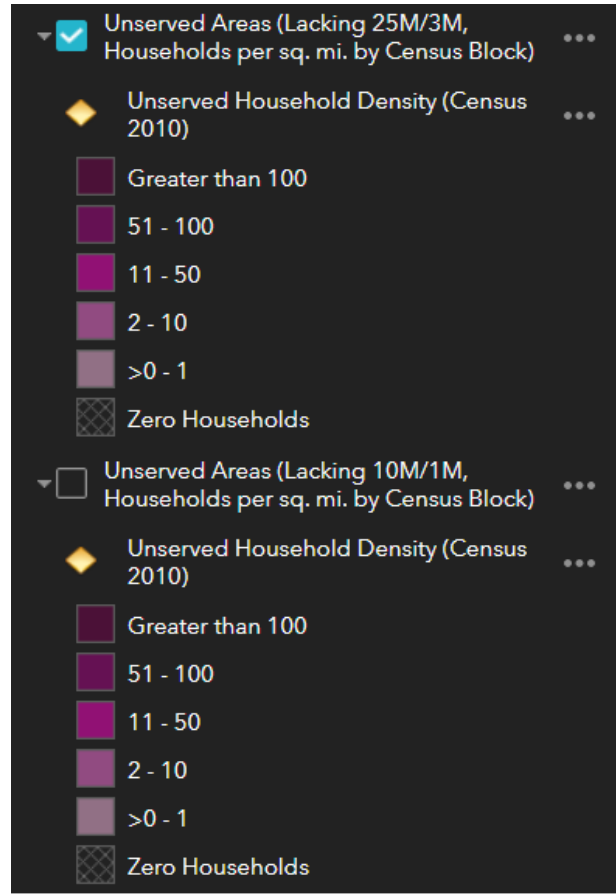
3 Providers

2 Providers

1 Provider



Unserved Density

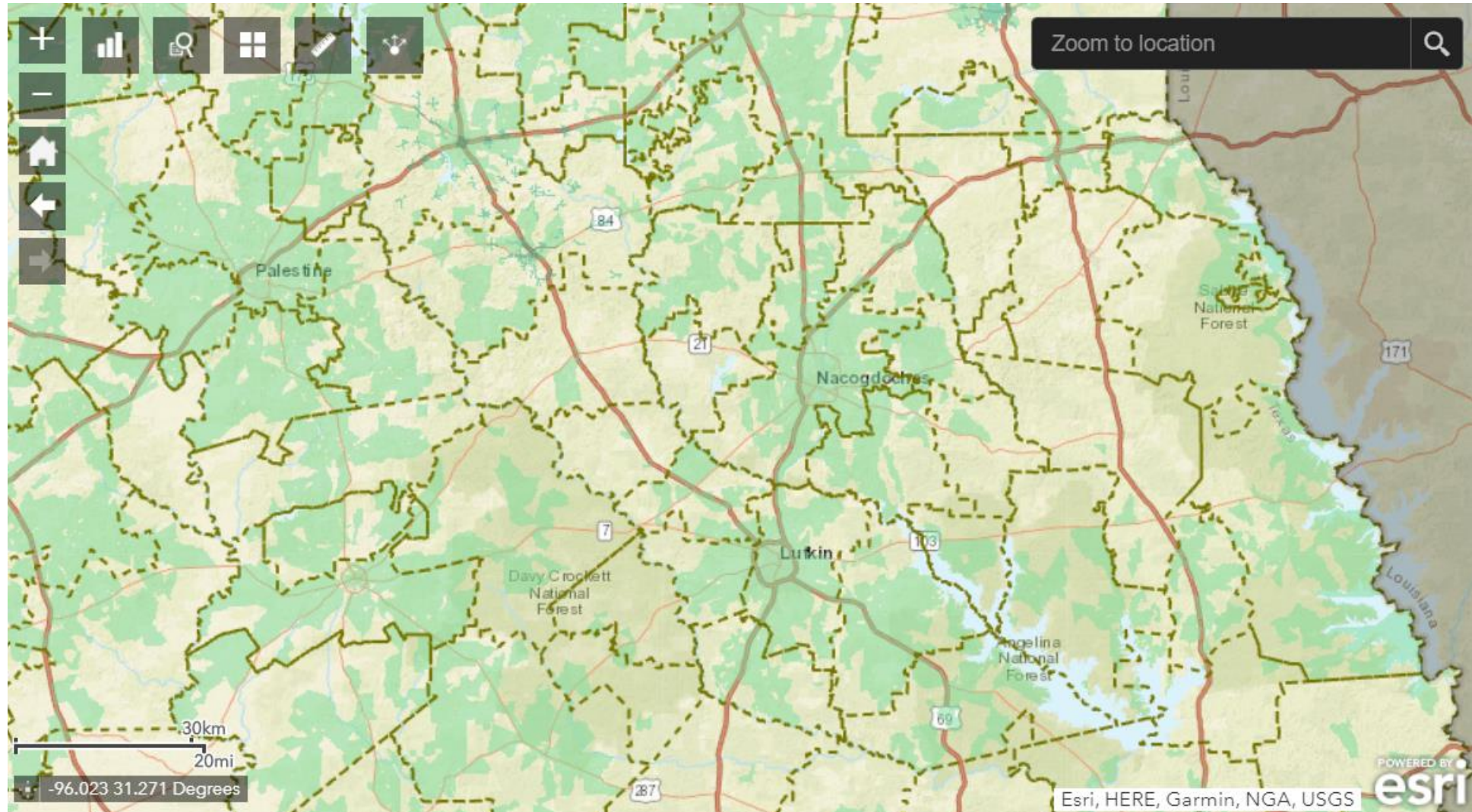


Other Layers



Broadband Service Other Layers

- ☐ FCC Registered Antenna Structures
- ☒ Community Anchor Institutions
 - ☐ Schools K-12
 - ☐ Libraries
 - ☐ Healthcare Facilities
 - ☐ Public Safety Facilities
 - ☐ Universities
- ☒ Boundaries/Districts
 - ☐ Counties
 - ☐ Congressional Districts
 - ☐ Opportunity Zones
 - ☒ School Districts
 - ☐ State Senate Districts
 - ☐ State House Districts
- ☒ Broadband Adoption
 - ☐ Percent of Households with an Internet Subscription
 - ☐ Percent of Households with No Internet Subscription
 - ☐ Density of Households with No Internet Subscription



Resident Feedback



We need
YOUR
feedback!

CONNECTED NATION
Texas

Texas Broadband – Citizen Feedback

Please enter the following fields, search or click on the map to identify the proper location, and if necessary, move the location on the map. Complete the form by clicking the Submit Inquiry/Feedback button.

1. Enter Information

Reason For Feedback (required)
Select...

Description
[Text Field]

Street Address (required)
[Text Field]

City (required)
[Text Field]

Zip Code
[Text Field]

Name
[Text Field]

Phone #
[Text Field]

Email
[Text Field]

📎 Attach with the button below any supporting documentation associated with your feedback.
Select File

2. Select Location

Specify the location for this entry by clicking/tapping the map or by using one of the following options.

Search Lat/Lon

Find address or place [Search Icon] 📍 Locate Me

Latitude: 31.58226 Longitude: 97.14899

Austin Community College, City of Austin, Texas Parks & Wildlife

3. Complete Form

Add this information to the map.

Submit Feedback

Tab

5

Draft Outline of GBDC Report:

- I. GBDC overview/history/background
- II. Executive Summary with recommendations
- III. Federal and State funds for broadband
- IV. Texas Universal Service Fund
- V. GBDC duty one overview
- VI. GBDC duty two overview
- VII. GBDC duty three overview
- VIII. GBDC duty four overview