

Broadband Needs

- Not all neighborhoods have fiber optic cable laid down.
- Areas west of I-75 do not have fiber optic infrastructure.
- Southern and rural areas of Lowndes County have slower internet connection speeds.
- Some internet service providers have a monopoly in some areas which drives up prices for the service.
- Recent hurricanes destroyed citywide fiber in Valdosta.
- Fiber optics experiences frequent outages.

Broadband Opportunities

- Citizens and businesses, and other organizations in a specific census block can submit a BEAD challenge to the Georgia Technology Authority to inform them
- Public broadband access supported by a public-private partnership can reduce costs and expand broadband access to those in need.
- Lake Park and other underserved areas can develop a broadband improvement plan.
- Public router settings can be used to create publicly accessible wi-fi hubs.
- The Georgia Broadband Program provides mapping, planning, and funding resources to support broadband deployment in underserved areas.
- Existing schools, libraries, and community facilities can serve as community access points for internet and digital services – also referred to as community anchor institutions.
- State and federal broadband grants continue to provide opportunities for infrastructure expansion in rural and underserved areas.

Broadband Policies

- Local governments should refer to Georgia Broadband maps to identify underserved and unserved broadband areas to direct future broadband infrastructure investments.
- Local governments should monitor and pursue state and federal broadband funding opportunities to expand access and improve service reliability.
- Educational institutions, libraries, and community organizations should collaborate to promote digital literacy and technology training opportunities