



ConnectALL

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND



PERFORMANCE REPORT 2024

Affordable Housing Connectivity Program
Municipal Infrastructure Program

Affordable Housing Connectivity Program

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Approved Program Plan number: CPF_GP-000144

Program start date: March 29, 2023

Performance reporting period: July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Performance report submission date: July 31, 2024

Program end date: December 31, 2026

CPF funds allocated to this Program: \$100,000,000.00

OVERVIEW

In March 2023, the U.S. Department of Treasury, along with representatives from the White House and the State of New York, [announced the approval](#) of New York's plan to deploy \$100 million from the Capital Projects Fund (CPF) to support broadband access for communities who live in affordable housing. The ConnectALL Office, in consultation with New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR), is offering the Affordable Housing Connectivity Program (AHCP), aimed at improving broadband access in affordable housing rental units, by providing funding to deploy new and/or upgraded broadband infrastructure to and within affordable housing properties.

Program funding will provide connections to the buildings, new/upgraded in-building wiring, and additional network components and equipment required to deliver upgraded broadband service to residents of affordable housing properties. By subsidizing deployment of fiber and in-building wiring to and within affordable housing properties, the AHCP will connect thousands of households to reliable, affordable, high-speed fiber-based broadband service. The program will increase affordability of service options by changing broadband delivery economics for Property Owners and Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and by lowering the barrier for ISPs to access broadband infrastructure to and within these properties for the purposes of providing service to end-users.

USE OF FUNDS

ConnectALL's implementation of the award focused on three key areas during this period: Request for Applications to identify potential grant recipients, Portfolios of Properties through which the owners of affordable and public housing opt into the program, and the additional Stakeholder Engagement to support the program. In this phase, CPF administrative funds have been utilized for ConnectALL staff and consultant support for activities in these areas.

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

ConnectALL developed a two-stage Request for Applications. Section 1 focuses on the Applicant's previous experience, the Applicant's organizational profile, proposed pricing for services, and adherence to program requirements. Applicants identify the metro areas of the state they seek to serve through the program and the volume of units they could serve. In February 2024, ConnectALL opened rolling applications for Section 1. The eligible applicants are builders or owners of internet infrastructure, managed service providers, and internet service providers. ConnectALL developed and applied an evaluation process to determine applicants to be "Eligible", "Conditionally Eligible" or "Ineligible" to apply for Section 2. Section 2 of the application contains portfolios of properties with the homes that ISPs can propose to serve. Each portfolio is tied to a specific metro area. This section of the application includes the specific approach and requested grant amount, among other details. ConnectALL began issuing Section 2 requests in June 2024. The Request for Applications is available on the [ConnectALL website](#).

PORTFOLIOS OF PROPERTIES

In the previous period of performance, ConnectALL launched a basic survey for owners of affordable and public housing to express interest in the program and provide basic data about their properties. ConnectALL closed this survey in December 2023 and replaced it with a more detailed "Building Conditions Self-Assessment" (BCSA) for owners to provide information including the current broadband infrastructure and services at their properties and their operational capacity to facilitate a broadband equipment retrofit in coming months. ConnectALL compiled data on affordable and public housing in New York from other data sources to guide outreach and planning and to complement owner-provided information.

Within this period, ConnectALL used the information gathered to plan and prepare the first portfolios of properties that form the basis for the Section 2 applications.

OUTREACH AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

ConnectALL engaged with property owners and Internet Service Providers to educate them about how to participate in the program and to inform community leaders about the program.

ConnectALL promoted the BCSA survey for property owners and the Request for Applications for Internet Service Providers through its website, earned media, social media, and existing partner channels. HCR and ConnectALL did direct outreach to housing owners, including direct calls and emails, and coordinated with HUD regional offices, State agencies, county and local governments, and housing associations and organizations for additional touchpoints. ConnectALL also hosted multiple public events to distribute the survey and inform affordable housing owners of the program. ConnectALL hosted or co-hosted 7 AHCP-specific forums for housing owners and ISPs, collectively reaching over 400 attendees. ConnectALL co-hosted a forum with the Association of Long Island Housing Authorities, and two forums with the New York State Public Housing Authorities Directors Association (NYSPHADA), and Housing and Community Renewal.

In addition, ConnectALL also hosted or presented at ten forums laying the foundation for all upcoming deployment programs, reaching audiences such as:

- Counties, large cities, and Regional Planning Councils

- Governor’s Intergovernmental Team and Empire State Development (ESD) Regional Directors
- NYS Legislators, including Senate leadership staff, NYS Association of Black & Puerto Rican & Asian Legislators, and Legislators representing rural counties/districts
- County and Municipal leadership and planners
- Industrial Development Agencies and Local Development Corporations
- Internet Service Providers

Since June 2023, outreach efforts have focused on individual calls and emails to counties, public housing authorities and property owners, combined with additional outreach from regional offices of HUD, ESD and Governor Hochul, State agencies, NYS Legislators, housing associations and trade associations for Internet Service Providers. Outreach partners were provided with toolkits for their members, networks and constituents that included copy and graphics for their website, social media, newsletter and e-blasts. Partners included NYS Association of Counties, NYS Association of Towns, Conference of Mayors, MidTel NYS Telecommunications Association (NYSTA), The Independent Network Operations Consortium (INOC), NYS Public Housing Authorities Directors Association (NYPHADA) and the Supportive Housing Network of NY.

ConnectALL included the AHCP opportunity for ISPs and property owners throughout the State in over 37 e-blasts to both targeted stakeholders as well as ConnectALL’s list of close to 4,000 stakeholders

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD

(July 2024 – June 2025)

ConnectALL will continue building momentum for the program by further developing the pipeline of properties and engaging with owners, ISPs, and other stakeholders. Key activities milestones anticipated in the upcoming year include:

- **Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement:**
ConnectALL expects that sustained outreach will be required throughout the Program. ConnectALL will conduct multiple additional forums with owners in Q3 and Q4 of 2024, with the Supportive Housing Network of New York and the Rural Housing Coalition, as well as other owners.
- **Release of Property Portfolios:**
Using data gathered through the BIYP and BCSA surveys, ConnectALL will bundle properties based on geography and other characteristics to increase interest among ISP program participants and promote efficient deployment. ConnectALL will prioritize properties for the program, taking into consideration factors including existing broadband conditions and the potential impact for residents and the surrounding community. ConnectALL expects to release Property Portfolios on an ongoing basis through Q3 2025.

- **Project Awards and Implementation:**

ConnectALL will award projects to ISPs based on the scores of their Section 2 applications. ConnectALL will work closely with ISPs on their construction plans, support with permit and access applications and approvals from relevant public entities. ConnectALL will facilitate building access agreements, service agreements, definitions of roles and responsibilities, and other requirements for partnerships between housing providers and grantees. ConnectALL staff will regularly check in with ISP-property owner project teams to monitor implementation progress, provide input, and troubleshoot issues. ConnectALL will also ensure compliance with local, State, and federal regulations, as well as all requirements of CPF and the AHCP.

- **Service Activation:**

Once ISPs submit an affidavit that construction on a specific property is complete, ConnectALL will inspect the construction to ensure compliance and quality. Following this verification, grant recipients will be able to offer internet service to residents. All service funded through the AHCP will comply with CPF program requirements, including offering 100 Mbps symmetrical service options, offering service options subsidized by the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) or a successor program, offering low-cost service options for households not eligible for ACP or a successor program, and reporting pricing information to ConnectALL, as well as additional ConnectALL requirements as described in the RFA and grant agreements.

- **Ongoing Reporting and Maintenance:**

After service is activated within a building, ConnectALL will continue project monitoring to ensure compliance with Treasury and AHCP requirements throughout the term of service and gather key program impact metrics, including details on the quality, speed, and pricing of service delivered.

NOTABLE CHALLENGES

Though there has been significant early progress, ConnectALL has determined that more targeted outreach methods are required to bring enough participants into the program to reach the deployment goal for the program of 100,000 unique units.

To that end, ConnectALL's outreach efforts are now more focused on direct outreach to owners. Since June 2024:

- Outreach efforts have been focused on public housing authorities and large owners in a given MSA;
- ConnectALL has streamlined the BCSA survey for owners to reduce barriers to entry to the program; and
- ConnectALL provides direct support to owners in filling out the BCSA surveys.

ConnectALL continues to complement this targeted, direct outreach through multiple partners to ensure that eligible entities statewide are aware of, and prepared to participate in, the program. ConnectALL continues to distribute an outreach "toolkit" to partners, including local government leaders, to use for promotion in their area. Outreach through partners enables ConnectALL to reach a wider swathe of eligible entities than could be reached by direct State outreach alone. Once partners have established contact with interested entities, ConnectALL will reach out to provide support in completing the BCSA surveys to continue building out the property portfolios.

PROMOTING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES

As the AHCP is still in its pre-deployment phase, ConnectALL is not yet able to report on end-user outcomes. However, ConnectALL is incorporating equity as a key guiding principle in all aspects of program design. ConnectALL's extensive outreach and stakeholder engagement work to date has prioritized engagement of a diverse range of audiences, including ISPs; private and non-profit housing organizations; tenant organizations; owners of individual housing properties; State, regional, county, and local government entities; and members of the public. Within these categories ConnectALL, has sought to minimize barriers to entry and attract a wide variety of participants, for example, by targeting outreach both to incumbent and start-up ISPs, large and small property management companies, and housing owners with and without previous experience managing broadband retrofits. In engagement with members of the public, ConnectALL has prioritized marginalized communities including low-income households, aging individuals, individuals with disabilities, and members of racial and ethnic minority groups, all of which have significant overlap with the state's affordable housing resident population. ConnectALL has also been committed to accessibility and inclusivity at its public events, with ASL and other language interpretation, closed captioning, and other accessibility accommodations available at public engagement events, and public-facing materials made available in multiple languages and formats.

ConnectALL has sought to incorporate the following engagement methods in its stakeholder engagement: surveys of the general public, one-to-one stakeholder interviews, online virtual forums to in-person listening sessions and focus groups, and engagements tailored to a range of audiences and subject areas. ConnectALL will continue to identify other ways for stakeholders to participate.

Equity has been a consistent priority in ConnectALL's program design, starting with ConnectALL's decision to prioritize investment in affordable housing properties in the first place. Affordable housing residents are disproportionately impacted by the digital divide, as this population has significant overlap with low-income communities, individuals with language barriers, seniors, people with disabilities, and other historically marginalized communities. ConnectALL will prioritize selecting projects that can demonstrate potential positive impact for residents, and, when feasible, the surrounding community.

ConnectALL has sought to prioritize equity in its selection of program participants. Guided by stakeholder input from ISPs, housing organizations, and property owners, ConnectALL will ensure that program eligibility parameters, application requirements, evaluation criteria, and compliance requirements allow for participation from a wide range of housing owners and ISPs.

Finally, following the launch in the coming year of the State's Digital Equity Capacity Grant programs funded through NTIA, ConnectALL will explore ways to align these infrastructure investments with other digital equity programs to amplify the impact of both.

LABOR

ConnectALL intends to treat AHCP projects as "covered projects" under the New York State WIRED Act of 2022, which includes the following requirements with respect to labor and contracting:

- All workers will be paid prevailing wages.

- Applicants must certify compliance with relevant workplace safety standards and other worker protections.
- Applicants must submit a workforce plan identifying: the anticipated size of the workforce required to carry out the proposed work; whether the workforce will be directly employed or subcontracted; a description of plans to maximize use of local or regional workforce; and a description of the expected workforce safety standards and training to ensure the project is completed at a high standard.
- ConnectALL will consult with the Division of Minority and Women's Business Development and the Division of Service-Disabled Veterans' Business Development to make training and resources available to assist minority and women-owned business enterprises and service-disabled veteran-owned business enterprises to achieve and maintain compliance with prevailing wage requirements.

Municipal Infrastructure Program

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Approved Program Plan number: CPF_GP-000143

Program start date: January 22, 2024 (Program Plan approval)

Performance reporting period: January 22, 2024 – June 30, 2024

Performance report submission date: July 31, 2024

Program end date: December 31, 2026

CPF funds allocated to this Program: \$228,271,436.95

OVERVIEW

In January 2024, the U.S. Department of Treasury, along with representatives from the White House and the State of New York, announced the [approval of \\$228 million in Federal funds](#)¹ from the American Rescue Plan's Capital Projects Fund (CPF) to connect tens of thousands of homes and businesses in New York to affordable, high-speed Internet by launching the ConnectALL Municipal Infrastructure Program (MIP). New York State's ConnectALL Office established MIP to support the development of publicly owned and controlled broadband infrastructure to connect homes, businesses, and community anchor institutions to affordable, reliable, high-speed internet service in communities across the state.²

MIP prioritizes projects that address currently unserved locations and align with ConnectALL's mandate to develop a robust, equitable broadband marketplace. ConnectALL expects broadband infrastructure funded by MIP to be owned or managed by municipalities, State and local authorities, entities established pursuant to Section 99-y of the New York State General Municipal Law³, not-for-profit entities, and/or other entities publicly controlled with stipulations on their use that will ensure long-term adherence to ConnectALL standards. MIP prioritizes new broadband infrastructure that will be made available on an open-access, non-discriminatory basis to private ISPs and Managed Service Providers (MSPs) to provide New Yorkers with high-quality, reliable, and affordable service options. Open access networks can be used by multiple service providers, bringing consumer choice and improved service quality to unserved areas.

USE OF FUNDS

ConnectALL's work on the program to date has focused on outreach to eligible applicants, launching the solicitation requirements and application, reviewing and scoring applications, and making awards for the first round of funding in this pre-deployment phase. CPF administrative funds have also been utilized for ConnectALL staff and consultant support for these activities.

¹ <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy2039>

² <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-majority-leader-schumer-and-leader-jeffries-announce-228-million-federal>

³ See <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/GMU/99-Y>.

SOLICITATION DEVELOPMENT AND AWARD SELECTION

ConnectALL published the Request for Applications on January 22nd, 2024, initiating a structured solicitation process with three application windows:

- **Phase 1** (deadline March 8, 2024) **and Phase 2** (deadline April 19, 2024): Reserved exclusively for Eligible Public Applicants, including Municipalities, Tribal Nations, Non-Profits, Municipal Utilities, and Utility Co-Ops
- **Phase 3** (deadline August 12, 2024): Open to both Eligible Public Applicants and Eligible Private Partner applicants, such as ISPs, MSPs, Infrastructure Builders, and Infrastructure Owners

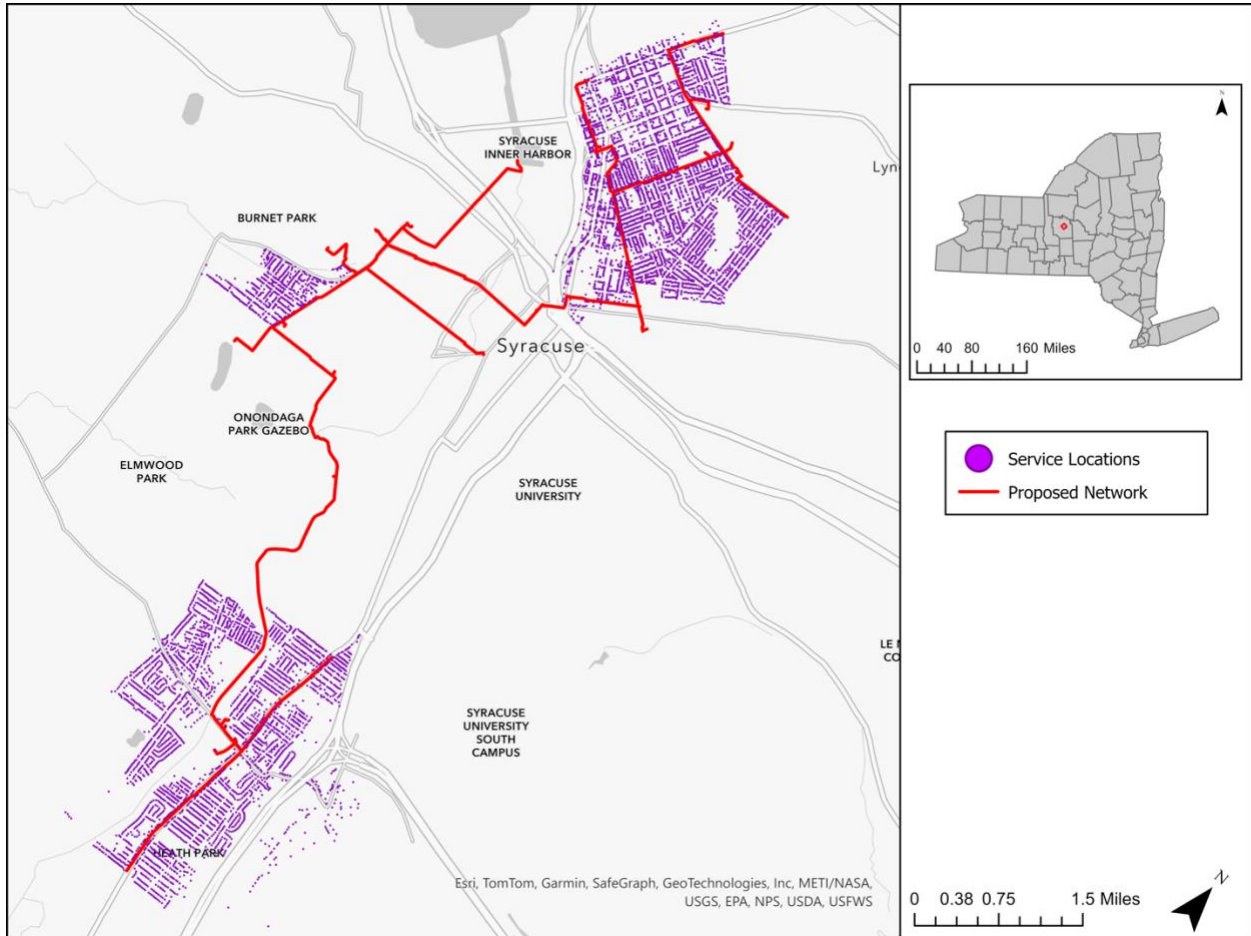
ConnectALL completed the review of the Phase 1 applications and began the review of Phase 2 applications during the grant period. ConnectALL made six awards totaling \$73,906,179.30 to build 809 miles of public broadband infrastructure to over 26,770 locations across nine counties in upstate New York. These projects include a range of public and public-private solutions, including open-access fiber-to-the-home networks across the Southern Tier, municipal and county networks, and an advanced fixed wireless network to serve low-income areas of Syracuse. All the projects will offer symmetric service options (where the download and upload speeds are the same) at price points below the current averages for their respective areas. The subrecipients and projects are described on the following pages.

SUBRECIPIENTS IN THIS GRANT PERIOD

ConnectALL awarded 6 projects during the reporting period. These projects represent over \$73 Million of ConnectALL investment to serve over 26,000 locations in 10 counties across the state. Details of each project are included below:

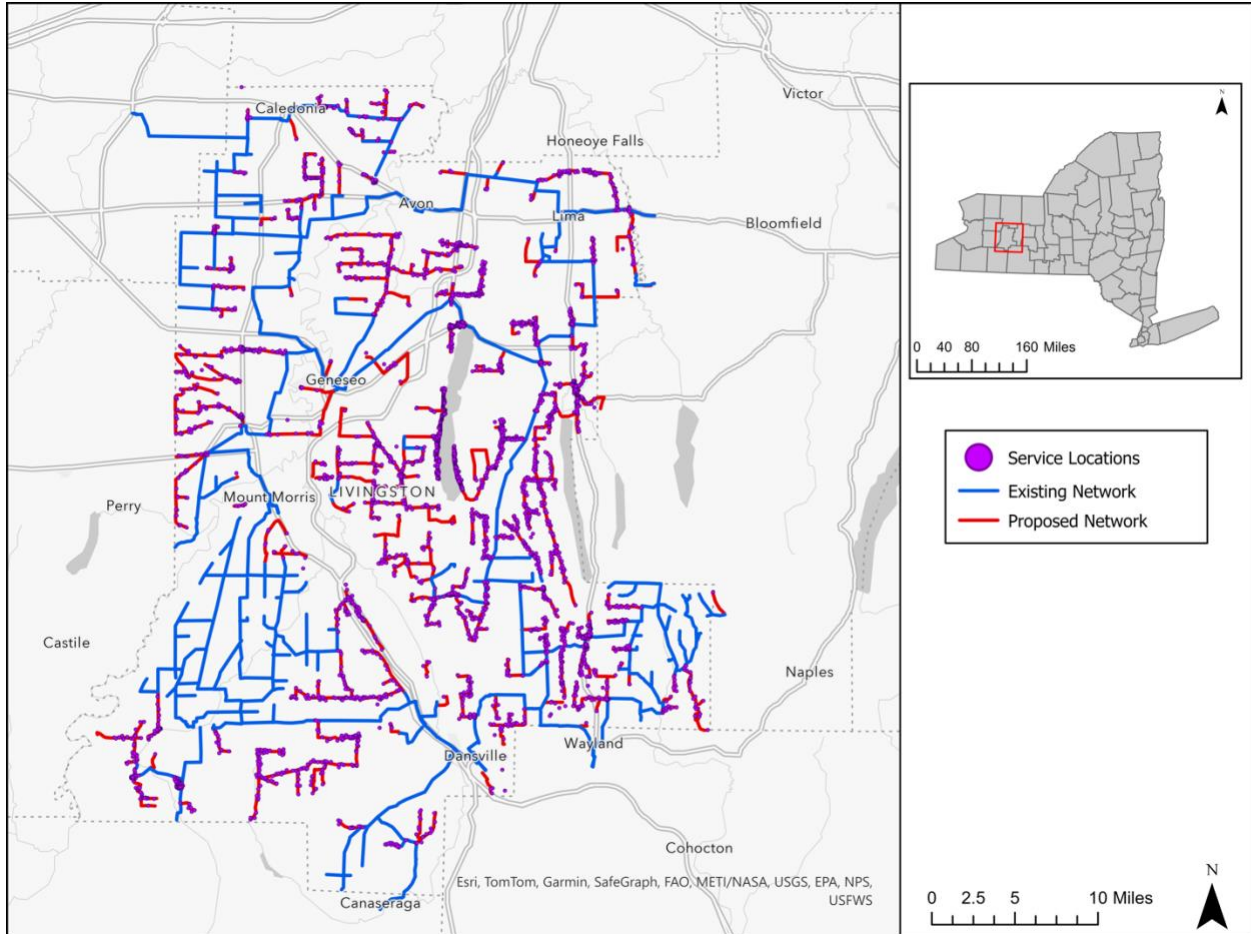
City of Syracuse (Central New York Region) – \$10,812,004.00:

The City of Syracuse is expanding its award-winning Surge Link internet service network to 13,547 locations, including homes, businesses and community anchor institutions in five city neighborhoods: Valley, Skunk City, Washington Square, Northside, and Near Northeast. The City’s existing fixed wireless municipal broadband solution serves over 8,700 locations in three neighborhoods. In total, the expanded network will reach the area of the city that experiences the highest rates of poverty and unemployment and lowest educational attainment when compared across the city or Onondaga County as a whole. The City will build, own, operate, and maintain 20 miles of new fiber optic infrastructure serving ten fixed wireless hubs, and partner with Community Broadband Networks Syracuse Municipal, LLC to install, operate, and maintain the fixed wireless network, connect customers, and provide 24/7 customer support. Under the ConnectALL program, Surge Link will offer broadband service for \$14.99 per month to low-income households and symmetric 100 Mbps service for \$36.99. The City has also worked with the Syracuse Neighborhood Community Center Collaborative to launch a Digital Empowerment Program to support residents in the area.



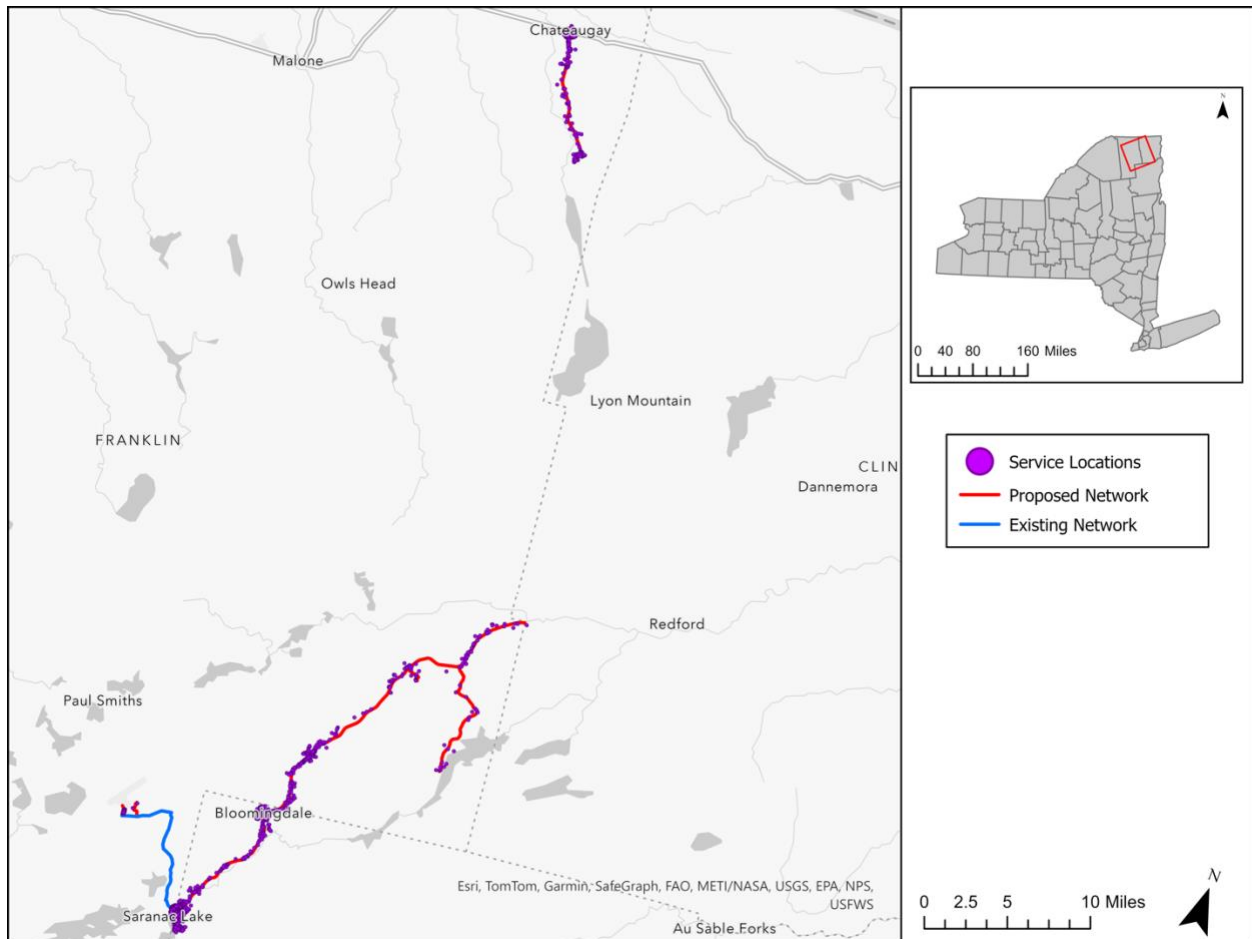
Livingston County (Finger Lakes Region) – \$26,549,730.00:

Livingston County will build on its existing public-private partnership with Empire Access to serve 4,131 locations including homes, businesses and community anchor institutions with high-speed service. This project will reach all known unserved locations in the county that are not already covered under other grant-funded projects, marking a major milestone for “Light Up Livingston,” the County’s initiative to provide access to high-speed, fiber optic internet to every address in the county. Under the ConnectALL program, Livingston County will contract with Hunt EAS to construct an estimated 340 miles of fiber, 20% of which will be reserved for open-access use by other ISPs.



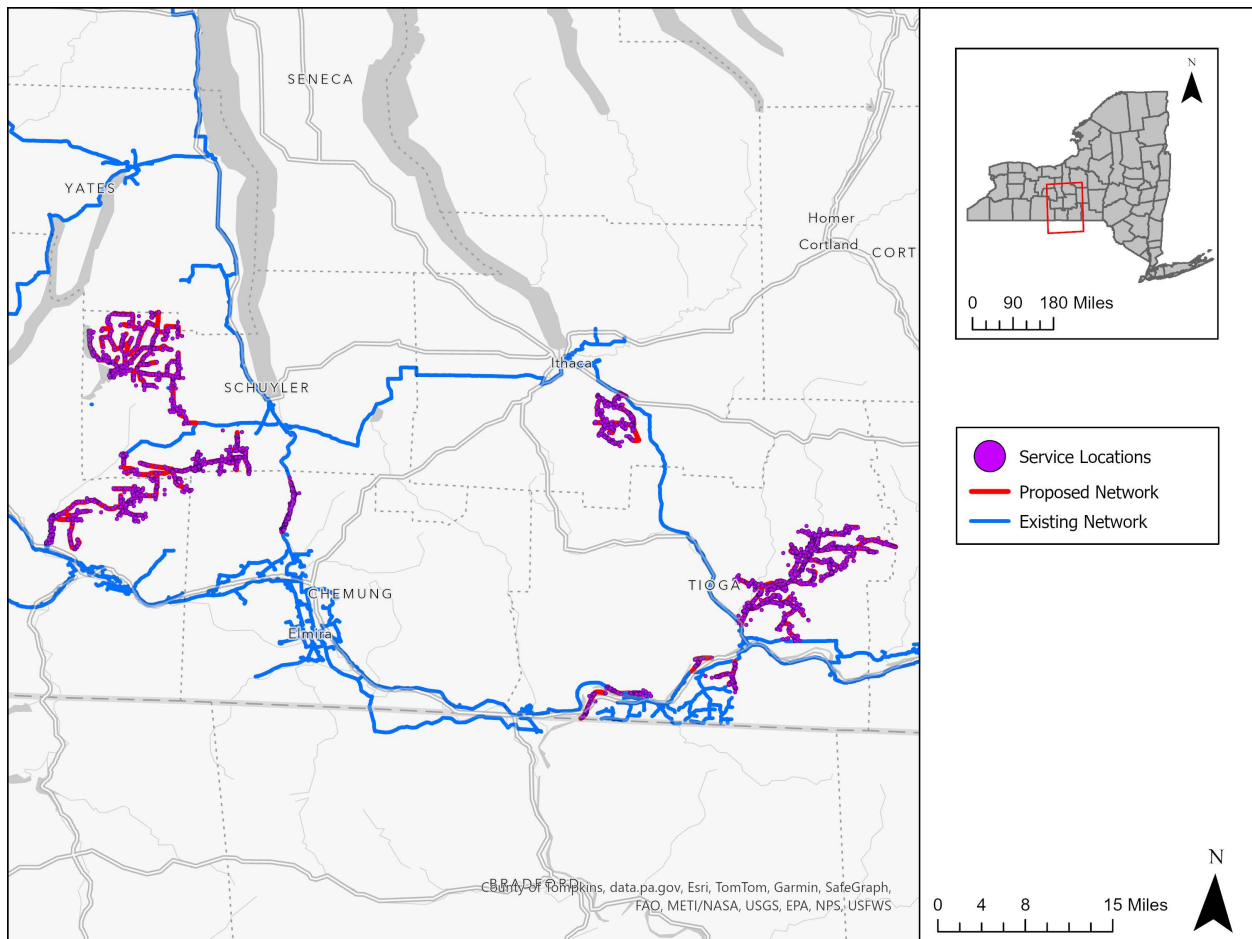
Franklin County and Development Authority of the North Country (North Country Region) – \$2,419,342.30:

The Franklin County project will reach 1,625 locations, including homes, businesses and community anchor institutions, including many of the hardest-to-reach unserved locations in the county, navigating around natural wetlands, and areas with no utility service. Franklin County will work with the Development Authority of the North Country, which has two decades of experience managing public fiber optic infrastructure, to build 36 miles of open-access fiber to the utility poles along the locations to be served. SLICFiber, a private ISP, will connect the locations and there will be excess capacity in the network to support additional providers. The project will allow residents of remote areas to access telehealth services and engage in remote work and education.



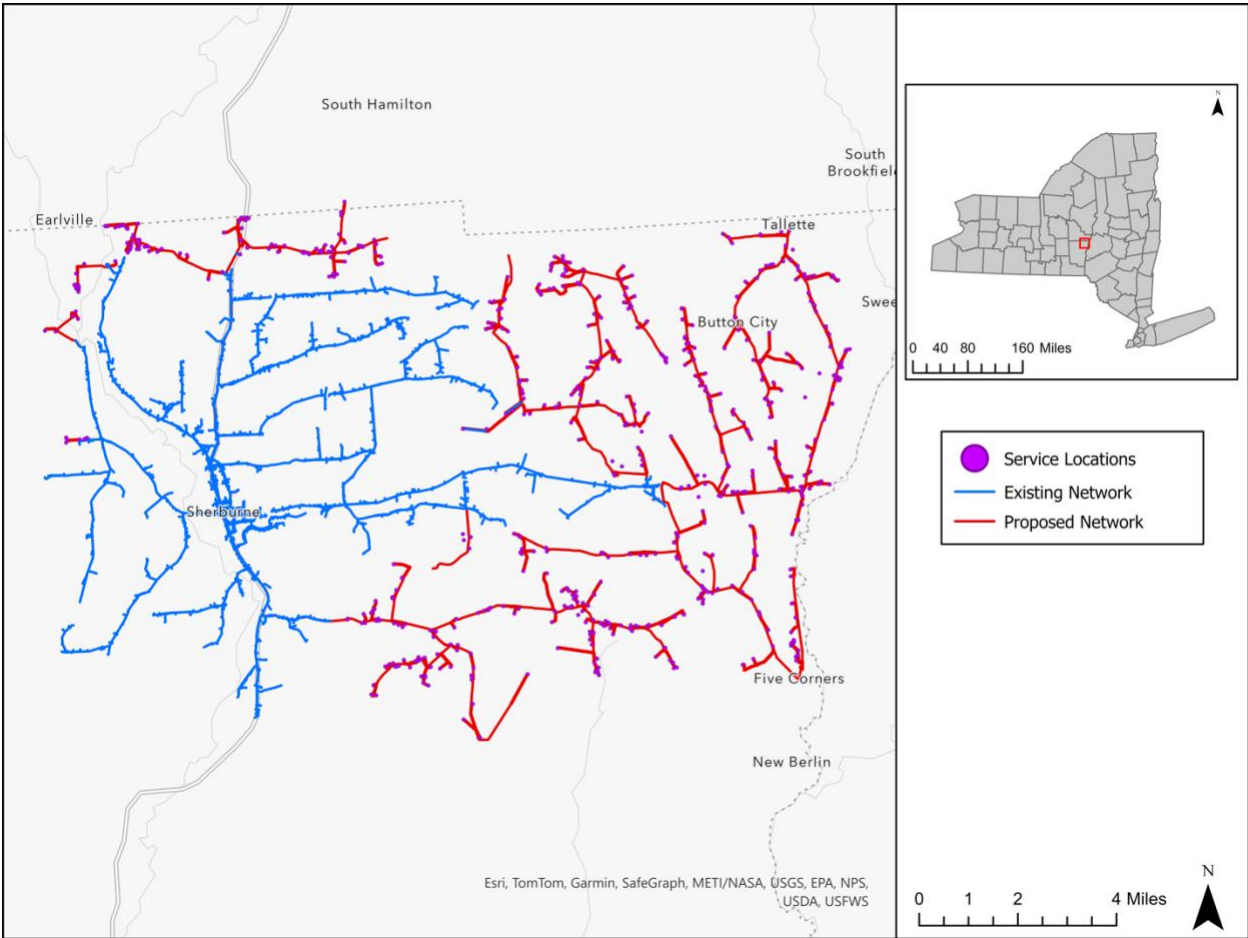
Southern Tier Network (Southern Tier Region) – \$18,190,000.00:

Southern Tier Network will build, own and operate open-access fiber-to-the-home networks connecting 4,204 locations, including homes, businesses and community anchor institutions in eight towns across Steuben, Schuyler, Chemung, Tioga and Tompkins Counties. Southern Tier Network, a nonprofit governed by the counties in the Southern Tier Central Region, will add 223 miles of fiber optic infrastructure through the investment. The project service area faces challenges of extremely rural poverty, vulnerable aging populations, and a disproportionately high number of households with a person with a disability. All locations in the project service area will receive fiber optic connections and high-speed symmetric service options for the first time. Following the model of a previous ConnectALL municipal infrastructure pilot project in the Town of Nichols, Southern Tier Network will partner with FiberSpark and other ISPs on the network to deliver internet service at rates below the current costs for service in the area, with the aim of increasing education, economic, and health outcomes and retaining population.



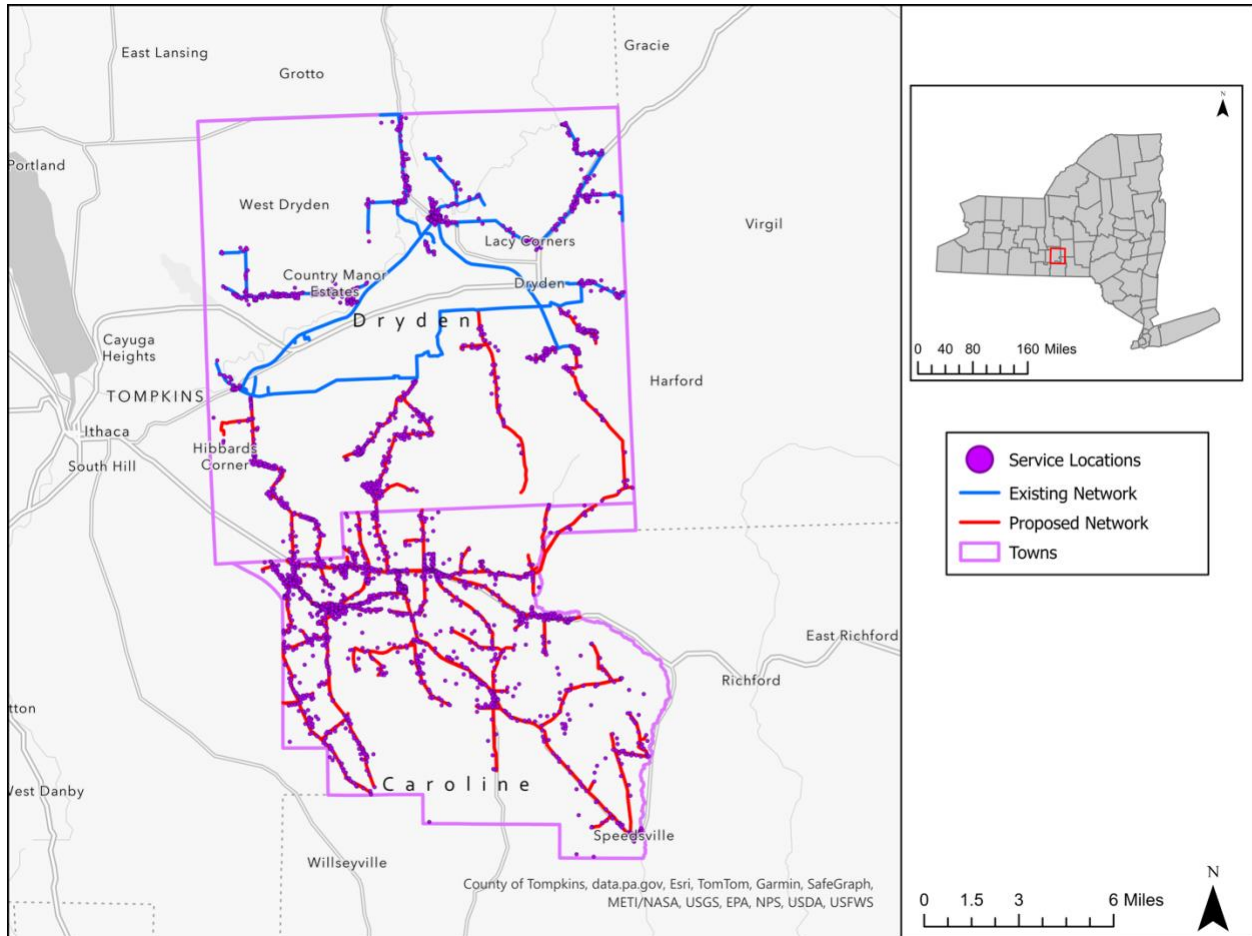
Village and Town of Sherburne and Town of Columbus (Southern Tier Region) – \$6,939,124.00:

The Village of Sherburne, in partnership with the Towns of Sherburne and Columbus, will connect 589 locations, including homes, businesses and community anchor institutions with an advanced, software-defined network that allows residents to choose among multiple internet service options. Building on its previous ConnectALL pilot project, Sherburne Connect, and its longstanding capabilities as a municipal electric utility, the Village will connect the locations with a fiber optic line and equipment. FiberSpark and FyberCom will provide the internet service, with additional service providers able to provide service on the network at no additional cost to the project or subscribers. The 65 miles of new fiber will increase the resilience and sustainability of the existing pilot network, while helping the towns address the economic, health, and educational needs of their residents.



Towns of Dryden and Caroline (Southern Tier Region) – \$8,995,979.00:

The Town of Dryden and the Town of Caroline in Tompkins County are partnering to bring new public broadband service to 2,674 locations, including homes, businesses and community anchor institutions. The Town of Dryden launched Dryden Fiber in 2023 and, under the ConnectALL program, will build and expand the network with 125 miles of new fiber optic infrastructure to reach underserved rural residents in the neighboring Town of Caroline. Both Towns will own the proposed infrastructure in their respective jurisdictions; Dryden Fiber will provide operations and maintenance of the network and provide internet service to homes and businesses across the full project footprint.



OUTREACH AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

During the reporting period ConnectALL promoted MIP through email marketing, presentations at in-person and virtual meetings and partner events, and discussions during ConnectALL’s regular engagements with ISPs, local/county governments, and regional economic development and planning entities. ConnectALL hosted two virtual stakeholder forums focused on MIP, with 373 total attendees representing ISPs, local/county governments, regional economic development and planning entities, municipal/cooperative utilities, and other deployment entities. In addition, ConnectALL hosted or co-hosted eight forums laying the foundation for all upcoming deployment programs, reaching audiences such as:

ConnectALL also hosted or presented at 10 forums laying the foundation for all upcoming deployment programs, reaching audiences such as:

- Counties, large cities, and Regional Planning Councils
- Governor’s Intergovernmental Team and Empire State Development (ESD) Regional Directors
- NYS Legislators, including Senate leadership staff, NYS Association of Black & Puerto Rican & Asian Legislators, and Legislators representing rural counties/districts
- County and Municipal leadership and planners
- Industrial Development Agencies and Local Development Corporations
- Internet Service Providers

Since June 2023, efforts have focused on engaging outreach partners by providing toolkits for their members, networks and constituents that included copy and graphics for their websites, social media, newsletters and e-blasts. Outreach partners included regional offices of Empire State Development and Governor Hochul, NYS Legislators, NYS Association of Counties, NYS Association of Towns, Conference of Mayors, MidTel NYS Telecommunications Association (NYSTA), The Independent Network Operations Consortium (INOC), and ADK Action.

ConnectALL included the AHCP opportunity for ISPs and property owners throughout the State in over 34 e-blasts to both targeted stakeholders as well as ConnectALL’s list of close to 4,000 stakeholders.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD:

(July 2024 – June 2025)

ConnectALL plans to undertake the following key activities will be undertaken from July 2024 to June 2025:

- **Finalization of All MIP Grant Awards:**

By the end of Q3 2024, ConnectALL aims to select all the remaining MIP grant awardees. This will enable the swift commencement of work and ensure projects can be substantially completed by the December 31, 2026 deadline for project construction supported by the Capital Projects Fund.

- **Kickoff of New Projects:**

Beginning in Q3 2024, ConnectALL will initiate the kickoff for all newly awarded projects. This phase includes detailed project planning, ensuring resource allocation by the awardees, project risk management, and establishing project timelines and milestones. Kickoff meetings with the awardees, their consultants and their designated ISPs will ensure alignment and readiness for implementation.

- **Program Management and Monitoring:**

Throughout the reporting period, the ConnectALL program management team will maintain oversight of all active projects, including status check-ins, progress evaluations, and assistance for escalations, as needed.

- **Portfolio Management:**

ConnectALL will implement proactive portfolio management strategies to ensure internal resources are appropriately deployed across diverse projects and to identify potential issues such as supply chain disruptions, licensing and permitting challenges, or technical hurdles early to ensure timely project execution.

- **Ongoing Reporting and Compliance:**

ConnectALL will require regular reporting from grantees to meet Treasury's reporting and compliance requirements on a quarterly and annual basis alongside regular progress reports detailing project developments, milestones achieved, and any challenges encountered.

- **Service Activation of Initial Projects:**

ConnectALL expects initial projects to complete construction in a phased manner with some locations ready for service activation during the next reporting period. By Q2 2025, select projects will begin offering high-speed internet services to homes, businesses and community anchor institutions, enhancing connectivity and digital inclusion within their communities.

Through these planned activities, the MIP program aims to make significant progress against ConnectALL's goals of bridging the digital divide and transforming the digital infrastructure of New York State.

NOTABLE CHALLENGES

ConnectALL anticipates a challenge based on how popular the program is among both local government and their private partners.

PROMOTING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES

ConnectALL has incorporated equity as a guiding principle in all aspects of program design. ConnectALL's extensive outreach has engaged a diverse range of stakeholders, including State, regional, county, and local government entities, municipal utilities, and small, mid-sized, and large ISPs and MSPs to solicit input and minimize barriers to entry to attract a wide variety of participants. Finally, ConnectALL has ensured that program eligibility parameters, application requirements, evaluation criteria, and compliance requirements support participation from a wide range of public and private partner applicants.

Equity is at the core of the program's design, starting with ConnectALL's decision to prioritize investment in project areas disproportionately affected by negative health, economic, and educational outcomes, which can be impacted by lack of affordable, reliable internet service. These communities have significant overlap with low-income areas, individuals with language barriers, seniors, people with disabilities, and other historically marginalized communities. Applicants are required to explain how their community is unserved by affordable, reliable, high-speed service and to articulate a statement of need for their community. ConnectALL prioritizes selecting projects that demonstrate community need and have the highest positive impact for residents, businesses, and communities.

As MIP transitions into the deployment phase, ConnectALL will engage with grant recipients to track and report on end-user outcomes.

LABOR

ConnectALL intends to treat projects under the Municipal Infrastructure Program as "covered projects" under the New York State WIRED Act of 2022, which includes the following requirements with respect to labor and contracting:

- All workers will be paid prevailing wages.
- Applicants must certify compliance with relevant workplace safety standards and other worker protections.
- Applicants must submit a workforce plan identifying the anticipated size of the workforce required to carry out the proposed work; whether the workforce will be directly employed or subcontracted; and a description of plans to maximize use of local or regional workforce; and a description of the expected workforce safety standards and training to ensure the project is completed at a high standard.