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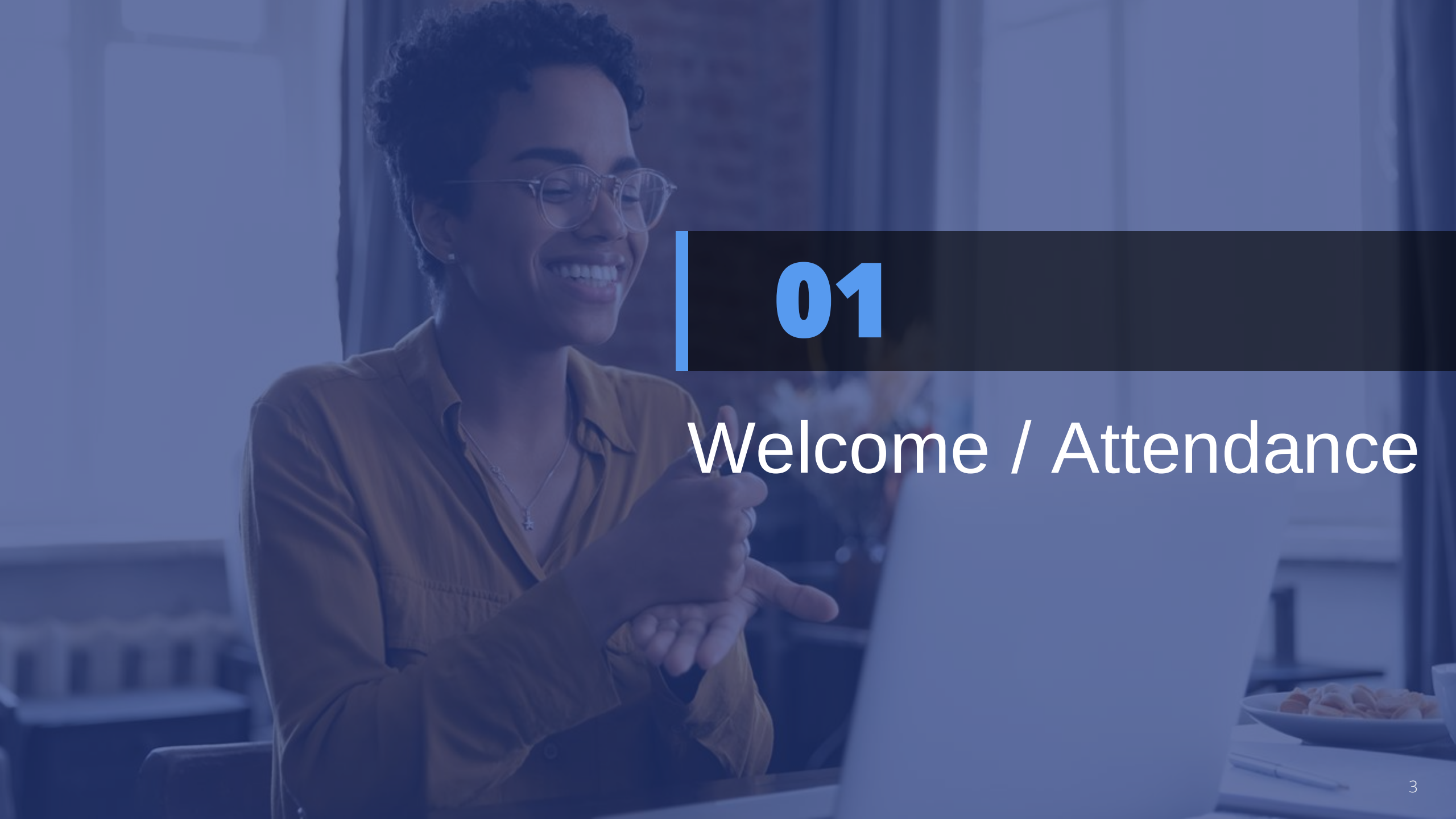
A Division of Empire State Development

Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee

December 10, 2024

Agenda

1. Welcome / Attendance
2. Department of Public Service: Staff Report Updates
   - “Report on the Current Opportunities to Access Low-Income Broadband Programs in New York State”
   - “2024 Report on the Availability, Reliability, and Cost of High-Speed Broadband Services in New York State”
3. Close



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Welcome / Attendance

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Department of Public Service: Staff Report Updates

Department of Public Service

2024 NYS Broadband Mapping & Affordability Report

December 10, 2024

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Topics we'll cover today:

The Comprehensive Broadband Connectivity Act of 2021

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- Data Resources
- Our Findings
- Notable Developments

Report on the Current Opportunities to Access Low-Income Broadband Programs

- About the Report
- Our Findings
- Going Forward

The Comprehensive Connectivity Act of 2021

ABOUT THE ACT

In April of 2021, the legislature passed the **Comprehensive Broadband Connectivity Act of 2021**.

The bill directed the Public Service Commission to study, on an annual basis, the **availability, reliability, and cost** of high-speed broadband service in the State. In doing that, the Commission produces annually an updated, interactive **Broadband Map** and an accompanying Report, detailing the Map's results.

Today, the Commission has released **three** iterations of the **Broadband Map and Report** in June of each year. This year's Map and Report were released on June 20, 2024.

DATA RESOURCES

The Department utilizes the following **four datasets** to complete its mapping and analyses:

- The New York State Street and Address Maintenance (SAM) Program as a location fabric;
- New York ISP-provided data;
- Department field inspections; and
- Stakeholder input,

OUR FINDINGS

June 2022	→	Served: 97.4% Underserved: 0.1% Unserved: 2.5%
June 2023	→	Served: 97.5% Underserved: 0.1% Unserved: 2.5%
June 2024	→	Served: 97.4% Underserved: 0.1% Unserved: 2.4%

NOTABLE DEVELOPMENTS

Although the percentages are similar year to year, there are granular differences from the previous year's analysis and Report. Notable developments of this year's analysis compared to last year's, include the following:

- Data refinements are improving the Map's accuracy. **Address points within the Map were refined by over 23,000 address locations.**

- The number of served addresses across the State has increased. **The are over 21,000 additional served addresses as compared to last year.**

- The number of unserved addresses across the State has decreased. **The updated Map shows a decrease of over 1,200 unserved addresses.**

- Competition across the State is increasing. **Over 500K (20%) locations across NYS now have access to more than one high-speed ISP compared to last year.**

Report on the Current Opportunities to Access Low-Income Broadband Programs

ABOUT THE REPORT

On September 24, 2024, the Commission released a Staff Report detailed the current opportunities to **access low-income broadband programs** in New York State.

Availability of high-speed broadband is crucial for everyday life. However, while the physical infrastructure used to provide broadband service is available to almost every New York household, **availability** is only one component in closing the digital divide. For as many as 1.7M New York households the **cost** to purchase broadband services remains an obstacle to gaining true **access.**

The end of the ACP, combined with litigation involving the ABA and the potential reclassification of broadband under Title II, presents uncertainty regarding broadband access for low-income consumers. **Therefore, the Report is intended to be a resource for low-income New Yorkers and organizations working to assist them.**

OUR FINDINGS

Department Staff engaged with ISPs to compile the Report on the current opportunities available to access low-income broadband service in the State.

According to information obtained by Department Staff by the ISPs, as of September 2024, of the **75 ISPs** operating in New York, **eight** provide a low-income product, as listed in the Report's chart.

Currently, 5,184,380, or **97.4%** of address points in the State are served by **at least one** high-speed ISP. Over **95%** of those address points are served by **Charter, Altice, and/or Verizon**, New York's three largest internet service providers, each of which offers a low-income broadband service. In part that is because, through **merger conditions and actions related to merger agreements**, the Commission has promoted products that make broadband more accessible to **all New Yorkers**.

GOING FORWARD

Department Staff worked with its mapping consultant, VHB, to include the current opportunities to access low-income broadband service on the State's broadband mapping website. A feature was designed that populates an ISPs low-income program when available at an address.

The Affordability Report will be updated at least annually going forward or until a more permanent federal or Statewide program becomes available.

Accordingly, for the most up-to-date information on low-income programs in New York, and to learn about their eligibility requirements, consumers should contact their internet service providers directly, as programs may change in the interim.

QUESTIONS & HOW TO REACH US

Please don't hesitate to reach out us
with any questions:
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For more information on our analyses and Map,
please visit:
https://mapmybroadband.dps.ny.gov

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