

Florida & FL-3 Broadband Service Data

Statewide Fixed Broadband Coverage ([Data provided by the FCC's 2021 Broadband Deployment Report](#))

- Out of a population of 21.5 million Floridians, 20.7 million have access to fixed broadband at speeds of at least 25/3 Mbps. (96.3%)
 - 98.2% of Floridians in urban areas have access to fixed broadband at the above-stated speeds.
 - That drops to 78.6% for Floridians in rural areas who have access to fixed broadband at 25/3 or more – 1.7 million.
- More than 800,000 Floridians lack access to fixed broadband at speeds of at least 25/3 Mbps.
 - 464,000 (58%) of those unserved reside in rural areas.
 - 336,000 (42%) of those unserved reside in rural areas.

FL-3 Fixed Broadband Coverage ([Data provided by the FCC's 2021 Broadband Deployment Report](#))

The following is a breakdown of FL-3 by County with the % of constituents with access to fixed broadband at speeds of at least 25/3 Mbps:

FL-3 Broadband Access by County						
	Alachua	Bradford	Clay	Marion	Putnam	Union
County-wide:	86.40%	53.30%	93.10%	92.00%	83.00%	72.00%
Urban Areas:	91.50%	88.20%	97.30%	96.50%	94.40%	85.50%
Rural Areas:	69.80%	41.40%	74.30%	82.70%	74.00%	49.80%

FL-3 Broadband Access by Speeds							
		Alachua	Bradford	Clay	Marion	Putnam	Union
Speeds	25+ Mbps	94.4%	59.0%	96.6%	94.8%	90.6%	79.3%
	100+ Mbps	86.8%	46.1%	96.0%	89.6%	83.2%	49.2%
	1 GIG	82.0%	0.03%	39.1%	32.5%	0.0%	0.0%

Statewide Mobile 4G LTE Coverage ([Data provided by the FCC's 2021 Broadband Deployment Report](#))

- 100% of Floridians have access to mobile 4G LTE at speeds of at least 5/1.
- 98.1% of Floridians have access to mobile 4G LTE at speeds of at least 10/3.
 - That number drops to 86.4% of rural Floridians with access to 4G LTE at >10/3.

Broadband Subscribers ([Data provided by the United States Census Bureau American Community Survey](#))

- It is estimated that 83% of Florida Households have a broadband internet subscription.

FL-3 Households w/Broadband Subscriptions						
	Alachua	Bradford	Clay	Marion	Putnam	Union
%						
Subscribed	85.4%	71.0%	90.5%	80.7%	72.2%	67.3%

- **In FL-3:** (*Estimates based on the FCC's 2021 Broadband Deployment Map*)
 - 92,135 constituents without access to fixed broadband at speeds of at least 25/3 Mbps.
 - 115,890 constituents without access to fixed broadband at speeds of at least 100/10
 - 167,118 constituents without access to fixed broadband at speeds of at least 250/25
 - 621,571 constituents without access to fixed broadband at speeds of at least 1000/100

Constituents without access to fixed broadband at speeds of at least 25/3 Mbps:

- Putnam County: 12,691
- Marion County: 29,137
- Alachua County: 36,617
- Clay County: 15,194
- Union County: 4,277
- Bradford County: 12,765

Constituents without access to fixed broadband at speeds of at least 100/10:

- Putnam County: 16,305
- Marion County: 43,138
- Alachua County: 41,029
- Clay County: 18,593
- Union County: 8,564
- Bradford County: 14,978

Constituents without access to fixed broadband at speeds of at least 250/25:

- Putnam County: 23,854
- Marion County: 85,070
- Alachua County: 51,414
- Clay County: 23,087
- Union County: 14,662
- Bradford County: 16,606

Constituents without access to fixed broadband at speeds of 1 GIG:

- Putnam County: 74,521 (entire county)
- Marion County: 364,555
- Alachua County: 212,948
- Clay County: 137,975
- Union County: 15,303 (entire county)
- Bradford County: 27,309 (entire county)

USDA & FCC Broadband Programs – Background

- As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, new programs to accelerate broadband deployment have been created and new funding has been made available.
 - The programs have focused on minority communities, tribal lands, low income households, and telehealth.

Federal Communications Commission

The Universal Service Fund (USF)

The USF was created under the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) to ensure that telecommunications services, including broadband, are available and affordable throughout the United States. FCC programs supported by the USF focused on broadband deployment include the, Connect America Fund/Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, Lifeline Program, Rural Health Care Program, and the Schools and Libraries Program.

- **Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF):** Developed under the Connect America Fund (CAF), the FCC’s current active program to support broadband deployment. The Commission has planned a total commitment of \$20.4 billion to bring high-speed fixed broadband service to rural homes and small businesses in two phases.
- Eligible areas to receive funding must have reported broadband speeds of less than 25/3 Mbps.
- In December 2020, The Phase I Auction results for RDOF were announced.
 - 180 bidders won \$9.2 billion to “deploy high-speed broadband to over 5.2 million unserved homes and businesses.”

RDOF and FL-3

- Under the results of the RDOF Phase I Auction, Windstream and SpaceX won a combined total of nearly \$1.2 million in support to deploy broadband service to eligible areas in 5 of the district’s 6 counties

	Bradford	Union	Putnam	Clay	Total
Windstream	\$ 286,910.40	\$ 165,199.80	\$ 208,294.90	\$ 218,157.21	\$ 878,562.31
SpaceX	\$ 47,789.00	0	\$ 198,877.46	\$ 67,430.54	\$ 314,097.00
Total:	\$ 334,699.40	\$ 165,199.80	\$ 407,172.36	\$ 285,587.75	\$ 1,192,659.31

- Under the terms of the RDOF Phase I Auction, 99.7 % of the locations to receive broadband will receive service at speeds of at least 100/20 Mbps with an estimated 85% expected to receive gigabit-speed broadband from the auction winners.
 - In FL-3, [Windstream intends to use its share of RDOF dollars to deploy a fiber network that will bring speeds to communities at anywhere from 100/20 to 1 GIG.](#)
 - A map of Phase I Auction winners can be found [here](#).
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- SpaceX received over \$300,000.00 in RDOF funding for broadband deployment under its new satellite broadband company, Starlink. SpaceX expects with will be able to offer speeds comparable to other providers via 12,000 satellites launched into space. However, at this time, only 1,000 satellites have been launched and we are hearing that recipients of Starlink service may not see the promised gigabit speeds until 2028 at the latest.

RDOF Phase II

- The Phase II Auction will make available \$4.4 billion to target partially served areas – census blocks where some locations lack access to 25/3 Mbps broadband.
 - This will be one of the first efforts by the FCC to use more granular, precise broadband mapping data to fund broadband deployment. To date, the Commission has used the less reliable maps based on census blocks. Using geo-spatial data, the FCC hopes these maps will allow it to more accurately identify eligible areas to receive funding.

Rural Health Care Program

- Established in 2012, this program supports broadband connectivity to eligible rural health care providers. Those providers who are eligible receive a 65% discount on internet services.
 - Funding for the program through the COVID pandemic has been increased to \$802.74 million – the most in the program’s history.

Schools and Libraries Program (a.k.a. E-Rate)

- The program provides telecommunications services – including internet access – to eligible schools and libraries. The FCC has capped E-rate annual program funding at \$4.15 billion.

The FCC’s COVID-19 Broadband Programs

COVID-19 Telehealth Program

- Established and appropriated \$200 million through the CARES Act to help health care providers offer connected care services (telehealth) to patients at their homes or mobile locations in response to the pandemic. The program fully funds telecommunications services, information services, and devices necessary for telehealth for eligible providers.
- An additional \$250 million has since been appropriated to the program.
- In FL-3 two providers have received over \$1 million in funding to support telehealth under the program:
 - University of Florida Dept. of Pediatrics - \$967,957
 - Clay Behavioral Health Center, Inc. - \$51,460

Emergency Broadband Benefit (Coming Soon)

- Congress has tasked the FCC with developing a \$3.2 billion Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program to support households that are struggling to pay for internet service during the pandemic.
- EBB will provide eligible households with discounts on broadband service, device purchases, fee waivers.
- The FCC is currently in the process of developing and implementing EBB.

Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Rural Utilities Service (RUS)

The RUS administers five broadband and telecommunications programs that provide loans and grants to increase access to broadband service in eligible rural areas. Eligibility criteria vary, with some programs targeting unserved areas with negligible access to broadband and other programs available to underserved areas where only a small segment of the population has access to broadband service.

- Thanks to support from RUS, Windstream provides broadband support to 16,723 rural households in FL-3

Community Connect Program

- Grants to eligible applicants to finance facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service in eligible rural areas. Applicants must agree to provide free broadband service to crucial community facilities i.e. public safety facilities for at least two years.
 - Eligible Areas – lacking existing broadband speeds of at least 10/1 Mbps

ReConnect Broadband Program

- The ReConnect Program furnishes loans and grants to finance the construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service in eligible rural areas.
 - Eligible Areas – rural areas with existing broadband speeds of at least 10/1 Mbps
 - Up to \$200 million is available for grants, \$200 million for low-interest loans, and \$200 million for 50/50 loan/grant combos.

Rural Broadband Access Program

- The Rural Broadband Access Program provides loans and loan guarantees to finance the construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service in eligible rural areas.
 - Eligible areas must lack service to at least 15 percent of households.

Telecommunications Infrastructure Program

- The Telecommunications Infrastructure Program furnishes loans and loan guarantees to finance the construction, maintenance, or improvement of telephone and broadband service in eligible rural areas.
 - Eligible areas include rural areas and towns with a population of 5,000 or less.

Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program

- The Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program provides grants to finance software and equipment that allows people in eligible rural areas to access distance learning or telemedicine services.
- The program received an additional \$25 million under the CARES Act.
- Only grants are provided, and a 15% match by the awardee is required.

