



**PUBLIC
POLICY**



State Broadband Policy

2021 Legislative Session Recap

**FACERS Annual Conference
July 1st, 2021**



- **HB 1239: Broadband Internet Infrastructure by Representative Tomkow**
 - **Signed by Governor on May 7th**
- The legislation adopted provisions from several broadband bills to create a multifaceted approach to addressing the Digital Divide in Florida.
 - FAC supported provisions include:
 - **broadband mapping improvements** including funding to address the discrepancies in access maps reported speeds
 - Additional requirements for **local technology planning teams** (coordination w/ DEO Office of Broadband)
 - HB 753 (Rep. Clemons): contained provisions for the “Opportunity Grant” program
 - Funding program to expand access. This session the Legislature did not provide funding for the grant program in hopes of further developing the requirements for applicants.
 - Telecom access to municipal electric utility poles (rates/access)



- Broadband Bills that **FAILED**:
 - SB 2004—Broadband Internet by Senator Burgess
 - Provisions bolstering the Office of Broadband were absorbed into HB 1239; however, the funding for a feasibility study was not included in the budget.
 - Feasibility study would allow state to draw down additional federal funds
 - SB 1560—Broadband Internet Service by Senator Ausley
 - FAC Supported; cleared all committees favorably
 - The mapping components of the bill were incorporated into the “broadband package”
 - Provisions left out of “broadband package”
 - Broadband Deployment Task Force
 - State Asset map
 - Individual benefit program

ACCESS 67



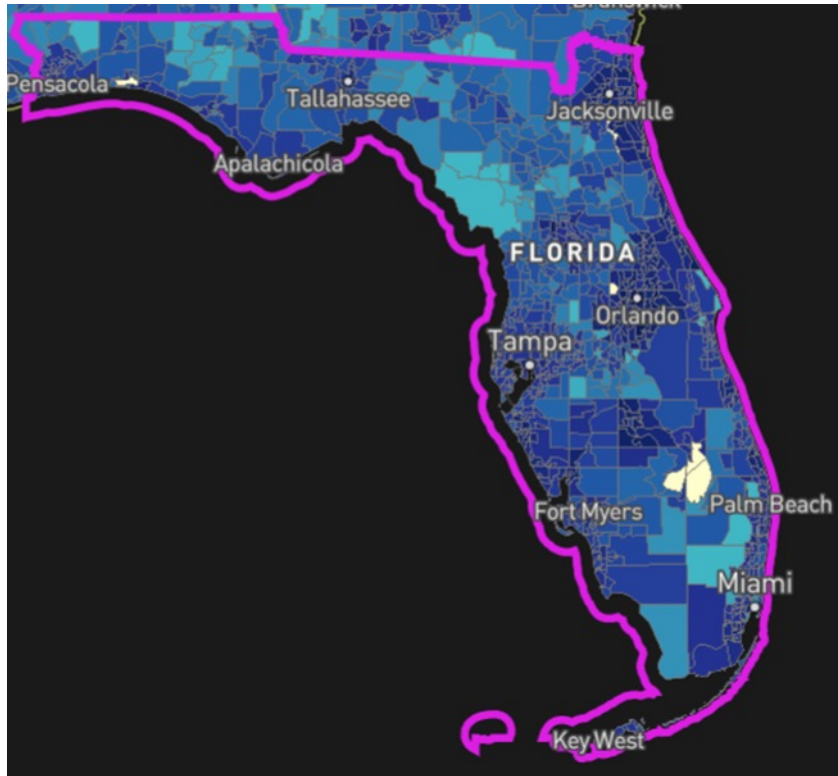
- **Broadband Bill Links for 2021 Session:**

- [HB 1239](#) Broadband Internet Infrastructure by Representative Tomkow
- [HB 753](#) Broadband Internet Deployment by Representative Clemons
- [HB 985](#) Use of Federal Funding to Support Online Learning by Representative Shoaf
- [HB 1339](#) Broadband Internet Service by Representative Goff-Marcil
- [SB 1560](#) Broadband Internet Service by Senator Ausley
- [SB 1592](#) Broadband Internet Infrastructure by Senator Burgess
- [SB 2004](#) Broadband Internet by Senator Burgess

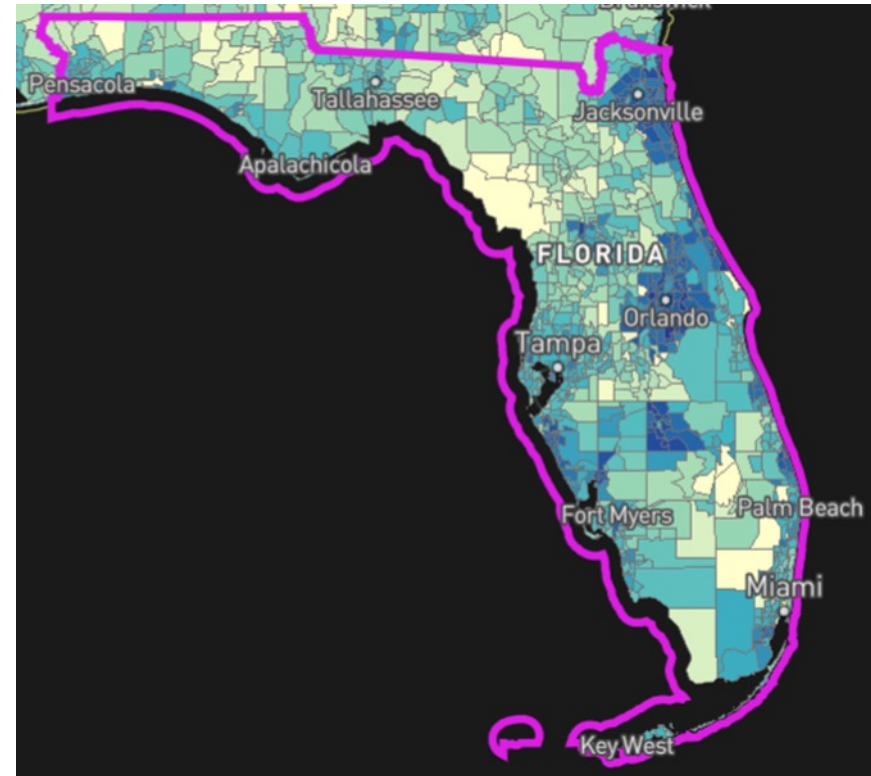
FCC Fixed Broadband Deployment Florida Mapping



25Mbps down/3Mbps up



25Mbps down/3Mbps up (w/out Sat.)

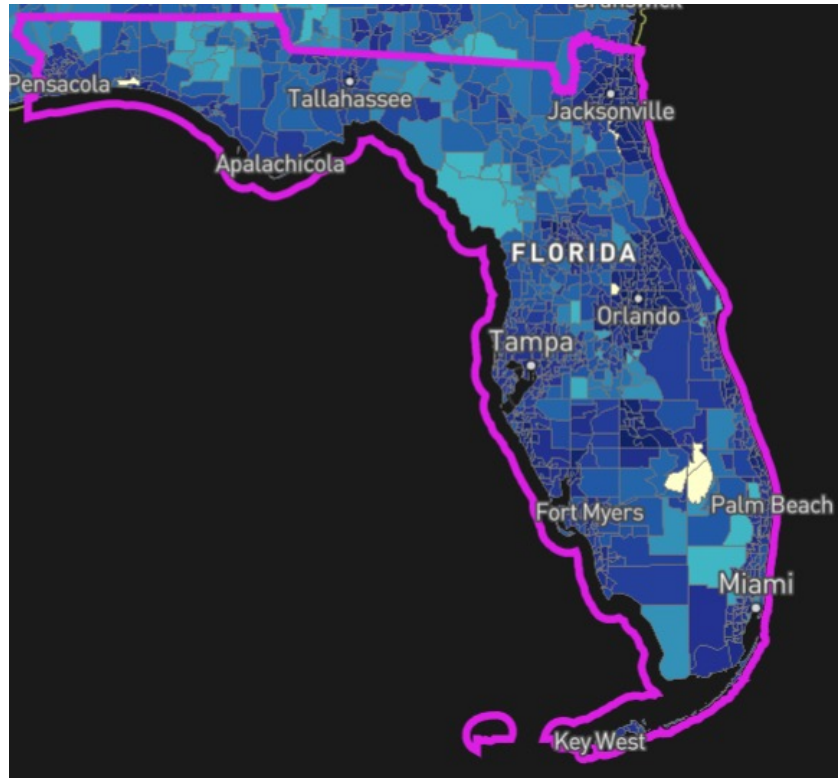


Source: <https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/#/>

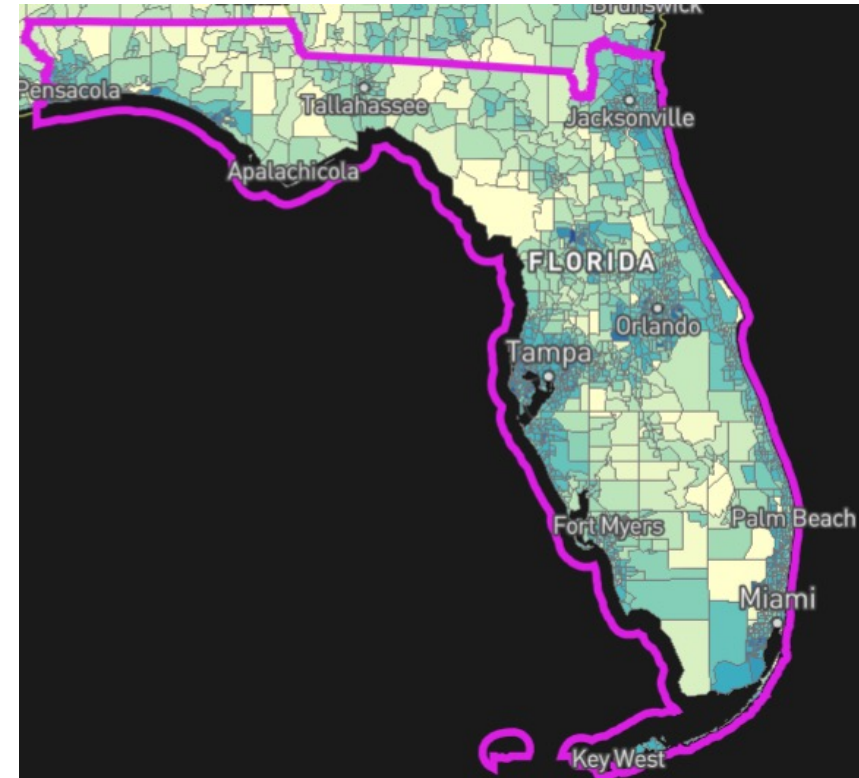
FCC Fixed Broadband Deployment Florida Mapping



25Mbps down/3Mbps up



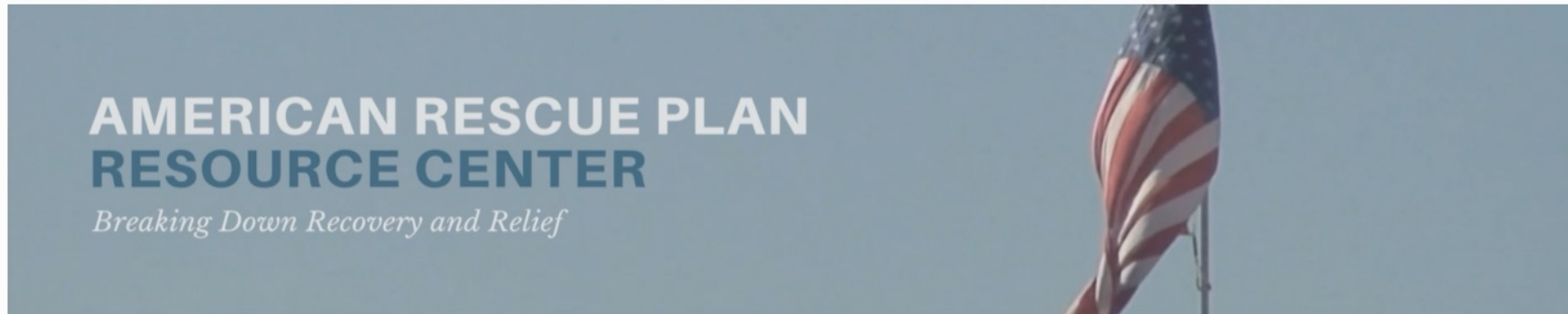
100Mbps down/10Mbps up



Source: <https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/#/>



REMINDER: FAC's American Rescue Plan Resource Page



Website: <https://flicg.org/american-rescue-plan-resources/>

American Rescue Plan



- ***Broadband Infrastructure***

- Focus on households and businesses without a wireline connection capable of reliably delivering 25 Mbps download/ 3 Mbps upload
- Fund projects that deliver reliable/“symmetrical” service (minimum 100 Mbps download/100 Mbps upload speeds unless impracticable)
- Complement broadband investments made through the separate Capital Projects Fund

- ***Eligible Projects***

- Does not require every home/business to be unserved or underserved
- Holistic approach to provide service to wider area; to make service area “economical”
- “Middle Mile” projects allowed BUT encourages last-mile connections



PUBLIC POLICY



VISIT:

<https://www.fl-counties.com/access-67>

Contact:

Jeff Scala

Associate Director of Public Policy

jscala@fl-counties.com

(727) 637-4081



**Counties
Connecting
Communities**