



**MAINE
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The State of Connectivity in Maine

EUT Orientation

Andrew Butcher, President

January 2025

We can get EVERYWHERE from here!

AGENDA

1. Context + Orientation
2. Current Activities + Approach
3. Looking Forward
4. Insights



CONTEXT

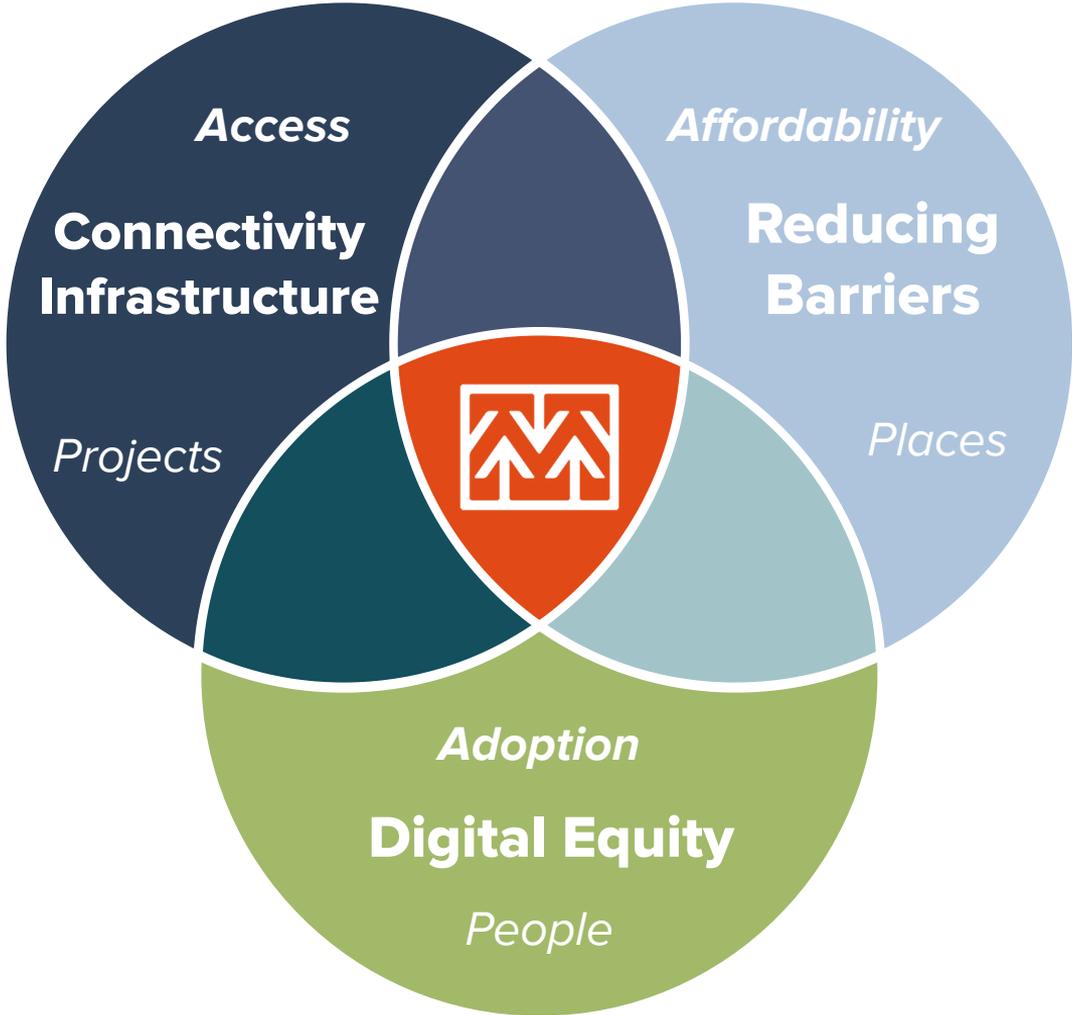


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Goals

Strategy

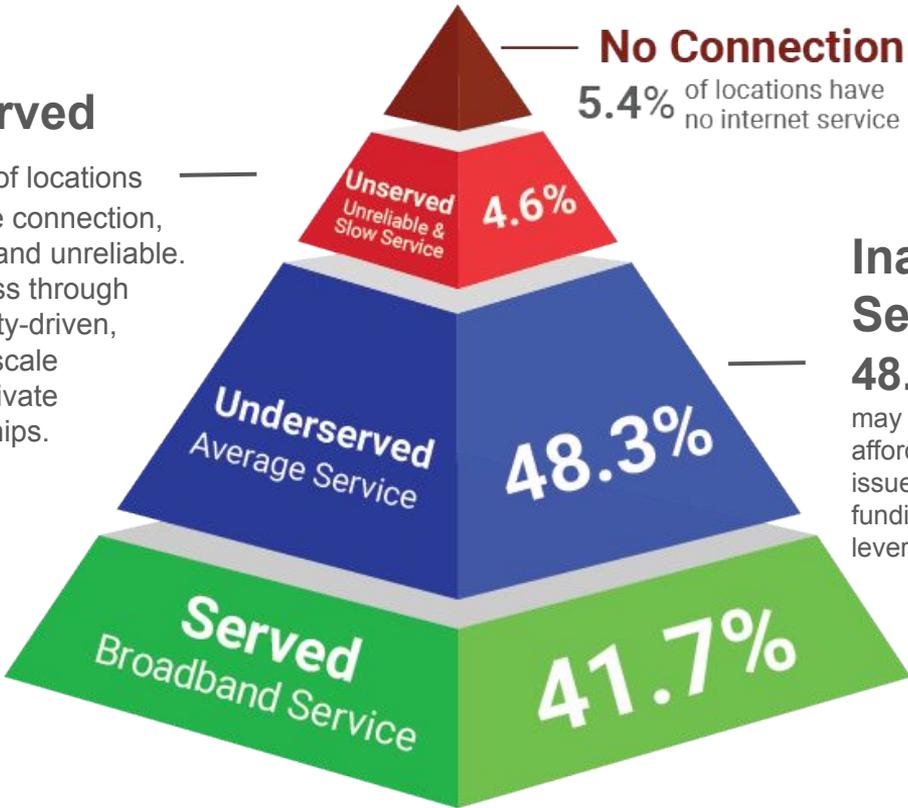
Approach



Service Availability (Dec 2024)

Unserved

4.6% of locations may have connection, but slow and unreliable. To address through community-driven, regional scale Public-Private Partnerships.



Inadequately Served

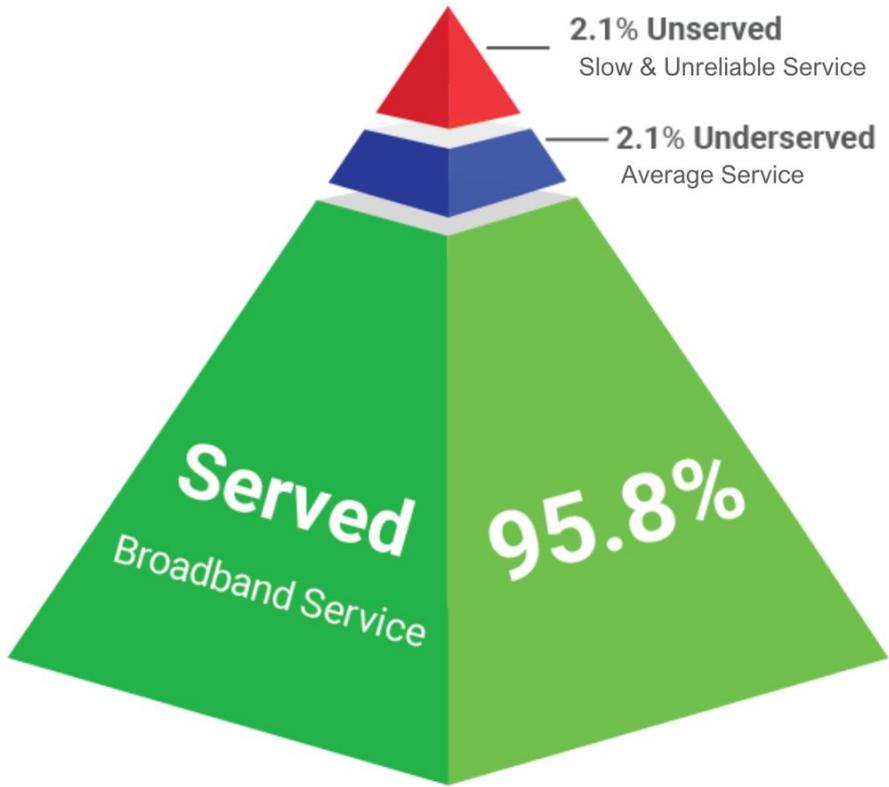
48.3% of locations may have connection, but affordability and speed issues remain. BEAD funding is limited and will leverage private funds.

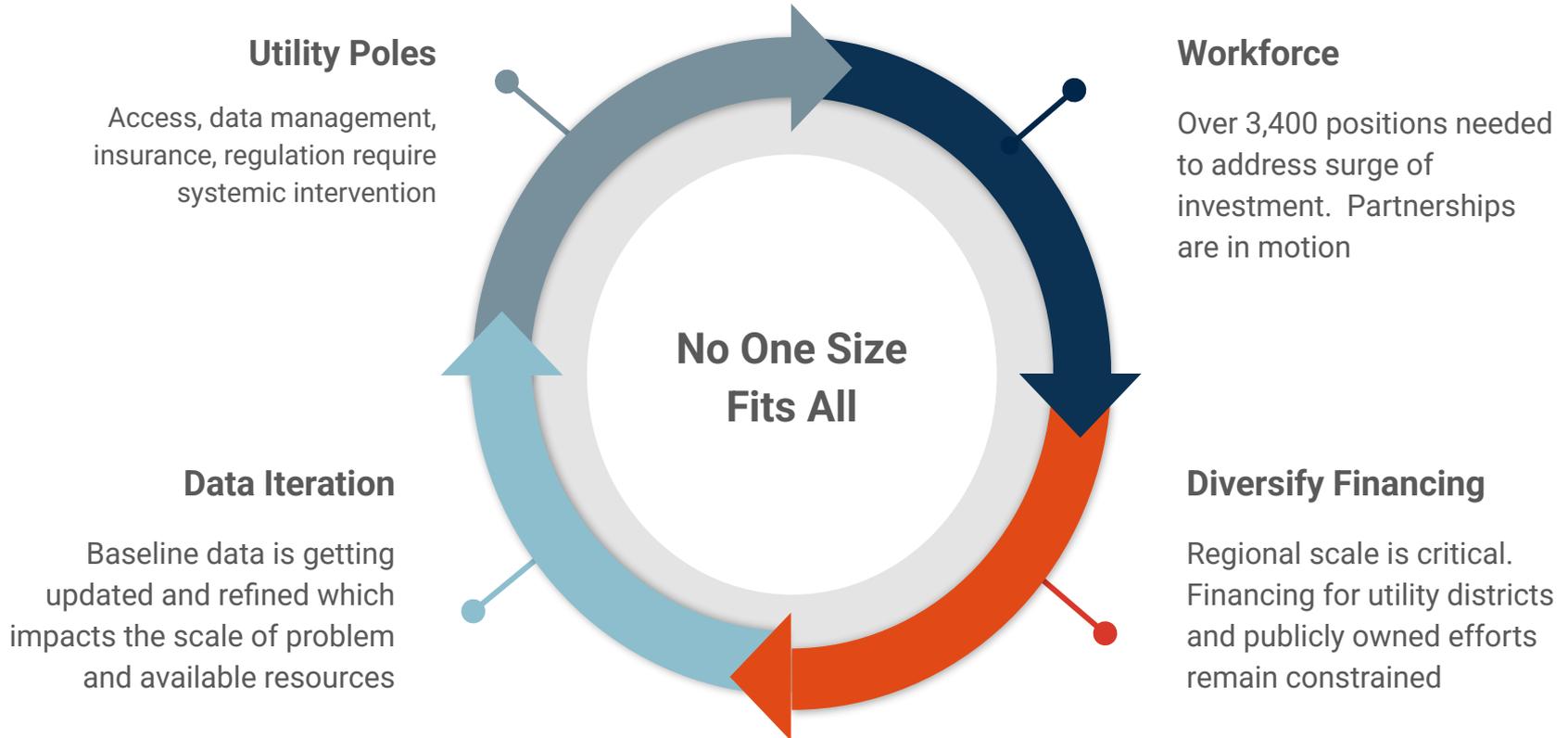


BEAD Priority Locations *(Jan 2025)*

Approximately 29,000 locations and 3,000 Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) like libraries, community centers, and healthcare facilities across the state will be served with high-speed internet through the BEAD Program.

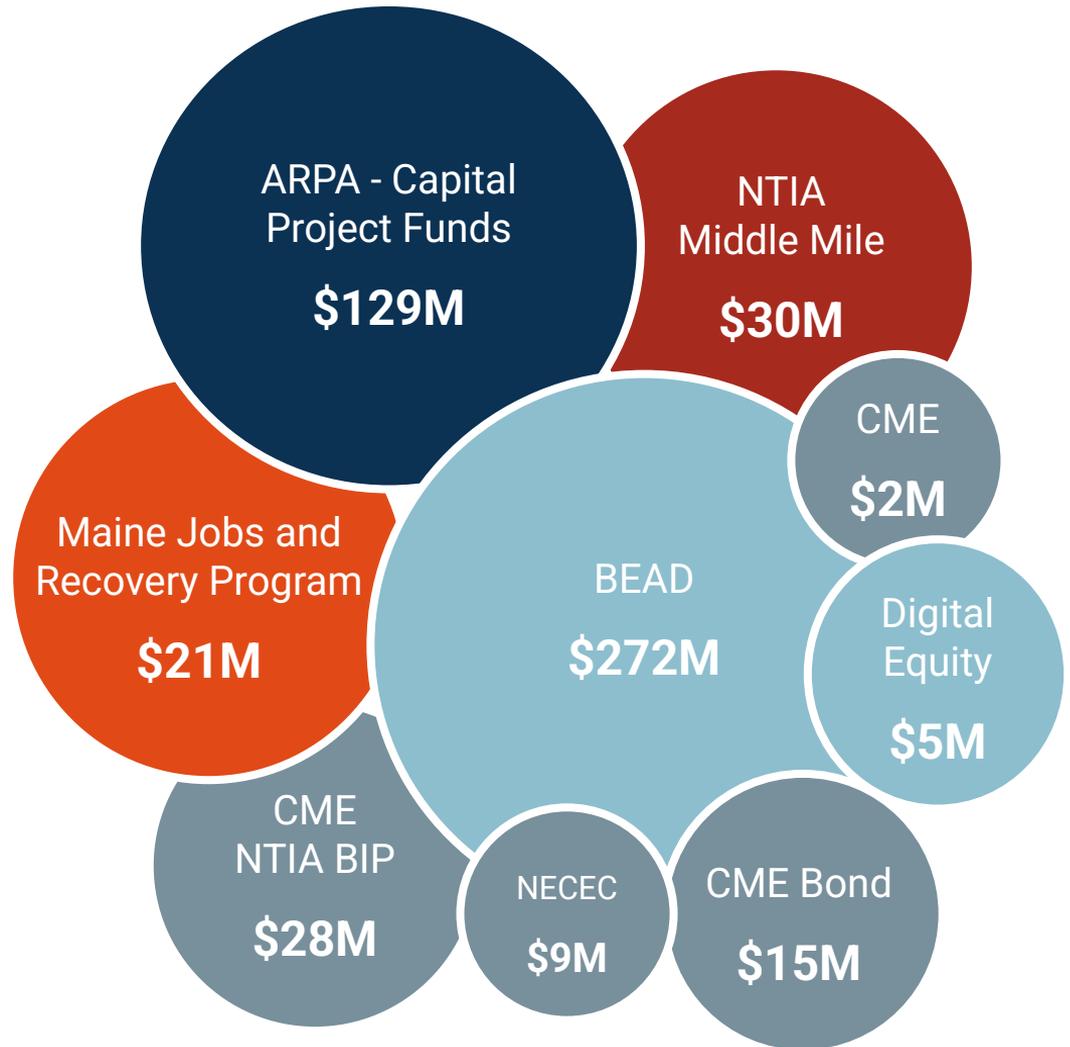
MCA is working to serve the 1% of locations with No Connection through the Working Internet ASAP Program, ahead of BEAD.





Sources of Funding

- \$200M currently under management
- Additional \$338M through BIL
- 94% of received funds will be deployed for program expenses
- **Key to success: Braid Funds + Maximize Impact**



Progress

Balancing urgency and universality



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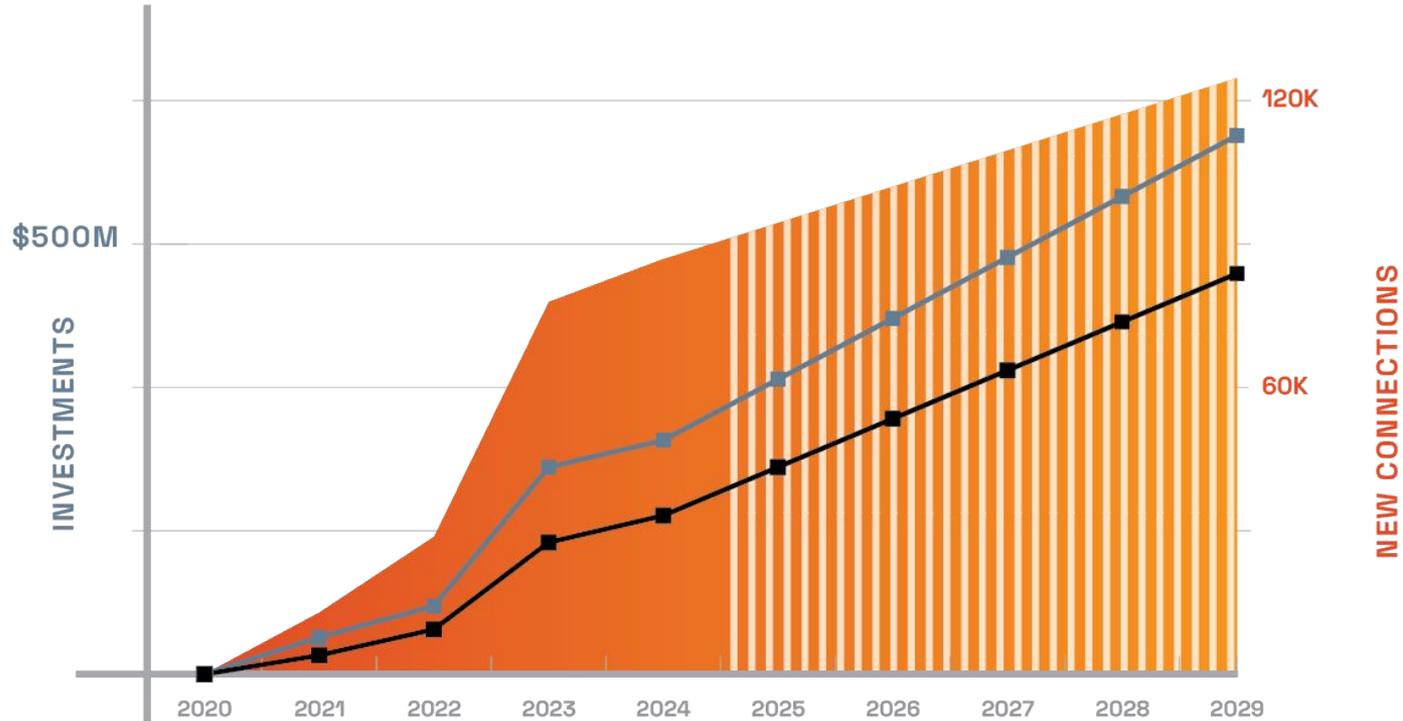


Community Demand Drives Delivery

Rolling trucks



Connectivity Progress



-  New Connections Funded by MCA
-  Total Investments Leveraged
-  Projected New Connections
-  Funding from MCA



A Comprehensive Approach

*There are options for everyone,
and no one gets left in the digital dark*



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Place-based / Multi-use Investments

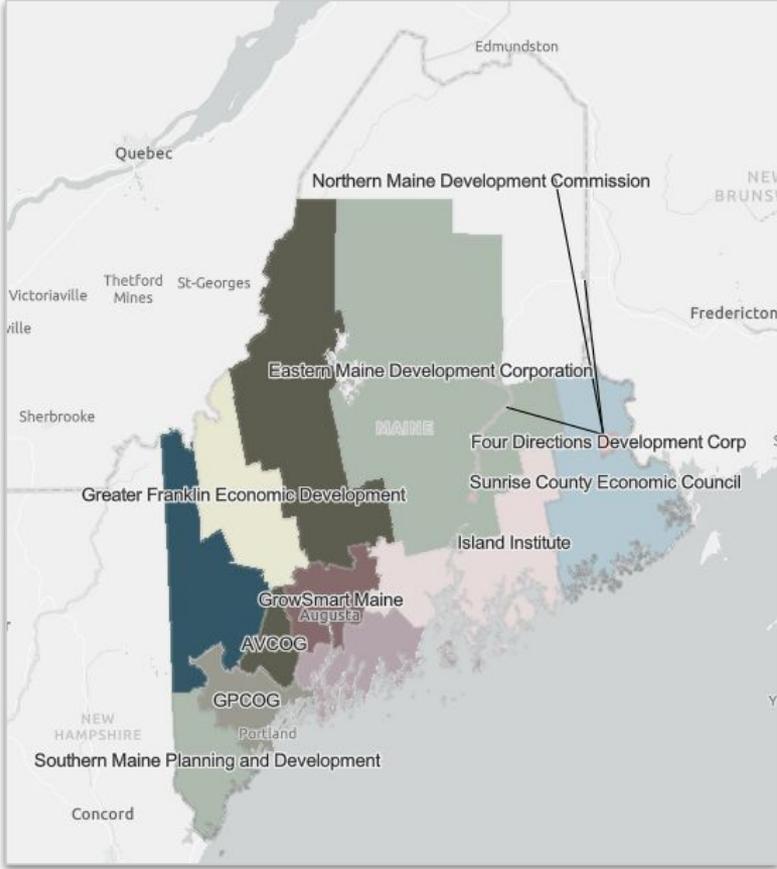
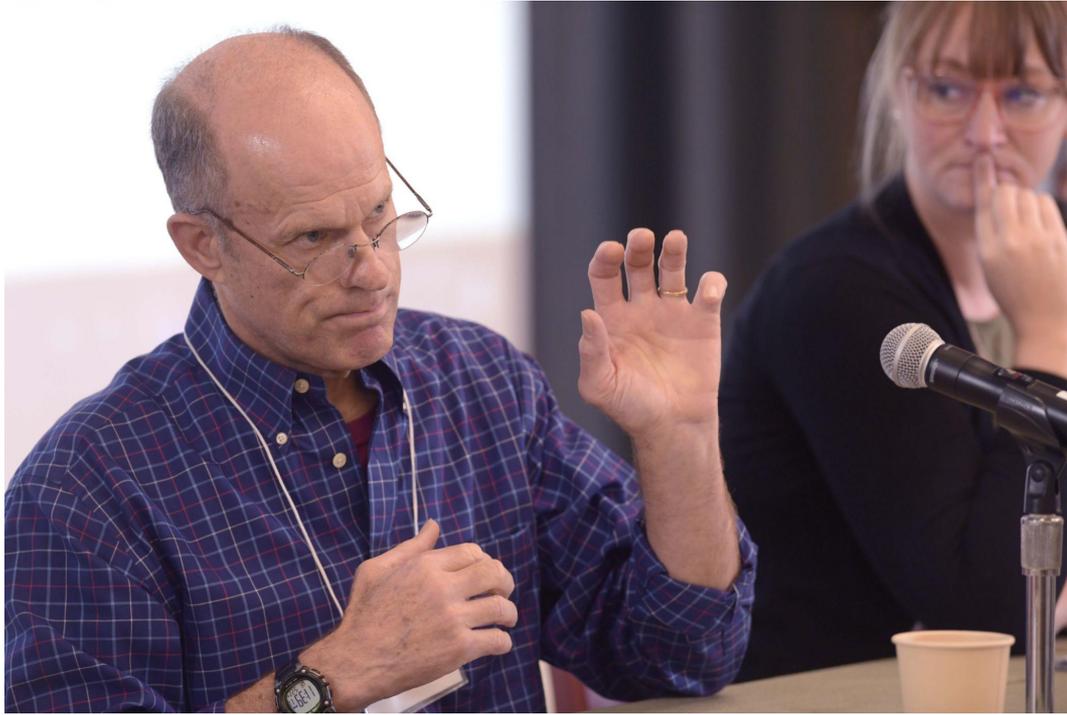


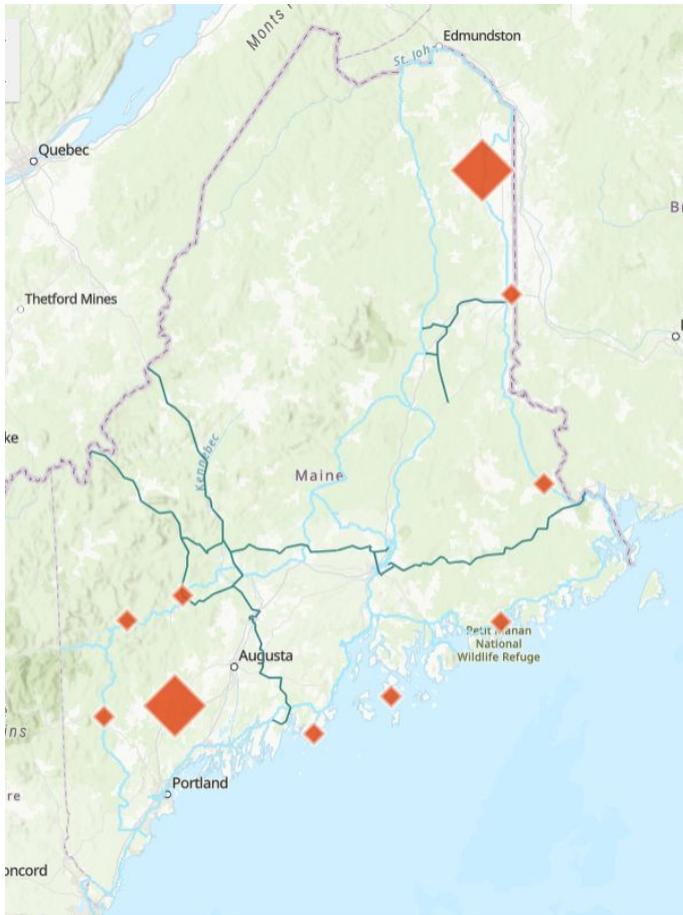
State of Maine Digital Equity Plan



1. Expand Support for Investments and address needs
2. Leverage Partnerships
3. Focus on Affordability
4. Mobilize Statewide Education & Information Campaigns
5. Sustain & Grow Our Investment in Digital skills, opportunity, job creation, and connectivity infrastructure

Dedicated Capacity for Partners





Place-based / Multi-use Investments

Connectivity Hubs

CTE/Makerspace Connectivity Hub @ St. George Community Development Center (CDC)





FIBER OPTIC TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION

- FREE Training for Maine Residents
- \$800 Attendance Stipend for eligible students
- Oct 7th - Oct 31st
- Monday - Thursday
- 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
- In-Person at CMCC



SCAN TO
LEARN MORE



[CMCC.EDU/WORKFORCE](https://cmcc.edu/workforce)

Workforce & Professional Development • Lapoint 107
cmccworkforcedevelopment@mainecc.edu • (207) 755 - 5280
Central Maine Community College does not discriminate and is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.
For more information, please call 207-755-5396 or email CMCC@mainecc.edu.





Overcoming Challenges

Working Internet ASAP Program

- **Less than 1.5% of locations**, (approximately 9,000 homes and businesses) have **no service or technology of any kind** (including cable, DSL, or fixed wireless)
- **Bulk purchase and deployment of Starlink Low-Earth-Orbit (LEO) satellite hardware** and service reservations for eligible locations
- Hardware and **qualified installation subsidized by MCA.**
- **Starting in November 2024**, potential subscribers to use MCA's simple enrollment tool to verify eligibility
- An **integrated marketing campaign** (direct mail, radio/print advertising) partner outreach, and events key to success
- **Digital skills** and partner information to ensure subscribers can take full advantage of their new connection.

Get everywhere
from here.

Your address is
eligible for free
installation of
high speed
satellite
internet.



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Momentum

The next phase is upon us



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Converging Forces



Current Grant Admin

BEAD

Digital Equity Grants

Middle Mile

BEAD Program



Maine was awarded **\$272 million to connect every unserved location (<100/20 Mbps) and Community Anchor Institution.** This is approximately **28,785 locations** and **3,500 CAIs** across Maine.

- *Broadband Action Plan (Jan - August 2023)*
- *Initial Proposal Development (June 2023 - June 2024)*
- *State-Led Challenge Process (May - August 2024)*
- **Subgrantee Selection Process (Sept. 2024 - March 2025 *)**
- *Final Proposal Development (Spring/Summer 2025 *)*
- *Grant Administration (Ongoing)*
- *Education & Outreach (Ongoing)*

**Dates pending NTIA approval*



2025 Grants: Digital Opportunity Networks



\$5M available for networks addressing:

- Low Income Households
- Older Adults
- Incarcerated, formerly incarcerated
- Veterans
- Individuals with disabilities
- Individuals with language barriers
- Individuals who are members of racial & ethnic minority groups
- People who primarily reside in rural area

Eligible uses include:

- Affordable Access
- Digital Skills
- Affordable Devices & Technical Support
- Accessible Resources & Public Services
- Internet Safety



Sustained Connectivity

*Our work won't be done,
and our need to connect doesn't stop*

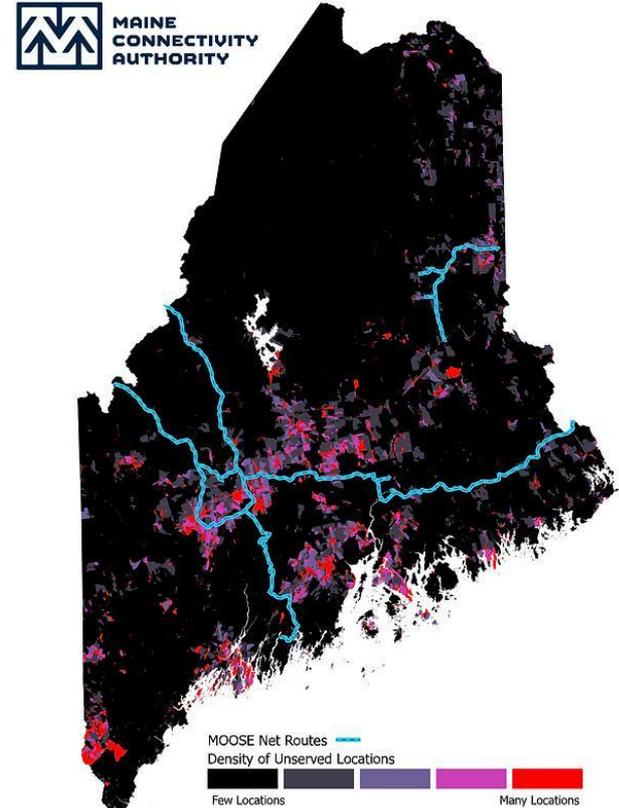


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Enabling Expanded Connectivity (Middle Mile)



- The [Maine Online Optical Statewide Enabling Network](#) (MOOSE Net) is a new **\$53 million initiative** bolstered by a **\$30 million competitive grant** from NTIA in partnership with MDOT, University of Maine, Maine OIT, and Maine Municipal Bond Bank
- **~500 miles, 131 communities** reaching more than **200 community anchor institutions**, including schools, hospitals, libraries, local government buildings, and civic centers.
- Owned by MCA and used to: expand wireless and cellular communications; support grid modernization; support State and local facilities; and **sustain connectivity efforts for public benefit.**



Affordable Housing and MDUs



Now Open!

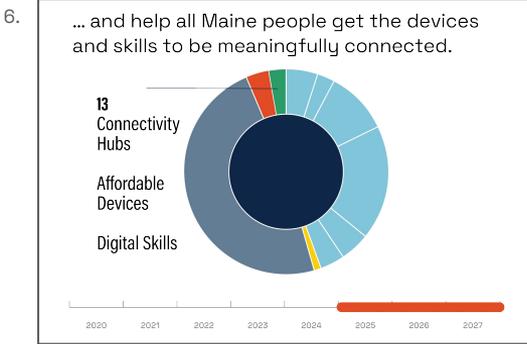
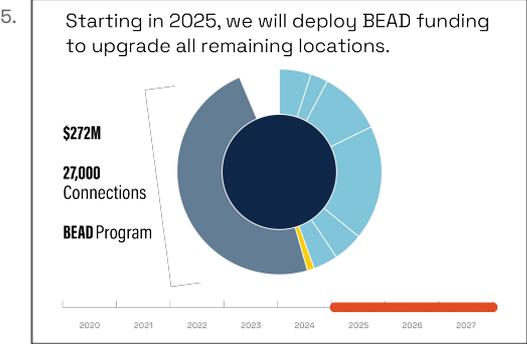
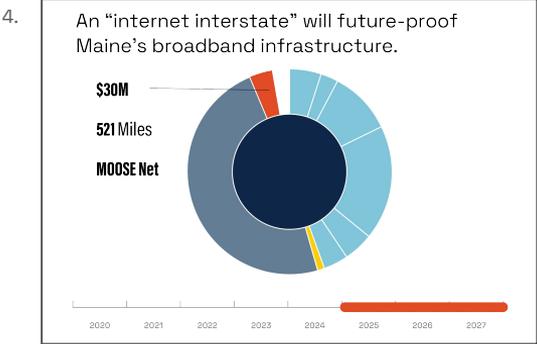
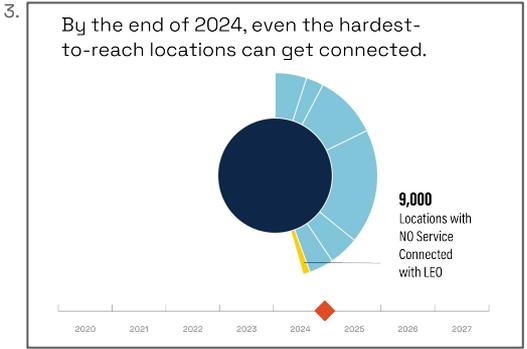
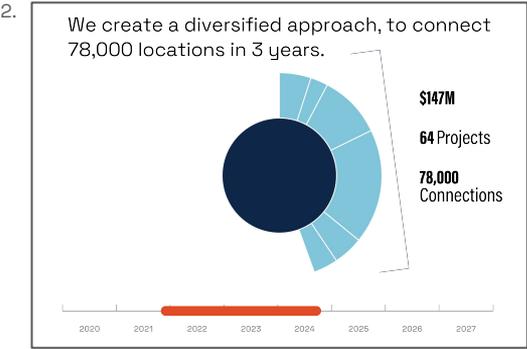
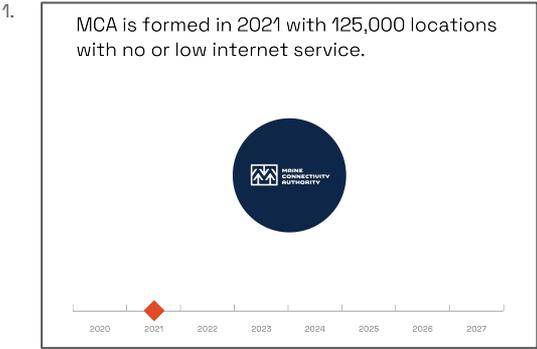
HOUSING CONDITIONS SURVEY



Expanded Cellular and Wireless coverage

- Leverage expanded middle mile
- Complementary technologies
- Address deficiencies
- Advance economic development, public safety, and other priorities

MCA Programs By Investment





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Splice Case (APPENDIX)



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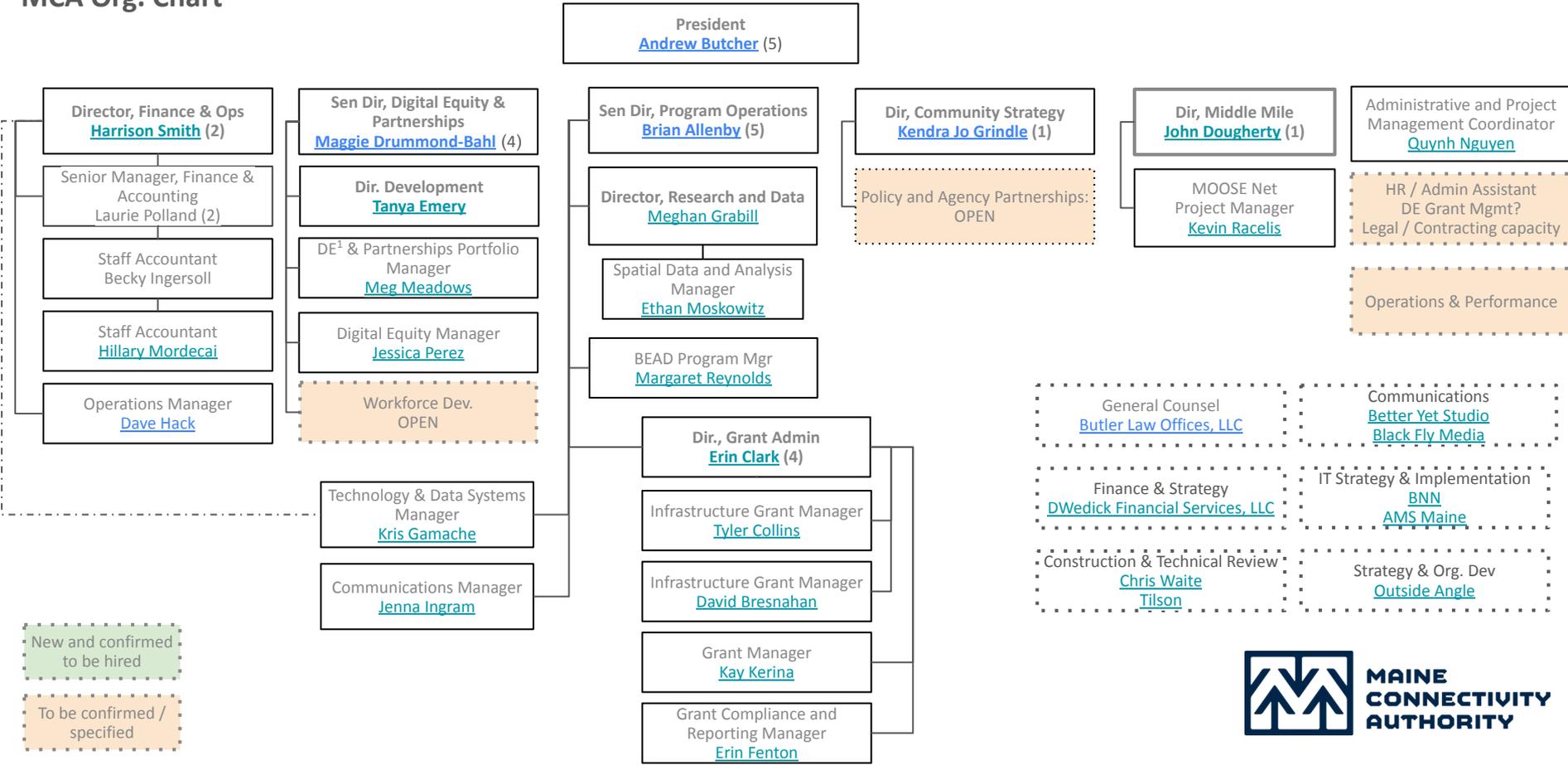
Organization



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MCA Org. Chart



New and confirmed to be hired

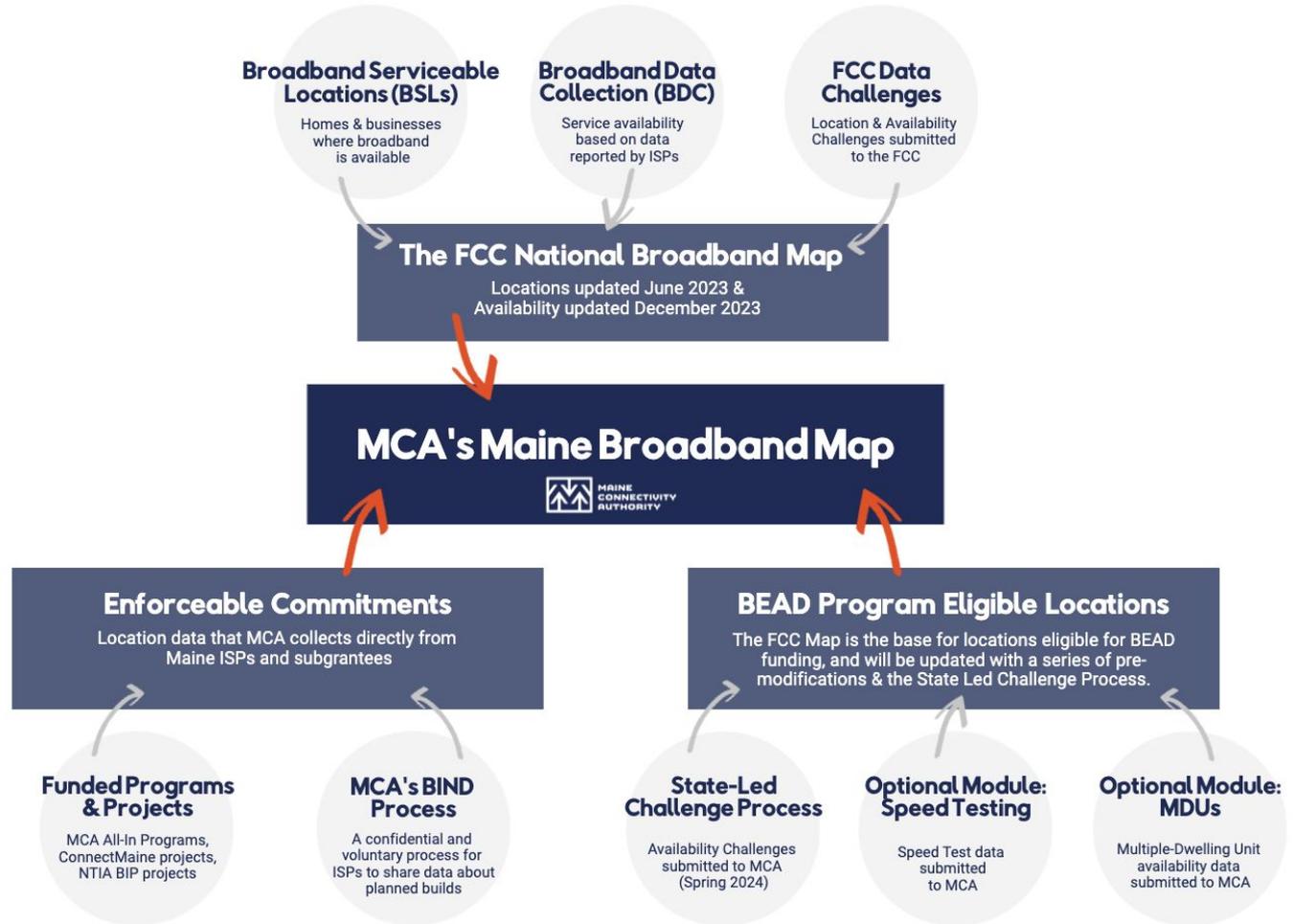
To be confirmed / specified



Operating Budget

MCA - Operational Budget - Summary	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY25-FY27
	Budget	Projected	Projected	TOTAL
Federal Grant Revenues	\$6,455,891	\$4,602,281	\$4,020,191	\$15,078,362
Other Revenues	\$2,985,000	\$3,206,250	\$3,494,063	\$9,685,313
TOTAL Operating Revenues	\$9,440,891	\$7,808,531	\$7,514,254	\$24,763,675
Staffing	\$4,221,001	\$4,741,742	\$4,883,994	\$13,846,737
Professional Fees, Services & Subscription Fees	\$4,076,828	\$2,050,595	\$1,513,183	\$7,640,606
Other	\$557,215	\$554,231	\$524,226	\$1,635,672
TOTAL Operating Expenses	\$8,855,044	\$7,346,568	\$6,921,403	\$23,123,014
Operating Net Income	\$585,847	\$461,963	\$592,851	\$1,640,661

What goes into Maine's Map?



The Problem, the Work, and the Goal

Digital Divide

The gap between those who have affordable access, skills and support and those who don't.

Digital Inclusion

Activities to ensure that all individuals and communities, including the most disadvantaged, have access to and use of information and communication technologies.

Digital Equity

All individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in our society, democracy, and economy.

Affordability - ACP4ME Campaign

- In Maine, **238,710 households are eligible** for the ACP. As of February 2024 - approximately 98,000 households signed up
- The **ACP4ME campaign** is MCA's statewide initiative to increase awareness of and enrollment in the ACP.
- While the program appears to be concluding there is clear evidence of the need to reduce costs.

