



JACKSON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DECEMBER 2022

# PROJECT UPDATES



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**PREPARED AND PRESENTED BY**

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# BROADBAND FUNDING



## RURAL DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY FUND (RDOF)

RDOF is a Federal Communications Commission program with the purpose of closing the digital divide. RDOF is a FCC reverse auction bid program.

Jackson County RDOF award:

- 11,128 Locations
  - Locations based on census blocks that show as being currently unserved.
- Fiber to the Home Installation
- \$16,978,566.40 award amount
- Largest award in North Carolina
- 7 year timeline (started in early 2022)
- Required speeds 100Mbps symmetrical.

For more information visit:

<https://www.fcc.gov/auction/904/factsheet>

# GROWING RURAL ECONOMIES WITH ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY (GREAT) GRANT

Charter (Spectrum) was the ISP awarded a GREAT grant for Jackson County:

- 1,156 Locations
- \$4,497,486 award amount
- 2 Year Timeline
- \$300,000 Matching Funds from Jackson County
- Partnership Agreement forthcoming from NCDIT Office

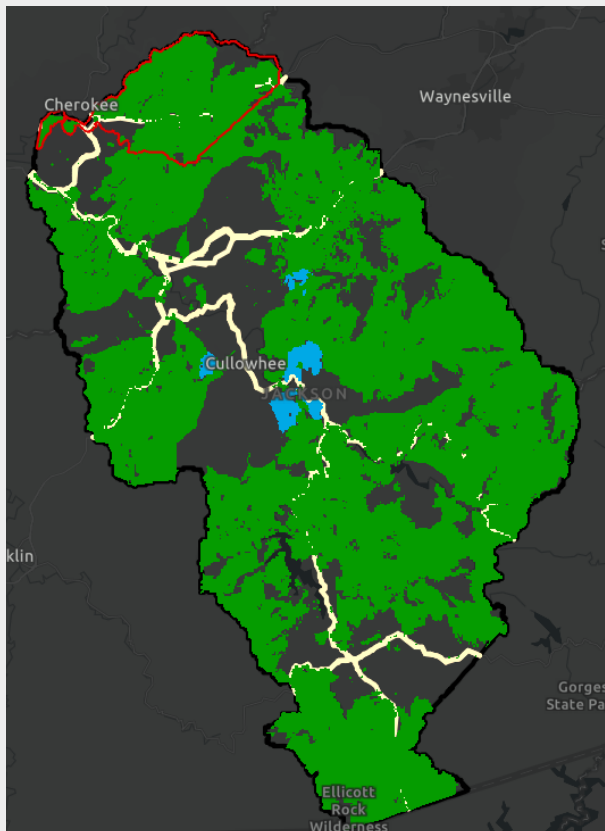
Jackson County had the largest number of applications submitted by ISP's in the region;

- Total of 8 applications submitted
- Total of \$32,673,402.89
- Approximately \$35 Million remaining and another round of awards is expected.
  - We offered to provide match funding of up to an additional \$300,000 a total of \$600,000 matching funds

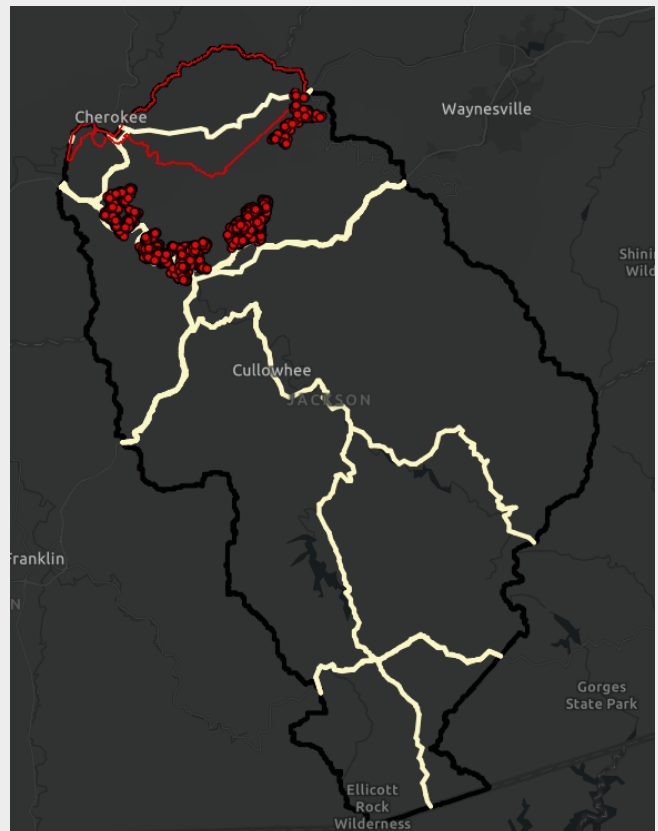
For more information visit:

<https://www.ncbroadband.gov/funding-programs/great-grant-federal/great-grant-2021-2022>

## RDOF MAP



## GREAT GRANT MAP

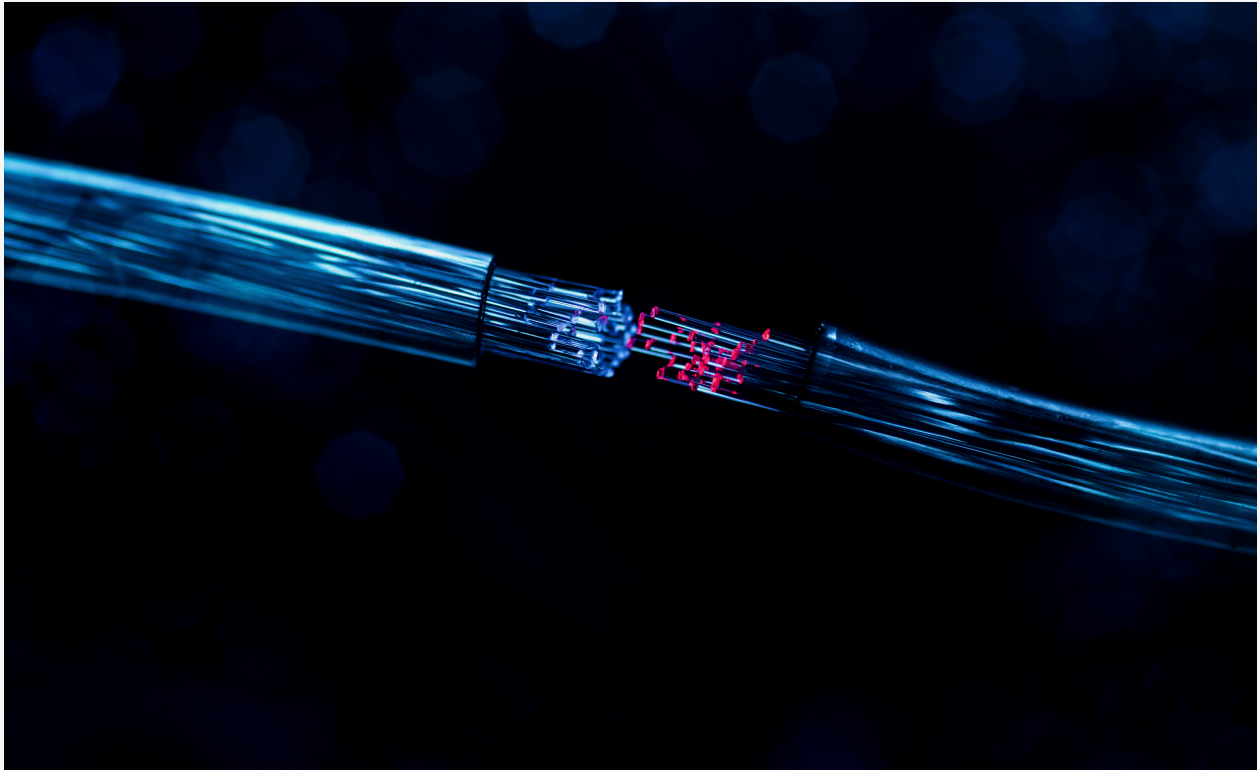


\*\*All broadband grant programs are required to participate in the Affordable Connectivity Program (\$30/month service).

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# 2022-2023 COMPLETING ACCESS TO BROADBAND (CAB) GRANT PROGRAM

THIS PROGRAM GIVES COUNTIES OPPORTUNITY TO TARGET SPECIFIC ELIGIBLE AREAS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NCDIT BIO OFFICE



Counties will partner with NCDIT Broadband Infrastructure Office to identify specific areas to prioritize those unserved and underserved areas. This program will require a competitive bidding process for ISP.

The CAB program creates a partnership with the county and NCDIT. Counties that participate in this program must provide matching funds (determined by counties allocated ARPA funds).

Funding for this project must come from:

- CAB Fund (NC portion) - up to 35%
- ISP - up to 30%
- County - up to 35%

**CAB PROGRAM  
COMPLEMENTS THE GREAT  
GRANT PROGRAM ENSURING  
NO OVERLAP OF GRANT  
FUNDING SUPPORT**





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# OUTDOOR ECONOMY

## CREATING OUTDOOR RECREATION ECONOMIES (CORE)

A technical assistance program provided by NC Department of Commerce's Main Street & Rural Planning Center that's aimed at the Outdoor Recreation Economy. This program will provide strategic planning and asset development resources to Jackson County.

The goal is to evaluate our current assets and determine what is needed to encourage small business development that will ultimately bolster our economic vitality as it relates to outdoor recreation.

We'll work with community stakeholders as we guide the planning process.

We anticipate this program to be approximately 6 months.

We know that we have other assets that are intangible and harder to quantify. These assets help us attract residents, ultimately growing our workforce and tourism. All of which make a community more attractive by providing a good quality of life.

\*An MOU will be forthcoming, and is required in order for us to engage in this program.



# NC COMMERCE BUILDING REUSE GRANT

AMERICAN SEWING - EXPANSION

## FIRST EVER BUILDING REUSE GRANT IN JACKSON COUNTY

### GRANT AWARD

BUILDING EXPANSION

\$60,000

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### JOBS CREATED

PERMANENT FULL-TIME

12 JOBS

### JOBS RETAINED

PERMANENT FULL-TIME

36 JOBS

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### INVESTMENT

CAPTIAL INVESTMENT AND REAL  
PROPERTY

OVER \$2 MILLION



# TUCKASEEGEE MILLS - SOLD

PHASE	ESTIMATED BUDGET
<b>INNOVATION BREWING</b> EXPANSION OF PRODUCTION FACILITY	PURCHASED FOR \$743,970
<b>ESTIMATED JOBS CREATED</b>	22 JOBS
<b>INVESTMENT</b> CAPITAL INVESTMENT AND REAL PROPERTY	OVER \$3 MILLION



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# OTHER UPDATES



**TIFFANY HENRY**  
DIRECTOR

## **BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

RICH PRICE (CHAIRMAN) (WCU)  
MARNE HARRIS (SCC)  
ROGER BARTLETT (STRIBLING)  
NICOLE OWEN (SMITH)  
JOHN BUBACZ (LETSON)  
SHARON BRADLEY (EXPIRING TERM) (BRYSON)  
(VACANT) (JONES)

