

# Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board

## Middle Mile Open Access Network

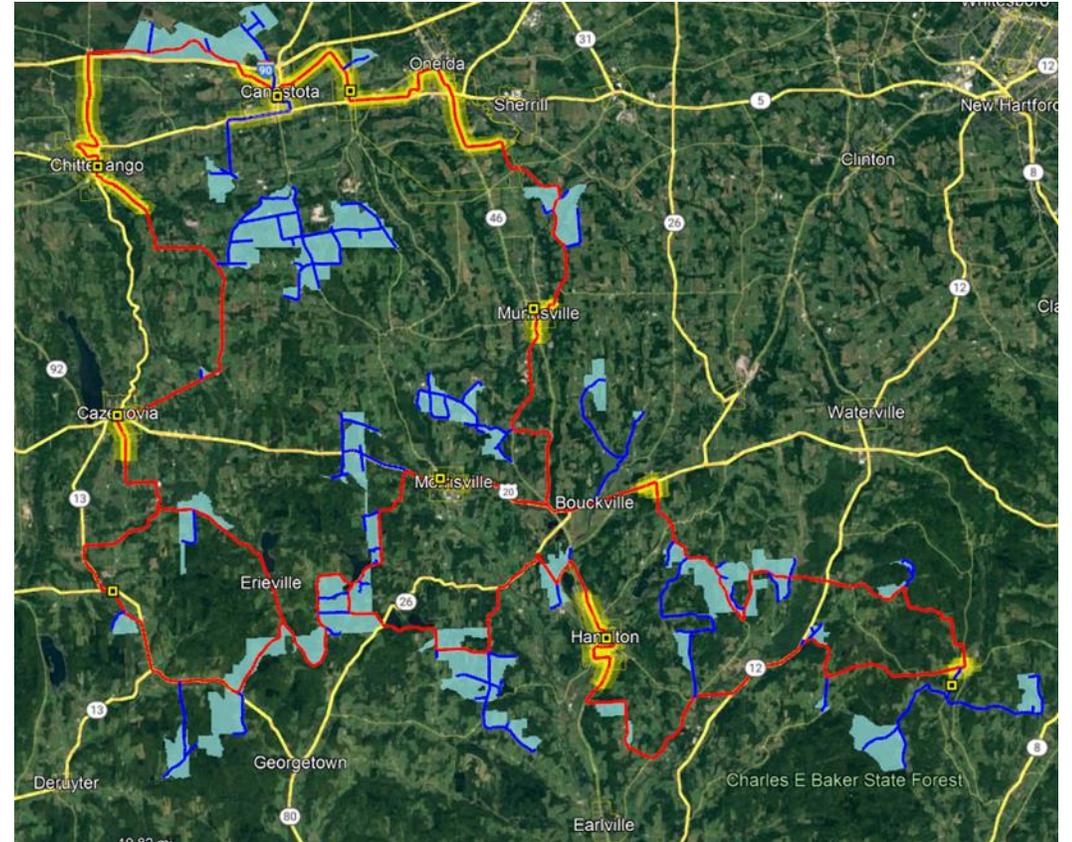
June 29, 2022

# Phase 1: Broadband Inventory and Survey

- CNY RPDB and ECC completed a 5 County Broadband Inventory and Broadband Availability and Adoption Survey report in December 2021.
- The project covered Cayuga, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga and Oswego Counties.
- Key Findings:
  - The Inventory identified, to the extent possible, addresses unserved by fiber-optic or coaxial based technology.
    - Unserved addresses = 8,253
    - Unserved Road Miles = 919
  - Respondents of the survey want choice in providers.

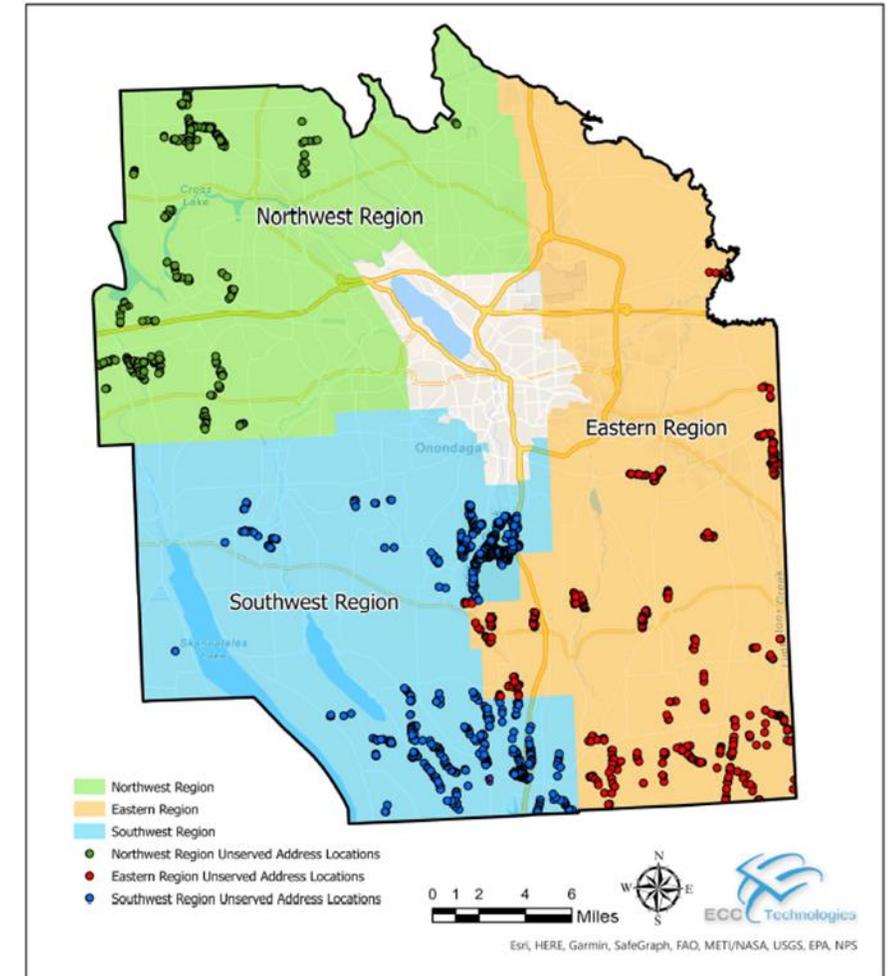
# Progress vs Unserved Addresses

- Madison County:
  - Madison County has been awarded a USDA ReConnect Grant in the amount of \$10.2 Million to construct a 269-mile fiber to the home network.
  - Unserved addresses to be served 1,092.
  - Madison County has partnered with Empire Access as the Internet Service Provider.
  - Madison is contributing \$3.4 Million.
  - Empire is contributing \$2.5 Million.



## Progress vs Unserved Addresses (cont.)

- Onondaga County:
  - On June 10, 2022, Onondaga County released an RFP for ISP's to bid on filling the gaps in the County.
  - The County has reserved \$15 Million incentive to assist the ISP's in expanding broadband service to these unserved addresses.
  - The County RFP response is divided into three separate areas.
  - ISP's can provide responses to one, two or all three areas.
  - Proposal Submission Deadline is July 26, 2022, 3:00PM.
- CNY RPDB is working with Cayuga, Cortland and Oswego Counties on addressing gaps in their communities.



# Phase 2: Current Opportunities for Grant Funding:

- **Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program (\$42.5 Billion)**

- Established by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) for broadband deployment, mapping, and adoption projects.
- Funding priorities for the program are sequential prioritized to provide broadband to unserved areas (those below 25/3 Mbps), followed by underserved areas (those below 100/20 Mbps), and then serving community anchor institutions (1/1 Gbps).
- Administered by NTIA through State Governments
- NOFO Released 5/13/2022
- Letters of Intent Due 07/18/2022;
- Initial Planning Funds Application Due 08/15/2022;
- Application Submission by November 13, 2022.

Program Sequencing	Key Dates
NOFO Release/Application Intake Opening	May 13, 2022
Letter of Intent Due	July 18, 2022, by 11:59 p.m. EDT
Request for Initial Planning Funds Due	August 15, 2022, by 11:59 p.m. EDT
Five-Year Action Plan	Within 270 days of receipt of Initial Planning Funds
Program Fund Allocation and Notice of Available Amounts	On or after the date on which the FCC Broadband DATA Maps are made public
Initial Proposal	180 days to submit after issuance of their Notice of Available Amounts
State Challenge Process	Challenge: Begin after submission of Initial Proposal and before allocating BEAD funds Final Classification: After resolving each challenge and at least 60 days before allocating grant funds for network deployment
20 Percent Funding Release	Assistant Secretary shall make available to the Eligible Entity 20% of the grant funds
Final Proposal and Release of Remaining Funds	No later than twelve (12) months after the date upon which the Assistant Secretary approves the Eligible Entity's Initial Proposal

## Phase 2: Current Opportunities for Grant Funding:

- **NTIA Middle Mile Grant (\$1 Billion)**

- Established by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)
- The Middle Mile Grant Program provides up to \$1 billion in funding for the construction, improvement, or acquisition of middle mile infrastructure.
- The purpose of the grant program is to expand and extend middle mile infrastructure to reduce the cost of connecting areas that are unserved or underserved to the internet backbone.
- Administered of the Competitive Grant Program will be by the NTIA and not State Governments
- Eligible Organizations:
  - Any State, political subdivision of a State,
  - Tribal government or Native Entity
  - technology company, electric utility, utility cooperative, public utility district, telecommunications company, telecommunications cooperative,
  - nonprofit foundation, corporation, institution, nonprofit or association,
  - regional planning council, economic development authority, or any partnership of two or more of these entities.
- NOFO Released 5/13/2022
- Application Submission by September 30, 2022.

# Phase 3: Middle Mile Grant Application

## • Why Middle Mile?

- CNY RPDB is looking to apply for a middle mile grant to support the development of competitive services in the 5 County region.
- Addresses the Choice and Competition issues stated by the respondents to the Broadband Survey
- Facilitates the expansion of existing and new providers to service areas of the community
- The Money is available
- Ensure the region has an opportunity to receive federal funding for broadband expansion.



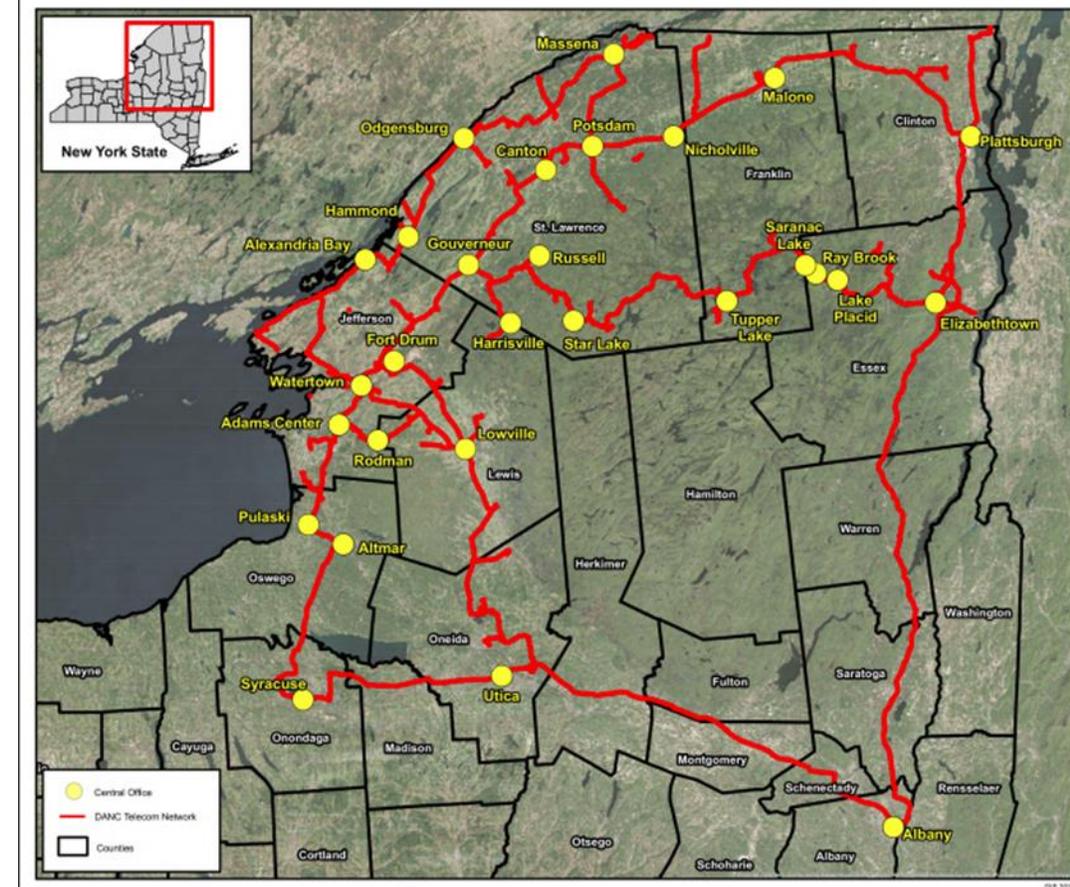
## **What is Middle Mile Open Access Network?**

Open Access Network (OAN) is classified as a middle mile fiber optic network that allows public and private entities to lease or IRU fiber to expand or add to their own networks.

The OAN creates broadband fiber optic infrastructure interconnecting cities, towns and villages with the public and private broadband providers and data centers.

# Phase 3: Middle Mile Grant Application

- Examples of Successful Middle Mile Networks:
  - Development Authority of the North Country:
    - Problem: Limited Telecommunications Infrastructure serving Lewis, Jefferson and St. Lawrence Counties.
    - Telecommunications choke point vulnerability, single fiber cut took out service to the entire North Country including Fort Drum.
    - 1800 Mile Fiber Optic Network
    - Completed backbone construction in 2003 to expand telecommunications infrastructure to:
      - Create job opportunities.
      - Make the region attractive to telecommunications-intensive businesses like back-office support, publishers, hi-tech industries, or logistic services looking to relocate or expand.
      - Create advanced networks for education, health care and government.
      - Position the region for investment in economic development initiatives.



# Phase 3: Middle Mile Grant Application

- Southern Tier Network:
  - Established to promote:
    - economic development,
    - provide critical health, public-safety, and emergency management infrastructure
    - facilitate access to affordable broadband services particularly in un-served and underserved areas in the region.
  - Formed through a public-private collaboration among Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board, Corning Incorporated, and Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben Counties in 2010.
  - Expanded network to 600+ miles into 8 Counties, Yates, Allegany, Tioga, Tompkins, and Broome in addition to the three founding counties.
  - Started with no employees, leveraged third party expertise
  - Brought competitive FTTH services to Naples, Elmira, and Corning.



# Phase 3: Middle Mile Grant Application

- Requirements & Next Steps:
  - NTIA is required to prioritize any project in which the applicant has done two or more of the following:
    - adopted fiscally sustainable middle mile strategies;
    - committed to offering non-discriminatory interconnection to wired and wireless last mile broadband providers and any other party making a bona fide request;
    - identified in the application specific terrestrial and wireless last mile broadband providers that have expressed written interest in interconnecting and demonstrated sustainable business plans or adequate funding;
    - identified supplemental investments or in-kind support (such as waived franchise or permitting fees) that will accelerate the completion of the planned project; and
    - demonstrated that the middle mile infrastructure will benefit national security interests of the United States and the Department of Defense.

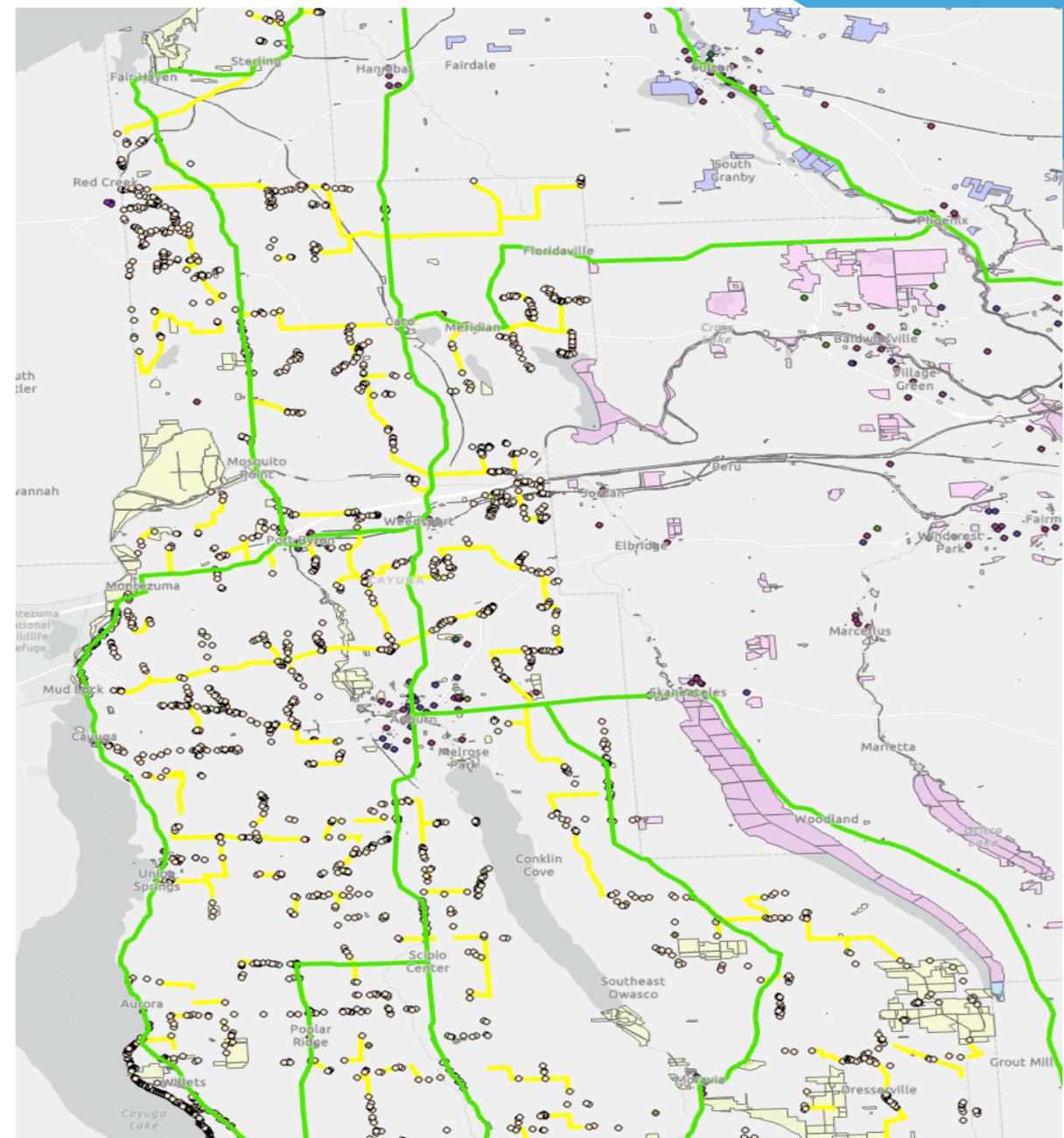
# Phase 3: Middle Mile Grant Application

- Next Steps:
  - Research potential carriers and anchor institutions.
  - Identify ISP partner to provide supporting funds for the 30% grant match.
  - Obtain support and/or partnership with the Onondaga Nation and other tribal leaders.
  - Support from the CNY RPDB Counties and potential anchor institutions (Letters of Support)
  - Refine fiber routing.
  - Develop a viable Business Plan.



# Cayuga and Middle Mile Grant Application

- Next Steps:
  - Research potential carriers and anchor institutions.
  - Identify ISP partner to provide supporting funds for the 30% grant match.
  - Support from the CNY RPDB Counties and potential anchor institutions (Letters of Support)
  - Refine fiber routing.
  - Develop a viable Business Plan.



# Questions?