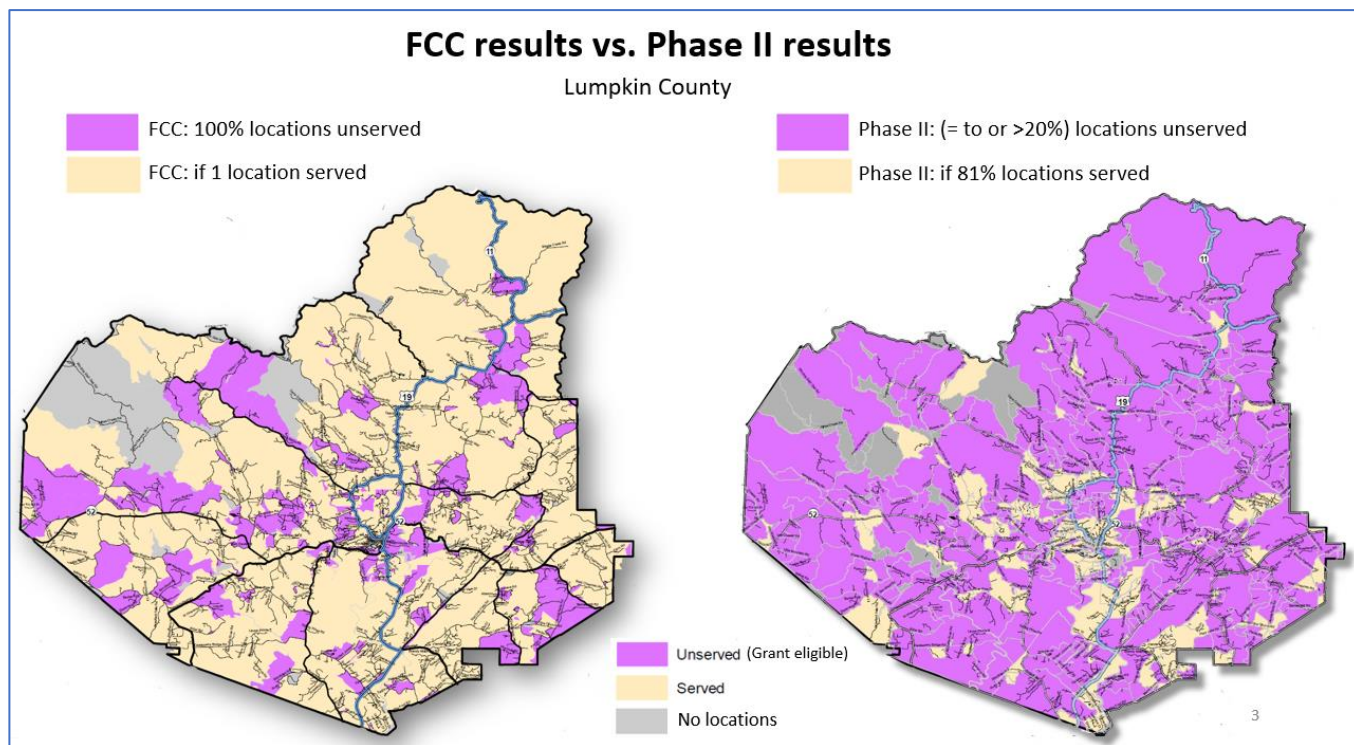


Phase I FCC Mapping vs Phase 2 Enhanced Mapping



Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative Grant Program Update

DCA has supported GBDI in its development of a grant program framework. It is widely recognized that part of the rural broadband dilemma stems from the fact that less densely populated areas do not currently offer a strong business case for broadband providers. The goal of the proposed grant program is simple: to provide a mechanism to tweak the economics for providers and to encourage them to expand 25/3 broadband service to unserved areas, should public funding be made available. In addition to leveraging DCA's knowledge and experience, the GBDI team has reviewed broadband grant programs in Tennessee, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and New York.

The grant program is being designed to leverage Phase I, then Phase II, maps to determine areas of eligibility and greatest need. With communities and providers in mind, the goal is a streamlined process that provides appropriate incentives to leverage private investment, while mitigating risks and avoiding over-buildout. Community partnership will be a central component, based on constitutional limitations of the state's Gratuities Clause.

Key design components currently being developed and defined are requirements for pre-application; grant applications; eligible activities; requirements for eligible providers; broadband service and performance requirements; and grant scoring elements.