



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Housing and
Economic Development

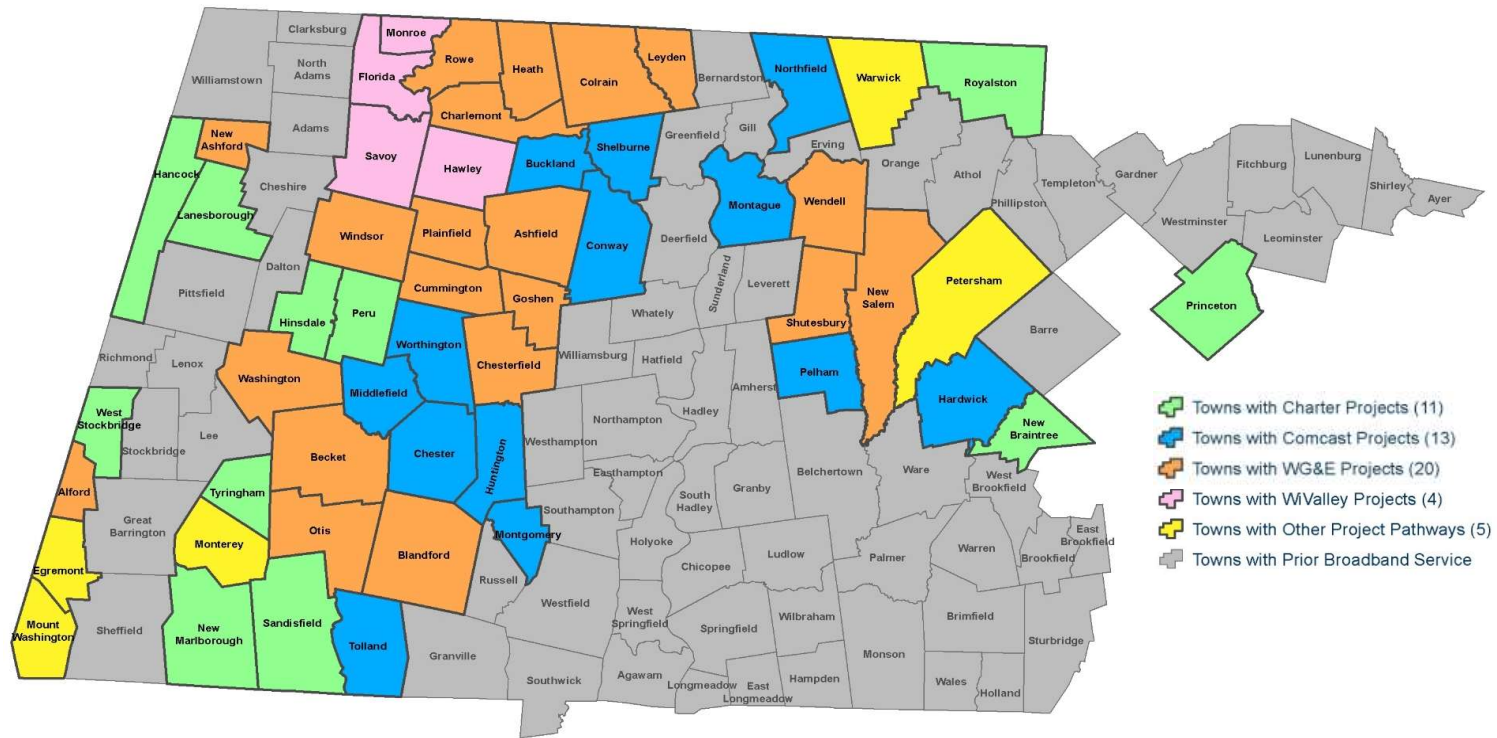
Massachusetts Broadband Strategy

*Bridging the Digital Divide in the
Commonwealth*

May 23, 2022



Pathways for Last Mile Broadband in Massachusetts



Innovations in Broadband





Initial COVID Response - Digital Equity Investments

- Mass Internet Connect: partnership with the 29 MassHire One-Stop Career Centers to support needs of job seekers.
- WiFi Hotspots in Last Mile Towns: total of 26 towns participated, and program continues to support active spots in 11 towns.
- Digital Equity Partnerships with Essex County Community Foundation (ECCF), Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), Tech Goes Home (TGH), as well as wireless access projects in Fitchburg and Cape Cod



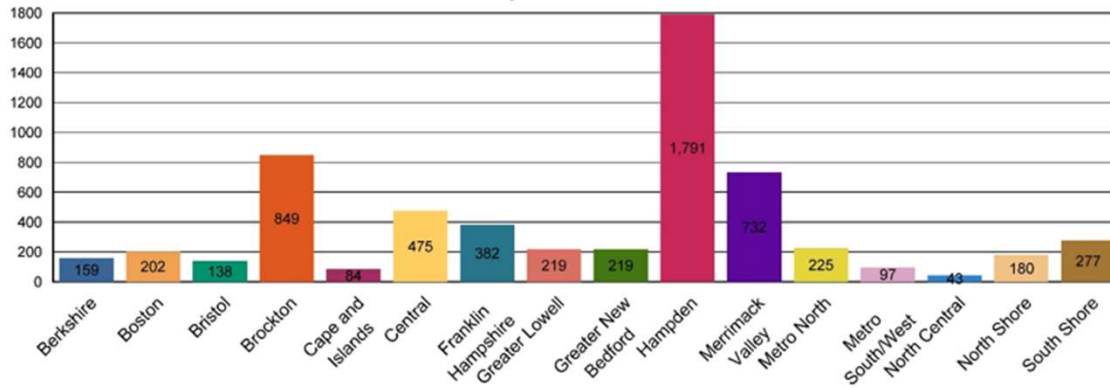
Pollard Memorial Library in New Braintree – location of a Last Mile Town WiFi Hotspot.



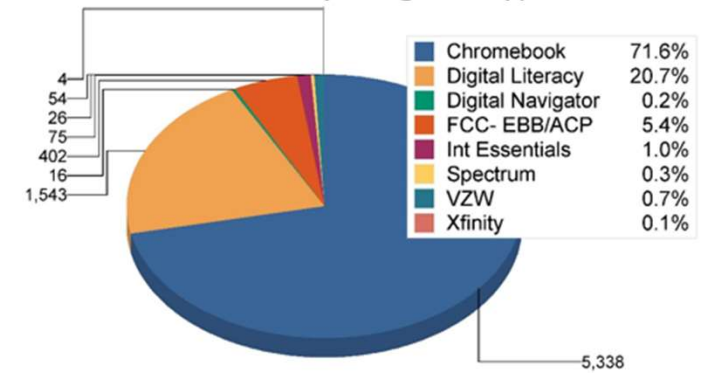
Mass Internet Connect Update



Customers Served by MassHire Workforce Area

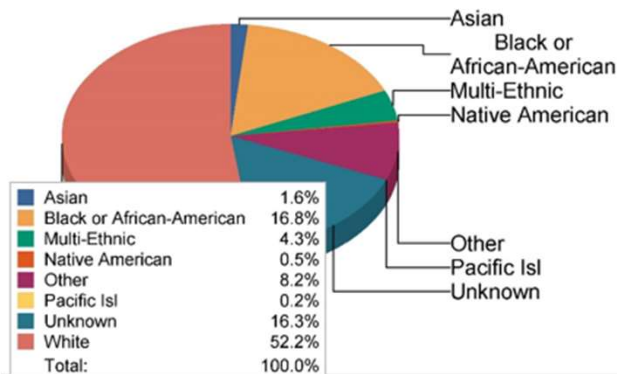


Referrals by Program Type

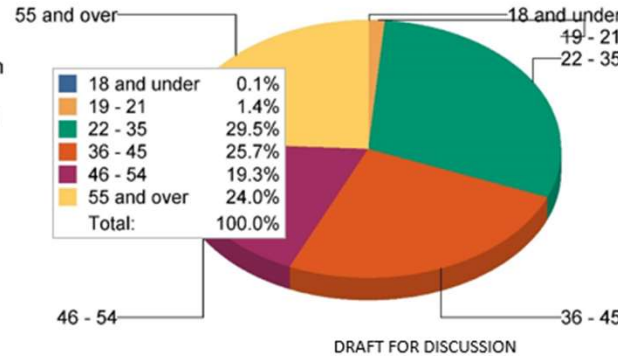


6,054 Total Customers - 561 Internet Subsidies - 5,338 Chromebooks - 1,543 Digital Literacy

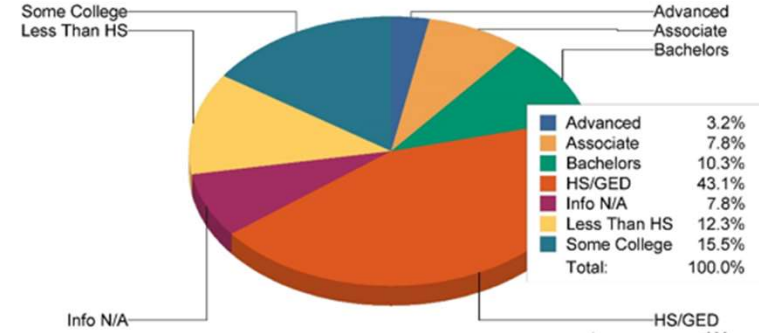
Customers By Race



Customers By Age



Customers By Education



DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

Current Digital Equity Projects



Examples of Current Projects

Mesh WiFi Network in Salem

Goal: Free community WiFi for the Point neighborhood

Impact: 3,000 individuals

- Local Partners
- Community driven
- Cultural competency

Housing Authority Digital Access in Chelsea

- Housing Authority purchased 1 very high-speed internet connection
- WiFi hotspots or “access points” in common areas are linked to connection
- Residents can access free high-speed internet in their homes without a subscription



Chelsea Housing Authority Prattville Apartments



Media Clips

'Like running water': Gov. Charlie Baker, Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito celebrate state's success bringing broadband internet to rural towns

Updated: Mar. 24, 2022, 3:59 p.m. | Published: Mar. 24, 2022, 2:19 p.m.



Gov. Charlie Baker, right, and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito visit the Massachusetts Green High-Performance Computing Center at 100 Bigelow St. in Holyoke on Thursday. (Jim Kinney / The Republican)



By [Jim Kinney](#) | jjkinney@repub.com

HOLYOKE — The state's Make Ready program helped utilities and providers bring modern, high-speed internet to 28,000 households in rural Massachusetts with 40,000 poles and [2,000 miles of optical fiber](#) over the last four years.



News

Worthington broadband internet network completed

Updated: Sep. 30, 2021, 6:29 p.m. | Published: Sep. 30, 2021, 6:29 p.m.



By [The Republican Newsroom](#)

WORTHINGTON — Virtually every home in town now has access to broadband internet through a \$3.7 million project funded by the state, town and Comcast.

Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito and other officials visited the hilltown Thursday to mark the latest milestone in the years-long effort to complete the "last mile" of internet connections in underserved rural areas of the state.

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\$226K Grant to Help FQHC Telehealth Consortium Improve Digital Equity

The funds will be used to establish a Telehealth Navigator Program, which aims to increase access to virtual care and improve digital equity among residents in Essex County, Massachusetts.



News > Local

10 Franklin County towns benefiting from hotspot program extension

By [DOMENIC POLI](#)
Staff Writer

Published: 8/28/2020 1:06:59 PM

Massachusetts Broadband Strategic Priorities



MA Broadband Strategic Plan compiles the infrastructure and digital equity investments and strategy, including Last Mile and Middle Mile, during the Baker-Polito Administration.

Broadband Strategy Pillars going forward:

- Extend and Improve Broadband Access and Infrastructure
- Adoption and Affordability
- Reaching Target Populations through Partnerships
- Digital Literacy