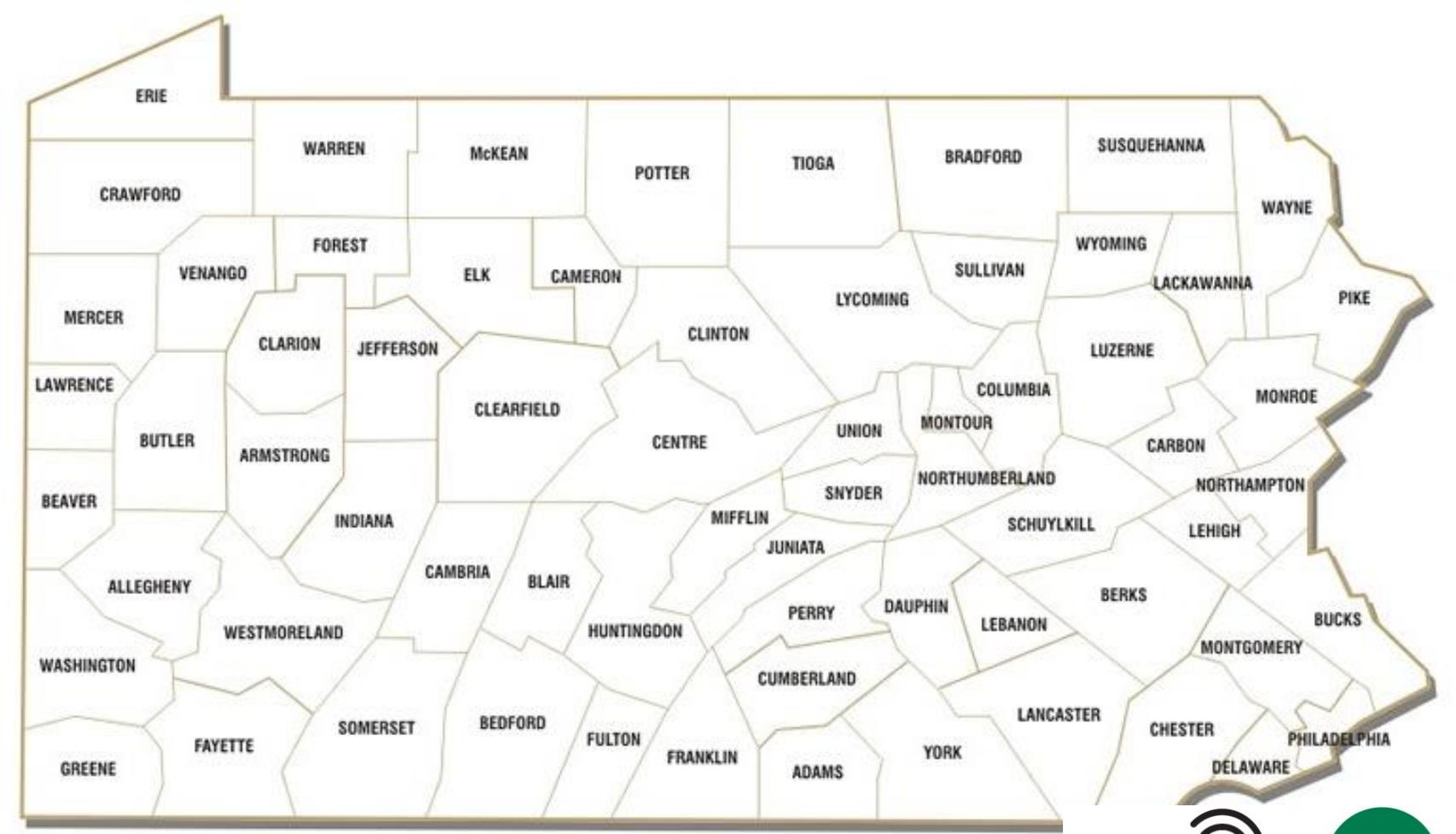


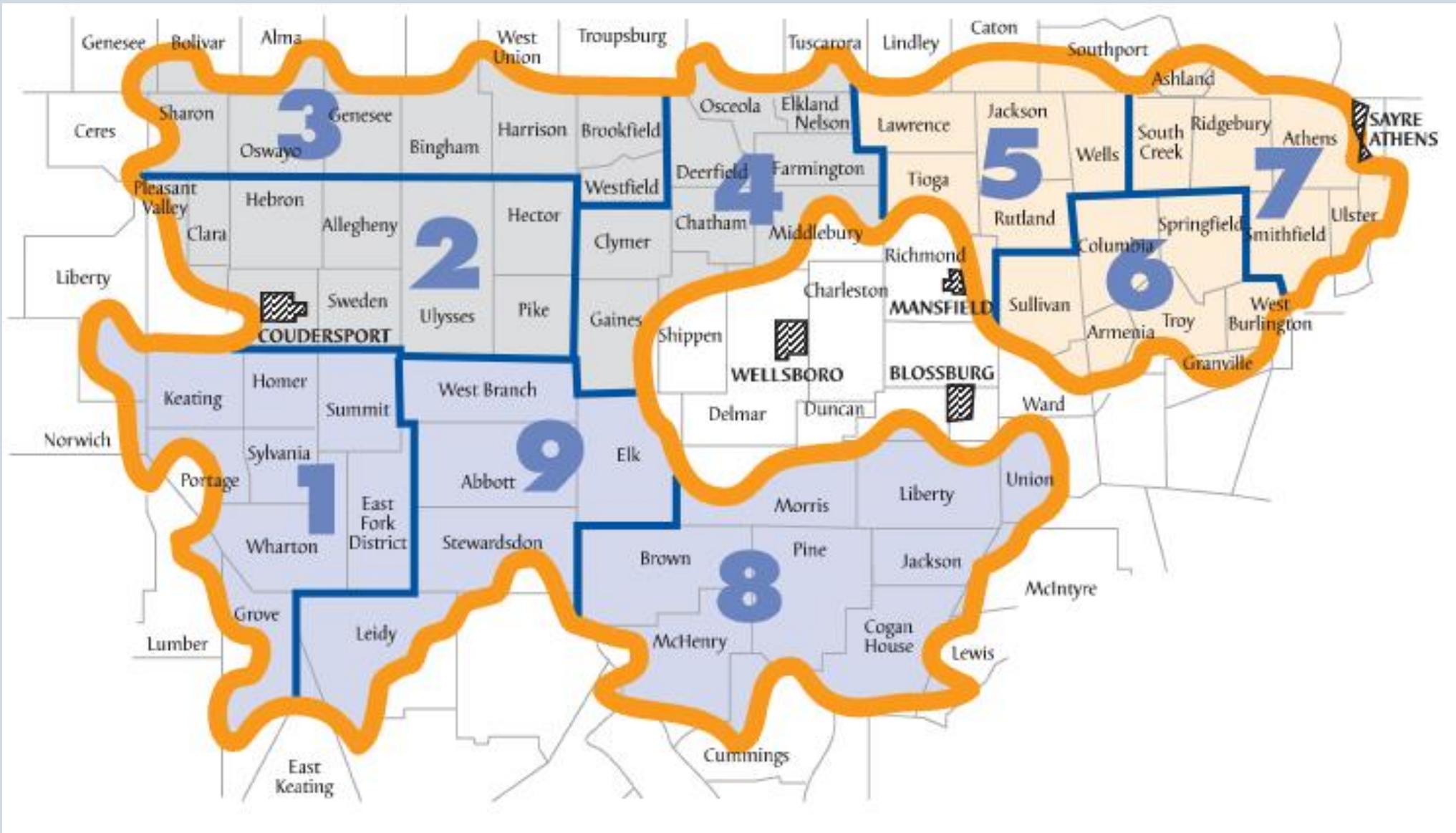
Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative Fiber Deployment

Bridging the Digital Divide



Serving members in Bradford, Tioga, Potter, McKean, Cameron, Clinton, Lycoming Counties



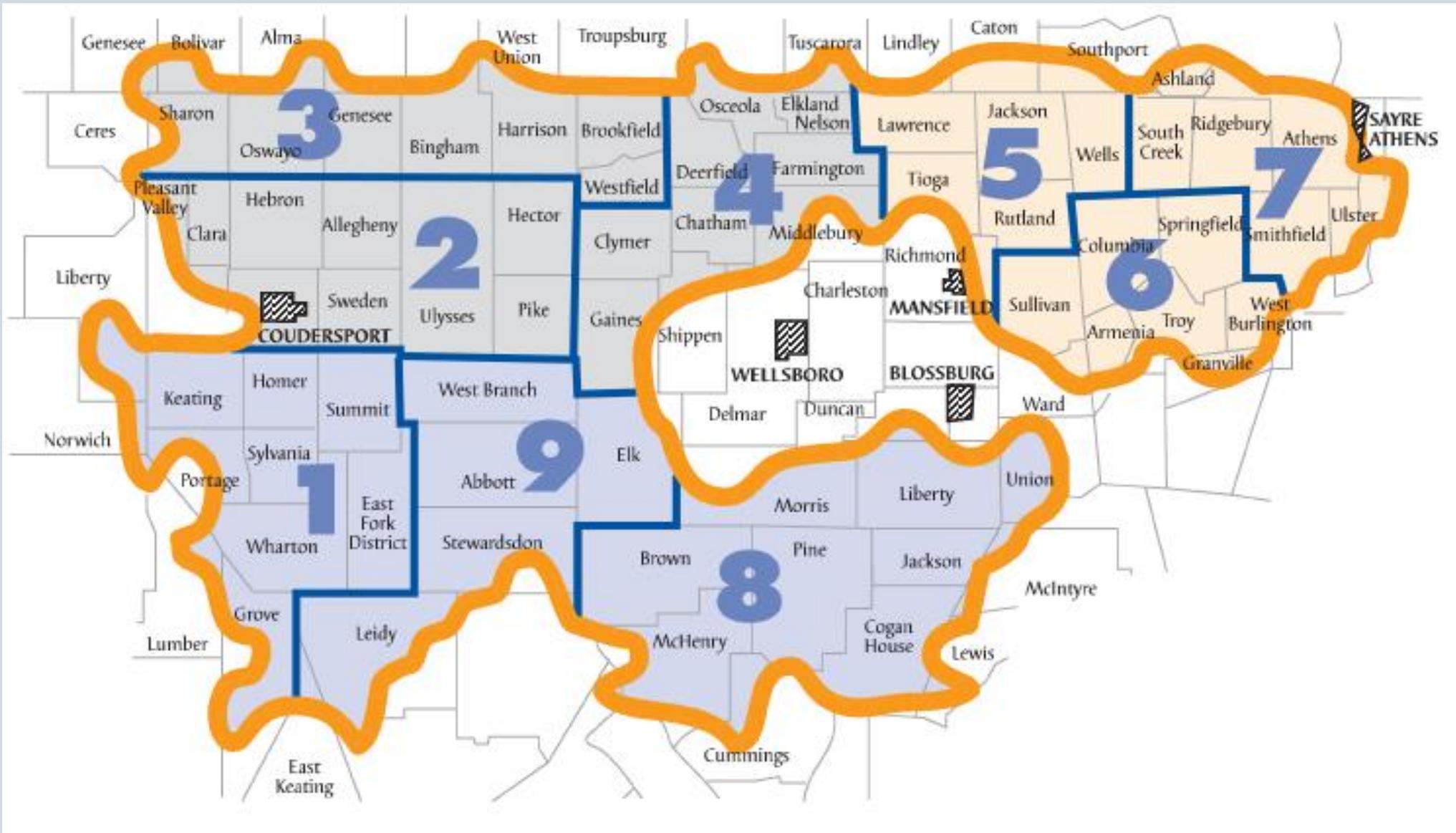


Why would an electric cooperative deploy fiber????

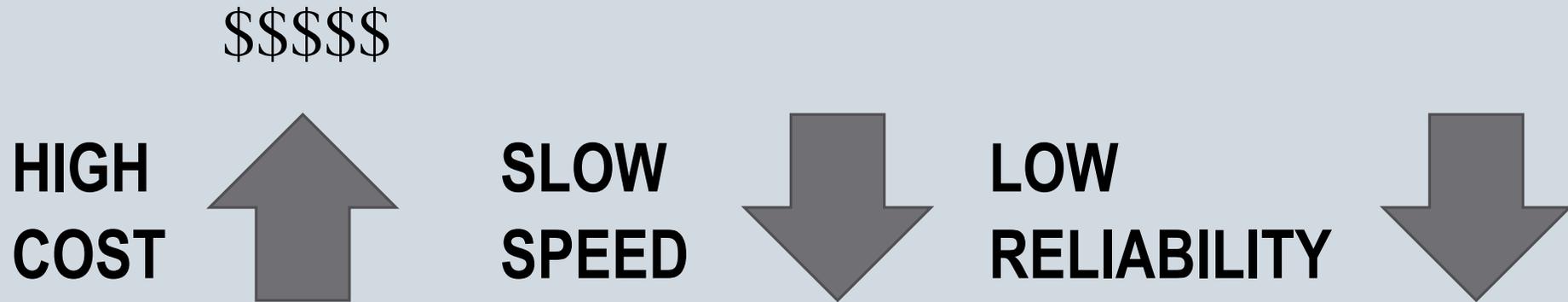
1. It will serve those **without** access to high-speed broadband
2. We have developed (and are continuing to develop) funding mechanisms to complete it in a **fiscally responsible** way
3. Deploying fiber **enhances safety and security while reducing cost** for electric members of the Cooperative

1. Serve the unserved

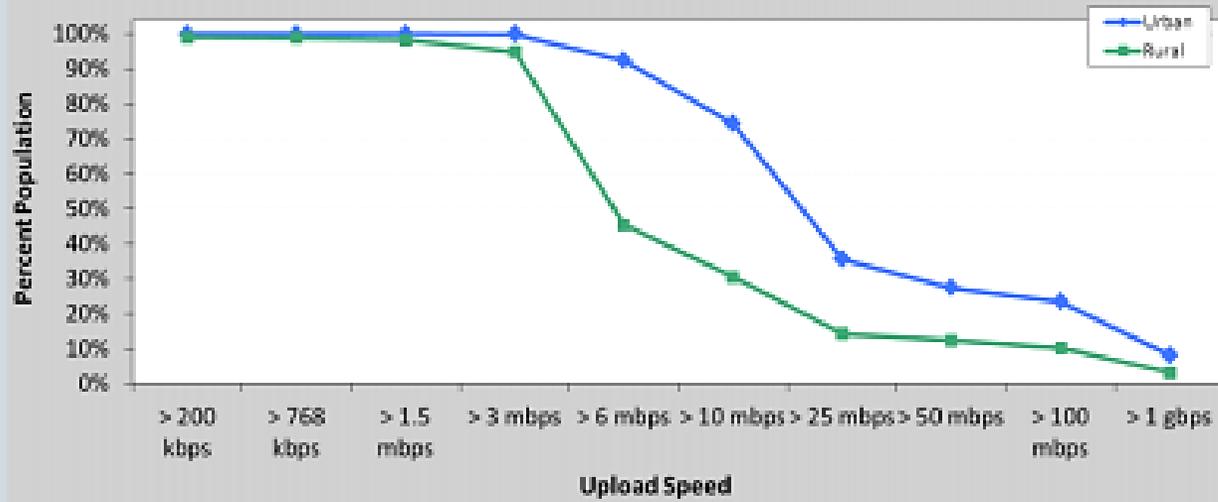
- Feasibility study – current level of service
- The digital divide
- 16,600 members; 19,000 accounts
- We've heard from our members!



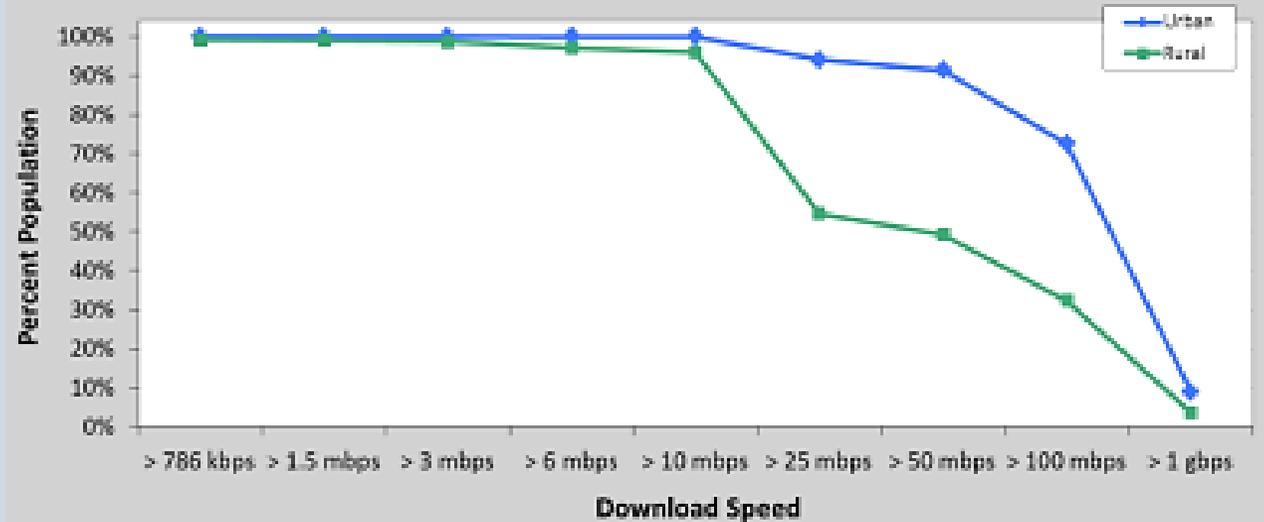
Current status of broadband in rural America:



Upload Speed Availability - Rural vs. Urban Areas



Download Speed Availability - Rural vs. Urban Areas



2. Fiscally Responsible

- **Financial Analysis:**
 - Outside funding necessary for building infrastructure
 - Redevelopment Capital Assistance Program (RACP) – 100 Miles
 - FCC CAF II
 - PA Broadband Initiatives Program
 - ARC POWER
 - Other programs?

RACP

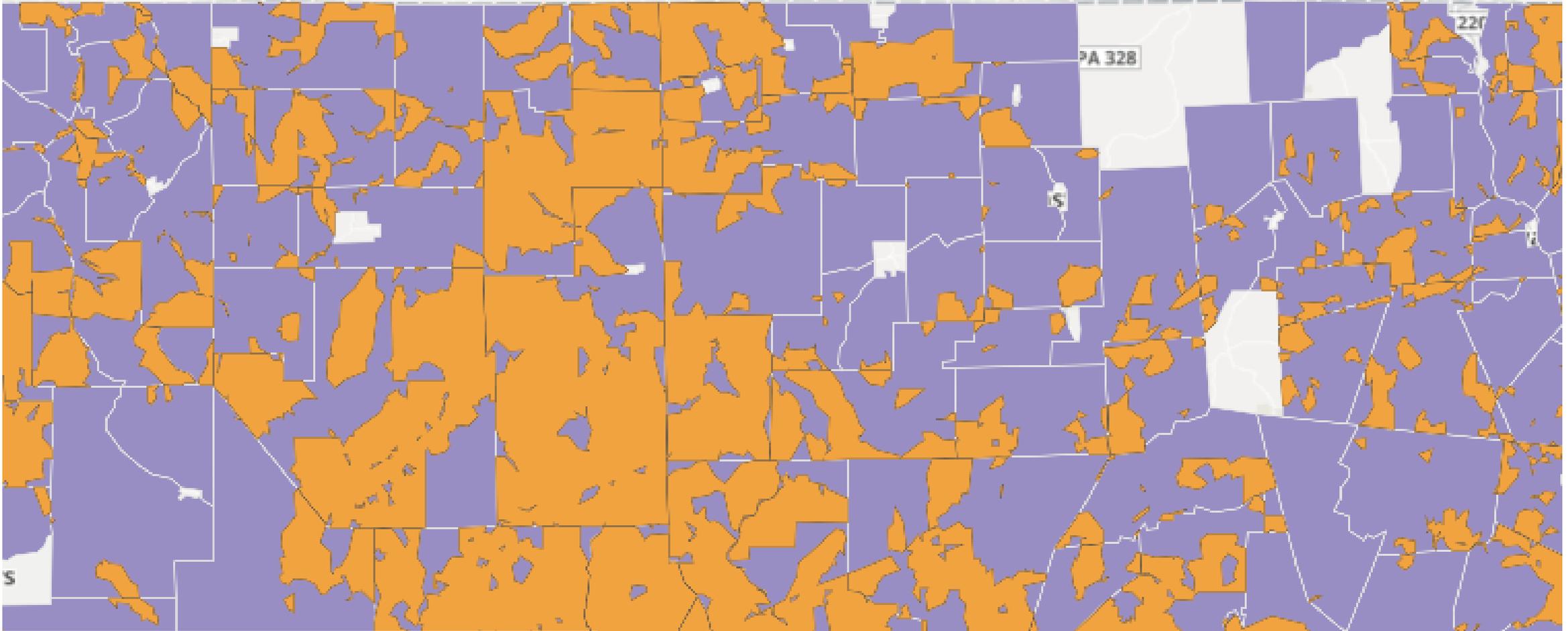
- Approximately 100 miles
- Potter County
- 1300 members (customers)
 - Approximately 50% are full time residential
 - Approximately 42% are seasonal customers
 - Approximately 8% are small or large businesses

FCC CAF II

- CAF Auction – incumbent providers and what they didn't take
- CAF II Auction
- Highest Tier
 - Gigabit speed
 - Low latency (high reliability)

Olean

Elmira
Southport



Map Legend



Auction-eligible blocks



Auction-eligible block groups (bidding units)

Broadband Initiatives Program

- State program created by Governor Wolf allocating funds from the PA Dept of Transportation (\$35 million)
- Incentive funding for providers awarded support in FCC CAF II Auction
- Difference from CAF II
- Timeline:
 - June 2022

Other Programs?

- **USDA Re-Connect**
- **Economic Development Administration**
- **Other state funds**
- **Creative funding mechanisms**

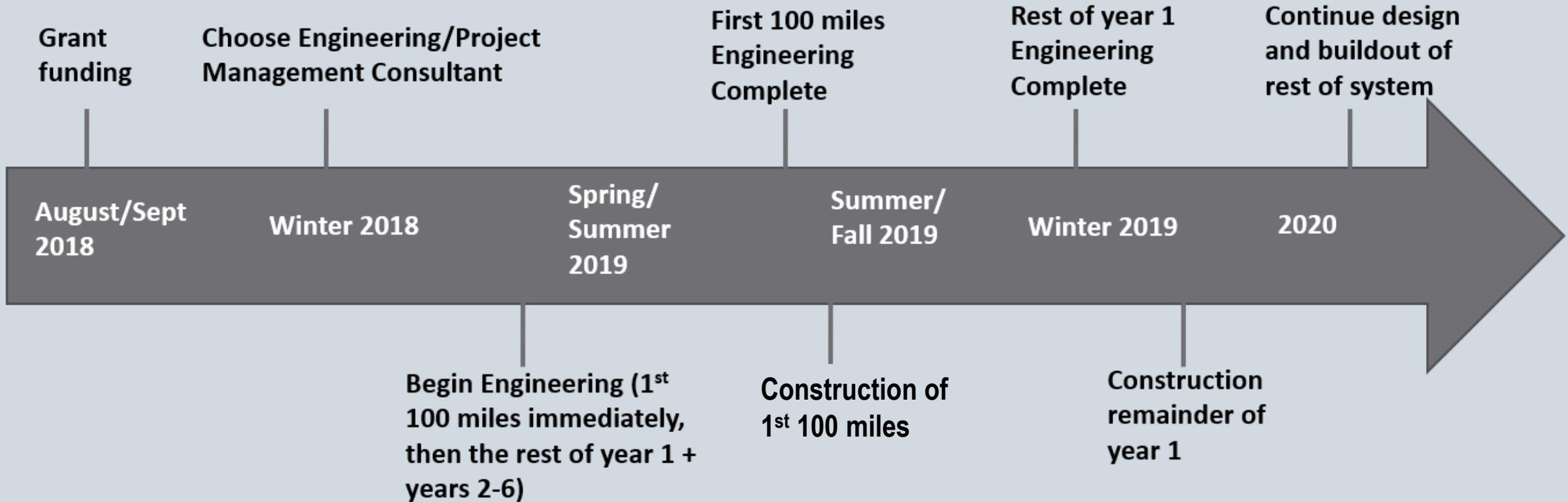
3. Utility Benefit = Member Benefit

- Enhance safety and security + reduce cost
- Pole ownership
- Strong member relationship
- Locally-owned + strong community ties = better value/service

The mindset makes our project unique

- All above service and the unserved
- Partnership with planners!
- Look at the heart of the problem THEN determine the best solution for your community
- Not all communities are the same

Project Timeline



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