



Bringing Broadband to Rural Ohio

Appalachian Ohio needs a robust network that reaches all households and can support 30+ years of growth.

Fiber-to-the-home is the only solution that can do this.

What it will cost

To run fiber to all locations known to have less than 25Mbps/3Mbps, it will cost:

- **\$497 Million for 57,873 households** in the eight Buckeye Hills counties (Athens, Hocking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry, Washington)
- **\$2.26 Billion for 265,831 households** in all 34 Appalachian counties

How to make it work

Subsidized networks must be robust and open, funding must be transparent and accountable, and awards should go to the best value based on capacity and reliability, rather than lowest bidder.

- **Robust:** Networks must meet national standards for capacity, reliability, scalability, and support.
- **Open:** Designs must allow multiple providers to compete on an even footing. This works best when the network is built and maintained by a public-private partnership.
- **Transparent:** Recipients must provide full transparency, with quarterly public reports that include detailed lists of all locations served or passed.
- **Accountable:** Funding agencies must verify progress via public-partner or third-party testing/inspection before releasing payments, with substantial penalties for providers who overstate availability or performance.

While some industry members express concern about overbuilding, underbuilding is a much bigger concern - especially in areas where a single broadband provider has a de-facto monopoly.

More detail available

A brief with more detailed recommendations is available from Connecting Appalachia. To request a copy, contact Tom Reid at tom@connectingappalachia.org.