

Purpose of the Target Area and Target Area Address Layer Address Maps

The Target Area and Target Area Address Maps will be used by applicants to prepare for GigReady and LEAD grant applications under the West Virginia Broadband Investment Plan. They are not intended to distinguish between all served and all unserved addresses in the state. All West Virginia Broadband Investment Plan grant program applicants should use the Target Area Address Layer to generate sets of addresses passed or covered by proposed projects. In addition, applicants to the MBPS Program should use the Target Area Layer to identify areas that a project proposes to serve. See the published [program procedures](#) for additional detail.

These address-level maps are a substantial improvement over older, less granular broadband map, but they are not yet perfect. Some information is estimated from information available to the Department at the present time.

Addresses Classifications

The West Virginia Broadband Investment Plan targets addresses that are both unserved and do not already have a committed planned project that will bring broadband service to them. “Targeted” addresses are:

- Estimated to have no current access to internet service with at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload (25/3 Mbps) speeds, not counting access to satellite or mobile wireless internet, and
- Not in an area with a binding commitment to a state, federal, or local entity to deliver mass-market broadband service of at least 25/3 Mbps, not counting commitments to expand access to satellite or mobile wireless internet.

All addresses not classified as “Targeted” are classified as “Other Address.”

Addresses Included in the Target Area Address Map

The Target Area Address Map uses address points contained in the West Virginia [Statewide Address and Mapping System](#) (SAMS) GIS layer. While this layer contains most addresses in the State, it does not necessarily contain all addresses. Some locations may not have yet been added to the SAMS address layer. The Target Area Address map also does not include addresses listed in the West Virginia SAMS GIS layer. The following lists [location types](#) that were removed from the Target Area Address map:

- Access, Bridge, Cellular Tower/Facility, Cemetery, Cultural/Landmark, Culvert, Dry Hydrant, Fire, Fire Pond, Gated w/o Building, Group Mailbox, Hanger, Helipad, Hydrant, No Gate, Not Visible, Parcel/Lot, Public Telephone, Town Boundary Post, Unknown, Well Site

How Targeted Addresses Were Identified

In 2021, the Department of Economic Development undertook a process to estimate broadband availability at the address level from available data and sought additional data from Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and communities to refine the estimate. The Department estimated the likelihood of broadband availability at the address level from patterns in the most recently available FCC data, using the West Virginia [Statewide Address and Mapping System](#) (SAMS) point GIS layer as the reference for address locations. The Department also identified known areas awarded to terrestrial broadband expansion projects under state and federal initiatives.

The Department published a Preliminary Target Area Map and sought comments from ISPs and communities on it from July 12 through Sept. 7, 2021. The Department asked ISPs to provide documentation about their networks to support their claims. The Department received responses from 15 ISPs, including all the state's largest ISPs, and 2 counties. After an analysis of the comments, the Department prepared the Target Area Address Map. Not all claims in submitted comments were accepted as-is. In some cases, the Department used a more conservative estimate about the extent of an ISP's service. Claims that could not be verified in some manner were not accepted. The Department also compared survey and speed test information collected by the West Virginia Broadband Enhancement Council and counties against information submitted by ISPs.

Future Improvements

The Department will continue to seek updates from ISPs at regular intervals about broadband service availability. The Department also welcomes continued input from communities and impacted West Virginians about broadband service, especially when it can improve the State's data. These maps for current grant funding opportunities; new and additional data will inform future funding opportunities.

Instructions to Update Address Information

If your address is not shown in the maps or if your address is classified as "Other," but you do not have access to broadband services (speeds of at least 25/3 Mbps), please call (304) 352-4163 and leave the following information:

- Full Name
- Full Address
- Address type (residential, commercial, etc.)
- Current Service Provider (Please let us know if you are not currently subscribed to an internet service provider).