



Fifteen Nevada counties are working to improve broadband access in their communities with support from the Nevada Governor's Office of Science Innovation and Technology and Nevada State E-rate Team.

Nevada features iconic national parks, treasured historical sites, and wide open spaces. The state's low population density and large amount of rural area contribute to its beauty, but increase broadband deployment costs. Even before the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic struck the nation in 2020, [Nevadans recognized](#) that broadband access was essential for distance learning, telemedicine, and employment, releasing [a state broadband plan](#) in 2014. Nevada not only has a large portion of rural areas, but also has [the second highest](#) number of rural communities with median household incomes that border on poverty in the nation.

Of the three million residents that the FCC evaluated statewide, 2.9 million people (97.1%) had fixed broadband access at minimum 25/3 Mbps speeds. The agency evaluated 225,000 rural residents and found that 149,000 (66.1%) have access to a fixed broadband connection. In urban areas, it evaluated 2.8 million people and concluded that 99.6% had access to a fixed connection at minimum speeds.

The State of Nevada offers an interactive map through [Connect Nevada](#). As well as making data available, Connect Nevada collects resident feedback to verify the map's accuracy.

Fifteen Nevada counties are seeking to improve broadband access in their communities and The Nevada Governor's Office of Science Innovation and Technology and Nevada State E-rate Team are [giving them the tools](#) to do so. The State E-Rate Team uses a six step process that includes:

1. Recruiting elected officials and community and business leaders to serve on Broadband Action Team;
2. Surveying residential and business users;
3. Analyzing planned road and other public works construction projects;
4. Inventorying community broadband assets including fiber, conduit, buildings, and land;
5. Surveying Community Anchor Institutions' services and needs; and
6. Searching Connect America Fund allocations.

The Team uses this process to provide strategic guidance and implementation strategies that ultimately helps improve broadband access for residents.

In Nevada, Microsoft estimates that [1.2 million people](#) do not use the Internet at broadband speeds. This means that while residents may have a home Internet connection, it does not reach the minimum speed threshold set by the FCC. That number may also account for people who cannot afford to purchase a home broadband subscription. In fact, BroadbandNow estimates that [less than 14% of Nevada residents](#) have access to a wired plan that costs \$60 a month or less. That shortcoming has created huge challenges for education, employment, and healthcare in the state.

Brian Mitchell, director of the Nevada Governor's Office of Science, Innovation and Technology [said](#):

In Clark and Washoe Counties, there are huge communities that

NEVADA

POPULATION: 3.19 MILLION
16 COUNTIES AND 1 INDEPENDENT CITY

do not have access to the Internet — and I should say high-speed Internet — because they can't afford it or they don't know that they could afford it ... In the rural areas, it could be both or it could just be access. There are people who are well off — they worked for the mines, they've worked for local government or other businesses — and they still may not have access to high-speed Internet.

Additional Resource:

[Connect Nevada](#) relies on citizen feedback to verify the accuracy of the maps. Questions or recommendations for coverage area changes can be submitted on the interactive map or e-mail maps@connectnv.org.

