



The Oklahoma Broadband Mapping Project invites residents to provide information about broadband availability in their area. Its map shows broadband availability across the state, including speed test results.

Oklahoma has a richly diverse geographic landscape and a unique cultural history, with [among the most geographic diversity](#) in the country and [nearly half of the land](#) belonging to Native American communities. Both of these characteristics impact statewide broadband availability. Geographic diversity, while beautiful, can [increase broadband deployment costs](#). Statewide broadband inequities are only exacerbated for people living on Tribal lands, where, nationwide, [less than half of all households](#) have access to high-speed broadband.

The Commission evaluated 4 million residents and found that 3.5 million (87.8%) had access to a fixed broadband connection. In rural Oklahoma, wireline broadband access lags far behind urban areas. It found that 1.0 of 1.4 million rural residents (71.8%) have access to a fixed connection at minimum speeds. By contrast, in urban areas, wired broadband and slower-speed mobile Internet were available to nearly all residents. The FCC concluded that 96.3% of the 2.6 million urban residents evaluated had fixed broadband access.

According to Microsoft's data, around [2.6 million people](#), or over 65% of the population, in Oklahoma do not use the Internet at broadband speeds. With [one of the highest poverty rates](#) in the country, [particularly in rural areas](#), and [around 52% access](#) to a wired plan that costs \$60 or less a month, affordability is likely a challenge for many Oklahomans.

The Oklahoma Broadband Mapping Project provides one opportunity to

improve the FCC's data by offering a [public survey](#) that allows residents to provide information about broadband availability in their area alongside [a map](#) that shows broadband availability across the state and publicises the results of speed tests on its map. The map includes locations of anchor institutions and allows users to overlay demographic information including income, age, population density, and education level.

Since COVID-19 brought the importance of home broadband connections into the spotlight, researchers at Oklahoma State University investigated [broadband access among students](#). "A survey of Oklahoma school districts in the early stages of the pandemic found that 167,000 out of 700,000 students (24%) lacked an Internet connection at home." The same researchers overlaid maps of areas where the FCC considers broadband available with U.S. Census data about the percentage of broadband subscriptions in each school district.

In May, Governor Kevin Stitt vetoed a bill that would have created a Rural Broadband Expansion Council that would focus on improving broadband access in rural parts of the state, but the state legislature [overrode the veto](#). The Council has been [meeting since August 2020](#).

In response to federal funding for broadband access, [Governor Stitt stated](#):

COVID-19 has emphasized the important role a robust broadband infrastructure plays in the success of our state, especially

OKLAHOMA

POPULATION: 3.99 MILLION
COUNTIES: 77

for our rural communities. High speed Internet increases access to a quality education, affordable healthcare, enhanced agriculture and expanded economic opportunity. While we have made significant progress over the past year, moving from 47th to 26th in broadband access, there is still work to be done. I thank President Trump and Secretary Purdue for their investment in our rural broadband system and their commitment to help us in our vision to improve connectivity for all 4 million Oklahomans.

Additional Resources:

- [Federal Uncertainty Affecting Group Charged with Improving High-Speed Internet in Rural Oklahoma](#)
- [Sen. Lankford calls on FCC to to update broadband coverage maps](#)
- [Native American tribes aim to expand broadband Internet during pandemic](#)