**Employment:** More than 70% of unemployed Americans use the Internet to find new jobs

**Healthcare:** Telehealth can help reduce hospital admissions by 35% and overall length of hospital stay by 59%

**Education:** Only 30 percent of U.S. schools have sufficient bandwidth for digital learning

Source: Broadband USA
Rural Americans 12% points less likely than Americans overall to have home broadband;

In 2007, there was a 16-point gap between rural Americans (35%) and all U.S. adults (51%).
24 MILLION AMERICANS LACK ACCESS TO BROADBAND AND 80% ARE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

FIGURE 1: PERCENTAGE OF AMERICANS LACKING ACCESS TO FIXED TERRESTRIAL 25 MBPS/3 MBPS BROADBAND

FIGURE 2: AMERICANS USING THE INTERNET AT HOME

2.1% of Americans in urban areas lack access to basic broadband capability compared to 30.7% of Americans in rural areas and 35% of Americans in Tribal lands.

FIGURE 3: AMERICANS USING THE INTERNET AT HOME BY INCOME DISTRIBUTION

Source: American Broadband Initiative Milestones Report, February 2019, Departments of Agriculture and Commerce

Source: D. Redl, New Data Show Substantial Gains and Evolution in Internet Use, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, June 6, 2018, with additional analysis from November 2017 dataset.

2018 Broadband Deployment Report - based on 2016 data provided by Internet Service Providers.
EDA Funding Priorities & Consistency with Region’s CEDS Plan

EDA Funding Priorities

Critical Infrastructure
Recovery and Resilience

Treasure Coast CEDS Plan

Region’s Fiber Optic Network
Public Private Partnerships
Recommendation

Council should approve the submission of a U.S. Economic Development Administration grant application to create a broadband extension plan for the Region, with $20,000 of Council funding being pledged to meet the cost share requirement.
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