



2021

LEGISLATIVE ACTION PLAN

FAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



MELISSA MCKINLAY
Palm Beach County
President



RALPH C. THOMAS, JR.
Wakulla County
President Elect



LEE CONSTANTINE
Seminole County
First Vice President



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Charlotte County
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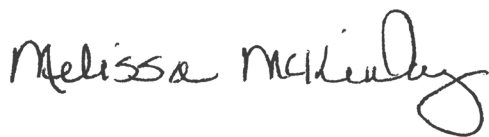
NICK MADDOX
Leon County
Immediate Past President

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The 2021 Legislative Session will see us all advocating for our citizens and counties in a distanced and mostly virtual world. When Commissioner Maddox appointed the Policy Process Review Committee at the very end of 2019, none of us could have foreseen the challenges that lay before us. The COVID-19 challenge, while significant, was not a deterrent but a motivation to develop a policy process that is inclusive regardless of location, staff availability, or county population. Every commissioner has been given a seat at the table to address and support the priorities of their hometowns and Florida's local governments.

The policy process is overseen by FAC's Policy Committees, which are guided by leader volunteers - commissioners and councilmembers - who have committed their time to advancing the Association's mission and supporting their fellow counties. Over the summer, all counties were invited to submit policy proposals for the Policy Committees' review. The Policy Committees met virtually in September to assess the submissions and move them forward to the FAC Legislative Conference in December for a final vote by the FAC Membership.

The 2021 Legislative Action Plan is the final body of work in this process. The policies contained herein are the priorities set by the membership and will guide our advocacy efforts throughout the 2021 Florida Legislative Session as well our work in Washington, D.C. These policies enhance the services we provide to our citizens, they protect our valuable resources and allow county governments to meet the new challenges we face.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa McKinlay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Melissa" and last name "McKinlay" clearly distinguishable.

Melissa McKinlay
Palm Beach County

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COMMUNITY & URBAN AFFAIRS.....	5
AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS	7
HEALTH, SAFETY & JUSTICE.....	8
FINANCE, TAX, & ADMINISTRATION.....	9
COVID 19	11
WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY.....	12
FEDERAL.....	13
ACCESS 67.....	17
BROADBAND POLICY STATEMENTS	18
FAC STAFF	19

COMMUNITY & URBAN AFFAIRS



SALLY HEYMAN
Miami Dade County
Chair



CHARLIE JUSTICE
Pinellas County
Vice Chair



BRIAN HAMMAN
Lee County
Vice Chair

ADOPTED

REMOTE MEETINGS

SUPPORT legislation authorizing local governing bodies and other local boards and committees to meet remotely.

REMOTE MEETINGS FOR EMERGENCY BRIEFINGS

SUPPORT legislation granting an exemption for county elected officials to be able to participate in emergency-related briefings during a declared state of emergency.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING IMPACT FEES

SUPPORT amending s. 163.3180, F.S. – Concurrency, to include affordable housing unit construction in the definition of capital facility, and require affordable housing units funded by impact fees to remain affordable for 30 years.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING SHIP

SUPPORT changing the formula for local housing fund distribution so that counties can allocate housing funds in a manner most effective for their local housing market, this includes reducing the percentage of funds required to be distributed for homeownership and allowing counties to increase the percentage reserved for rental housing up to 50% of the funds available.

MOBILE HOME REGULATION REVIEW

SUPPORT legislation requiring a review of state laws applicable to manufactured homes and park communities, as it relates to the clarification of state and municipal regulatory requirements, obligations, and authority.

NUISANCES IN UNPLATTED SUBDIVISIONS

SUPPORT legislation to expand s. 60.05, Florida Statutes, dealing with nuisance abatement, to allow local governments to address nuisances within unrecorded subdivisions meeting certain criteria regarding size, ownership, and noisome activities.

VACATION RENTAL TAX REMITTANCE

SUPPORT legislation requiring taxes associated with vacation home rental to be provided in a format specified by each collection authority and/or outlined in a local ordinance pertaining to the collection of taxes.

FLEET ELECTRIFICATION

SUPPORT legislation to encourage the state to develop electric vehicle (EV) acquisition policies including preference for low/no emission vehicles, allowing cost to own to justify EV purchase and municipal leasing mechanisms to gain access to federal EV tax credits.

M-CORES LOCAL SERVICE FUNDING

SUPPORT additional funding sources for counties that are impacted by the M-CORES projects.

ADDED TO GUIDING PRINCIPLES

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

SUPPORT counties having effective involvement and oversight of the operation of local CRAs, including approval of how tax funds generated inside the CRA is used. Effective Involvement and Oversight can be characterized as follows:

- Representation from the BOCC through appointments to the CRA Board.
- Consultation and affirmation of ad valorem revenues are used by the CRA.
- Receipt of ongoing reports from the CRA regarding actions, including budget decisions.
- Consultation and affirmation by the BOCC of CRA priorities for expenditure of local ad valorem funds.
- Consideration of the capping and/or transferring funds within the CRA when funds exceed the documented needs or if other areas of higher priority warrant using revenues outside the CRA.
- Operational and financial audits conducted regularly to assure compliance with State statutes.

FAC COMMITTEE STAFF



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Senior Legislative Counsel
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AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS



TRAY HAWKINS
Washington County
Chair



SUSAN ADAMS
Indian River County
Vice Chair

FAC COMMITTEE STAFF



JEFF SCALA
Associate Director of Public Policy
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ADOPTED

BROADBAND

SUPPORT increased efforts to promote access to broadband and provide resources to support accessibility, speed and affordability of broadband in Florida.

SUPPORT improving service mapping accurately by requiring more granular data from service providers, allowing crowd sourced data to be used to inform the map, and creating an appeal process to challenge demonstrable inaccuracies.

AQUACULTURE

SUPPORT state regulatory relief designed to encourage increased commercial production and harvest of aquacultured bivalve shellfish (e.g., clams, oysters) in state waters through review of submerged land leasing requirements and revision of restrictive or outdated regulatory policies.

SUPPORTS encouraging the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and/or Farm Service Agency to evaluate the reestablishment of a viable crop insurance program for shellfish aquaculture producers, specifically designed to cover crop and market losses due to mortality or extended harvest moratoriums and disrupted ability to sell product after environmental perturbations (hurricanes and harmful algal blooms).

SUPPORTS encouraging FDEP to evaluate the potential for regulatory reform which considers the use of live clams to enhance the success of seagrass impact mitigation requirements.

SUPPORTS encouraging FDEP to evaluate implementation of a nutrient credit program to incentivize production of commercial shellfish aquaculture.

SUPPORTS encouraging FDEP, FWC and other relevant state agencies to advance additional grant opportunities for the scientific research required to promulgate regulatory standards for deployment of bivalve shellfish for large scale water quality improvement and nearshore habitat creation.

ADDED TO GUIDING PRINCIPLES

FOOD INSECURITY

SUPPORT increased state funding and policies that reduce food insecurity among Floridians, in order to: 1) increase the health and productivity of those currently without consistent access to healthy food, 2) consequently reduce the demand for public health and human services, 3) improve the financial security of those in need, and 4) accelerate the recovery and increase the resiliency of Florida's economy in the aftermath of the COVID 19 pandemic.

HEALTH, SAFETY, & JUSTICE



MICHAEL UDINE
Broward County
Chair



ANTHONY "DR. V" BIEGBESE
Gadsden County
Vice Chair

ADOPTED

INMATE HEALTH CARE COSTS

SUPPORT legislation or special funding that addresses Inmate Medical Costs when the inmate is without the means to pay for costs and does not have insurance or other assets that can be recovered.

COUNTY MEDICAID COST SHARE GROWTH

SUPPORT efforts to mitigate increases in Medicaid costs and requests that the provision determining the rate of overall growth of the County Medicaid cost share be modified.

LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY EXTENSION

SUPPORT extending the duration of time local governments are authorized to declare a local state of emergency, from seven days to thirty days.

FAC COMMITTEE STAFF



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FINANCE, TAX, & ADMINISTRATION



TERRY BURROUGHS
Okeechobee County
Chair



KATHY BRYANT
Marion County
Vice Chair

FAC COMMITTEE STAFF



BOB McKEE
Deputy Director of Public Policy
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ADOPTED

SALES TAX COMPETITIVENESS

SUPPORT legislation applying Florida's sales and use tax laws to online/e-commerce sales from out-of-state retailers to ensure competitiveness for Florida's in-state retailers.

QUALIFIED TARGETED INDUSTRIES REFUND PROGRAM

SUPPORT the reauthorization of the Qualified Targeted Industries Tax Refund, which is scheduled to sunset in June 2020, for another 10 years.

SMALL COUNTY SURTAX

SUPPORT legislation that allows counties that levy the small county surtax to exceed a combined rate of more than 1% in combination of with the levy of another discretionary sales surtax.

911 FEE INCREASE

SUPPORT an increase to the 9-1-1 fee to \$0.80 or higher.

PUBLIC RECORDS – EMERGENCY SHELTERS

SUPPORTS legislation granting public records exemption to protect personal identifying given to Emergency Management information during a vulnerable time or disaster.

PUBLIC RECORDS – COUNTY STAFF

SUPPORT legislation granting public records exemptions to counties which allow the protection of security personnel and senior county leadership (county administration and county attorneys staff).

PUBLIC RECORDS – COUNTY ATTORNEY

SUPPORT a public records exemption for information that could identify or locate current and former county attorneys or assistant county attorneys and their spouses and children.

PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST AGGREGATION

SUPPORT legislation clarifying the aggregation of serial public records requests and requiring requesters pay outstanding record request bills before any further requests be processed is allowable.

TDT FOR PLANNING STUDIES

SUPPORT the amendment to s. 125.0104, Florida Statutes, to expand the use of the Tourist Development Tax to pay for feasibility and Planning, Design and Environment (PD&E) studies for eligible projects.

TAX REFORM

SUPPORT modification to existing laws to allow for a discretionary sales tax that can be used for general purposes, including operation expenditures, enactment of the Transportation Sales Surtax for Non Charter Counties and support Local Option Fuels Taxes.





MARK BERNARD
Palm Beach County
Chair



RICK MINOR
Leon County
Vice Chair

FAC COMMITTEE STAFF



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ADOPTED

FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

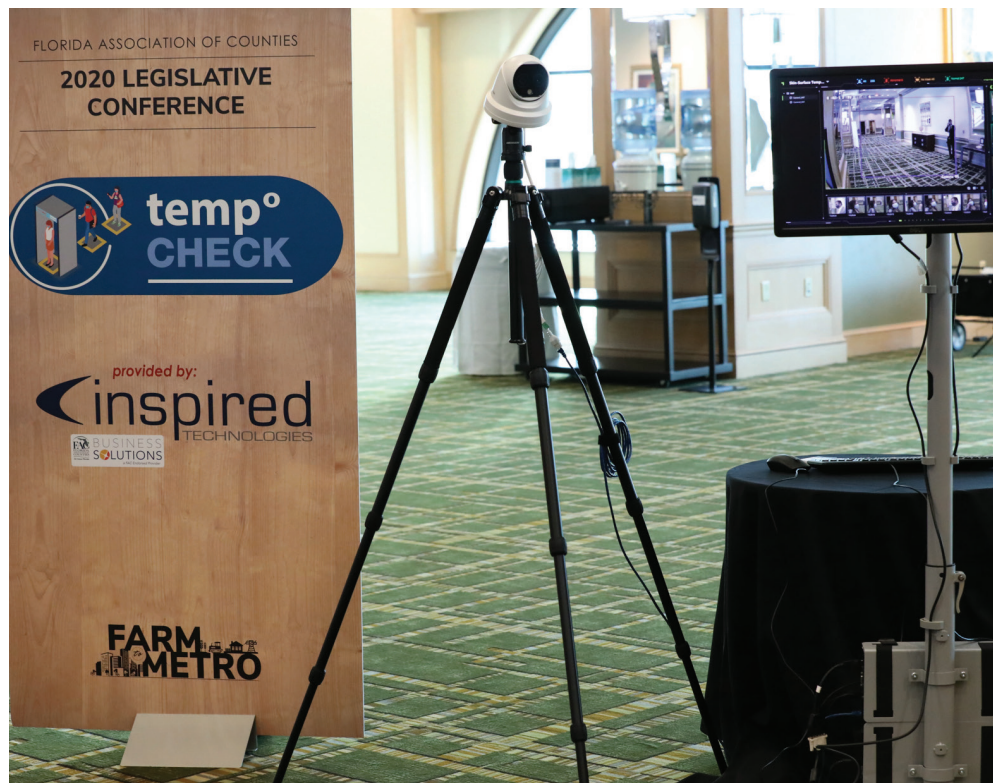
Urge Congress to **SUPPORT** the continuation of funding to state and local governments to assist with critical local response efforts to the COVID-19 pandemic.

REMOTE MEETINGS

SUPPORT legislation authorizing local governing bodies and other local boards and committees to meet remotely.

REMOTE MEETINGS FOR EMERGENCY BRIEFINGS

SUPPORT legislation granting an exemption for county elected officials to be able to participate in emergency-related briefings during a declared state of emergency.



WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



KEN CORNELL
Alachua County
Chair



KIONNE MCGHEE
Miami Dade County
Vice Chair

FAC COMMITTEE STAFF



JEFF SCALA
Associate Director of Public Policy
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ADOPTED

BIOSOLIDS PILOT

SUPPORT establishing a pilot program for funding new state of the art wastewater technologies to improve recover and afford more efficient use of human wastewater biosolids.

SEPTIC TANK PERMITTING

SUPPORT a change in statutory language that will better supervise and coordinate appropriate septic tank permitting between the Department of Health, County Health Departments, and local county/municipal governments.

CONVERSION OF PRIVATE WELLS AND SEPTIC TANKS

SUPPORT continued enhanced funding opportunities for conversion programs designed to move private wells to potable drinking water and private septic tanks to public wastewater collection systems. Support greater flexibility for programs that address the costs incurred by residents connecting to sewer and the proper abandonment of septic systems.

WATER-USING APPLIANCE STANDARDS

SUPPORT the Model Act for Establishing a State Appliance and Equipment Water Efficiency Standards.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS

SUPPORT legislation providing clarity to the Public Service Commission that it must reform its rules to reflect best practices in other states on setting efficiency goals.



KATHRYN STARKEY
Pasco County
Chair



VIVIANA JANER
Osceola County
Vice Chair

ADOPTED

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

SUPPORT reauthorization of the NFIP with legislative, policy and programmatic modifications to ensure no coverage lapses and to improve the affordability, transparency, and financial stability of the program through reforms in the following areas: 1) Affordability/Rate Structure; 2) Mapping/Data Collection/Modeling; and, 3) Mitigation.

OPPOSE any reauthorization efforts that are detrimental to policy holders, local governments, and the integrity of the program.

WATER (WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT ACT)

SUPPORT bi-annual passage of the Water Resources Development Act that authorizes U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects and policies that often have state-wide impacts to Florida, including Everglades restoration, port and inlet construction, and beach nourishment projects.

SUPPORT restoration of congressionally directed spending.

UPPER KISSIMMEE BASIN WATER STORAGE PROJECTS

SUPPORT the inclusion of funding in the Water Resources Development ACT (WRDA): for studies and implementation of water storage projects within the Upper Kissimmee Basin to reduce harmful discharges, enhance central Florida water supply, and to mitigate negative economic impacts on communities surrounding Lake Okeechobee.

SUPPORT including the following language in the next WRDA bill: The Secretary is authorized to conduct a feasibility study for the following: Expanding the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Program, to the fullest extent of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program (CERP), to include the Upper Kissimmee Basin and the headwaters of the Kissimmee River at the Shingle Creek tributary.

DISASTER RECOVERY

SUPPORT increased investment in mitigation programs such as the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program, the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and other partnerships between local and federal governments to complete mitigation projects and increase resiliency to disasters.

SUPPORT measures that ensure any supplemental disaster recovery assistance appropriated by Congress, including the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Relief (CDBG-DR), is expedited to states to be made available to disaster-impacted counties.

OPPOSE programmatic changes that would increase the local cost share for disaster recovery, such as implementation of a disaster deductible.

OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING

SUPPORT the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA), which bans oil and gas leasing within 125 miles off Florida's Gulf Coast until 2022.

SUPPORT keeping Florida's east coast free from offshore drilling and maintaining the Department of Interior's commitment to remove Florida from consideration in the next draft of the proposed leasing plan.

OPPOSE any legislation that moves the ban to an earlier date.

FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS

SUPPORT the continuation of adequate funding of critical programs that provide resources for the provision of local services and local public infrastructure. These funding programs include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Corps of Engineers funds – Everglades restoration, port & inlet construction and maintenance & beach nourishment
- Community Development Block Grant program
- Community Services Block Grant program
- Social Services Block Grant program
- Economic Development Administration
- State Criminal Alien Assistance Program

VETERANS HOMELESSNESS

SUPPORT legislation requiring the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide case management support to local housing authorities under the VA-supported housing program.

INFRASTRUCTURE

SUPPORT federal legislation that ensures funding for locally owned infrastructure, including water and wastewater facilities, preserves the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds, streamlines the federal permitting process, promotes innovative financing, and ensures the long-term certainty and solvency of the Federal Highway Trust Fund.

FEMA FLOOD MAPPING RISK RATING 2.0

SUPPORT measures that ensures FEMA consults with counties as it develops its new Risk Rating 2.0 flood mapping initiative.

HEALTH CARE FOR NON-CONVICTED PERSONS

SUPPORT the reinstatement of federal health care benefits, including those benefits awarded to veterans, for non-convicted justice involved individuals.

DIGITAL DIVIDE

SUPPORT increasing public funding for construction and mapping of broadband infrastructure.

NON-DOMESTIC SAND SOURCES

SUPPORT enabling the Secretary of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to allow counties to acquire sand by purchase, exchange or otherwise from non-domestic sources for the purpose of beach renourishment.

RESTORING RESILIENT REEFS ACT

SUPPORT the Restoring Resilient Reefs Act (RRRA).

COVID-19 FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR STATE/LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

SUPPORT the continuation of funding to state and local governments to assist with critical local response efforts to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ADOPTED

2020-2021 ADOPTED NACO RESOLUTIONS (SPONSORED BY FLORIDA MEMBERS)

Resolution on Protecting the Health and Safety of Sober Home Residents
Sponsor: Commissioner Melissa McKinlay, Palm Beach County, FL

Resolution to Support Legal Migration to Strengthen Local Economies
and Workforce
Sponsor: Commissioner Bill Truex, Charlotte County, FL

Resolution on Streamlining State Licensing Procedures for Military Spouses
Sponsor: Commissioner Kathryn Starkey, Pasco County, FL

Resolution Urging Congress to Provide Funding for Local Efforts to Address
Coastal Water Level Changes
Sponsor: Commissioner Sally Heyman, Miami-Dade County, FL

Resolution in Support of Affordable Beach Renourishment Projects
Sponsor: Commissioner Sally Heyman, Miami-Dade County, FL

Resolution in Support of Research into Harmful Algal Bloom Prevention
and Mitigation
Sponsor: Commissioner Doug Smith, Martin County, FL

Resolution Supporting the Reauthorization of the Coral Reef Conservation Act
*Sponsors: Commissioner Doug Smith, Martin County, FL; Marty Cassini,
Intergovernmental Affairs Manager, Broward County, FL*

Resolution on National Estuary Program Designation
Sponsor: Commissioner Bob Cole, Santa Rosa County, FL

Resolution Urging the Federal Government to Suspend, Instead of Terminate,
Medicaid Coverage for Incarcerated Individuals
Sponsor: Commissioner Sally Heyman, Miami-Dade County, FL

Resolution to Enhance Federal Resources for Veterans' Mental and Behavioral
Health Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic
Sponsor: Councilwoman Heather Post, Volusia County, FL

Resolution to Maintain Local Control and Public Safety Priorities Under Federal
Immigration Laws
Sponsor: Commissioner Bill Truex, Charlotte County, FL

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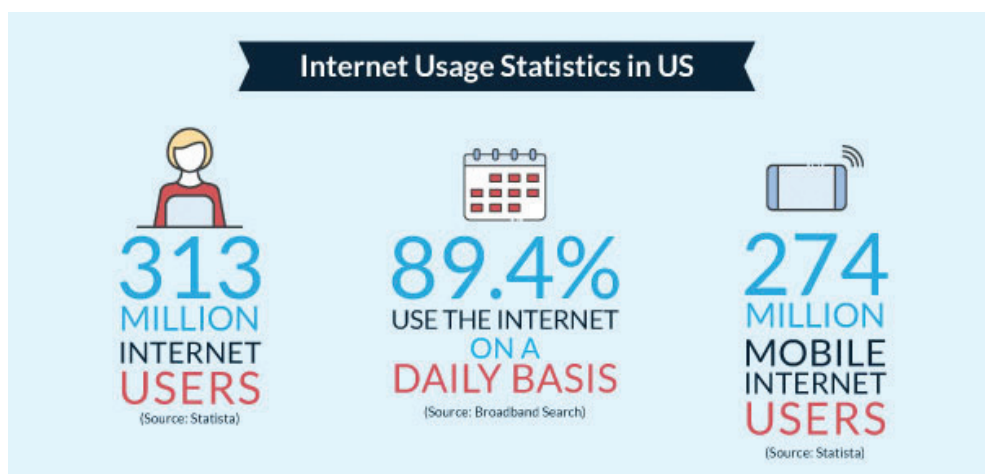
COUNTIES CONNECTING COMMUNITIES



ACCESS 67 is an initiative of the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) to implement a comprehensive approach to empowering our members to develop solutions to address the impacts of the lack of **ACCESS** to critical telecommunication and information technology resources in Florida communities.

FAC recognizes that this lack of **ACCESS** impacts small, medium and large counties, as well as, Florida's rural and urban communities. Additionally, the lack of **ACCESS** impacts multiple policy areas that FAC's members are responsible for in the governance of their local communities to include, but are not limited to, public safety, healthcare, economic development and education.

The comprehensive approach of the **ACCESS 67** Initiative is based on the underlying principles of the Association's strategic plan; Advocacy, Collaboration, and Education.



BROADBAND POLICY STATEMENTS

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Broadband: **SUPPORT** increased efforts to promote access to broadband and provide resources to support accessibility, speed and affordability of broadband in Florida. **SUPPORT** improving service mapping accurately by requiring more granular data from service providers, allowing crowd source data to be used to inform the map, and creating an appeal process to challenge demonstrable inaccuracies.

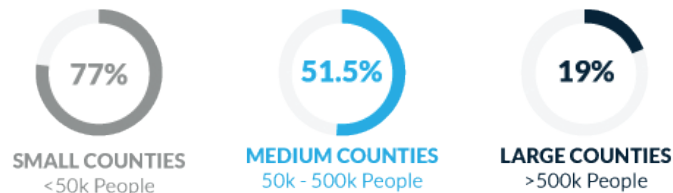
SUPPORT enhancing programs to increase funding for rural infrastructure, job growth, and workforce development policies and efforts to reduce the digital divide and expand internet access to underserved areas through industry partnerships and collaboration with local stakeholders.

FEDERAL COMMITTEE

Digital Divide: **SUPPORT** increasing public funding for construction and mapping of broadband infrastructure.

**Federal definition of minimum broadband standard =
25 megabytes per second (mbps)**

Roughly 65% of counties tested are experiencing the internet at levels below the FCC's definition of broadband.



76% of counties were averaging cellular connections below the FCC's minimum standard.



59.6% of counties were experiencing fixed-wireless internet below the FCC's minimum standard.



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