

# Florida Office of Broadband Department of Economic Opportunity

Executive Director Dane Eagle



January 27, 2021

# Florida Office of Broadband Creation

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- Governor DeSantis signed HB 969 into law, establishing the Florida Office of Broadband, effective July 1, 2020.
- The Florida Office of Broadband, within the Department of Economic Opportunity, was created for the purposes of developing, marketing, and promoting broadband Internet service in the state.

# Florida Office of Broadband Responsibilities

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- Create a strategic plan to increase the use of broadband internet services in the state.
- Build and facilitate local technology planning teams, especially with community members from the areas of education, healthcare, business, tourism, agriculture, economic development, and local government.
- Encourage the use of broadband Internet service, especially in rural, unserved, and underserved areas of the state through grant programs.
- Participate in the Federal Communications Commission proceedings that are related to the geographic availability and deployment of broadband internet in Florida.

# Florida Office of Broadband Actions

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- Worked with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce for information on mapping projects in other states.
- Worked with the Broadband USA team to identify resources and best practices in other states and to learn from their experiences.
- Attended NTIA and Broadband USA tele-meetings.
- Continual review of Federal Communications Commission meeting agendas for broadband topics.

# Florida Office of Broadband Regional Workshops

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- The Florida Office of Broadband has partnered with the Florida Regional Councils Association to host 10 virtual workshops where participants will discuss broadband internet accessibility.
- These industry sectors include education, healthcare, private business, community organizations, agriculture, tourism, parks and recreation, economic development, local governments, and internet service providers.
- All virtual workshops will be from January 27, 2021 to February 12, 2021.

# Florida Office of Broadband Regional Workshops

## Virtual Broadband Workshop Details

Regional Planning Council (RPC)	Counties within the RPC	Workshop Date
Treasure Coast	Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin, Palm Beach	January 27 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Apalachee	Jackson, Calhoun, Gulf, Gadsden, Liberty, Franklin, Leon, Wakulla, Jefferson	January 28 from 10:00 - 12:00 p.m.
Emerald Coast	Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Holmes, Washington, Bay	February 1 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Southwest Florida	Sarasota, Charlotte, Glades, Lee, Hendry, Collier	February 2 from 10:00 - 12:00 p.m.
Central Florida	Polk, Hardee, DeSoto, Highlands, Okeechobee	February 3 from 10:00 -12:00 p.m.
Northeast Florida	Baker, Nassau, Duval, Clay, Putnam, St. Johns, Flagler	February 4 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m
South Florida	Monroe, Broward, Dade	February 9 from 10:30 - 12:30 p.m.
North Central Florida	Madison, Taylor, Hamilton, Suwanee, Lafayette, Dixie, Levy, Gilchrist, Columbia, Union, Bradford, Alachua	February 10 from 10:00 - 12:00 p.m.
East Central Florida	Marion, Sumter, Lake, Volusia, Seminole, Orange, Osceola, Brevard	February 11 from 10:00 - 12:00 p.m.
Tampa Bay	Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee	February 12 from 10:00 - 12:00 p.m.

# Florida Office of Broadband Study

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The Office of Broadband is currently working on securing funding to establish a three-phase approach for the implementation of broadband expansion.

**Phase 1:** Feasibility Study to Specify the Nature of the Connectivity Gap and Why It Exists

**Phase 2:** Strategic Plan: Assessing Strategies

**Phase 3:** Implementation

# Florida Office of Broadband Looking Forward

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- Host virtual workshops with various with industry and community leaders where participants will discuss broadband internet accessibility.
- Conduct a feasibility study to identify the status of broadband internet availability, access, and affordability in the state.
- Create a Florida Strategic Plan for Broadband to review internet availability, accessibility, and transmission speeds in Florida.
- Design state programs and resources for broadband adoption, deployment, expansion, and resiliency.