Clearwater County
Broadband

Welcome!

This virtual open house is a great opportunity to learn about Clearwater County's Broadband Project.

High-speed internet for rural Alberta

Canadä Alberta Clearwater County Broadband

ARCADIS

Learn about project details, why broadband matters, and what it means for residents and businesses.

Thank you for joining us and for your interest in Broadband.

Together, let's build a connected future.

Scan the QR Code with your smartphone for more information & sign up for services online or go to: **market.cwcbb.ca**

Clearwater County
Broadband

Pin where you Live/Work

PROJECT ZONE UBF-03250

PROJECT ZONE UBF-07123

PROJECT ZONE UBF-07119

PROJECT ZONE UBF-07121

PROJECT ZONE UBF-07122

Map labels: Nordegg, Saunders, Horburg, Echo Valley, Crimson Lake, Ferrier Acres Trailer Court, Ullin, Rocky Mountain House, Martins Trailer Court, Carlos, Bingley, Codner, Chedderville, Butte, Caroline, Crammond, Burnstick Lake

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Project Background & What is Broadband?

Project Background

Fibre optic is future-proof and will meet the demands of a modern society while reducing the digital divide for Clearwater County Residents.

Clearwater County's Broadband plan rollout will be a phased approach, broken down into five (5) stages using a combination of fibre-optic cable and wireless towers to provide Broadband Connectivity throughout the County.

What is Broadband?

Broadband refers to high-speed internet access that is faster, more stable, and more reliable than older technologies, such as dial-up or satellite. With a faster download speed, it allows for seamless video calls, streaming, and efficient business operations.

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Clearwater County's Broadband Project is a multi-year initiative that aims to deliver Broadband access to residents and businesses in the County.

Why does Broadband Matter?


Clearwater County
Broadband

Broadband in today's world is an essential service. This project is about increasing connectivity to help advance opportunities in education, business, healthcare and everyday life while empowering residents and businesses.

Why Broadband Matters

- **Economic Growth** – Supports local businesses, attracts new investment, and can increase home values.

- **Quality of Life** – Enables remote work, education, and entertainment.

- **Healthcare Access** – Facilitates remote health services and increased access for emergency services.

The community-owned network will generate revenues which will be re-invested locally, leaving ownership and control in your hands!

This self-sustaining approach lays a foundation for business growth and improved services.
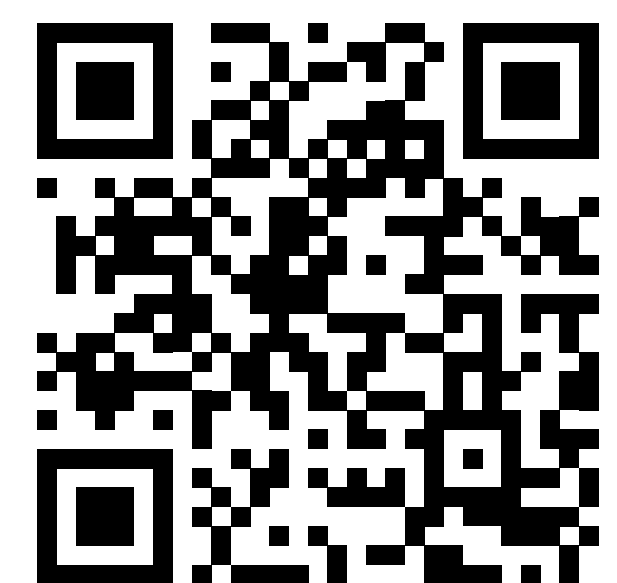
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Fibre networks help local economies.

Rural Broadband Benefits for Alberta

$1.7 Billion
Annual GDP Growth

5%
Agricultural GDP Increase

1,500
New Jobs

120,000
Students Connected

Enhanced broadband access is projected to contribute up to $1.7 billion annually to Alberta's GDP.

Improved connectivity can boost the agricultural sector's GDP by up to 5% through the adoption of advanced technologies.

The deployment of broadband technology is expected to create up to 1,500 jobs in Alberta.

Reliable high-speed internet will provide over 120,000 students with improved access to remote education.

Source: Government of Alberta

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Why Fibre?

The fastest broadband option is fibre broadband!

What is fibre-optic broadband?

Fibre-optic broadband is a data connection **delivered over thin glass fibres, where data travels as beams of light** pulsed in a pattern. This technology supports **much higher speeds than traditional broadband, with today's networks reaching up to 10 Gbps—and future-ready fibre already capable of 25G, 50G, and beyond.**
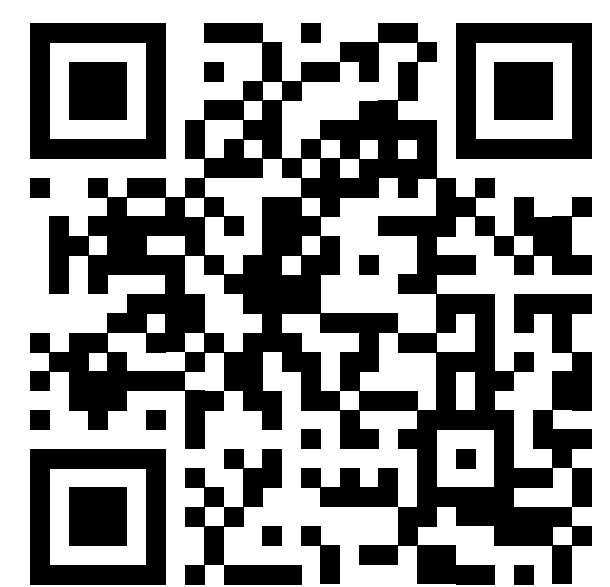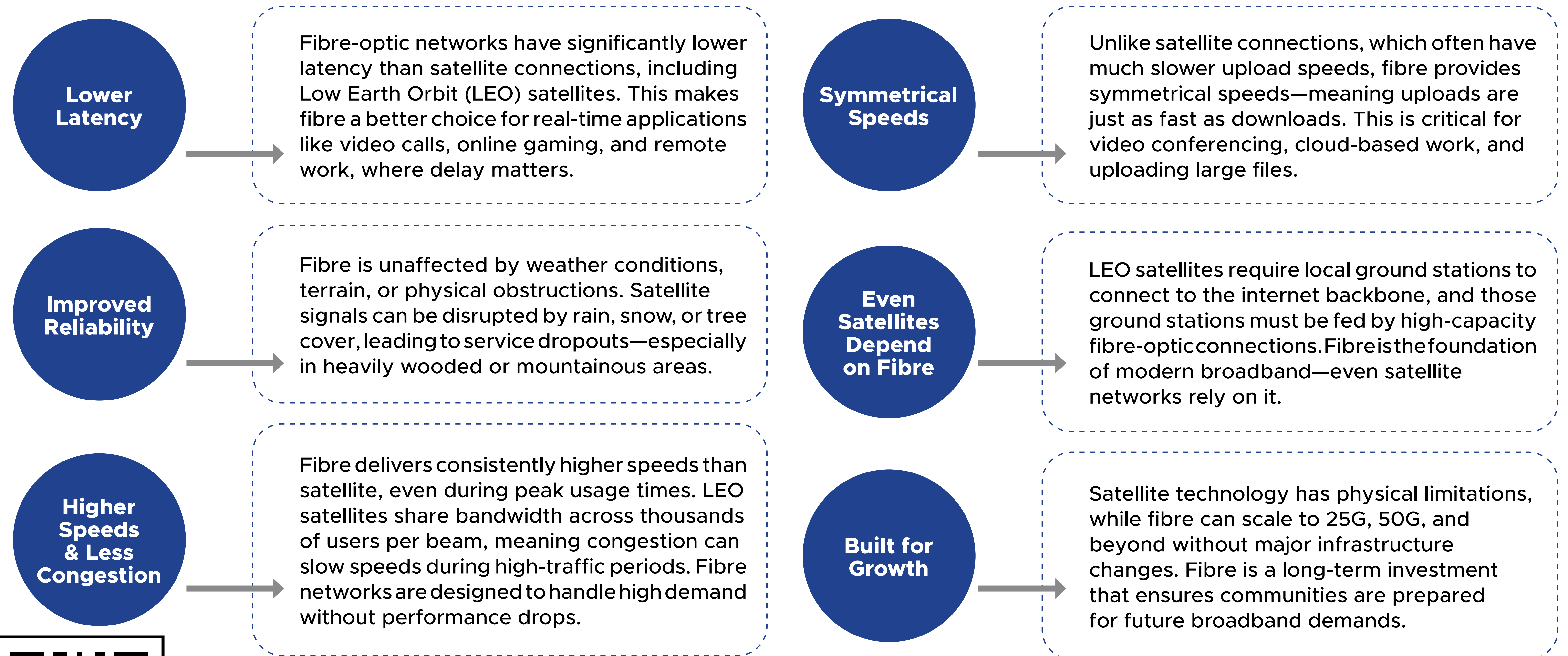
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Advantages of using Fibre-optic technology

- **High Speeds:** Fibre delivers blazing-fast speeds for streaming, remote work, online learning, and cloud-based tools—**even in rural areas** where other services fall short.

- **Reliability:** Fibre stays strong through **bad weather, remote terrain, and long distances**—ideal for **acreages, farms, and oilfield sites**. It's a **passive network**, meaning it only requires power at the ends—not along the route—**so it's more resilient in power outages** than other technologies.

- **Security:** Fibre is harder to intercept and doesn't radiate signal—**protecting sensitive data** for **businesses, remote workers, and health professionals**.

- **Bandwidth:** Whether you're running a household, a **home-based business**, a **farm with IoT equipment**, or a commercial shop uploading drone data, fibre handles it—**no slowdowns, even with multiple users and devices**.

- **Scalability:** Fibre is built for long-term growth—**supporting 25G, 50G and beyond** without replacing cables, making it the right investment for **families, businesses, and future innovation**.

Fibre-Optics vs. Satellite

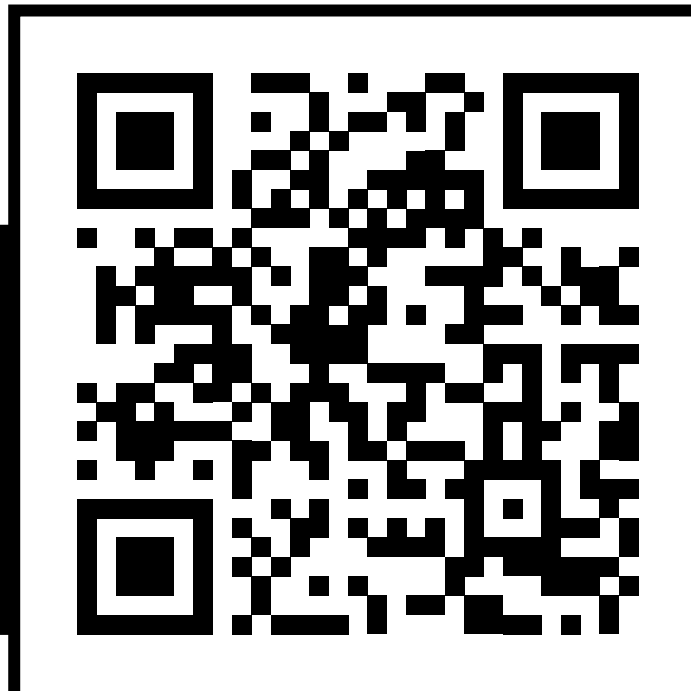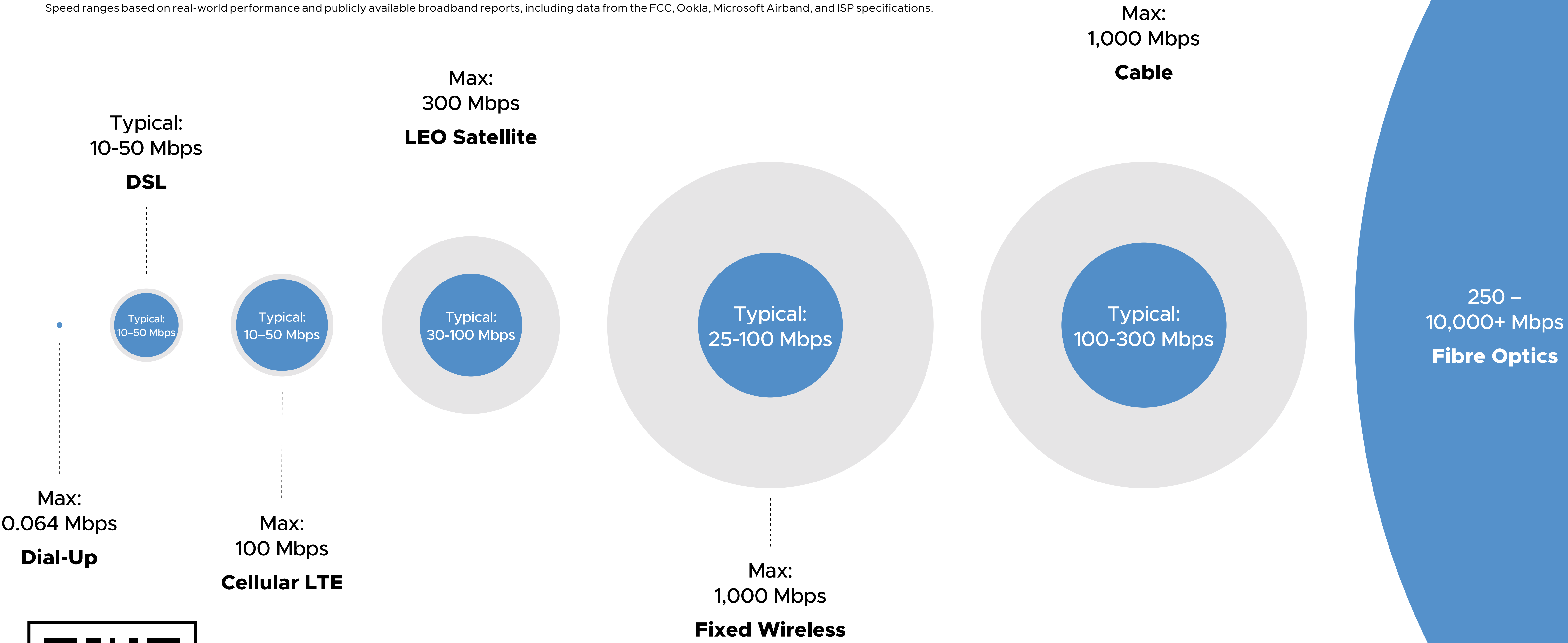## Why fibre-optic broadband beats satellite in rural areas

Lower Latency

Fibre-optic networks have significantly lower latency than satellite connections, including Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites. This makes fibre a better choice for real-time applications like video calls, online gaming, and remote work, where delay matters.

Improved Reliability

Fibre is unaffected by weather conditions, terrain, or physical obstructions. Satellite signals can be disrupted by rain, snow, or tree cover, leading to service dropouts—especially in heavily wooded or mountainous areas.

Higher Speeds & Less Congestion

Fibre delivers consistently higher speeds than satellite, even during peak usage times. LEO satellites share bandwidth across thousands of users per beam, meaning congestion can slow speeds during high-traffic periods. Fibre networks are designed to handle high demand without performance drops.

Symmetrical Speeds

Unlike satellite connections, which often have much slower upload speeds, fibre provides symmetrical speeds—meaning uploads are just as fast as downloads. This is critical for video conferencing, cloud-based work, and uploading large files.

Even Satellites Depend on Fibre

LEO satellites require local ground stations to connect to the internet backbone, and those ground stations must be fed by high-capacity fibre-optic connections. Fibre is the foundation of modern broadband—even satellite networks rely on it.

Built for Growth

Satellite technology has physical limitations, while fibre can scale to 25G, 50G, and beyond without major infrastructure changes. Fibre is a long-term investment that ensures communities are prepared for future broadband demands.

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Rural Broadband Technology
Scaled Comparison

Clearwater County
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● Typical Speed for the technology   ● Max Speed for the technology   **Mbps** – Megabyte per Second (units of measurement for network bandwidth)

Speed ranges based on real-world performance and publicly available broadband reports, including data from the FCC, Ookla, Microsoft Airband, and ISP specifications.

Max:
1,000 Mbps
Cable

Max:
300 Mbps
LEO Satellite

Typical:
10-50 Mbps
DSL

Typical:
10–50 Mbps

Typical:
10–50 Mbps

Typical:
30-100 Mbps

Typical:
25-100 Mbps

Typical:
100-300 Mbps

250 –
10,000+ Mbps
Fibre Optics

Max:
0.064 Mbps
Dial-Up

Max:
100 Mbps
Cellular LTE

Max:
1,000 Mbps
Fixed Wireless

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Open Access Broadband

Clearwater County Broadband

Most broadband networks are owned and controlled by a single provider, limiting choice and competition. Clearwater County is building an Open Access Broadband network— a different model that separates the network infrastructure from the services running on it.

This allows multiple providers to compete on the same fibre network, ensuring better service, pricing, and long-term sustainability.

How Open Access Broadband Benefits You

- Multiple service providers compete on the same network, increasing choice and innovation.

- You can choose the provider that best meets your needs—without switching networks.

- A shared network makes broadband more efficient, keeping costs lower for everyone.

- Open Access ensures fair access to the network, fostering competition and better service quality.
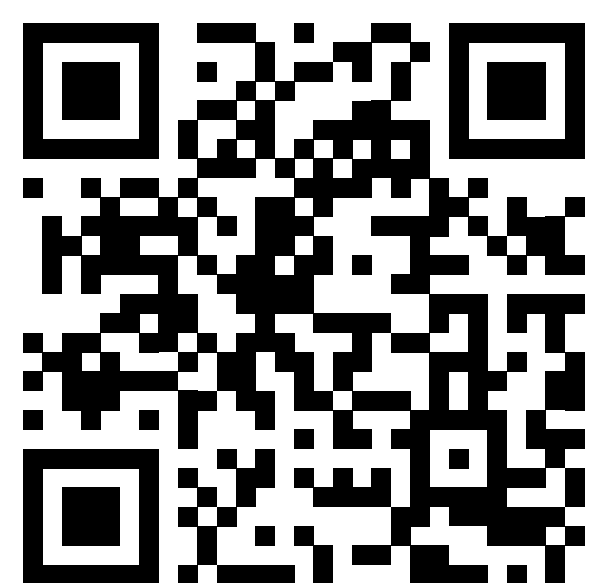
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Traditional Network vs. Open Access Network

Traditional Network

One company owns AND operates the network →	No separation between infrastructure and service.
No competition, limited choice →	Customers are locked into a single provider.
If service is poor, switching networks is difficult (or impossible in rural areas)	
Pricing and service quality are controlled by one company →	No market pressure to improve.
Limited innovation →	A single provider controls upgrades, delaying advancements.
Inefficient use of infrastructure →	Competing ISPs must build duplicate networks, increasing costs.
Take rate limits efficiency →	The network is only as efficient as its subscription rate, which is **never 100%** in a competitive market.

From Monopoly to Marketplace →

Open Access Network

Network is shared and open to multiple providers →	Encourages competition and choice.
More choice, better service, and competitive pricing →	ISPs must earn customers.
Customers can switch providers without changing networks	No service disruption when switching.
Encourages innovation →	ISPs compete with better services, features, and pricing.
Local ISPs can participate →	Keeps money in the community and strengthens the local economy.
Highly efficient infrastructure use →	Utilization rates approach 100% (or higher) as multiple providers can deliver services over the same fibre line.
Lower costs and better sustainability →	Shared infrastructure means reduced capital costs for ISPs and more affordable services for customers.

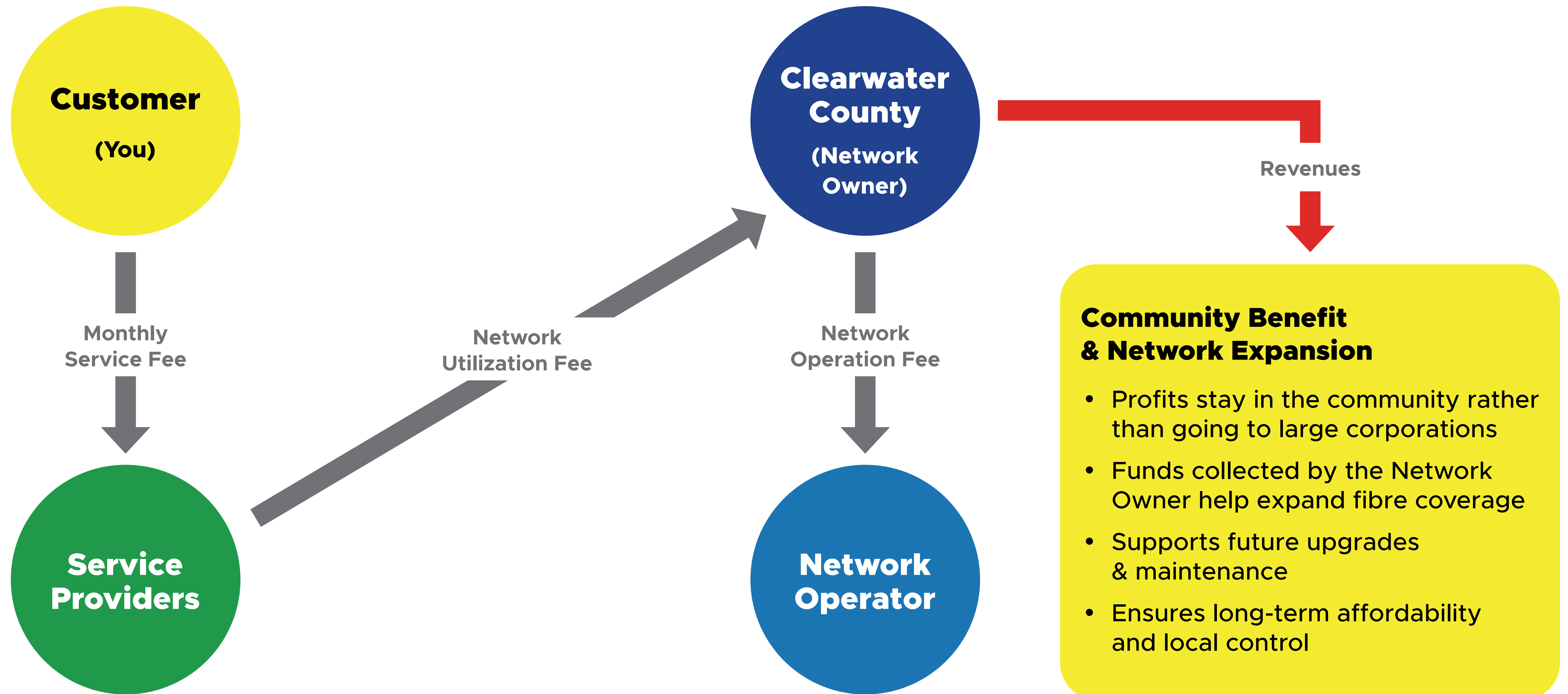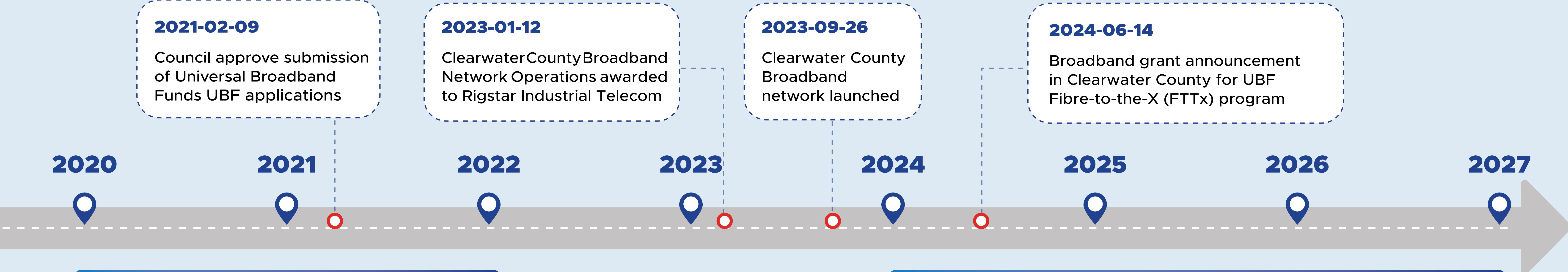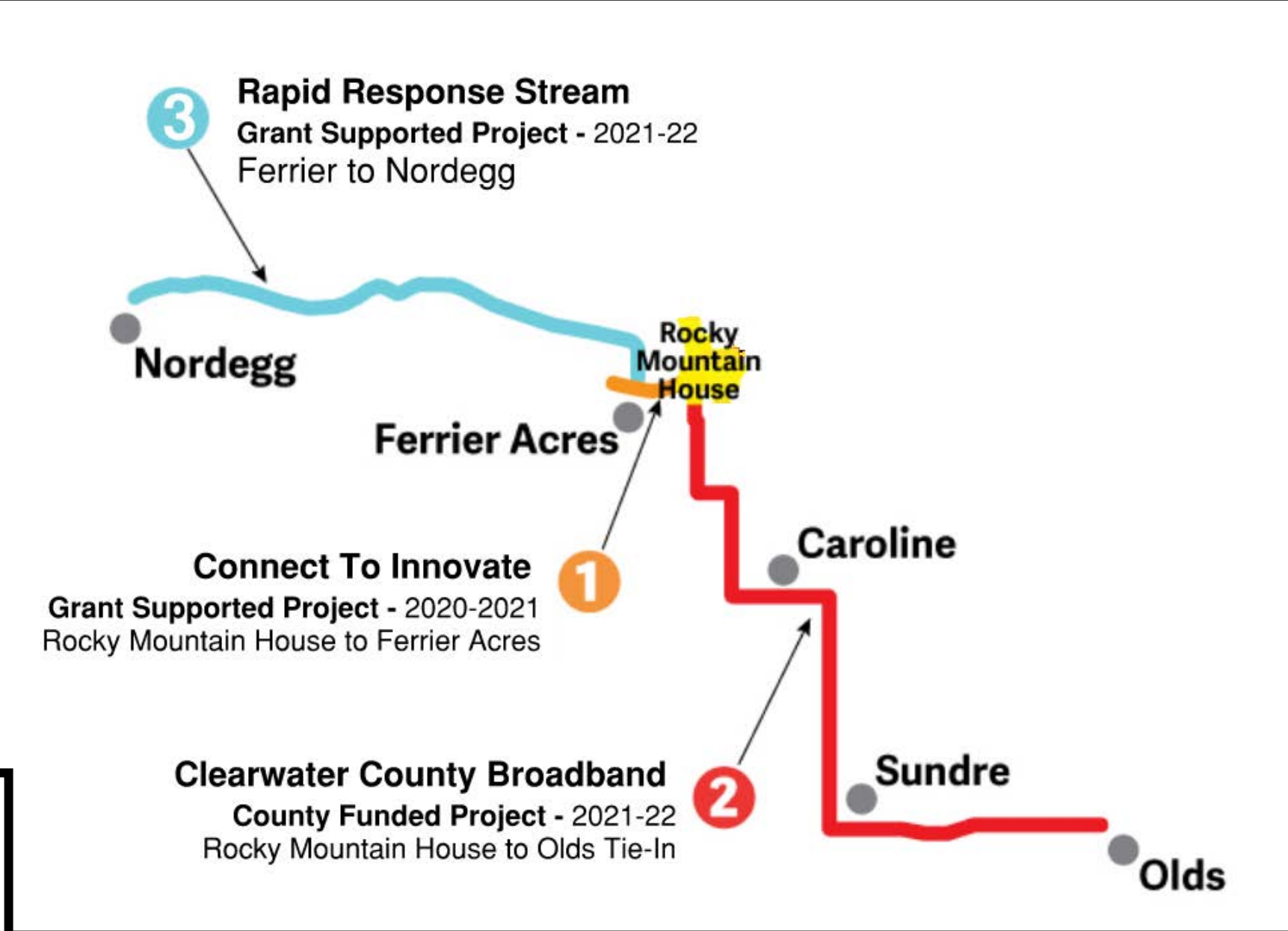**Scan the QR Code** with your smartphone for more information & sign up for services online or go to: **market.cwcbb.ca**

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Open Network Roles
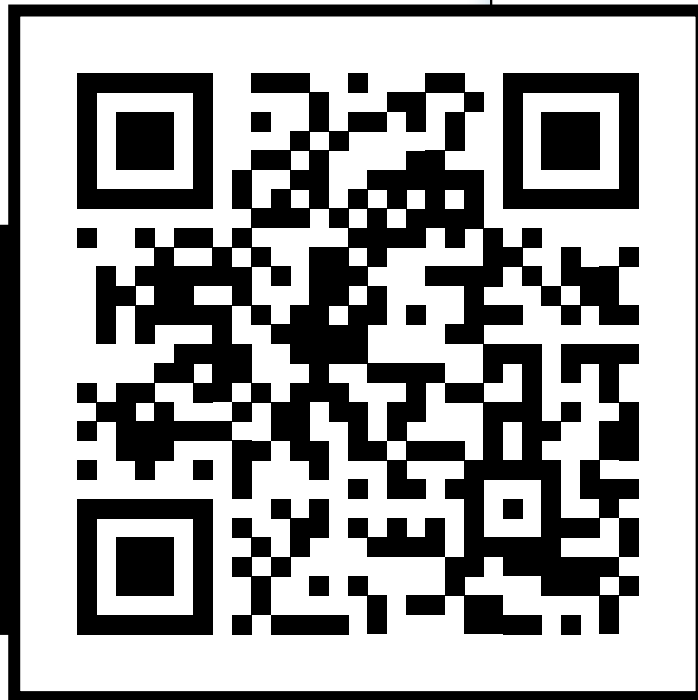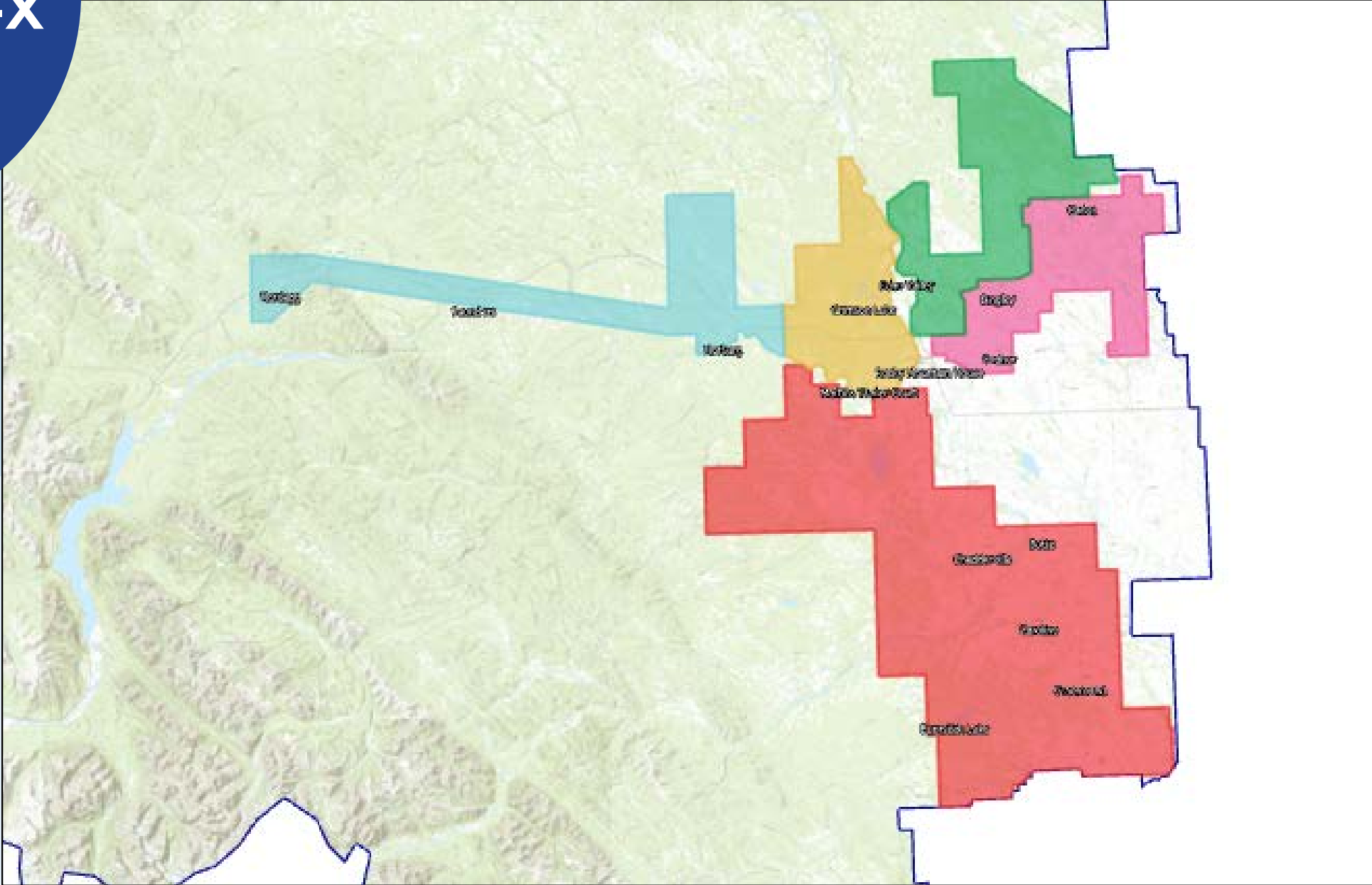
Clearwater County
Broadband

Network Owner

Clearwater County

- Builds the network
- Sets network rules & fairness policies
- Ensures fair access for providers

Network Operator

Selected by County

- Implements & enforces network rules
- Maintains network performance
- Ensures Service Providers follow policies

Service Providers

Multiple

- Sell services to customers
- All providers pay the same network access fee
- Compete on pricing, features & service quality
- Offer different service types (Internet, TV, Phone, etc.)

YOU

End Customer

- Can choose multiple providers
- Pay only for services you need
- Can switch providers anytime

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Who Pays Who?

Keep your money local

Clearwater County Broadband

Customer (You)

Clearwater County (Network Owner)

Revenues

Monthly Service Fee

Network Utilization Fee

Network Operation Fee

Service Providers

Network Operator

Community Benefit & Network Expansion

- Profits stay in the community rather than going to large corporations
- Funds collected by the Network Owner help expand fibre coverage
- Supports future upgrades & maintenance
- Ensures long-term affordability and local control

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Broadband Implementation Timeline

Clearwater County
Broadband

2021-02-09

Council approve submission of Universal Broadband Funds UBF applications

2023-01-12

Clearwater County Broadband Network Operations awarded to Rigstar Industrial Telecom

2023-09-26

Clearwater County Broadband network launched

2024-06-14

Broadband grant announcement in Clearwater County for UBF Fibre-to-the-X (FTTx) program

2020   **2021**   **2022**   **2023**   **2024**   **2025**   **2026**   **2027**

2020–2022 Backbone

Backbone Construction: The core backbone is the "main highway" of the network, delivering data from the central internet source to local areas.

Rapid Response Stream
③ Grant Supported Project - 2021-22
Ferrier to Nordegg

Nordegg

Rocky Mountain House

Ferrier Acres

Connect To Innovate
① Grant Supported Project - 2020-2021
Rocky Mountain House to Ferrier Acres

Caroline

Clearwater County Broadband
② County Funded Project - 2021-22
Rocky Mountain House to Olds Tie-In

Sundre

Olds

2024–2027 Fibre-to-the-X (FTTx)

Fibre-to-the-X (FTTx) Construction: The FTTx construction is about delivering ultra-fast internet directly to a home using fibre-optic technology.

Scan the QR Code with your smartphone for more information & sign up for services online or go to: **market.cwcbb.ca**

Funding Channels

Investing in Clearwater County's Future

Clearwater County has secured significant funding to build a high-speed fibre-optic network, ensuring reliable internet access for residents and businesses.

Five major grants from Innovation, Science, and Economic Development (ISED) Canada and the Government of Alberta are covering up to 75% of eligible project costs.

How is the project funded?

High-speed internet for rural Alberta

Canada   Alberta   Clearwater County Broadband

Universal Broadband Fund (UBF)

A $3.225 billion federal initiative supporting rural connectivity, including funding for this project.

Alberta Broadband Strategy

This strategy identifies opportunities and challenges of improving access to broadband by allocating $26 million to the Alberta Broadband Fund and has made a joint commitment of $780 million with the federal government.

Source: Innnovation, Science and Economic Development Canada; Government of Canada

Donated Services

$756,000

Net Cost to County

$43,485,457

Project Total

$110,652,093

Grants

$66,410,636

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Project Overview Map

High-speed internet for rural Alberta

Canadá   Alberta   Broadband
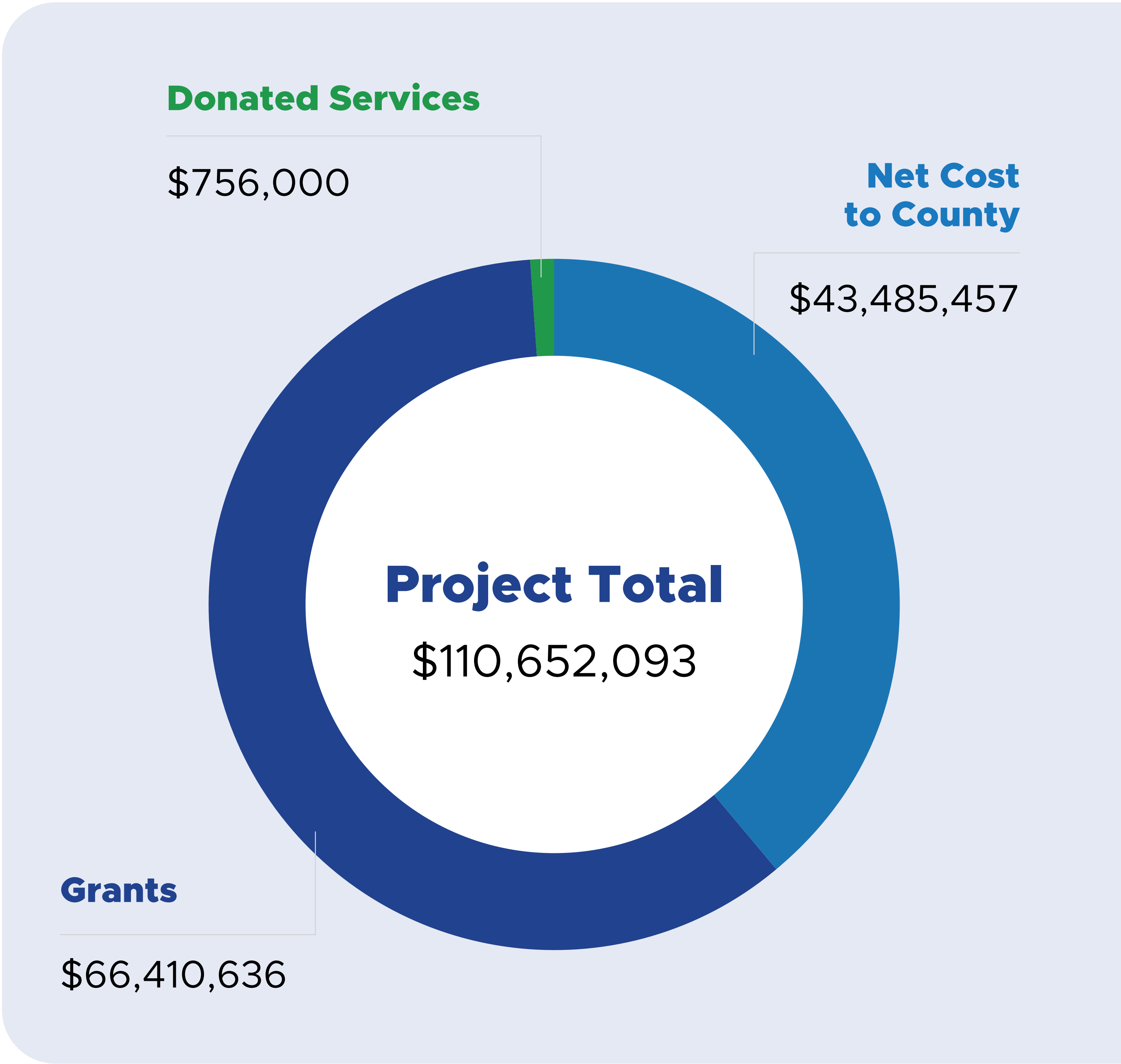
Why does this matter?

This funding will:

- Expand broadband to underserved rural and remote areas.
- Support local business growth and innovation.
- Strengthen connectivity for education, healthcare, and social welfare.

PROJECT ZONE UBF-03250

PROJECT ZONE UBF-07121

PROJECT ZONE UBF-07123

PROJECT ZONE UBF-07122

PROJECT ZONE UBF-07119

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Project Construction Details

1 Main Construction

Installation of the duct, cable, vaults, and pedestals required to connect homes and businesses along the route. This construction occurs within the Road Right of Way.

- Infrastructure **is not placed on private property** during this phase

- Duct, vaults and pedestals are placed using various construction equipment including:
  - Vibratory Plows
  - Horizontal Boring Machines
  - Hydrovac Trucks
  - Trenchers & Excavators

- Skidsteers, Picker Trucks, Duct Reel Trailers and other support machinery.

- Cables are placed inside the ducts, vaults and pedestals using:
  - Cable Jetting Rigs and Air Compressors
  - Splicing Trucks
  - Manual Pulling Personnel
  - Cable Reel Trailers, Cable Reel Stands and other support equipment

- Impact to driveway approaches may occur including:
  - Short Term Construction Vehicle Parking
  - Minimal disturbance to road surface from construction and underground trenching

- An empty duct is left at edge of property line to allow for future connection to the home.

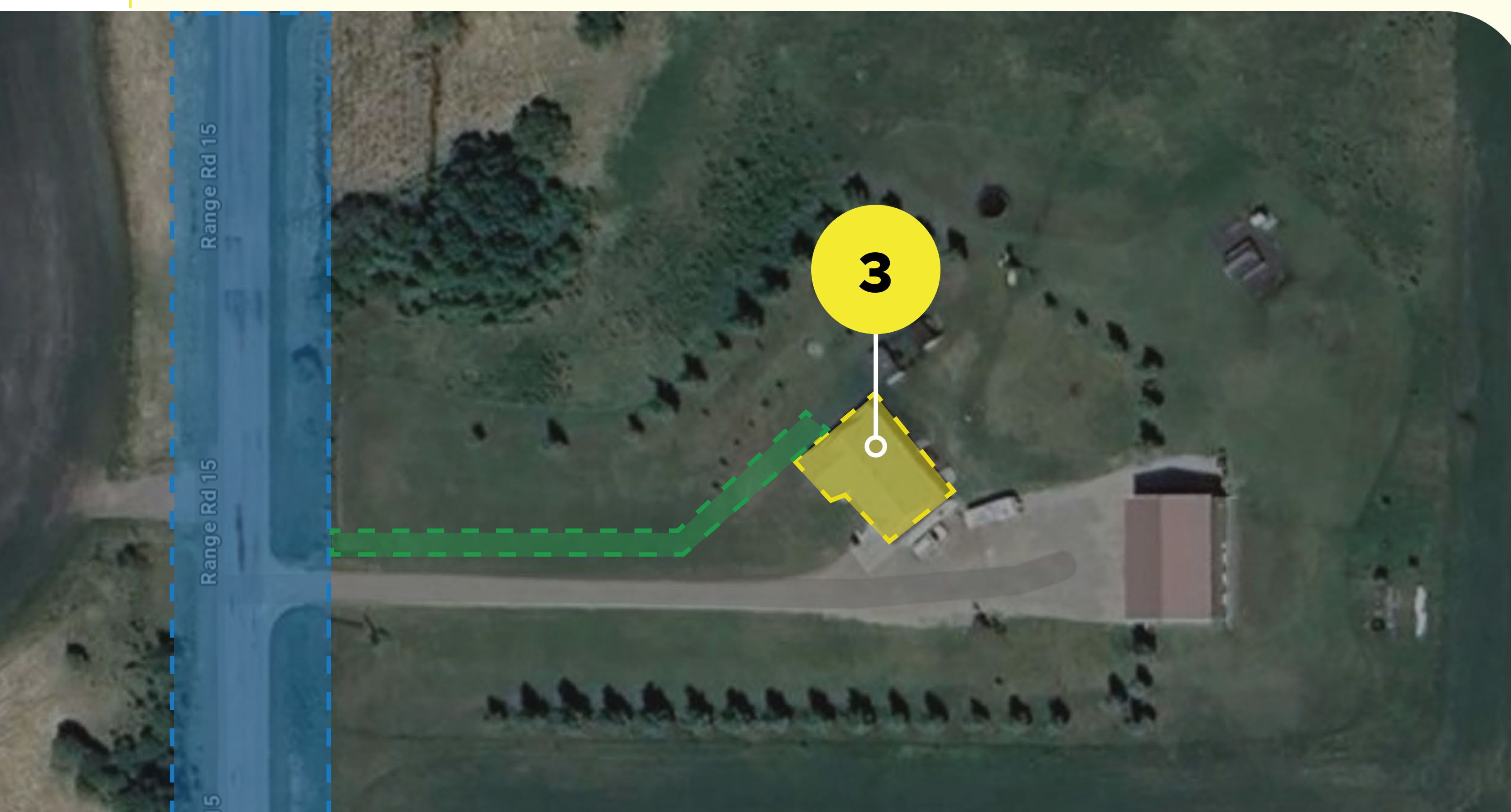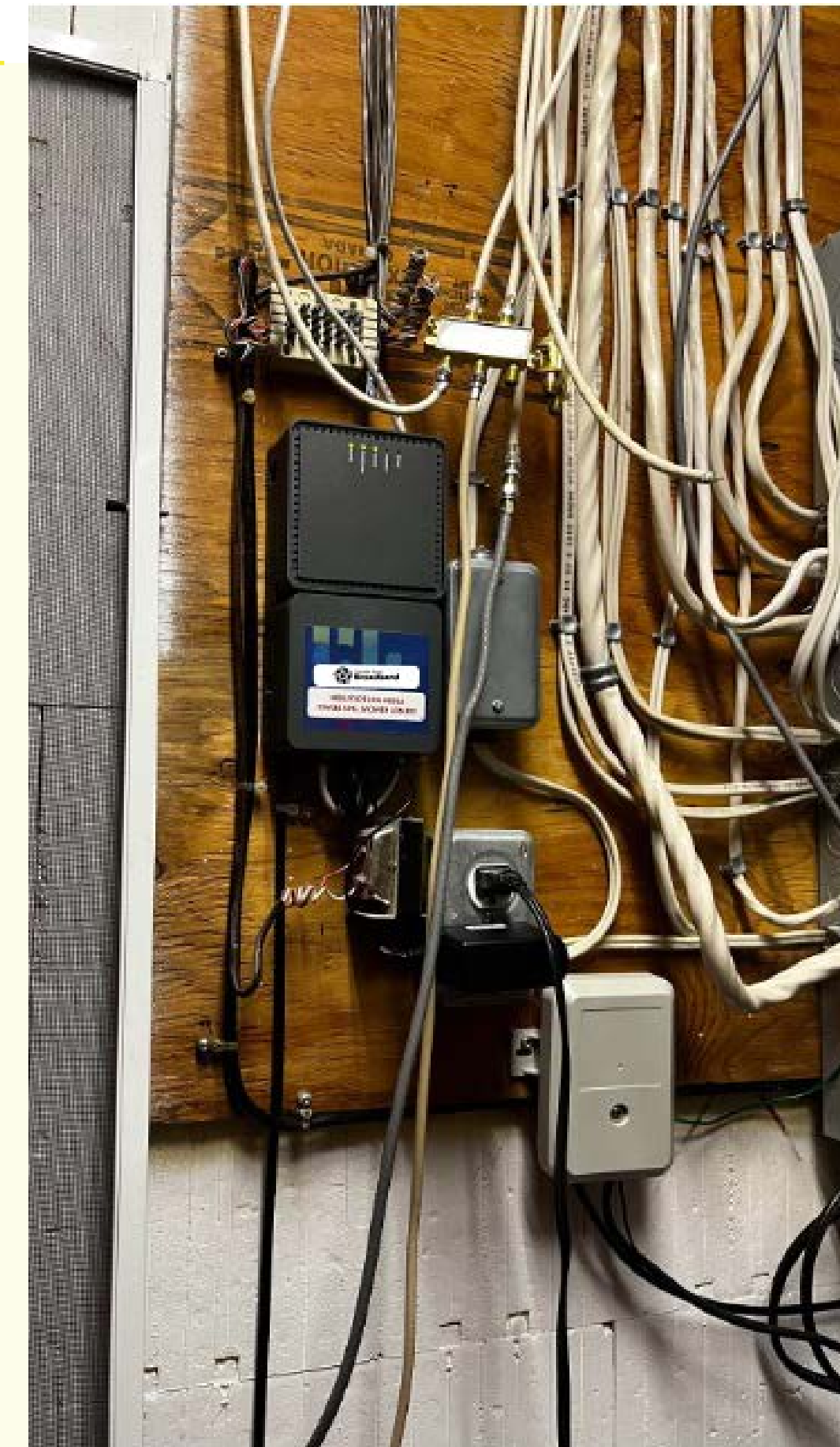**Scan the QR Code** with your smartphone for more information & sign up for services online or go to: **market.cwcbb.ca**

Project Construction Details

2 | **Drop Program**

Installation of the duct and cable required to connect your home or business. Infrastructure is placed on private property during this phase.

- Property Owners are presented Access Agreements – a document used to plan and agree upon the installation route and method – **prior to any work commencing.**

- Duct and Cable is installed from the Main Construction to the exterior of the building

- Smaller installation equipment is utilized to minimize impact to land and landscaping including:

  - Vibratory plows
  - Horizontal Boring Machines
  - Hydrovac trucks
  - Trenchers & excavators

Fibre-optic cable in conduit

Typical wall box installation

- Impact to yards and landscaping is minimized by:

  - Selecting appropriate routes to avoid sensitive areas
  - Avoiding work during wet or snowy weather

- Property Owners can expect:

  - Input and communication for planning and construction
  - Input and communication if issues in routing or installation arise
  - Short term construction vehicle parking
  - Minimal disturbance to yards and landscaping from construction equipment

2

Range Rd 15

Range Rd 15

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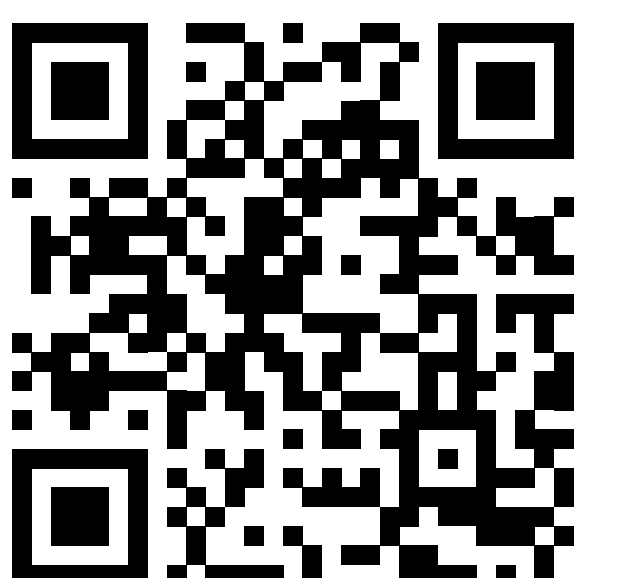
Project Construction Details
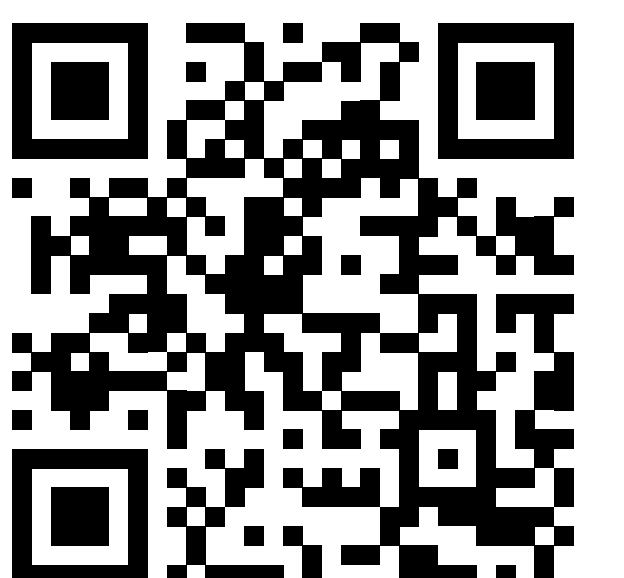
3   **Customer Activation**

Installation of the inside electronics and indoor fibre optic wiring to connect to the Drop Cable. This installation occurs within the Customer's home or business.

- Infrastructure is placed in private property during this phase
- Cables and equipment are mounted within the home or business using:
  - Standard power and hand tools
  - Ladders
- Electronics are mounted near existing power and telecommunications wiring

- Impact to building may occur including:
  - Exterior to Interior duct entry
  - Equipment held to wall boards or walls using screws
  - Flexible duct used to house fibre cable
- All pieces are in place to turn on your new internet!

3

Range Rd 15

Range Rd 15

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How to Get Connected

Clearwater County Broadband

The more people who sign up, the stronger the business case for expansion—and the more the network thrives. A well-used network keeps costs lower, attracts service providers, and ensures long-term sustainability.

Today

Sign Up & Stay Informed

- **Go to market.cwcbb.ca and sign up!**
- **Signing up keeps your household informed** as construction progresses.
- Your demand helps shape where the network expands next.

June 2025

UBF-Funded Construction Begins

- Construction starts in **already funded areas.**
- If your area **isn't currently funded,** showing strong demand **helps attract investment for future builds.**

Mid 2025 – Early 2027

Service Activation & Installation Begins

- **When an area is ready, signed-up residents will be notified to choose a service provider.**
- **Choosing a provider starts the installation process.** A technician will visit your home to **physically install fibre** and connect your service.
- **For full details on installation steps, see the "Project Construction Details" boards.**
- Construction for UBF-fund**ed areas continues into 2027**.
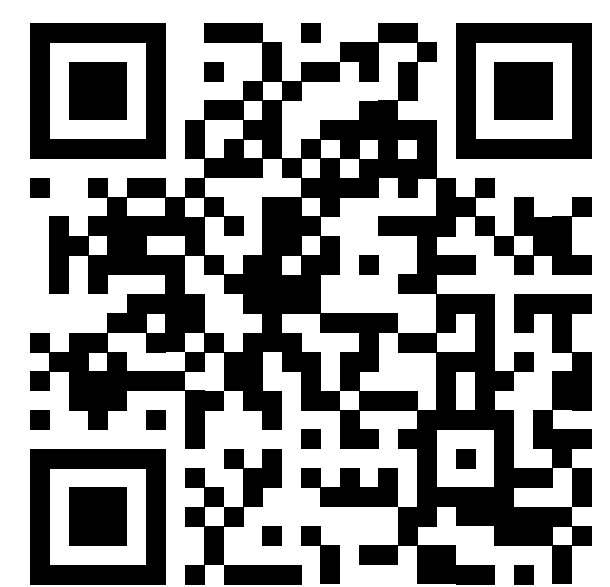
Beyond 2027

The Network Keeps Growing

- Expansion **won't stop in 2027!**
- Future phases will be **based on demand and funding availability.**

Make sure your home is counted

Sign up today at **market.cwcbb.ca**

Why Use the Marketplace?

- The **Clearwater Broadband Marketplace creates a level playing field** for service providers.
- **Instead of calling around,** you can **compare all available providers, services, and pricing in one place**.
- Stay informed about service availability in your area. The marketplace keeps you updated as construction progresses.
- Your demand helps shape where the network expands next. High demand in an area allows us to build a strong business case for future expansion—whether through private investment, public funding, or partnerships.
- Signing up includes a short survey, which tells us what services residents want most and helps us approach the right service providers.
- Service providers look at demand when deciding where to offer services. Signing up signals that your area is a viable market.

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Online Information & Sign Up Portal

Clearwater County
Broadband

Home Page

Clearwater County
Broadband

Home About Survey Engagement Why Fibre? Project Status FAQ Contact

Clearwater County Broadband Internet Project Information and Sign-Up Portal

We are thrilled to announce that we have been awarded grant funding to bring high-speed fiber optic internet to Clearwater County. This initiative will not only revolutionize our connectivity but will also pave the way for enhanced opportunities, improved access to services, and bolstered economic development. Join us as we embark on this transformative journey towards a more connected and vibrant municipality.

Type your address in the box below to sign up for updates and see the project build status near your location.

Address Bar

Please enter your physical address (not your mailing address)

Confirm

Survey

About

High-speed internet for rural Alberta
Connecting 1884 homes in Clearwater County

About
Read more about Clearwater County's Broadband Internet Project and the UBF Grant Fund Announcement.

Read more

Survey
Participate in our survey to sign up for updates and provide valuable feedback on how you use the internet.

Take Survey

Engagement
Public Engagement Initiatives to promote project understanding and gather feedback.

Read more

Engagement

Why Fibre?

Why Fibre?
Learn about the benefits of a fibre connection.

Read more

Project Construction Status
Click the button below to see the full construction update page.

View Status

FAQ
Find the most frequently asked questions about our fibre project.

Read more

FAQ

Project Status

Project Status Page

Clearwater County
Broadband

Home About Survey Engagement Why Fibre? Project Status FAQ Contact

Status
Under Consideration
Construction Planned

Clickable Project Overview Map

Project Status

Project Overview Map (above)

Development is planned for several areas within Clearwater County. While the project aims to improve connectivity across all five funded areas, each area consists of multiple sub-areas where construction will occur. Please note that fiber installation is confirmed only for the sub-areas listed in the tables below. The broader areas will be considered as demand grows and resources allow.

Project Funding

High-speed internet for rural Alberta
Connecting 1884 homes in Clearwater County

This project is funded through the Universal Broadband Fund, a Canadian federal initiative with additional support from the Alberta provincial government. The funding aims to bring reliable, high-speed internet to rural and underserved areas within the county. We are grateful for this support, which is instrumental in improving connectivity for residents. For more information on the grants, please visit the official UBF project page here.

Area Status Updates

Construction Progress by Area

UBF-07350: Meeting Trailer Court, Ferrier Acres, Ullin, and Crimson Lake Area

Area Name	Current Status	Construction Start Date	Estimated In-Service Date	Notes
11A_LOUIS_LAKE_CONNECTOR	Construction Planned	TBD	TBD	-
403041_RR8-5_EXT	Construction Planned	TBD	TBD	-
CRIMSON_NORTH	Construction Planned	TBD	TBD	-
CRIMSON_SOUTH	Construction Planned	TBD	TBD	-
CRIMSON_WEST	Construction Planned	TBD	TBD	-
FERRIER	Construction Planned	TBD	TBD	-
FERRIER_ACRES_EAST	Construction Planned	TBD	TBD	-
FERRIER_ACRES_NORTH	Construction Planned	TBD	TBD	-
FERRIER_ACRES_WEST	Construction Planned	TBD	TBD	-
TWIN_LAKES_CAMP_EXT	Construction Planned	TBD	TBD	-

UBF-07119: Chedderville, Burnstick Lake, Butte, Caroline and Crammond Area

Area Name	Current Status	Construction Start Date	Estimated In-Service Date	Notes

Individual Area Status

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One-time Connection Fee

Standard

$1,500*

For up to 100m drops, plus actual cost per metre ($14) for each metre > 100m.

* this fee represents a harmonized fee that is equitable for premises looking to connect on the network footprint regardless if they were funding eligible.

Early Adopter

$399

For up to 100m drops, plus actual cost per metre ($14) for each metre > 100m. Available during construction.

Connection fees for **larger businesses** will be considered on a **case-by-case basis,** considering cost recovery.
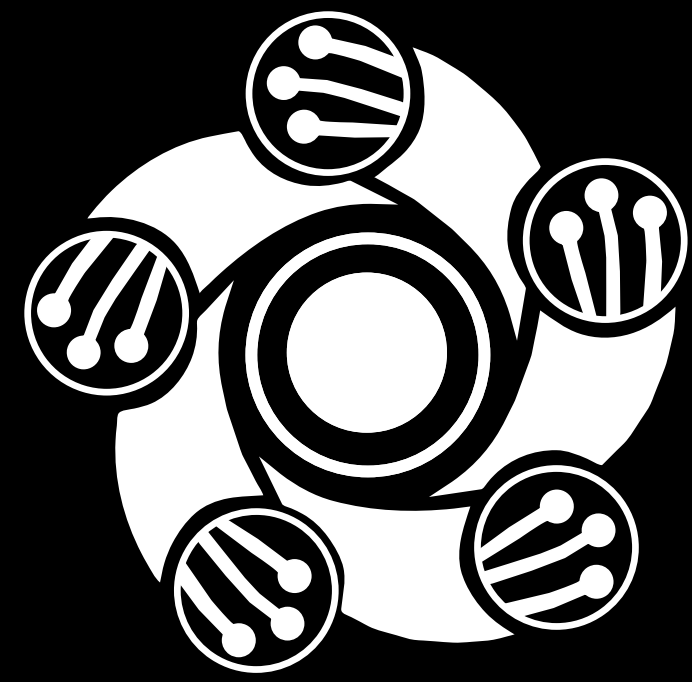
Underground Solutions

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Questions & Answers
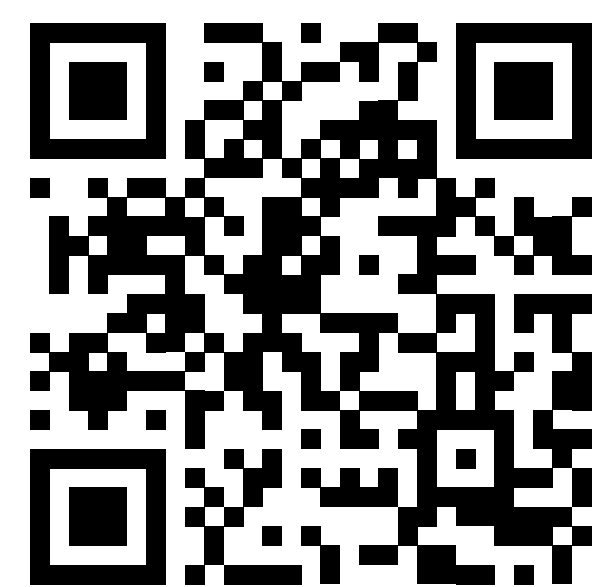
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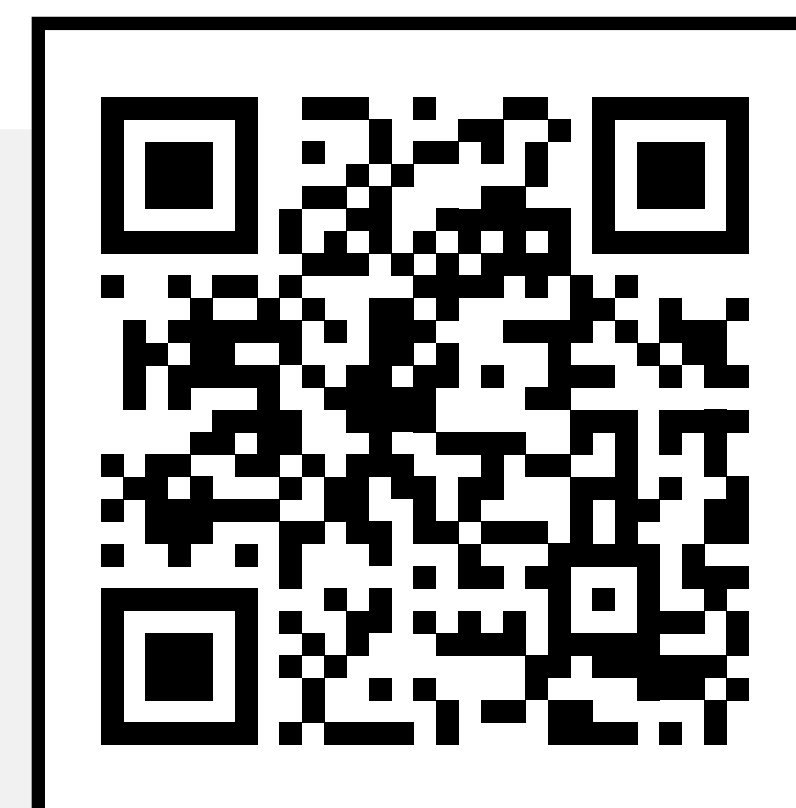# Thank You for Attending!

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Stay informed: Visit our website for project updates and more information.

Get involved: Take the survey online

Questions: Our team is happy to help!

We appreciate you taking the time to learn about Clearwater County's Broadband Project.

Your input and engagement are essential as we work toward improving Broadband access for our community.

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