Bridging the Digital Divide

CONNECTING THE LAST MILE

The Digital Desert

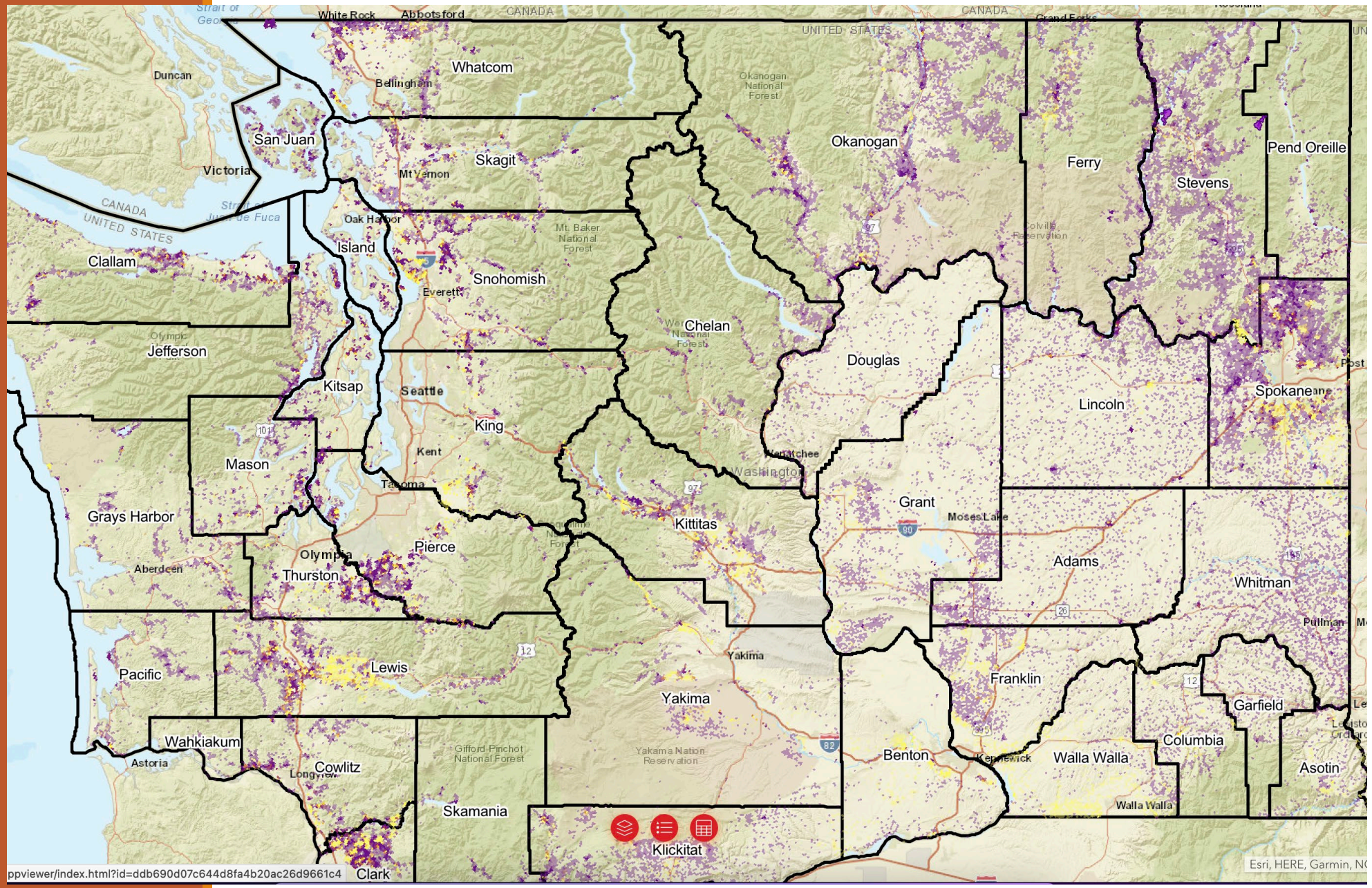
Many counties still lack broadband connectivity in 2023

Why?

Business Case

Cost of Infrastructure

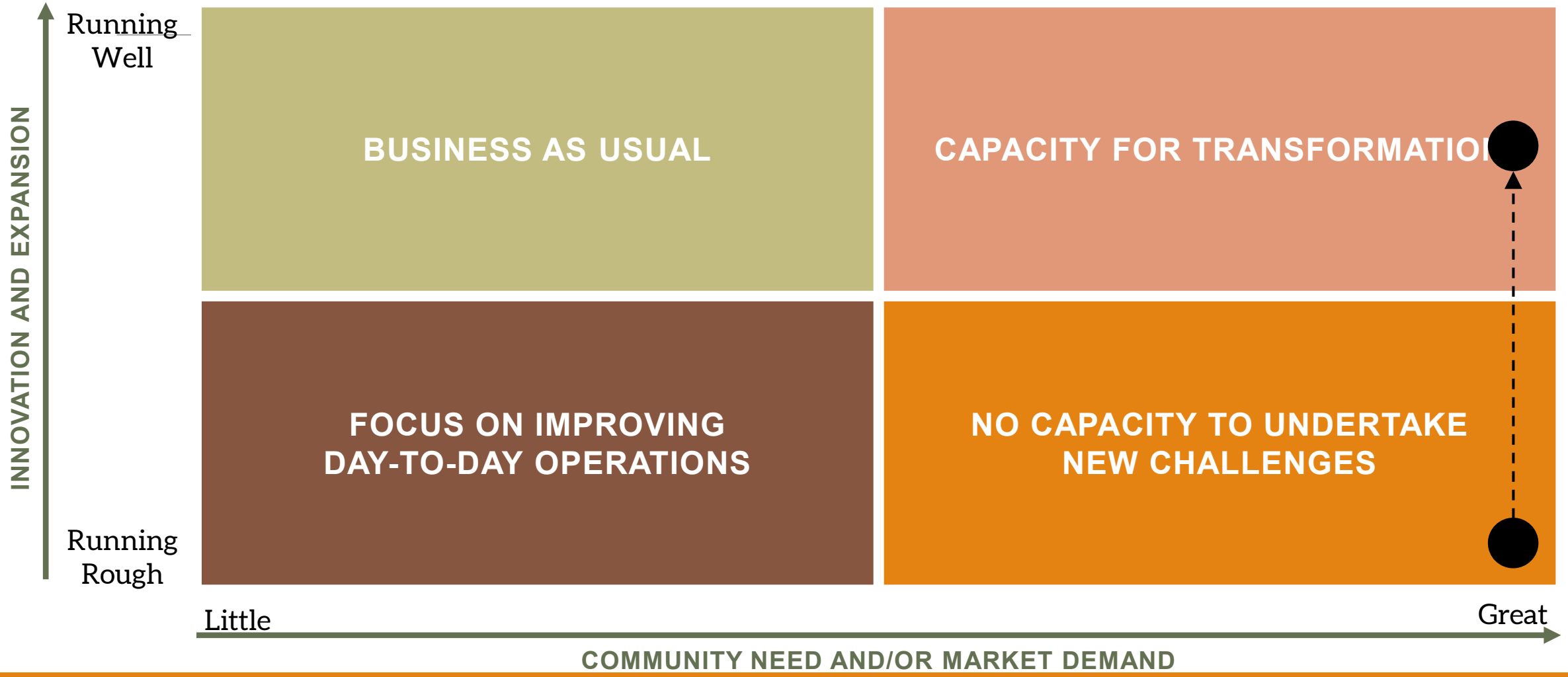
No Return on Investment (ROI)



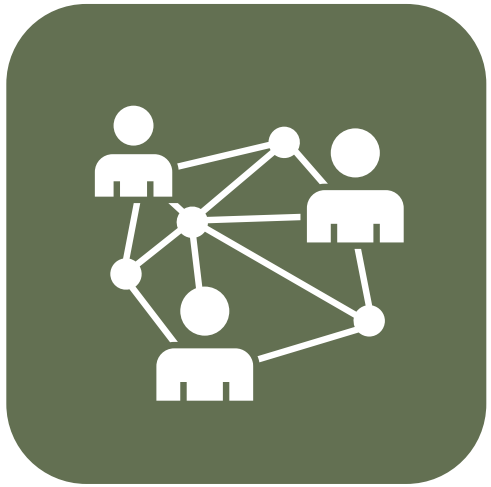
Quality of life is no longer defined by buildings…

- Education
- Work
- Healthcare
- Commerce

Rural Internet (Post-COVID)



Foundational Principles for Broadband Policy



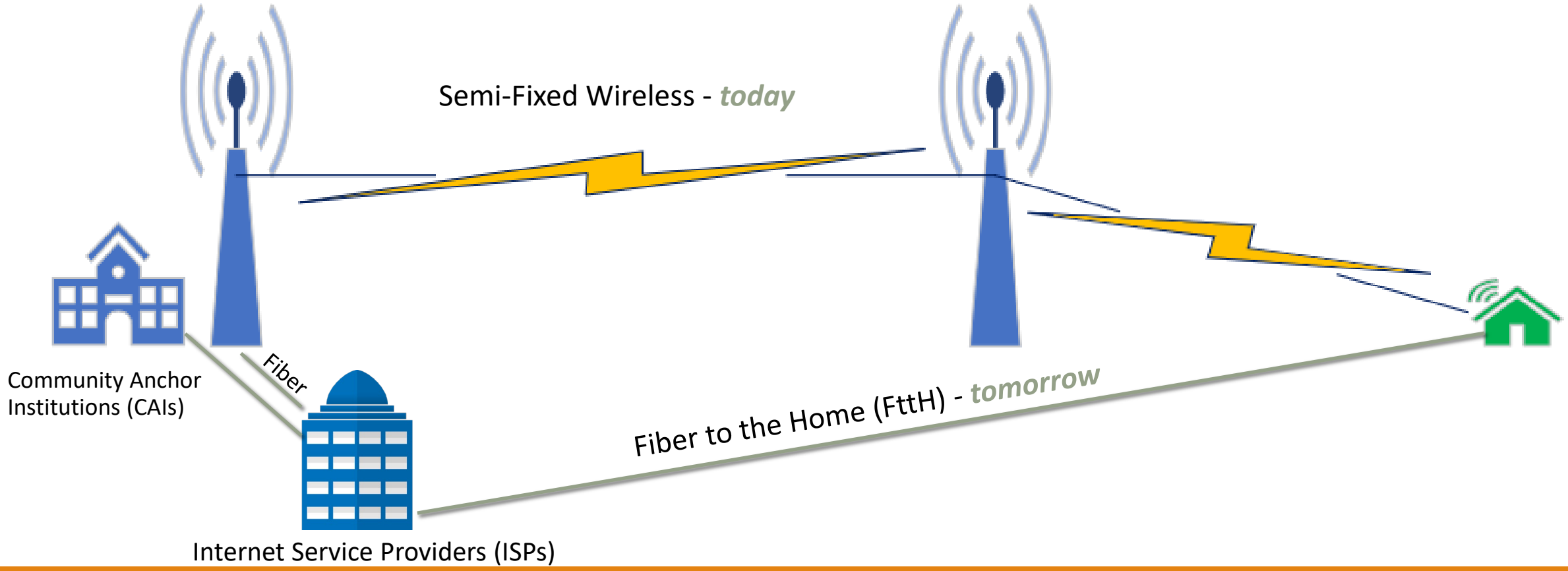
Maximize public benefit of the network

Minimize public risk and cost to public agency

Maximize grant efficiency to serve the maximum number of homes

Require open access on a public network to all qualified ISPs

Blended Solutions: Fiber & Semi-Fixed Wireless Towers Implemented Together



Allows Time for Fiber Build (if financially feasible)

Case Study – Pullman School District Pilot (Whitman County)

Affordable Ability to Meet Condensed Timeline

Nov 2022 – Proposal to WA Dept. Of Commerce Broadband Office

Dec 2022 – Awarded $1 million to build a pilot semi-fixed wireless network

Feb 2023 – RFP awarded

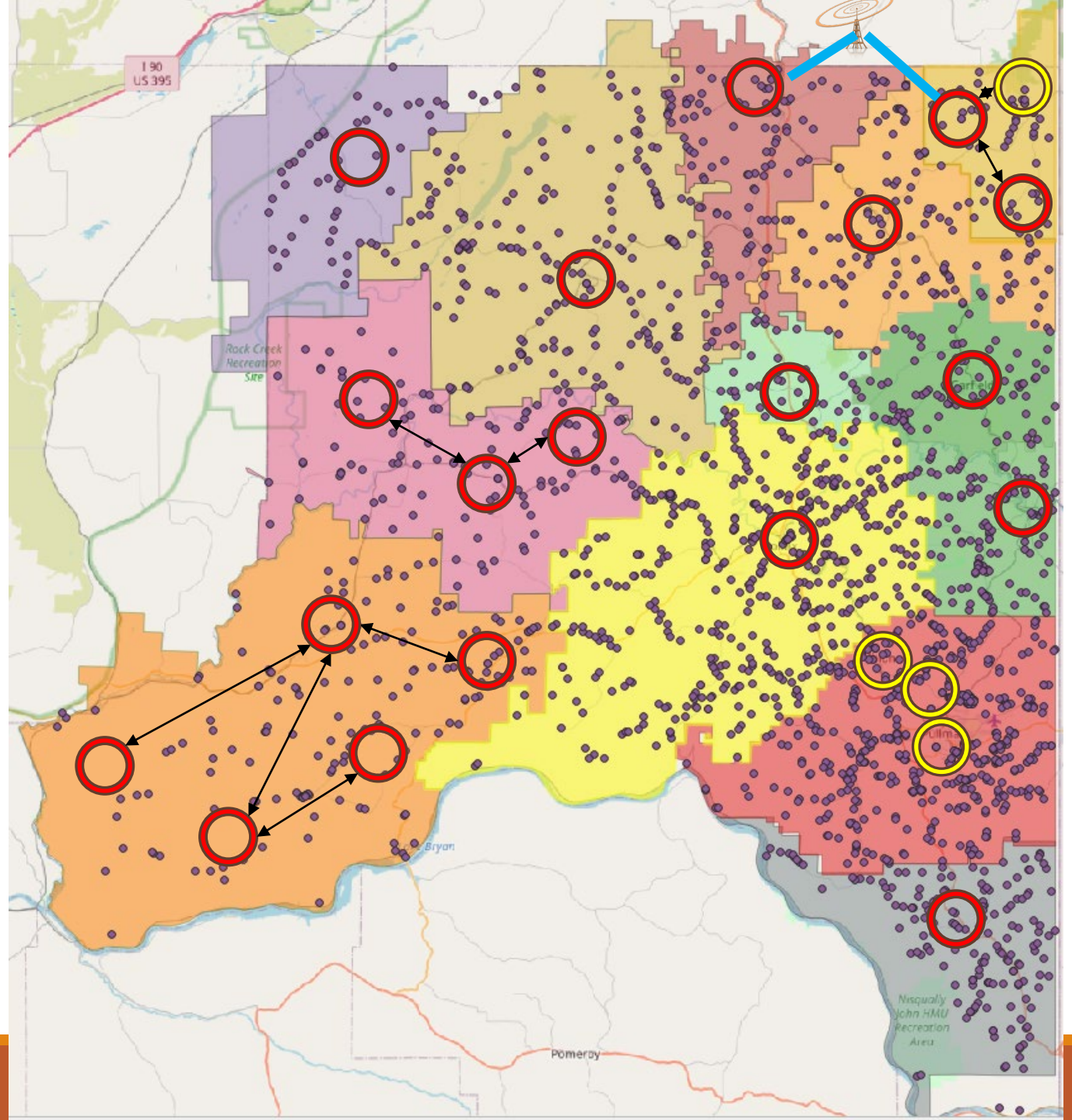
May 2023 – First and second tower erected

Jun 2023 – Awarded additional $334,000 to cover project expansion

Jun 2023 – 3rd and 4th towers erected

Jul 2023 – Completed project with time limit

Connecting homes that reside outside a town or city.



Spokane County Tower Connecting to Whitman County Tower(s)
=
Interoperability between Counties

Case Study –South County Pilot (Spokane County)

Affordable Ability to Meet Condensed Timeline

May 2023 – Proviso Award from WA Dept. Of Commerce Broadband Office $4.6 Million to Spokane County/Broadlinc

June 2023 – Sole Source Award to build a pilot semi-fixed wireless network (

June 30, 2023 – A capital acquired and ready to deploy F

August 2023 – Gray Fires Emergency Response Deployment

October 2023 – Network Live

November 2023 – User onboarding

June 2024 – Pilot complete

From Desert to Oasis

Nine Towers

350+ sq miles coverage

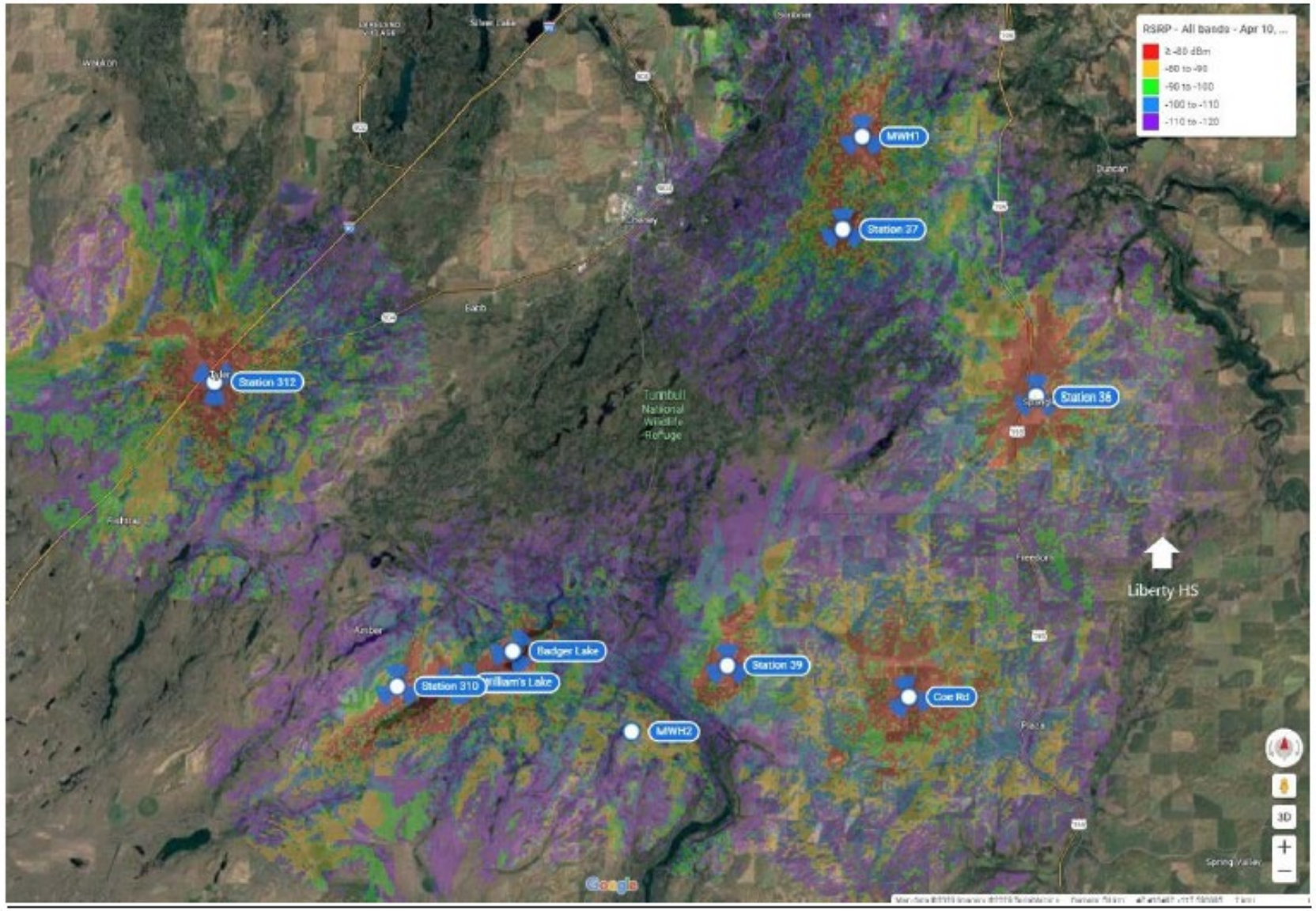
Coverage for an entire Fire District Fire/EMS Reponse

100+ Homes

1 School District

Medical/BH/MH Home Access

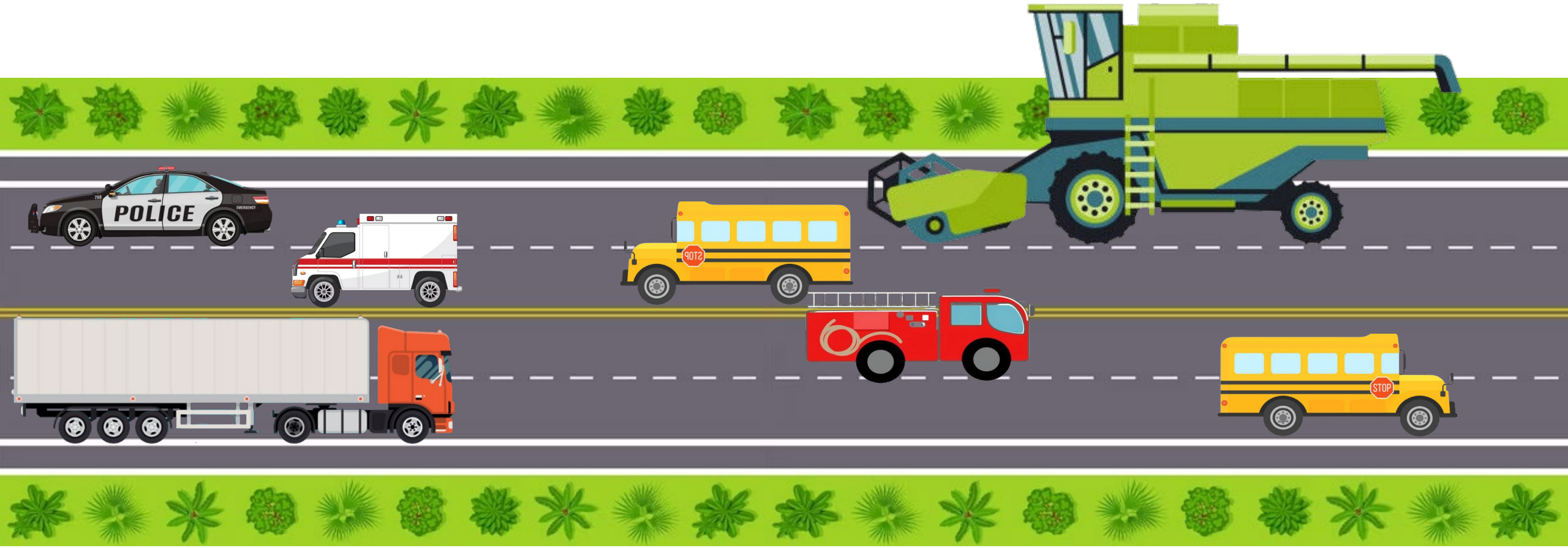
Remote Work/Commerce

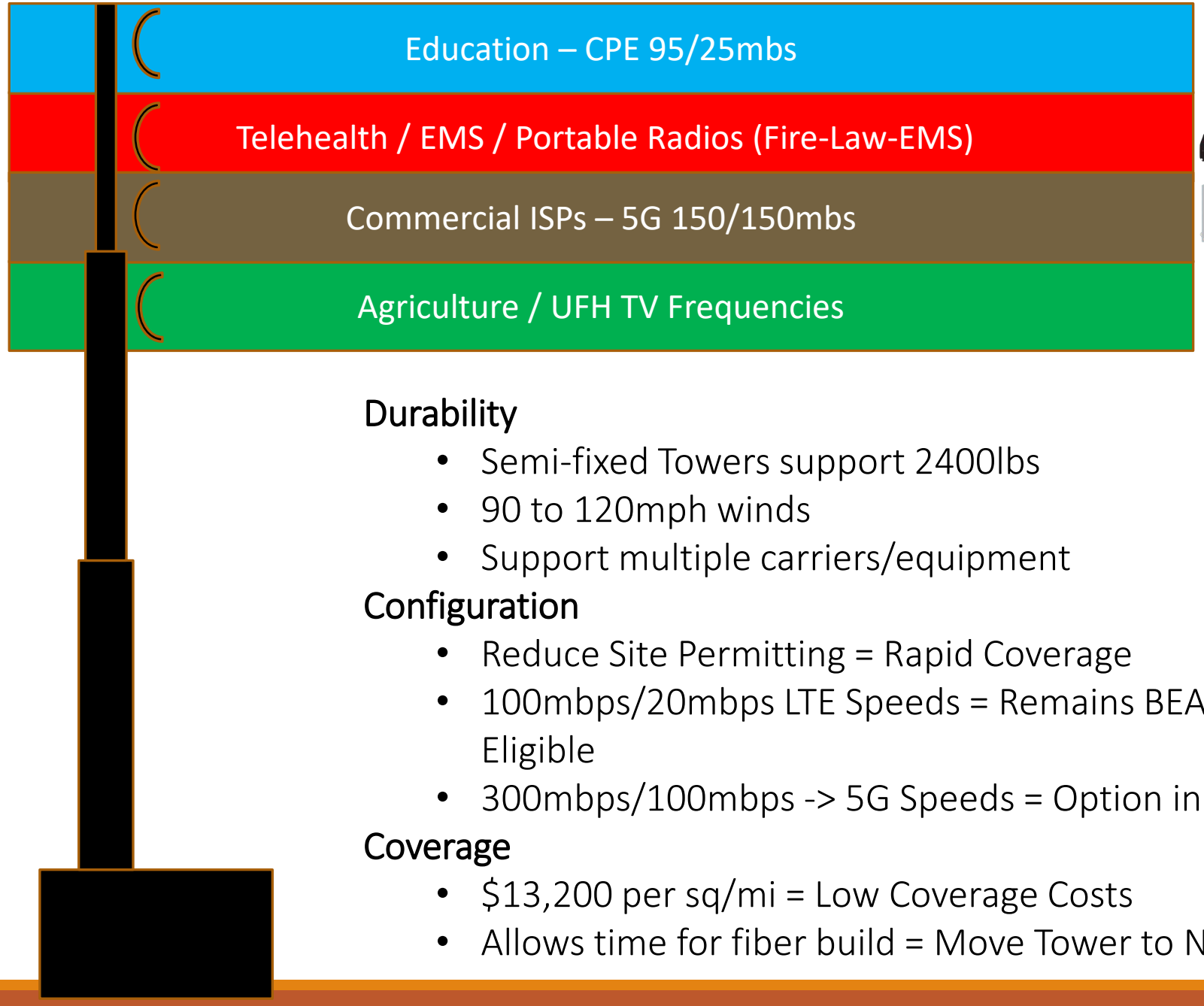


Health Communities are Connected Communities

Pillars of Stability

Expanding the Digital Highway…





Durability

- Semi-fixed Towers support 2400lbs
- 90 to 120mph winds
- Support multiple carriers/equipment

Configuration

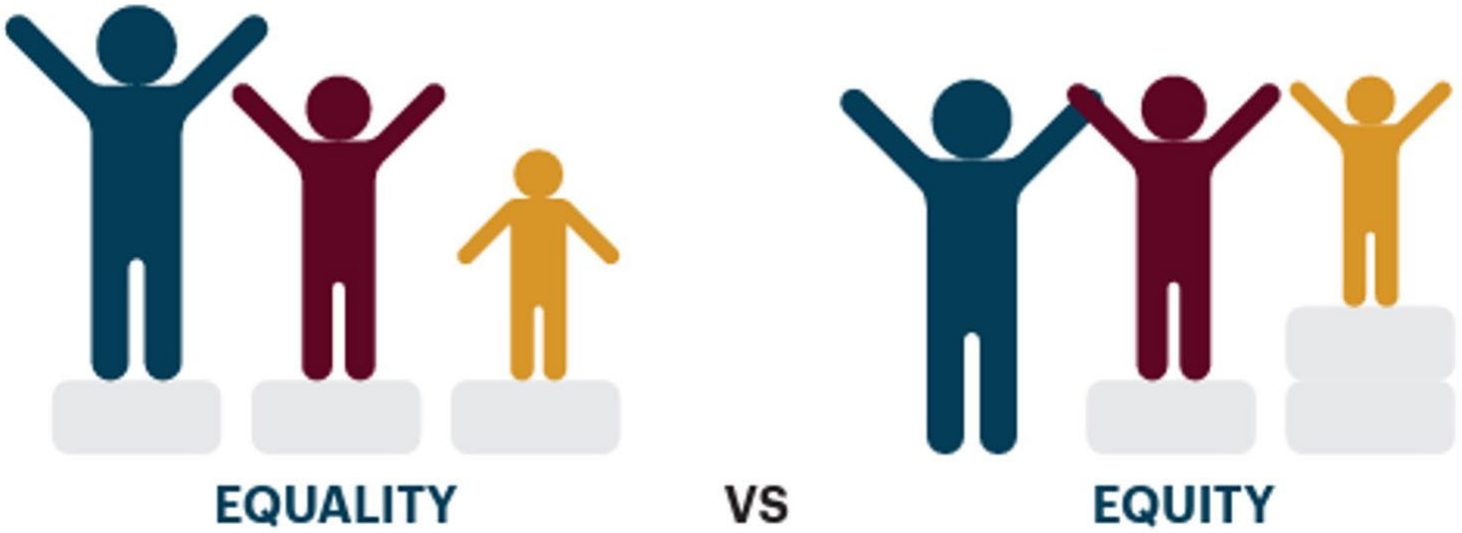
- Reduce Site Permitting = Rapid Coverage
- 100mbps/20mbps LTE Speeds = Remains BEAD Eligible
- 300mbps/100mbps -> 5G Speeds = Option in Future

Coverage

- $13,200 per sq/mi = Low Coverage Costs
- Allows time for fiber build = Move Tower to Next Area

Semi-Fixed Tower

It Takes a Community Coming Together



Thank you