



State Broadband Actions

Heather Morton

Senior Fellow, Fiscal Affairs Program

- Broadband is a foundation for economic growth, job creation, global competitiveness and a better way of life
- changing how we educate children, deliver health care, manage energy, ensure public safety, engage government, and access, organize and disseminate knowledge



National Broadband Plan

Deployment (millions) of fixed terrestrial 25 Mbps/3 Mbps services and mobile LTE 5 Mbps/1 Mbps

Area	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	Pop.	%	Pop.	%	Pop.	%	Pop.	%	Pop.	%
United States	283.386	89.1%	287.387	89.7%	295.853	91.7%	304.216	93.4%	308.722	94.4%
Rural Areas	36.489	59.2%	37.840	60.8%	42.182	67.0%	46.731	73.3%	49.932	77.4%
Urban Areas	246.897	96.3%	249.547	96.7%	253.671	97.7%	257.485	98.3%	258.790	98.5%
Tribal Lands	2.206	56.1%	2.258	57.0%	2.491	62.4%	2.722	67.8%	2.914	72.1%
Pop. Evaluated	317.954	100.0%	320.289	100.0%	322.518	100.0%	325.716	100.0%	327.167	100.0%

Source: FCC, 2020 Broadband Deployment Report

2021 Broadband Legislation - Introduced

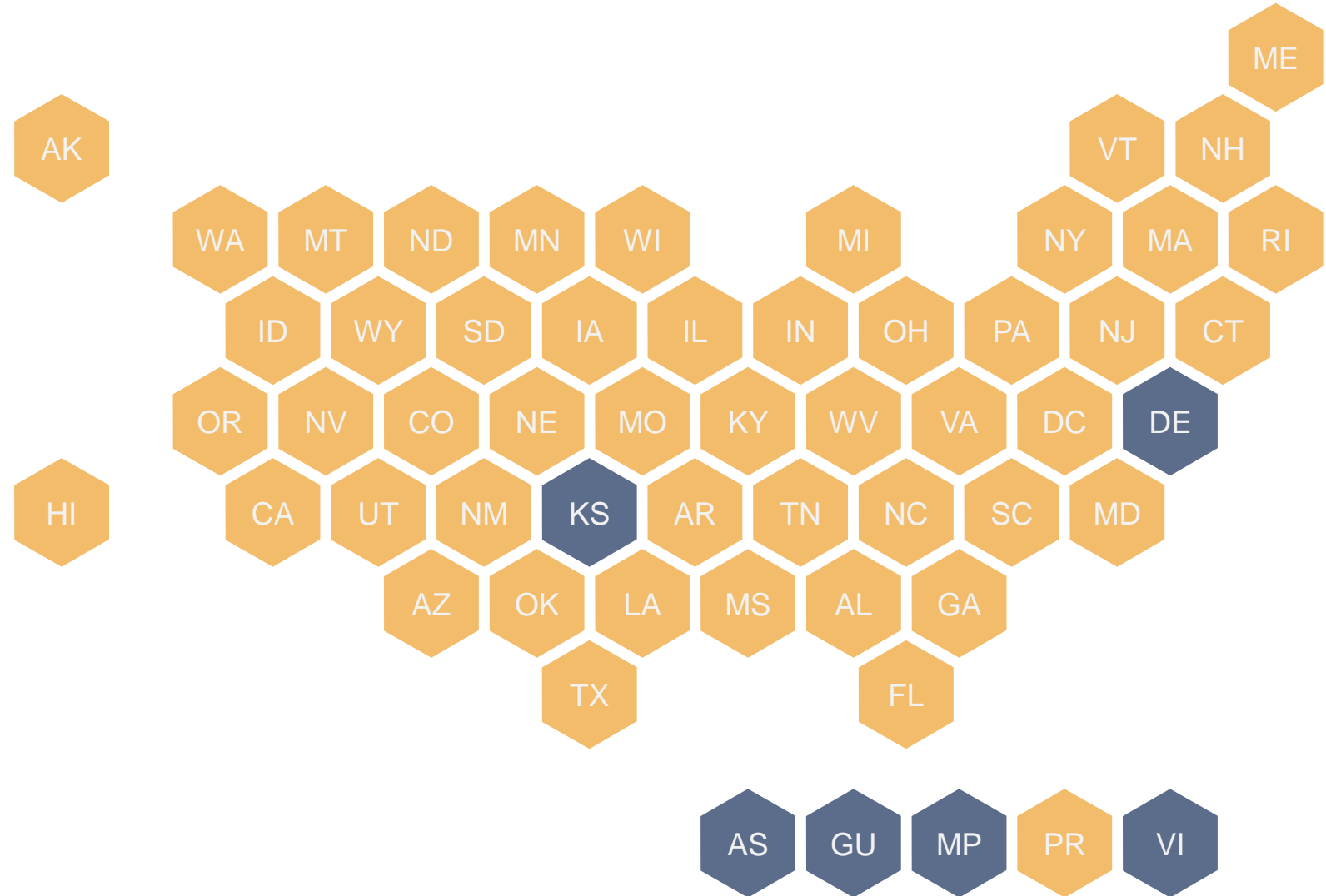
48 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia have had pending legislation in the 2021 legislative session

2020 Legislation

At least 500 bills total

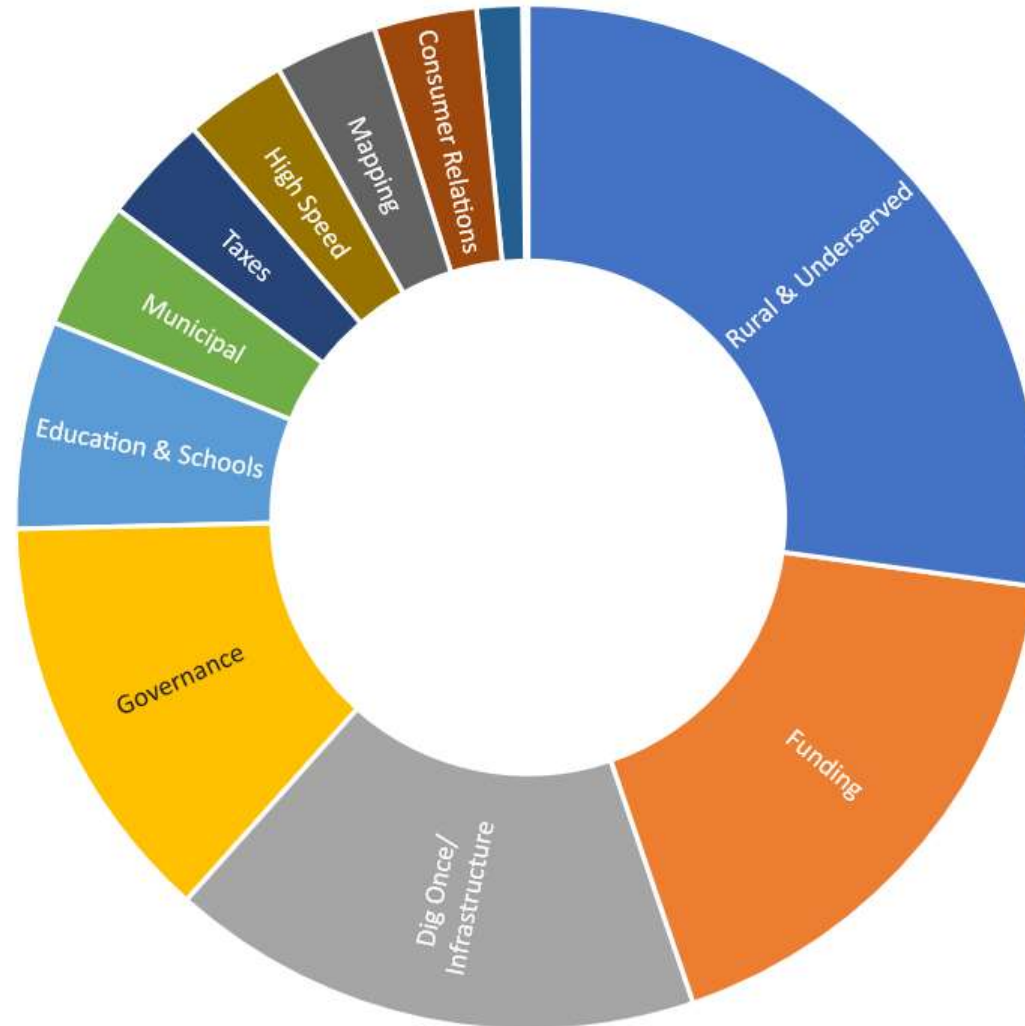
2019 Legislation

Nearly total 400 bills



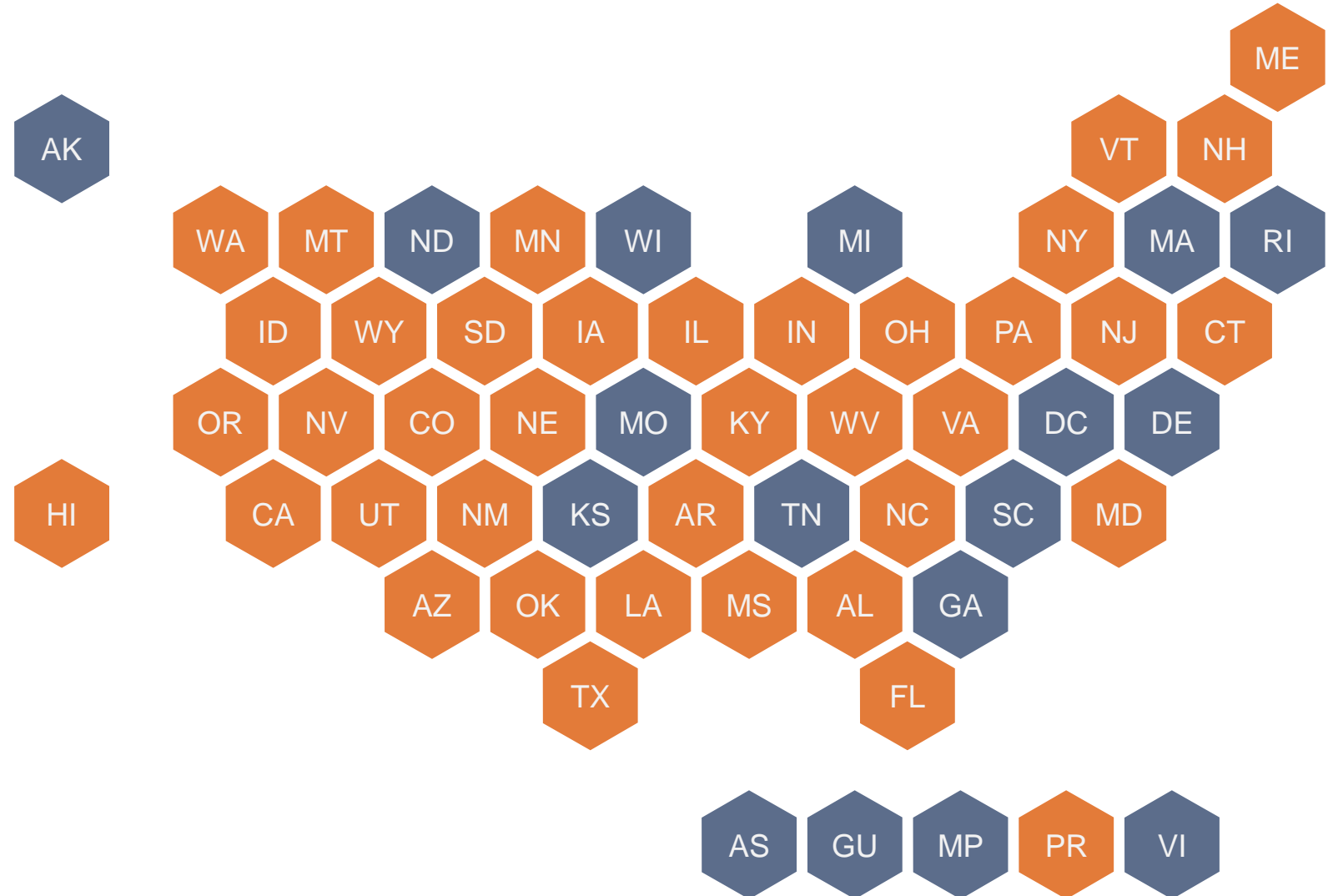
Rural & Underserved	302
Funding	196
Dig Once/Infrastructure	187
Governance	145
Education & Schools	73
Municipal	45
Taxes	38
Consumer Relations	36
Mapping	36
High Speed	36
Digital Literacy	16
Smart Community	1
Spectrum	1
updated 11/4/21	

2021 Broadband Legislation by Category



2021 Broadband Legislation - Enacted

39 jurisdictions
have enacted bills
or adopted
resolutions in
2021.



NCSL 2020 Broadband Legislation

- <https://www.ncsl.org/research/telecommunications-and-information-technology/broadband-2020-legislation.aspx>

NCSL 2021 Broadband Legislation

- <https://www.ncsl.org/research/telecommunications-and-information-technology/broadband-2021-legislation.aspx>

State Actions on Coronavirus Relief Funds

- <https://www.ncsl.org/research/fiscal-policy/state-actions-on-coronavirus-relief-funds.aspx>
(Select the Technology/Broadband category)

QUESTIONS?

heather.morton@ncsl.org

(303) 856-1475