



# CRITICAL NEED COUNTIES IN BROADBAND & HEALTH – RURAL 2017<sup>†</sup>

A roadmap for private investment and coordinated public support.

State	County	Rural Broadband Access (25/3 mbps)	Internet Adoption (>= 200 kbps)	Diabetes	Obesity	Preventable Hospitalizations	Median Income	County Pop.	More Data*	
National		62.2%	60-80%	9.9%	27.4%	48.7/1000	\$55,775			
Alabama	Barbour County	33	↑	40-60%	18	44	74	\$31,433	26,160	PP, 65+, V
Alabama	Bibb County	2	↔	40-60%	15	40	77	\$40,767	23,162	65+
Alabama	Chilton County	27	↑	40-60%	13	36	52	\$42,767	44,749	PCPS, 65+, V
Alabama	Clarke County	16	↓	40-60%	16	38	68	\$37,317	23,996	PP, 65+, V
Alabama	Escambia County	6	↓	40-60%	18	38	105	\$36,840	36,395	PP, 65+, V, AI
Alabama	Franklin County	49	↓	40-60%	14	33	95	\$38,535	31,381	65+, AI
Alabama	Geneva County	46	↑	40-60%	14	34	69	\$36,289	25,303	PCPS, 65+, V
Alabama	Henry County	47	↑	40-60%	19	36	43	\$42,501	16,543	65+, V
Alabama	Lamar County	34	↑	40-60%	15	34	77	\$36,520	13,021	PCPS, 65+, V
Alabama	Marion County	20	↑	40-60%	19	36	89	\$34,977	28,868	PCPS, 65+, V
Alabama	Monroe County	0	↓	40-60%	18	35	75	\$35,163	21,228	PCPS, PP, 65+, V, AI
Alabama	Pickens County	31	↑	40-60%	16	36	80	\$33,160	18,336	PP, 65+, V
Alabama	Randolph County	27	↑	40-60%	15	31	56	\$37,333	21,935	65+, V
Alabama	Washington County	0	↓	40-60%	18	40	76	\$42,658	16,514	PCPS, 65+, V, AI
Alabama	Winston County	19	↑	40-60%	13	30	157	\$36,497	23,516	65+, V
Arizona	Apache County	0	↔	40-60%	14	35	84	\$31,072	66,213	PP, AI
Arkansas	Carroll County	46	↓	40-60%	13	36	52	\$37,587	27,843	65+, V, AI
Arkansas	Franklin County	15	↑	40-60%	14	37	64	\$41,933	17,658	65+, V, AI
Arkansas	Hot Spring County	33	↓	40-60%	12	35	87	\$39,851	33,472	PCPS, 65+, V
Arkansas	Independence County	49	↑	40-60%	13	37	88	\$38,241	37,161	65+, AI
Arkansas	Johnson County	42	↑	40-60%	13	36	69	\$35,877	26,536	65+, V
Arkansas	Logan County	11	↑	40-60%	14	38	74	\$37,924	21,458	PCPS, 65+
Arkansas	Madison County	16	↓	40-60%	12	34	54	\$41,007	16,665	PCPS, 65+, V, AI
Arkansas	Polk County	0	↓	40-60%	14	37	66	\$34,723	19,792	65+, V
Arkansas	Union County	50	↑	40-60%	14	39	46	\$42,195	39,225	65+, V
Arkansas	Van Buren County	28	↓	40-60%	13	36	57	\$38,306	17,388	PCPS, 65+, V
Florida	Jackson County	42	↑	60-80%	12	35	76	\$36,751	50,077	65+, v
Florida	Jefferson County	26	↑	40-60%	12	32	46	\$42,210	14,448	PCPS, 65+, V
Florida	Levy County	11	↑	40-60%	14	32	61	\$36,005	41,834	PCPS, 65+, V
Florida	Madison County	47	↑	40-60%	16	34	89	\$34,360	18,418	PCPS, PP, 65+, V
Florida	Washington County	15	↓	40-60%	13	39	66	\$36,328	26,547	PCPS, 65+, V, AI
Georgia	Decatur County	39	↑	40-60%	12	30	58	\$37,661	26,630	PP, 65+, V
Georgia	Dodge County	29	↓	40-60%	14	29	54	\$34,611	21,315	65+, V
Georgia	Grady County	45	↓	40-60%	12	33	56	\$36,486	24,290	PP, 65+
Georgia	Laurens County	31	↓	60-80%	14	36	50	\$36,960	47,747	65+, V
Georgia	Meriwether County	38	↓	40-60%	15	35	57	\$37,866	20,370	65+, V
Georgia	Worth County	49	↔	40-60%	14	37	58	\$39,560	20,068	PCPS, 65+, V
Indiana	Brown County	35	↑	40-60%	13	31	42	\$53,801	14,754	65+, V
Indiana	Daviess County	23	↑	40-60%	13	38	75	\$47,019	31,256	65+
Indiana	Greene County	50	↑	40-60%	13	33	66	\$47,952	31,540	PCPS, 65+, V
Indiana	Harrison County	43	↑	40-60%	13	36	71	\$53,719	41,331	65+, V
Indiana	Orange County	33	↑	40-60%	12	35	53	\$40,918	19,224	65+, V
Indiana	Ripley County	46	↓	40-60%	14	33	56	\$51,553	28,287	PCPS, 65+, V
Kentucky	Harlan County	28	↓	40-60%	17	37	191	\$27,425	27,411	PP, 65+
Kentucky	Letcher County	1	↑	40-60%	18	39	164	\$31,079	23,808	PP, 65+

### \*More Data Key

PCPS • Primary Care Physician Shortage Area per HRSA thresholds

AI • Percentage of American Indians/Alaska Natives in county exceeds national average

PP • Census Bureau-designation as Persistent Poverty County

65+ • Percentage of population 65 years of age or older exceeds national average

V • Percentage of veterans in county exceeds national average

↑ ↓ ↔ • Broadband access increased, decreased, unchanged year on year

<sup>†</sup>The Rural Priority 2017 list is organized alphabetically by state, and within a state, by county. The list focuses on majority rural counties with population estimates of 15,000 or higher and reflects annual broadband data for fixed residential connections as of December 2015. Visit [www.fcc.gov/health](http://www.fcc.gov/health) for methodology and for the Priority 2017 list which looks at broadband health priorities across all U.S. counties (both rural and non-rural).



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National		62.2%	60-80%	9.7%	27.4%	48.7/1000	\$55,775		
Kentucky	Ohio County	24 ↔	60-80%	16	37	90	\$40,661	23,822	PCPS, 65+, V
Kentucky	Pendleton County	45 ↓	20-40%	15	32	72	\$49,345	14,725	PCPS, 65+, V
Kentucky	Russell County	0 ↔	40-60%	12	35	72	\$31,968	17,742	PP, 65+, V
Louisiana	Acadia Parish	41 ↓	40-60%	13	33	84	\$42,033	61,309	PP
Louisiana	Avoyelles Parish	4 ↑	40-60%	14	37	98	\$34,803	41,642	PP, 65+, V, AI
Louisiana	Beauregard Parish	9 ↑	40-60%	13	36	106	\$48,206	35,015	65+, V
Louisiana	East Feliciana Parish	9 ↔	40-60%	17	42	94	\$43,105	19,685	PP, 65+, V
Louisiana	Evangeline Parish	20 ↑	40-60%	12	42	116	\$33,407	32,014	PP
Louisiana	Franklin Parish	7 ↑	20-40%	14	38	101	\$33,845	19,087	PP, 65+
Louisiana	Grant Parish	26 ↔	40-60%	12	34	76	\$43,437	23,311	PCPS, V
Louisiana	Jefferson Davis County	24 ↓	60-80%	13	36	103	\$43,677	30,555	65+
Louisiana	Sabine Parish	9 ↓	40-60%	15	39	87	\$42,196	22,503	PCPS, PP, 65+, V, AI
Louisiana	Union Parish	5 ↑	40-60%	16	34	98	\$38,741	20,991	PCPS, 65+, V
Louisiana	Washington Parish	3 ↔	40-60%	15	37	74	\$33,453	47,455	PP, 65+, V
Louisiana	Webster Parish	29 ↑	40-60%	13	36	78	\$34,566	38,996	65+, V
Louisiana	West Feliciana Parish	2 ↑	40-60%	12	35	53	\$56,680	16,224	65+, V
Michigan	Gladwin County	45 ↑	40-60%	14	35	62	\$40,746	24,194	65+, V
Michigan	Menominee County	42 ↑	40-60%	11	34	50	\$42,591	22,558	65+, V, AI
Michigan	Newaygo County	26 ↓	40-60%	11	34	38	\$45,086	47,239	65+, V
Michigan	Oceana County	32 ↓	60-80%	13	35	54	\$43,211	24,897	65+, V, AI
Michigan	Osceola County	30 ↑	40-60%	11	34	57	\$41,782	22,092	65+, v
Mississippi	Chickasaw County	32 ↔	20-40%	15	33	73	\$31,937	16,015	PP, 65+
Mississippi	Clarke County	7 ↑	40-60%	15	35	84	\$38,362	15,499	PP, 65+, V
Mississippi	Copiah County	9 ↓	40-60%	15	37	71	\$34,723	28,972	PP, 65+
Mississippi	Covington County	0 ↔	20-40%	16	36	77	\$36,206	19,195	PP, 65+
Mississippi	George County	4 ↓	40-60%	13	34	98	\$48,212	24,656	65+, V
Mississippi	Greene County	12 ↓	20-40%	13	39	116	\$42,699	14,630	PCPS, V
Mississippi	Itawamba County	15 ↔	40-60%	13	35	52	\$39,296	23,526	PCPS, 65+
Mississippi	Jasper County	15 ↔	20-40%	17	38	60	\$35,092	16,370	PCPS, PP, 65+
Mississippi	Jones County	46 ↔	40-60%	15	38	67	\$36,413	69,079	65+
Mississippi	Leake County	13 ↑	20-40%	14	41	87	\$35,804	23,986	PCPS, PP, 65+
Mississippi	Lincoln County	20 ↓	40-60%	13	39	51	\$40,627	36,209	65+
Mississippi	Marion County	0 ↔	20-40%	14	34	93	\$34,742	27,818	PP, 65+
Mississippi	Monroe County	41 ↔	40-60%	14	38	71	\$38,893	35,637	65+, V
Mississippi	Neshoba County	46 ↔	20-40%	13	38	110	\$38,068	30,390	PP, 65+, AI
Mississippi	Newton County	25 ↔	40-60%	16	35	101	\$36,991	20,825	PCPS, 65+, V, AI
Mississippi	Panola County	43 ↑	40-60%	15	36	75	\$35,517	34,943	PCPS, PP, 65+
Mississippi	Pike County	49 ↔	40-60%	16	37	83	\$31,976	40,927	PP, 65+
Mississippi	Pontotoc County	32 ↔	20-40%	14	31	62	\$39,977	30,633	PCPS
Mississippi	Scott County	8 ↑	40-60%	15	34	90	\$34,469	27,846	PCPS, PP
Mississippi	Simpson County	6 ↓	40-60%	14	38	95	\$37,742	26,782	PP, 65+, V
Mississippi	Smith County	6 ↔	20-40%	14	37	94	\$40,637	15,722	PCPS, 65+
Mississippi	Stone County	1 ↓	40-60%	12	36	84	\$42,295	19,724	PCPS, 65+, V, AI
Mississippi	Tate County	30 ↑	40-60%	17	37	84	\$43,376	30,877	PCPS, 65+
Mississippi	Tippah County	17 ↔	40-60%	13	34	78	\$38,297	22,452	65+
Mississippi	Union County	49 ↔	40-60%	11	33	69	\$42,120	27,779	65+

**\*More Data Key**

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National		62.2%	60-80%	9.7%	27.4%	48.7/1000	\$55,775			
Mississippi	Walthall County	0	↔	20-40%	17	38	81	\$31,202	15,432	PP, 65+
Mississippi	Wayne County	3	↔	20-40%	16	38	82	\$35,989	19,885	PP, 65+, V
Mississippi	Winston County	35	↔	20-40%	15	36	44	\$35,216	18,544	PP, 65+, V
Missouri	Benton County	36	↑	40-60%	14	31	71	\$34,156	17,981	65+, V
Missouri	Butler County	36	↑	40-60%	12	35	81	\$35,509	41,579	65+, V
Missouri	Stoddard County	47	↑	40-60%	14	33	78	\$38,773	28,295	65+, V
Missouri	Texas County	10	↔	40-60%	13	33	67	\$34,935	25,441	PP, 65+, V
Missouri	Washington County	27	↑	40-60%	14	34	114	\$37,986	25,412	PP, 65+, V
Missouri	Wright County	20	↔	40-60%	11	31	56	\$32,634	18,756	PCPS, PP, 65+, V
New Mexico	Cibola County	39	↑	40-60%	13	31	56	\$35,580	26,186	PP, 65+, V, AI
New Mexico	McKinley County	3	↑	40-60%	14	35	87	\$29,040	69,050	PP, AI
North Carolina	Anson County	34	↓	40-60%	15	35	51	\$35,307	25,413	65+
North Carolina	Bertie County	16	↓	40-60%	14	36	53	\$31,967	21,102	PCPS, PP, 65+
North Carolina	Caswell County	39	↓	40-60%	13	36	46	\$40,504	22,661	PCPS, 65+, V
North Carolina	Greene County	12	↑	40-60%	13	36	55	\$35,060	21,714	PCPS, 65+, AI
North Carolina	Martin County	42	↓	40-60%	16	38	78	\$36,543	22,149	PP, 65+, V
North Carolina	Montgomery County	43	↓	40-60%	13	31	58	\$39,096	26,373	65+, V
North Carolina	Northampton County	35	↓	40-60%	16	39	73	\$33,301	20,436	PCPS, PP, 65+, V, AI
North Carolina	Sampson County	41	↑	40-60%	14	37	69	\$40,660	62,793	65+
North Carolina	Swain County	45	↓	60-80%	15	33	72	\$36,103	14,074	65+, V, AI
Ohio	Coshocton County	46	↓	40-60%	15	34	88	\$41,643	35,013	65+, V
Ohio	Gallia County	24	↑	40-60%	15	32	64	\$38,738	30,320	65+, V
Ohio	Meigs County	39	↑	40-60%	17	34	66	\$38,479	22,741	PCPS, 65+, V
Ohio	Monroe County	0	↔	40-60%	15	37	87	\$41,754	12,904	PCPS, 65+, V
Ohio	Perry County	43	↔	40-60%	13	36	68	\$44,738	36,192	PCPS, 65+, V
Ohio	Pike County	42	↓	60-80%	14	36	70	\$39,851	28,610	65+, V
Oklahoma	Adair County	4	↑	20-40%	14	39	135	\$31,572	21,658	PP, 65+, AI
Oklahoma	Bryan County	42	↑	40-60%	11	33	88	\$40,875	44,606	65+, V, AI
Oklahoma	Caddo County	20	↔	40-60%	13	37	56	\$43,548	24,977	PCPS, PP, 65+, V, AI
Oklahoma	Cherokee County	47	↑	40-60%	15	36	50	\$40,600	46,955	PP, 65+, V, AI
Oklahoma	Creek County	39	↑	60-80%	15	37	89	\$47,395	69,352	65+, V, AI
Oklahoma	Delaware County	48	↑	60-80%	14	33	53	\$38,840	40,738	65+, V, AI
Oklahoma	Garvin County	26	↑	40-60%	13	34	81	\$46,139	25,783	65+, V, AI
Oklahoma	Le Flore County	26	↓	40-60%	14	39	104	\$38,261	49,155	65+, V, AI
Oklahoma	Lincoln County	31	↓	40-60%	14	39	55	\$46,976	33,088	65+, V, AI
Oklahoma	McCurtain County	1	↑	40-60%	14	35	100	\$31,723	30,538	PP, 65+, V, AI
Oklahoma	McIntosh County	11	↓	40-60%	14	38	58	\$35,775	18,540	65+, V, AI
Oklahoma	Mayes County	33	↑	40-60%	14	35	71	\$46,373	41,304	65+, V, AI
Oklahoma	Osage County	19	↓	40-60%	12	35	52	\$46,093	45,024	PCPS, 65+, V, AI
Oklahoma	Pittsburg County	36	↓	40-60%	13	32	60	\$43,257	44,318	65+, V, AI
Oklahoma	Pontotoc County	48	↔	40-60%	12	36	48	\$44,798	38,136	65+, V, AI
Oklahoma	Seminole County	17	↑	40-60%	14	36	72	\$39,102	24,064	65+, V, AI
Oklahoma	Sequoyah County	18	↓	20-40%	14	33	69	\$36,718	42,020	65+, V, AI
Pennsylvania	Mifflin County	47	↑	40-60%	13	32	78	\$42,296	46,822	65+, V
Pennsylvania	Warren County	36	↓	40-60%	13	34	48	\$45,362	40,121	65+, V

**\*More Data Key**  
 PCPS • Primary Care Physician Shortage Area per HRSA thresholds  
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National		62.2%	60-80%	9.7%	27.4%	48.7/1000	\$55,775			
South Carolina	Chester County	42	↑	40-60%	14	36	59	\$35,006	31,098	65+, V
South Carolina	Chesterfield County	24	↔	40-60%	15	35	69	\$36,520	44,152	65+, V
South Carolina	Edgefield County	46	↓	40-60%	14	33	51	\$46,430	26,748	PCPS, 65+, V
South Carolina	Fairfield County	36	↑	40-60%	19	41	42	\$36,622	22,456	65+, V
South Carolina	Hampton County	22	↓	40-60%	15	42	65	\$30,772	19,638	PP, 65+, V
South Carolina	Marlboro County	1	↑	40-60%	15	39	62	\$32,485	27,306	PP, 65+, AI
South Carolina	Newberry County	50	↑	40-60%	16	36	37	\$41,120	36,451	65+, V
South Carolina	Orangeburg Coun	31	↓	40-60%	15	42	35	\$37,651	87,409	PP, 65+, V
South Carolina	Saluda County	10	↑	40-60%	13	36	49	\$41,409	18,522	PCPS, 65+, V, AI
South Carolina	Williamsburg County	49	↑	40-60%	18	43	64	\$28,943	31,565	PCPS, PP, 65+, V
Tennessee	Cocke County	49	↔	40-60%	16	34	79	\$31,355	35,720	PP, 65+, V, AI
Tennessee	Giles County	21	↓	40-60%	14	32	63	\$42,207	27,716	65+, V
Tennessee	Hardeman County	38	↑	40-60%	15	38	56	\$37,729	25,484	PCPS, 65+, V
Tennessee	Hawkins County	48	↓	40-60%	14	33	64	\$38,708	57,621	65+, V
Tennessee	Humphreys County	27	↑	40-60%	14	36	98	\$43,657	17,831	65+, V
Tennessee	Jefferson County	48	↓	40-60%	12	34	59	\$42,669	54,312	65+, V
Tennessee	Lauderdale County	48	↑	40-60%	15	38	72	\$34,715	27,361	PCPS
Tennessee	Lawrence County	28	↓	40-60%	14	34	75	\$40,076	40,698	65+, AI
Tennessee	Lincoln County	28	↓	40-60%	14	32	59	\$43,694	33,647	65+, V, AI
Tennessee	McNairy County	43	↑	40-60%	17	39	65	\$37,337	25,519	65+, V
Tennessee	Monroe County	49	↓	40-60%	15	36	61	\$37,867	46,590	PCPS, 65+, V, AI
Tennessee	Rhea County	44	↓	40-60%	14	30	79	\$39,863	32,678	65+, V
Tennessee	Wayne County	36	↓	40-60%	12	33	109	\$34,895	15,876	65+, V
Texas	Anderson County	15	↓	60-80%	12	32	64	\$43,062	57,655	V
Texas	Cherokee County	17	↑	40-60%	12	30	83	\$41,355	49,457	65+, AI
Texas	Rusk County	31	↑	40-60%	11	31	78	\$49,347	53,094	PCPS, 65+, V
Texas	Shelby County	4	↓	40-60%	12	31	73	\$41,519	24,534	PCPS, 65+
Virginia	Buckingham County	17	↑	40-60%	14	34	42	\$43,774	16,710	65+, V
Virginia	Dinwiddie County	39	↔	40-60%	11	33	57	\$52,694	28,265	PCPS, 65+, V
Virginia	Halifax County	40	↑	40-60%	16	32	43	\$40,432	33,304	65+, V
Virginia	Mecklenburg County	27	↔	40-60%	14	31	55	\$33,650	30,195	65+, V
West Virginia	Barbour County	25	↓	40-60%	15	38	69	\$37,330	16,736	65+
West Virginia	Braxton County	46	↔	40-60%	16	33	74	\$35,892	14,125	PP, 65+, V
West Virginia	Greenbrier County	50	↑	40-60%	14	34	77	\$38,209	35,044	65+, V
West Virginia	Hampshire County	23	↑	40-60%	13	34	64	\$40,293	25,081	PCPS, 65+, V
West Virginia	Jackson County	21	↑	60-80%	13	32	75	\$44,675	29,444	65+, V
West Virginia	Logan County	43	↑	60-80%	18	41	128	\$35,615	36,876	65+
West Virginia	Mason County	34	↑	40-60%	13	36	75	\$35,717	27,325	65+, V
West Virginia	Mineral County	43	↑	60-80%	14	35	63	\$43,159	27,881	PCPS, 65+, V
West Virginia	Mingo County	27	↑	60-80%	13	40	169	\$31,742	26,716	PP, 65+
West Virginia	Nicholas County	48	↑	60-80%	16	38	58	\$38,912	26,626	65+, V

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V • Percentage of veterans in county exceeds national average

↓ ↑ ↔ • Broadband access increased, decreased, unchanged year on year

<sup>†</sup>The Rural Priority 2017 list is organized alphabetically by state, and within a state, by county. The list focuses on majority rural counties with population estimates of 15,000 or higher and reflects annual broadband data for fixed residential connections as of December 2015. Visit [www.fcc.gov/health](http://www.fcc.gov/health) for methodology and for the Priority 2017 list which looks at broadband health priorities across all U.S. counties (both rural and non-rural).