

Barnstable Digital Equity Plan

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

November 19, 2024
West Barnstable Community Center



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TOWN
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Welcome



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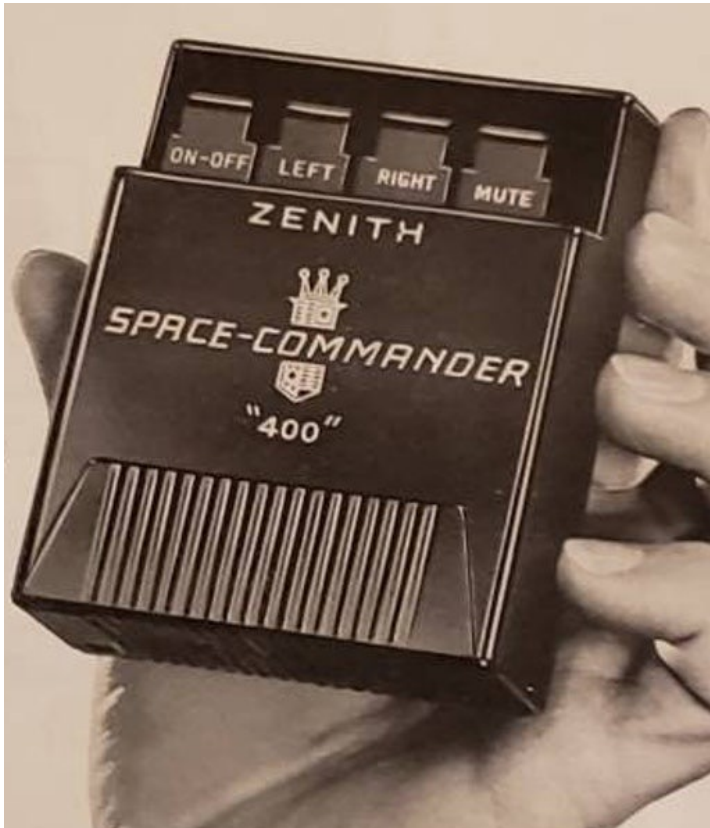
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AGENDA

- Welcome
- Project overview
- What is digital equity?
- Existing conditions in Barnstable
- Group exercises
 - Community Resources
 - Barriers & Opportunities
 - Vision & Goals
- Wrap-up



Project Overview



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Project Background

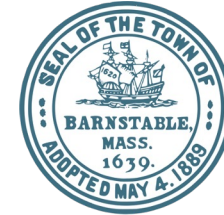


AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

- COVID-19
- ARPA, IIJA Digital Equity Act, BEAD



- MBI developing State Digital Equity Plan (SDEP)
- Programs and funding for municipalities: planning, implementation, and more to come



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- Commission is a service provider for municipalities
- Supporting regional digital equity & broadband initiatives
- Barnstable embarking on municipal plan

This project was funded by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute at the MassTech Collaborative under the Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program. Funding was provided by Massachusetts ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Funds.

WHAT IS A DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN?

Purpose of the plan

-
- Understand current landscape of digital equity
 - Prepare for future funding opportunities
 - Equitable implementation: ensure that all benefit from infrastructural and programmatic investments
-

Tasks and Timeline



What is Digital Equity?



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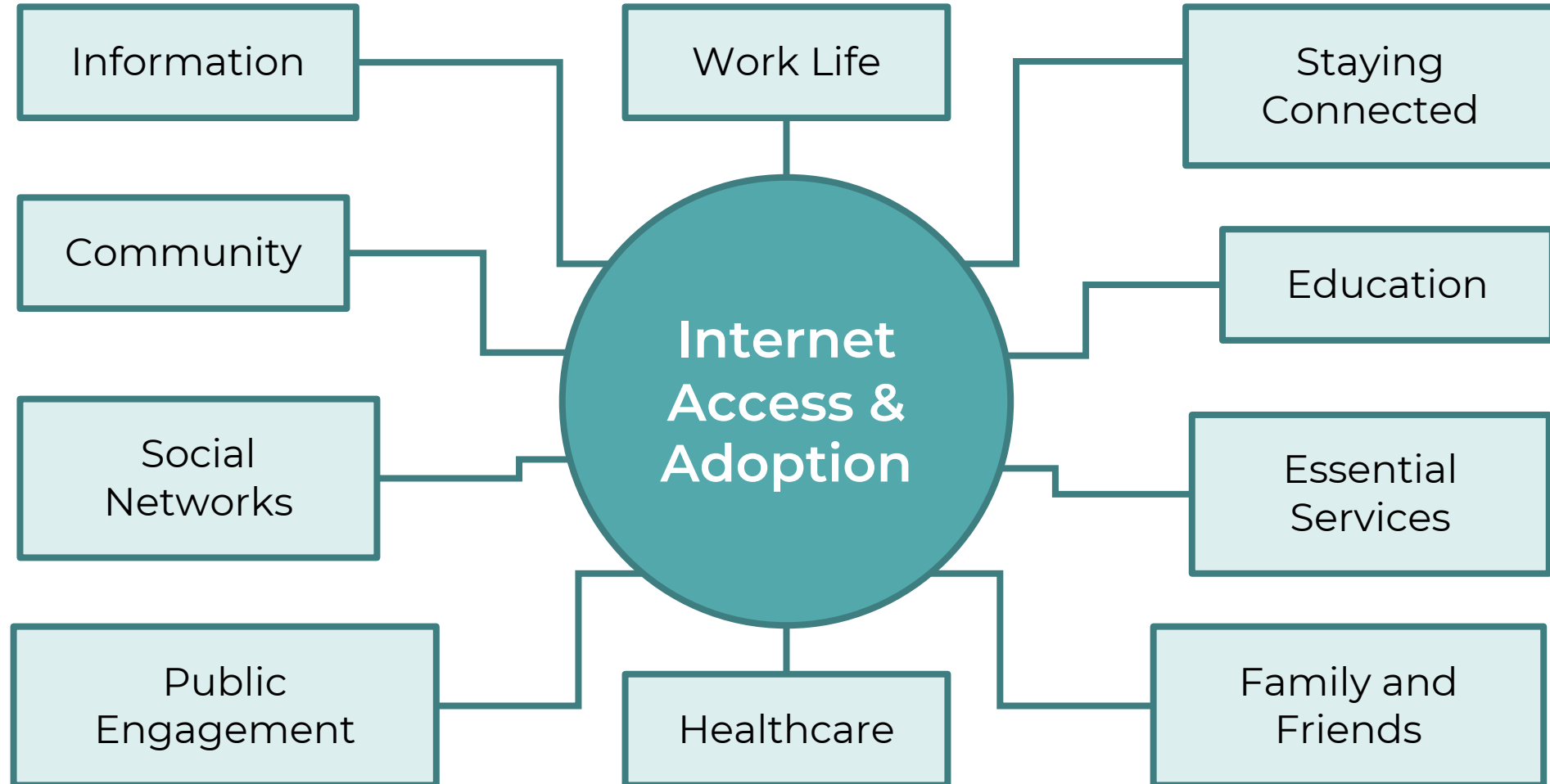
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Impacts of Digital Equity



Components of Digital Equity



Internet Connection

Affordable, fast, reliable,
accessible.



Devices

Adequate, needs-
appropriate, affordable,
accessible.



Literacy/Skills

Ability to use technology,
functionality, trust,
privacy concerns.

Covered Populations

Digital Equity (DE) & Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)

Covered Populations and Underrepresented Communities

Identify groups and communities disproportionately impacted by digital inequity



Low-income households



Indigenous and Native American persons



People with language barriers



Aging individuals



Members of ethnic and religious minorities



Racial and ethnic minorities



Incarcerated individuals



Women



Rural inhabitants



Veterans



LGBTQI+ persons



Persons adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality



Persons of color



Persons with disabilities



Existing Conditions

Demographics and Internet
Connectivity



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**EXISTING
CONDITIONS**

**General
Demographics**

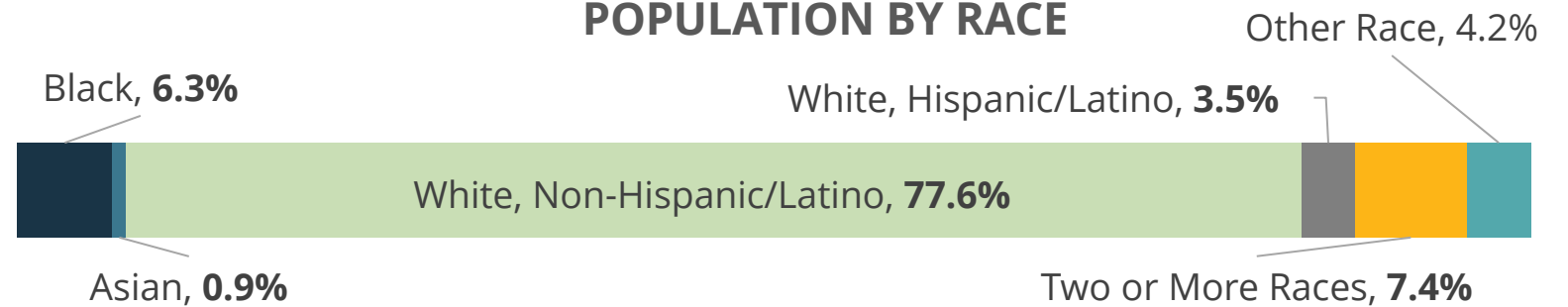
2022 American
Community Survey
5-Year Estimates

Town of Barnstable

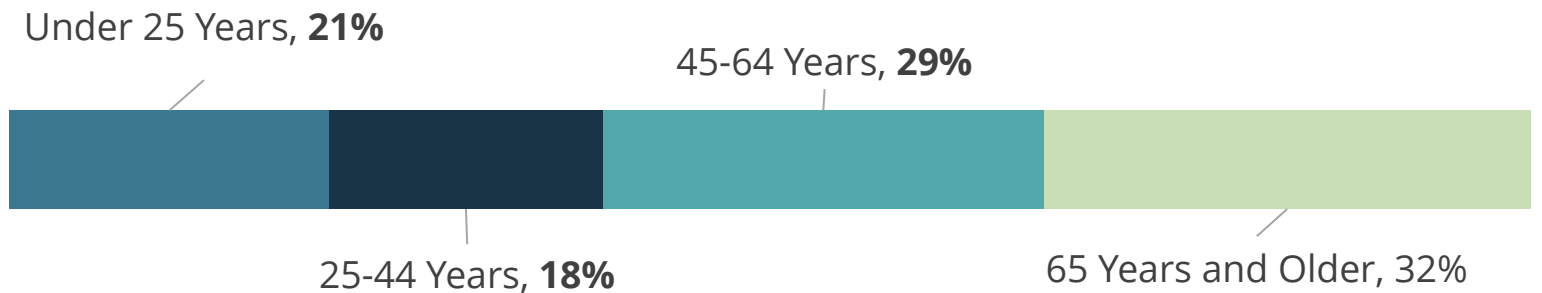
POPULATION 48,922	HOUSING UNITS 27,040	HOUSEHOLDS 19,574	OWNERS 14,801 (75.6%)	BROADBAND 93.4%	MEDIAN SALES PRICE \$840,000 (2022)	HOUSEHOLD INCOME \$94,387 Median
MEDIAN AGE 47.1	SEASONAL 6,219 (23.%)	HOUSEHOLD SIZE 2.47	RENTERS 4,773 (24.4%)	NO COMPUTER 3.6%		

(Various Sources)

POPULATION BY RACE









AGE DIVERSITY



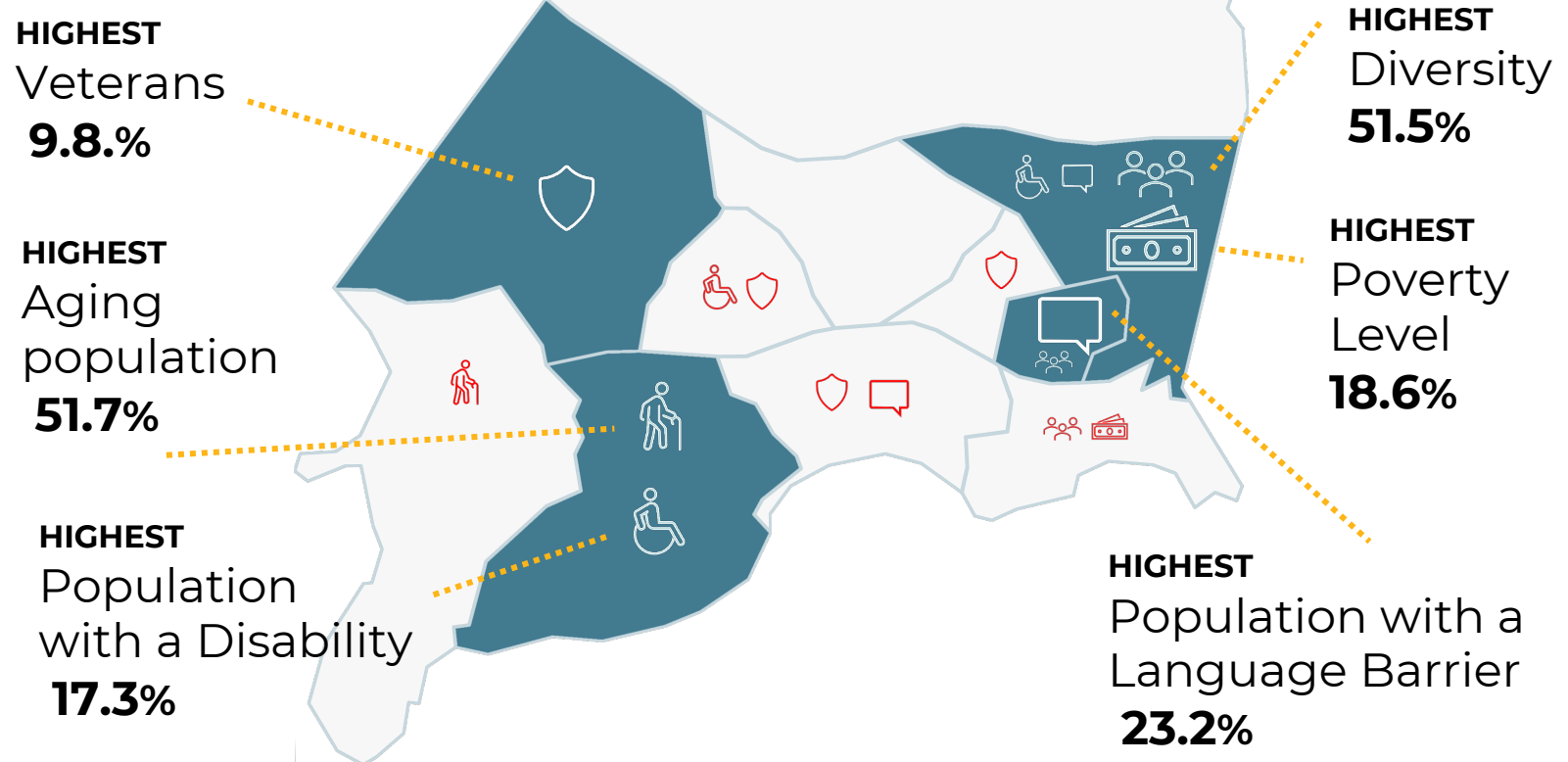
Covered Populations | 2022 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Town of Barnstable

	Veterans	6.0%	▼	▲	▲
	Poverty Level	6.9%	▼	▼	▼
	Aging Population (60+)	40.9%	▼	▲	▲
	With a Disability	11.6%	▼	▲	▲
	Language Barrier	8.7%	▼	▼	▼
	Diversity (Other than White, non-Latino)	22.4%	▲	▼	▼

Population **48,922**
 Median Income **\$94,387**

- All areas indicated exceed county, state and national percentages.
- Areas in **BLUE** have the highest of the indicated characteristics



Connectivity | 2022 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Town of Barnstable

No Internet
Subscription

5.7%



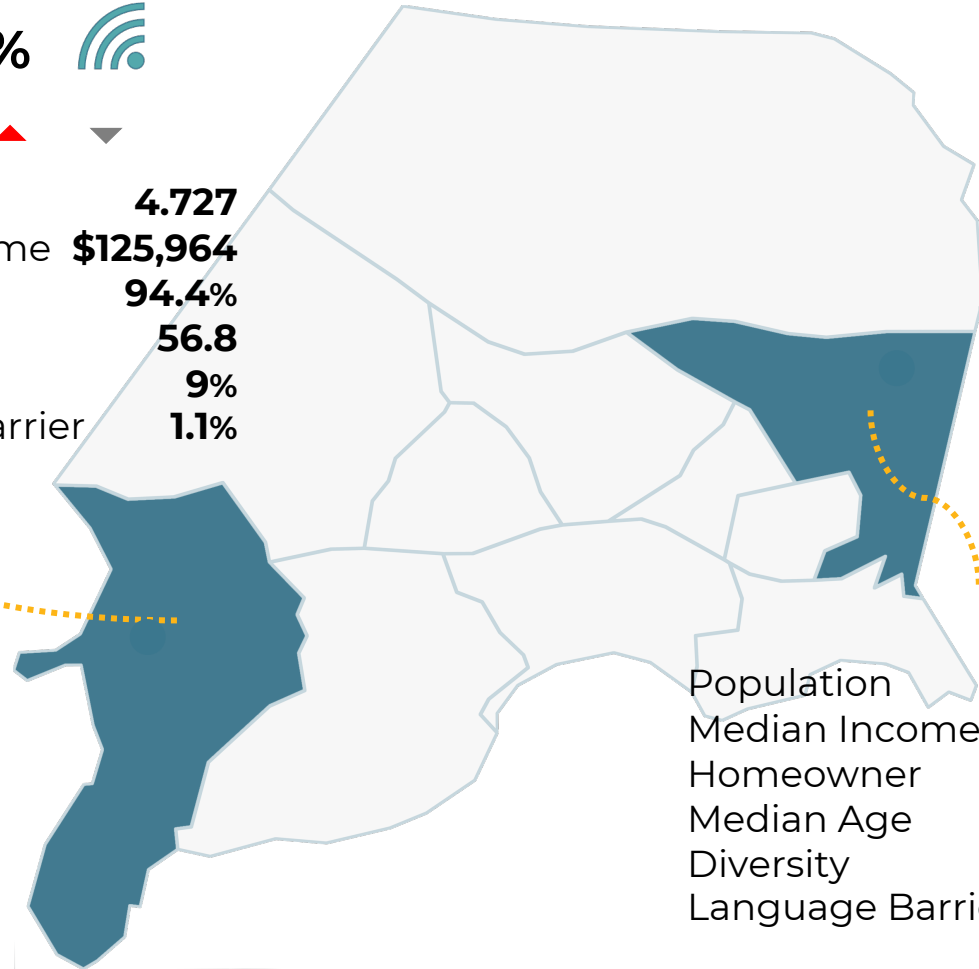
Population	48,922
Median Income	\$94,387
Homeowner	75.6%
Median Age	47.1
Diversity	22.4%
Language Barrier	8.7%

No Internet

10.1%



Population	4,727
Median Income	\$125,964
Homeowner	94.4%
Median Age	56.8
Diversity	9%
Language Barrier	1.1%



No Internet

14.9%



Population	3,864
Median Income	\$42,227
Homeowner	24.3%
Median Age	40.2
Diversity	51.5%
Language Barrier	22.2%

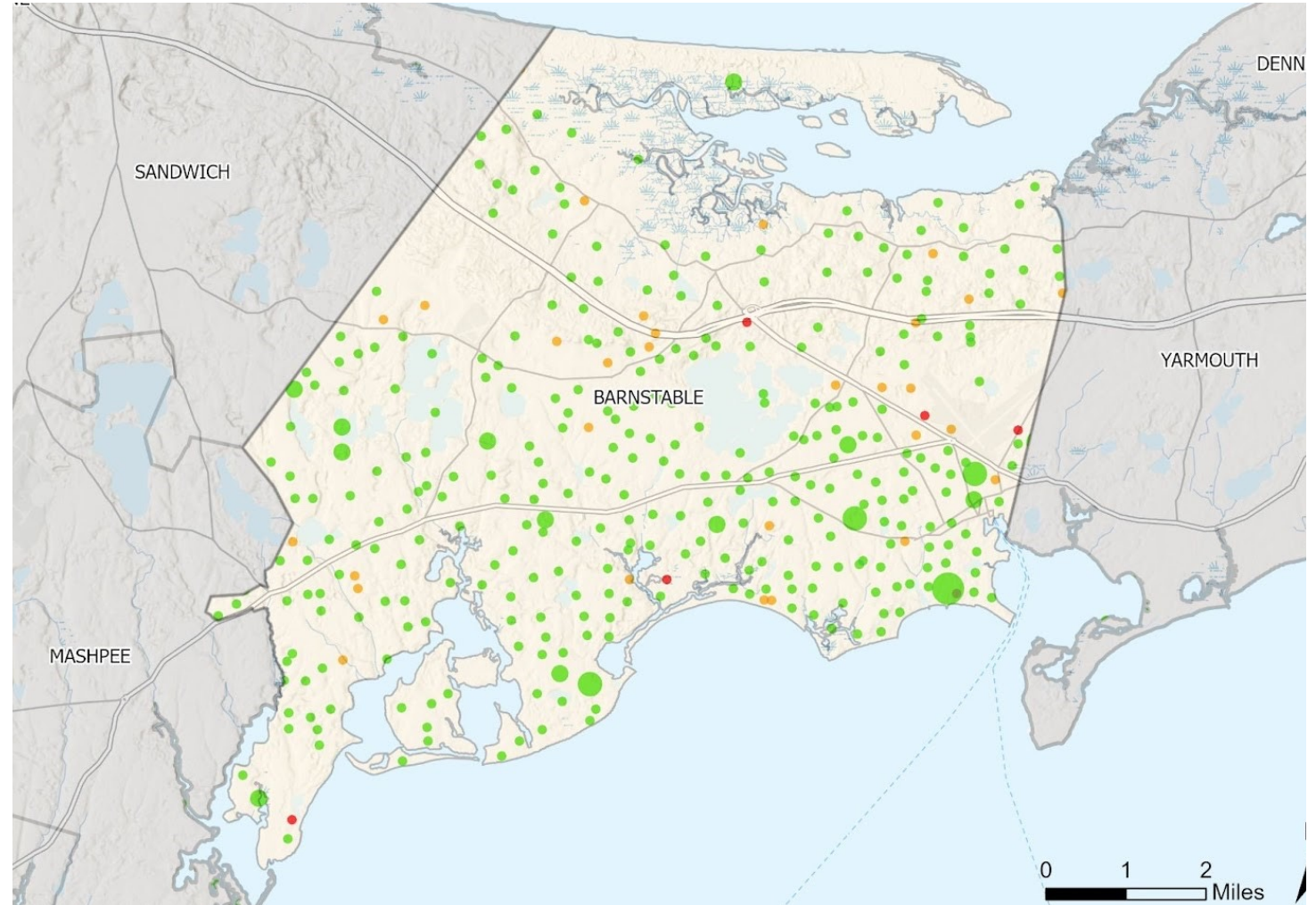
EXISTING CONDITIONS

Internet Coverage

Fixed and Mobile Broadband Needs Assessment

CTC Technology and Energy
Prepared for Barnstable County

Average Download Speeds



Number of Speed Tests and Average Download Speed

City of Barnstable
Barnstable County
Massachusetts

Speed (Mbps)

- Above 100
- 25 - 100
- Below 25

Tests Taken

- 100
- 200
- 300
- 400

Ookla speed tests by census block.

Created: February 7, 2024 by CTC Technology & Energy
Basemap: ESRI World Terrain
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 (2011) State Plane
Massachusetts

Data Sources:
- MassGIS Data: Municipalities
- Ookla (2022)

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Data from Expired Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)

As of Dec. 1, 2023

ACP Provided:

- Service discount up to \$30/month
- Service discount up to \$75/month on qualifying Tribal lands
- Device discount up to \$100 for a qualifying device

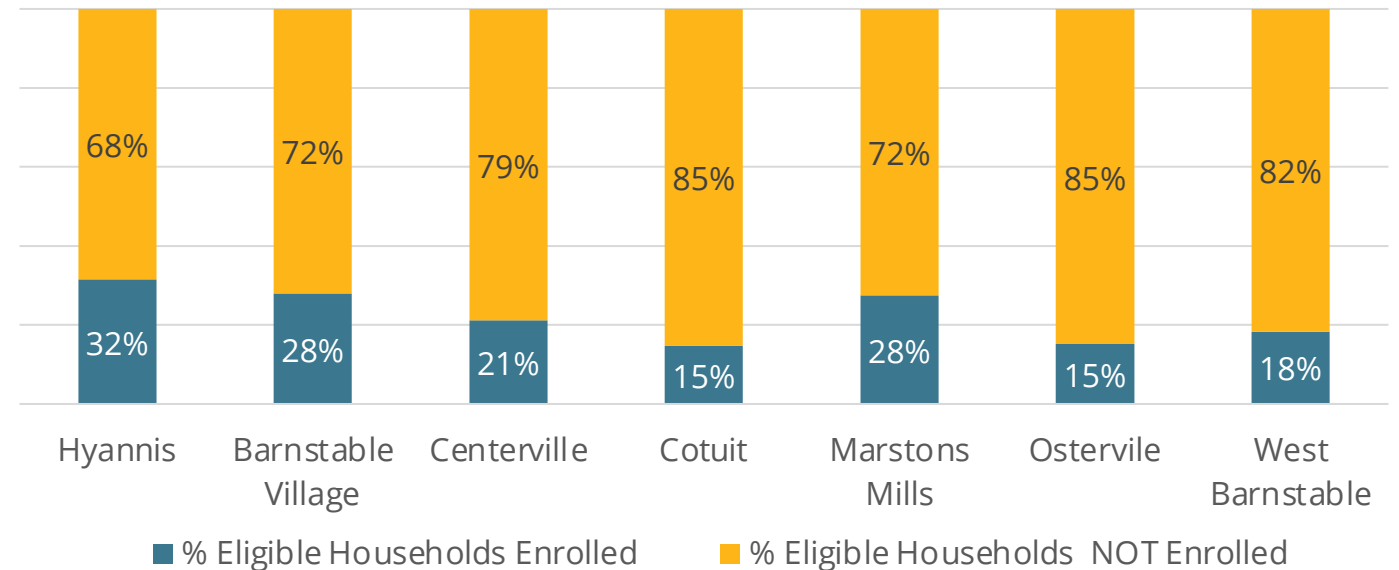
The **Affordable Connectivity Program** expired in April 2024. It was an FCC benefit program to assist households afford broadband connections for work, school, healthcare and more.



Townwide:

- Eligible Households: **5,000** (Appx)
- Households Enrolled: **1,333** (27%)

Missed Connections





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Questions?



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Breakout Exercises



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**DIGITAL EQUITY
PLAN**

Breakout Overview

- **Community Resources**
- **Barriers and Opportunities**
- **Visioning**

Community Resources

Programs, organizations, or individuals working to advance digital equity and inclusion.

Examples:

- ***Free public internet access and devices*** available at libraries.
- ***Courses hosted by non-profits*** that teach seniors how to navigate the internet or use a computer.
- 1-on-1 support provided by nonprofits to ***help clients advance digital skills*** to meet broader goals (job-seeking, healthcare, education), for example: ***classes at the Barnstable Adult Community Center.***

What or who advances digital equity?



Internet Connection

Affordable, fast, reliable,
accessible.



Devices

Adequate, needs-
appropriate, affordable,
accessible.



Literacy/Skills

Ability to use technology,
functionality, trust,
privacy concerns.

Barriers & Opportunities Exercise



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Visioning Exercise



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Vision and Goals: Word Exercise

Connectivity

Devices

Skills and
Literacy

Community

Vision & Goals: Group Feedback

Vision

What would Barnstable look like if it was digitally equitable? *Draft a short vision.*

Goals

How will the vision be achieved?

Values

What core principles should guide the plan?

Measures

How do we know we are making progress or achieving our goals?

Next Steps

- Host additional focus groups
- Synthesize information from workshops, focus groups, and stakeholder interviews.
- Develop draft digital equity plan.
- Public comment period.



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