

The US must close Gaps

in high-speed internet

service to deliver a more competitive, more equitable post-COVID economy



Even at the FCC's outdated standard for high-speed internet,

25 Mbps downloads /
3 Mbps uploads,
too many Americans face a major gap in affordable access to service.

Access gap – more than 14 million Americans live in census blocks where there are no broadband customers and where internet service providers either do not provide access or could not “without an extraordinary commitment of resources.”¹

Affordability gap – 20 million households don't subscribe to high-speed internet.² On surveys, half of Americans indicate that cost contributed to lack of broadband.³ Half of adults with household incomes less than \$30,000 have broadband at home compared to 95 percent of those with incomes above \$75,000.⁴

Competition gap – 47 percent of rural residents and 18 percent of urban residents have access to one or fewer broadband providers.⁵

¹ Federal Communications Commission, "14th Broadband Deployment Report" ² American Community Survey ³ Pew Research Center, "Mobile Technology and Home Broadband 2019" ⁴ The Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, "Disconnected: Seven Lessons on Fixing the Digital Divide" ⁵ Federal Communications Commission, "2020 Communications Market Report" ⁶ OECD, "Fixed broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, per speed tiers"



As more educational, training, employment, and entrepreneurial opportunities flow online, the US risks leaving some families and regions behind, while becoming less globally competitive.

Share of fixed broadband subscriptions with download speeds of at least 100 Mbps per 100 inhabitants⁶

To close the gaps, **policymakers must leverage** the dynamism and innovation of the private market, increase competition, and invest wisely to boost deployment and affordability. For reasoned solutions in the nation's interest, read:

Broadband Access: Connecting America

<https://www.ced.org/pdf/TCB-CED-Broadband-Access.pdf>