Information is Power

Controlling information is part of the power structure that ISPs have

Its time to give that power to the people.

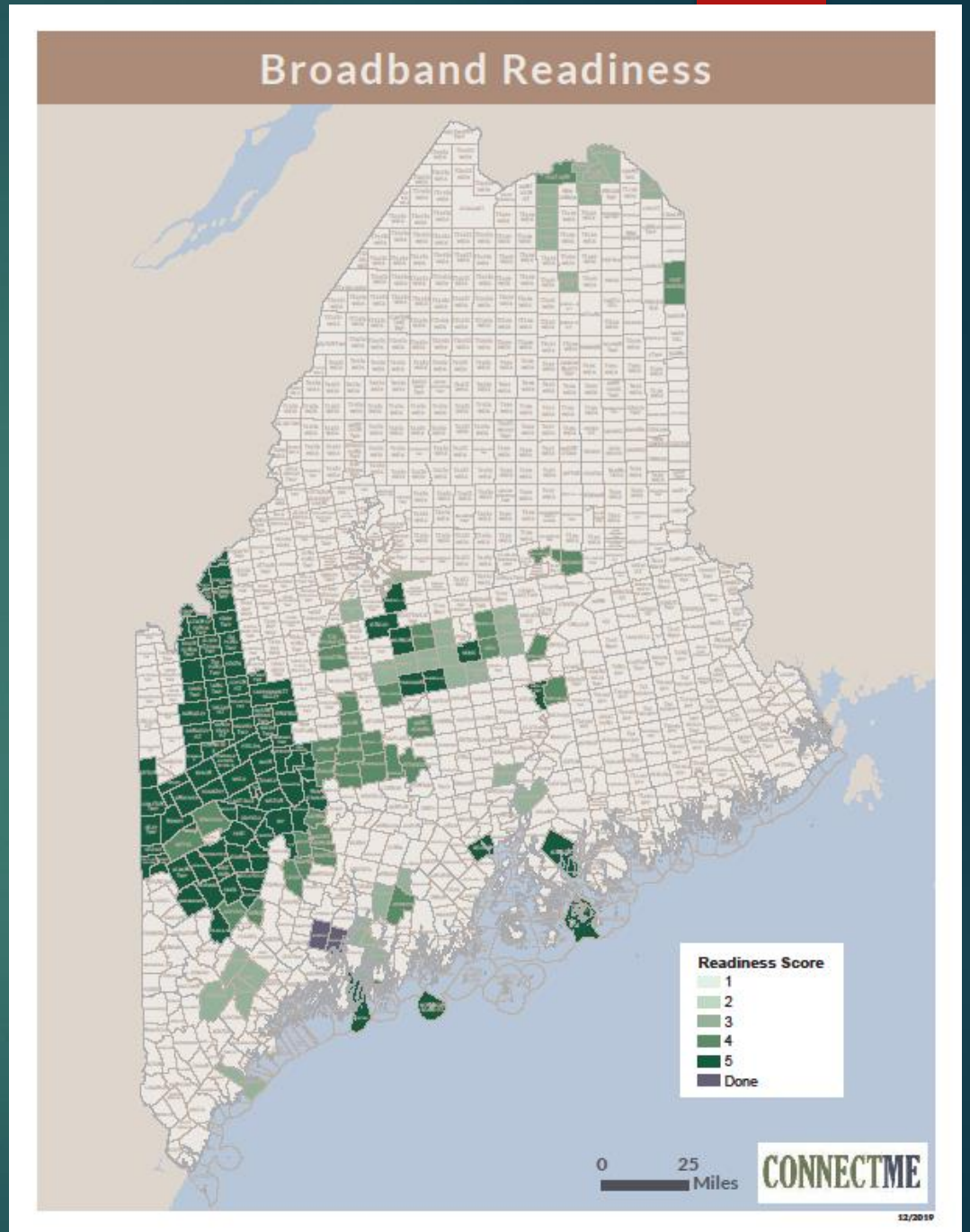(Ratepayers, Taxpayers, Customers.)

ConnectMaine,
Peggy Schaffer, Director
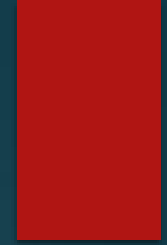
Community Planning

**The Key to broadband action**

160+ Communities
- Information is the biggest barrier to planning
- ISPs hold all the power (and data)
- Democratize the information
- Partner with community organizations
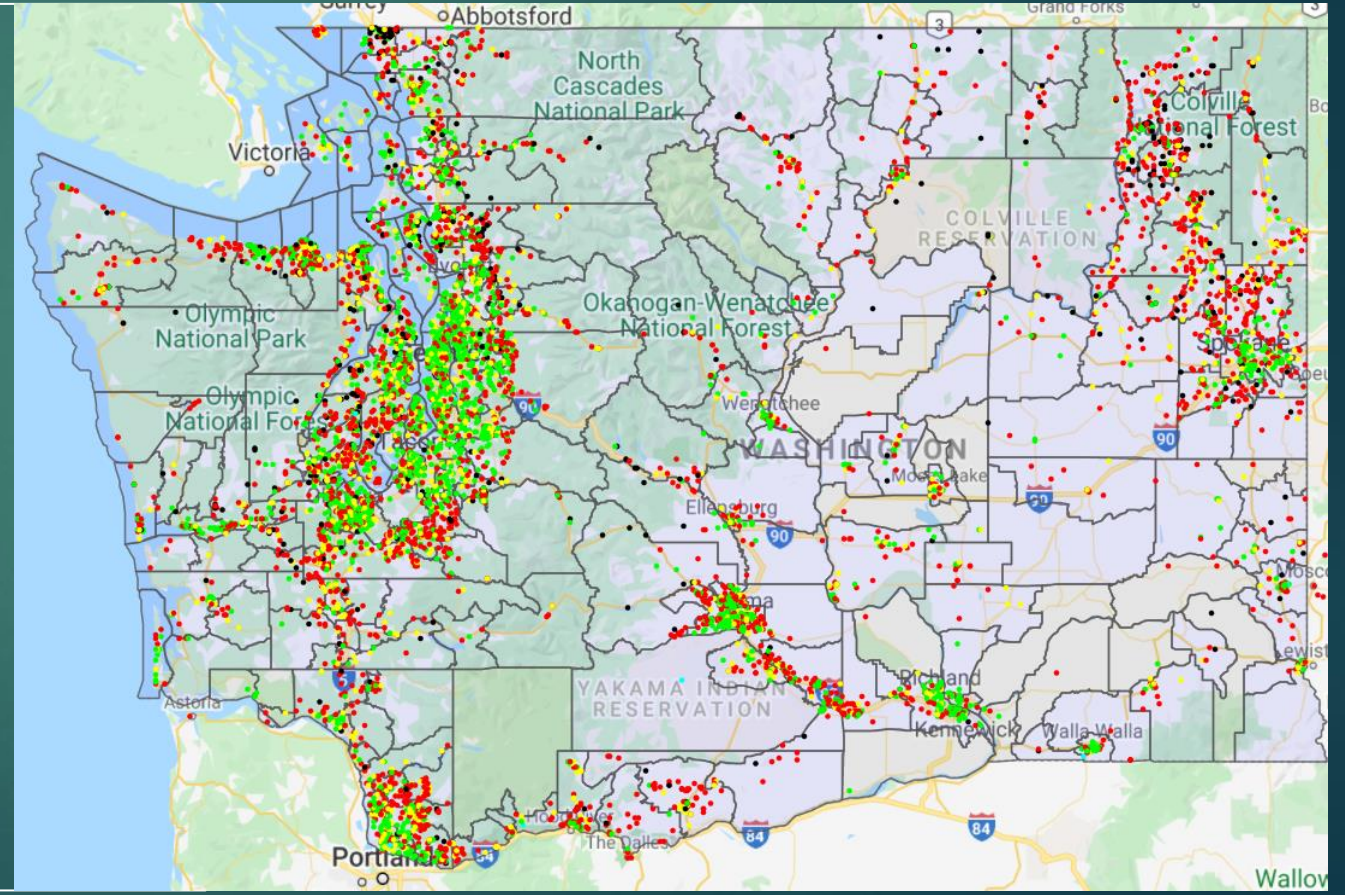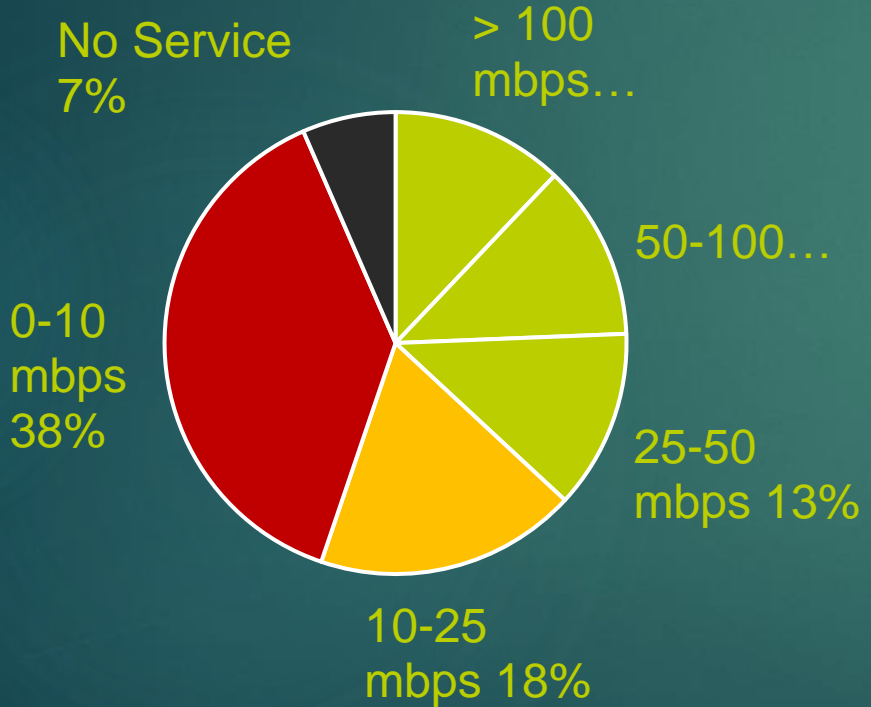
Community Planning - Broadband Action Teams

- **Currently 27 Teams**
  19 Active; 5 Forming;
  3 Considering

- **Identify shovel-ready projects**

- Connect projects to funding opportunities

- Promote participation in State Broadband Survey

WA Broadband Action Teams
January 2021

Active Forming Considering
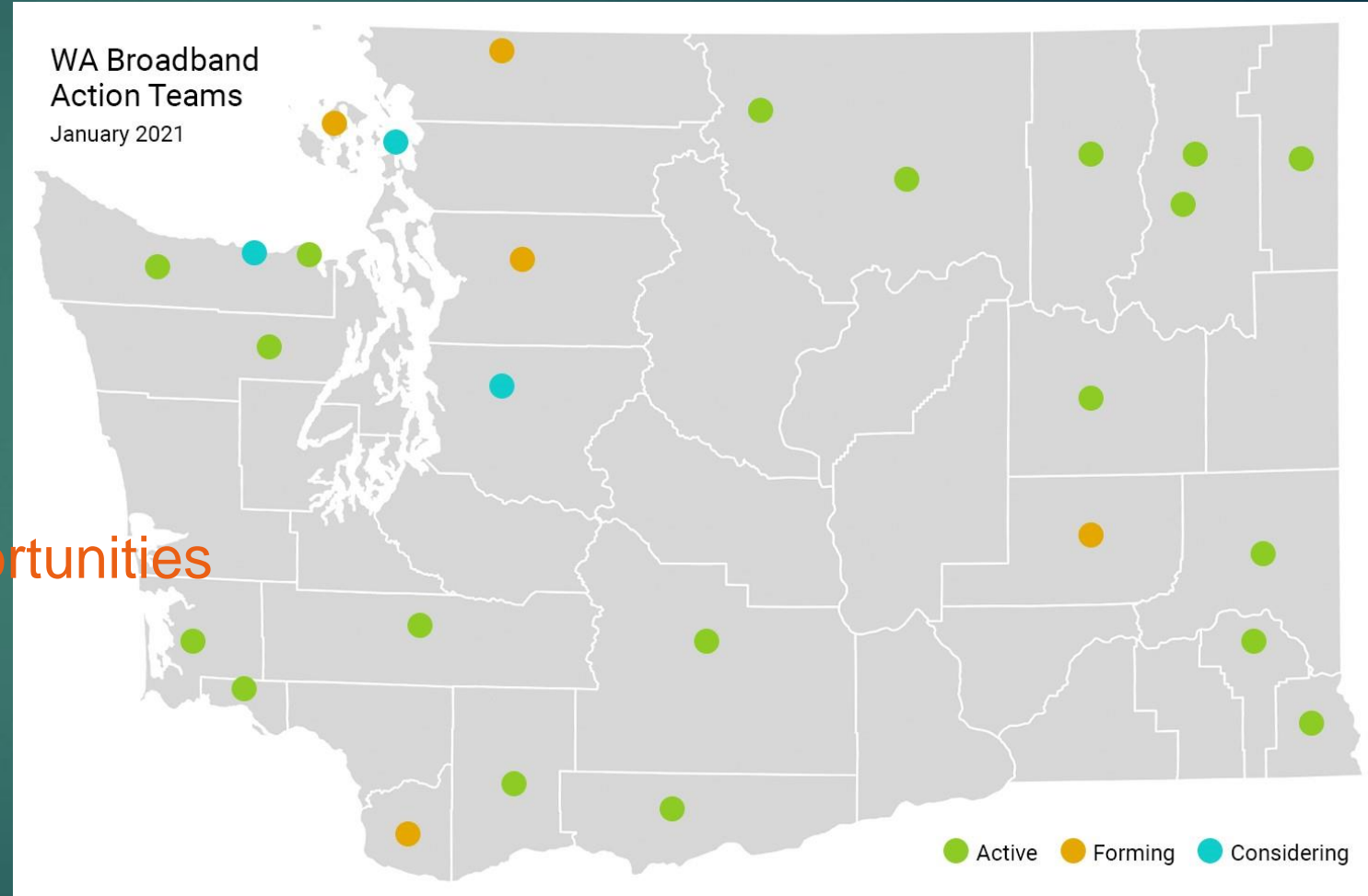
Washington State:
Survey Results: 63% < 25 mbps

41,676 Surveys

Maine State Survey Results:
56% < 25 mbps

15,153 Surveys

No Service 1%

> 100 mbps 16%

0-10 mbps 34%

50-100 mbps 16%

25-50 mbps 13%

10-25 mbps 20%
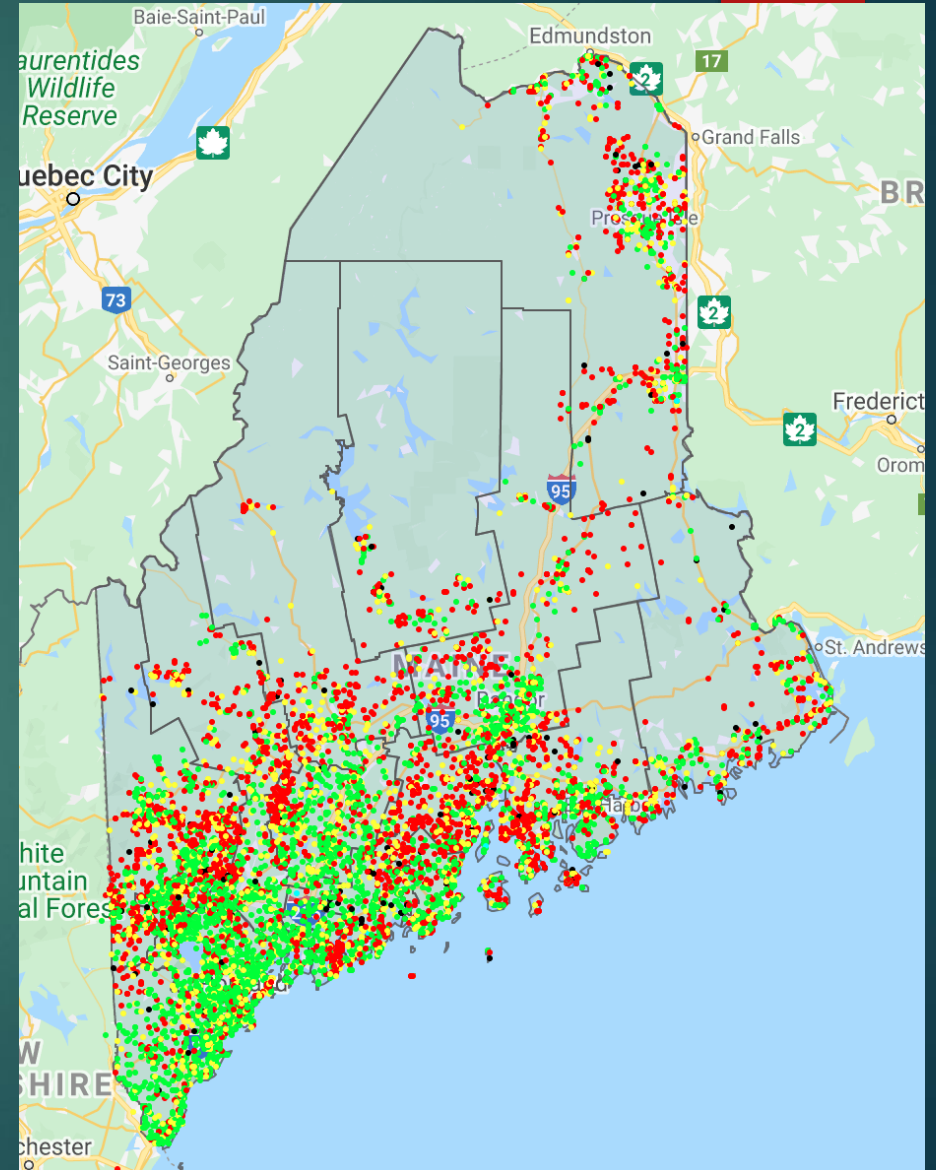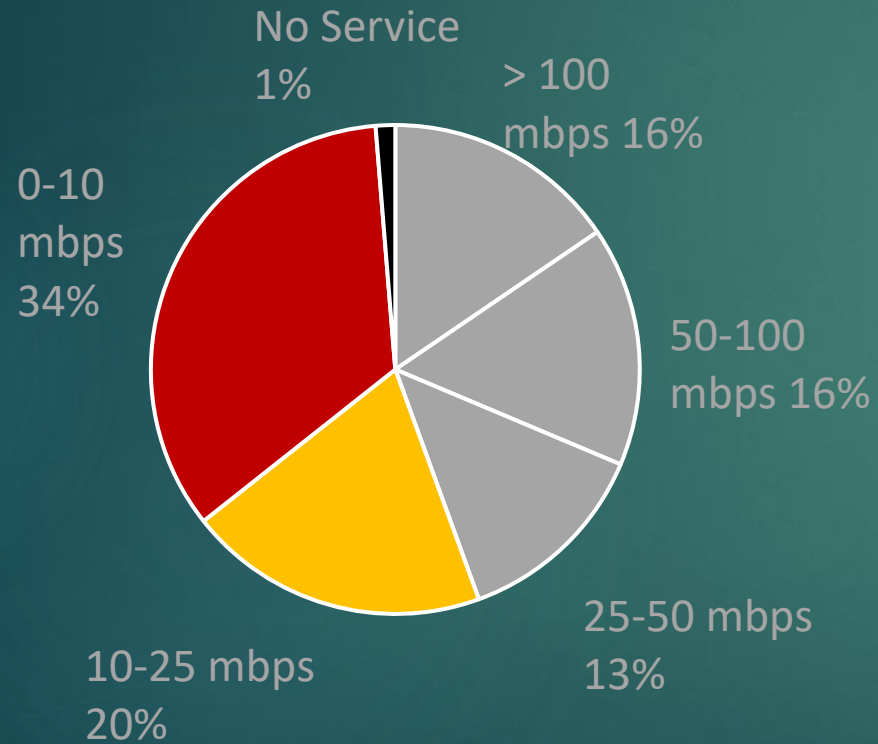
Affordability. What the data is saying so far.

▶   In Maine, 10% of the folks reporting no service name affordability as the main issue, and the average would pay $50/month or more for the service.

▶   In Washington, about the same 10% report affordability and the average would pay is again above $50/month, with some as high as $140/month

▶   In Minnesota, about 15% report affordability, and the average would pay is around $40/month.

▶   In Kentucky, about 20% report affordability, and the average would pay is again about $50, but there's a much broader spread of lower #s in the $10 range and the higher end and many comments about how the service is available but is not worth paying for because it doesn't work.

What do States and Communities Need to do this work?

- Tools.
  - Understanding of who is served and who is not
  - Understanding of the basic infrastructure already there
  - Understanding of the cost to build
  - Revenue models that inform the communities decisions
  - Understanding of federal and state funding options AND REQUIREMENTS
    - And how to use them to fill the hole
  - A plan for digital inclusion, including affordability, and what that looks like in their community.
  - A way to do all this simply and easily.

"What gets measured gets done!"

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