

## Marion County Broadband Map Explained

The Marion County broadband map was created using 2020 FCC Form 477 data and survey results from the Economic Development Program's 2021 Rural Broadband Survey. The map is intended to provide guidance for local policymakers when planning broadband-related projects by identifying areas in need of better internet service by census block. Broadband mapping is a notoriously difficult task and effectively detailed maps from other organizations are few and far between. Given the County's work on broadband and an absence of maps tailored to the County's specific needs, the Economic Development generated this map to inform its ongoing work.

The "Underserved Areas" layer on the broadband map was developed using the 2020 FCC Form 477 data. Consistent with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Marion County Economic Development considers "underserved" broadband access to be speeds less than 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload. Given the limitations of FCC Form 477 data, the map should not be considered an exact reflection of broadband need in Marion County. Rather, the map seeks to pull together imperfect data, given the resources available, to indicate probable areas of need. The Rural Broadband Survey data supplements the Form 477 data. The probability that an area is not adequately served increases if there is overlap between the two layers. The following should be kept in mind when reviewing the Form 477 layer:

- The Form 477 data used is from December 2020. As of the map's creation, the December 2020 data contains the most up-to-date information released by the FCC. As such, service in different census blocks may have changed since then.
- The Form 477 data used does not include satellite internet service. The Economic Development staff have determined, based on conversations with residents currently receiving satellite internet service, that satellite internet is not a reliable connection source.
- If a census block is shown to be served, at least one property is being served in that census block. In some instances, a census block has been shown to be served, according to 477 data, even if no residents have access to a connection.
- Form 477 data is self-reported by internet service providers. There is no verification of services.
- Form 477 data speeds are reported as advertised by providers. If there is a mismatch between advertised speeds and actual speeds, that disconnect is not reflected by 477 data.

The Rural Broadband Survey data was collected from rural residents between October 2021 and January 2022. The Survey garnered 52 responses from rural homeowners and businesses in 22 different zip codes across Marion County. The responses that voluntarily included a location were used to create the map's survey layer. Not all responses included location information. The broadband map shows the census blocks in which a survey response reported inadequate

internet speeds or expressed support for County-supported broadband projects. For more information regarding the results of the Rural Broadband Survey, please visit Marion County's Broadband Initiative [webpage](#).