United States Department of Agriculture

Rural Development

Presented by:
Kristin Lough

Telecom Mapping

2018 ACE School and RUS Symposium
Atlanta, GA
May 15-17, 2018

Objectives

This training session has the following objectives:

- Provide a brief overview of the application intake systems currently in use by the Telecom Program that capture our borrowers/grantees service areas
- Identify Telecom portfolio mapping gaps
- Illustrate the need for mapping all of our active borrower/grantee service areas
- Preview our solution for publishing geospatial visualizations of our loan and grant portfolio
- Go over recommended system settings for BCAS and DCS customer users

Application Intake Systems

Broadband Program Mapping Tool (BSA)

- RUS' first attempt at receiving electronic Service Area (SA) records of our Broadband Initiative Program (BIP) awardees, Farm Bill broadband borrowers and Community Connect (CC) grant recipients
  - All BIP applicants were required to use BSA as part of the application process so all of our BIP awardees' SA records are mapped
  - Began receiving Farm Bill broadband SA records in Fiscal Year (FY) 2009
  - First received CC SA records in FY 2013

Application Intake Systems Cont.

RD Apply

- Electronic Intake System used by the Telecom Program to receive complete applications electronically for all Farm Bill broadband and Infrastructure applicants
  - Implemented in October of 2015
  - Required by all Farm Bill broadband applicants as of the FY 2016 application window
  - Required by all Infrastructure applicants as of Calendar Year 2017

Gaps in Mapping

BSA

- Missing Infrastructure borrowers SA records unless the approved application was submitted electronically via RD Apply
- Missing Farm Bill borrowers SA records that were approved prior to FY 2009
- Unable to update boundaries of approved SA records

RD Apply

- Uses the same SA records as BSA to populate the Approved layers in the RD Apply mapping tool

Program Need

- Safeguard existing RUS borrowers' SAs
- Prevent overbuilding
- Protect our financial investments
- Assist the GFRs in tracking project buildout
- Reporting and analysis
- Program transparency
- Help identify potential areas of interest or possible partnerships

New Telecom Mapping Tools

- Telecom Program Map
  - BIP
  - Infrastructure
  - Farm Bill broadband
  - CC as of FY 2013
- DLT Map
  - Approved Sites for FY 2017 grant recipients

Programs & Services

Overview

▼All Programs

Business Programs

Community Economic Development

Community Facilities Programs

Cooperative Programs

Electric Programs

Energy Programs

Multi-Family Housing Programs

Single Family Housing Programs

Telecommunications Programs

Telecom Maps

Water & Environmental Programs

For Businesses

For Communities & Nonprofits

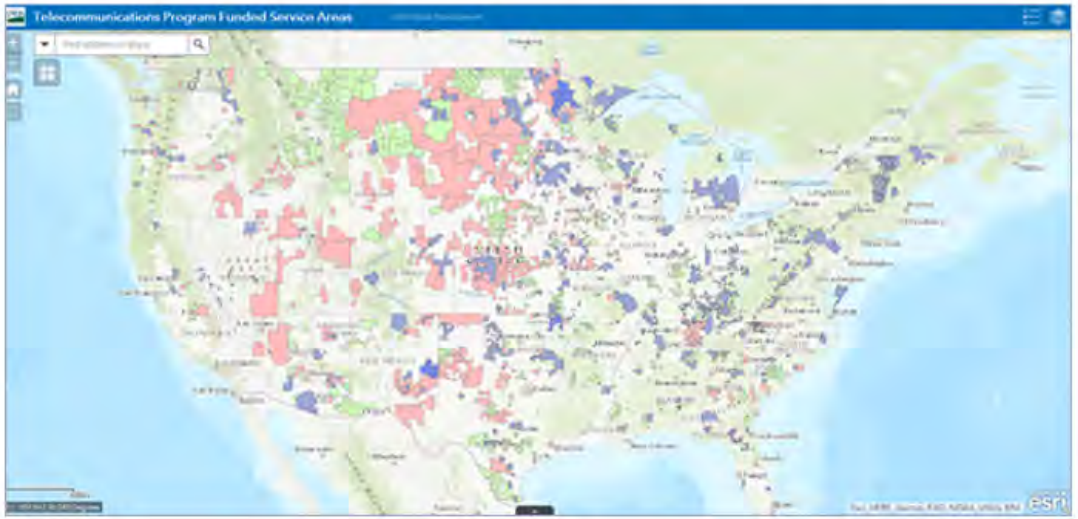
Telecom Maps

Print

The Telecommunications Program supports the publication of geospatial visualizations related to its loan and grant portfolio. These visualizations are intended to help stakeholders easily identify possible partnerships and to aid in the review of new loan and grant applications. The Telecommunications Program is eager to continue its GIS efforts as a public service to provide a clear representation of its ongoing investments in rural America and Agency objectives.

Telecommunications Program Funded Service Areas

This map identifies the service territories of the Telecommunications Program active Broadband Initiatives Program loan/grant recipients, Farm Bill borrowers, Infrastructure borrowers and Community Connect grant recipients that have received a grant obligation from Fiscal Year 2013 – current.



Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Recipients

This map identifies all of the Distance Learning and Telemedicine sites that were approved during the Fiscal Year 2017 application window. Specific grant purposes, such as STEM and opioid, are also identified as separate layers in the map

Preferred Settings for BCAS & DCS

- Internet Explorer (IE) is the preferred web browser for all RD applications
- If using a newer version, e.g. IE9 or higher, adjustments to your settings may be required for optimal system usability:
  - Under Tools on the menu bar:
    - Add usda.gov as a trusted site under compatibility view settings
    - Enable Enterprise Mode
    - Turn off Pop-up Blocker
    - If the aforementioned does not work, go to Internet Options, click the Advanced tab and reset your IE settings to the default setting. *Requires a system restart

United States Department of Agriculture

Rural Development

Kristin Lough | Management & Program Analyst
Kristin.Lough@wdc.usda.gov | Office: 202.720.0033

Rural Development | Telecommunications Program
Rural Utilities Service | U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W. | Washington, D.C. 20250
www.rd.usda.gov

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.