



SBA Communications Corporation

Leveraging Passive Infrastructure & Shared Spectrum to Bridge the Digital Divide

April 27, 2021

COVID 19 has Enhanced the Need for Broadband Internet



“Kids shouldn’t have to do homework in parking lots because that’s the only place they can get online. We can do better. We can close the Homework Gap....”

Acting FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel at the release of FCC Docket on Using E-RAN funding to Support Remote Learning Due to COVID 19

House Holds Without Access to Broadband	%
% Rural	22.3%
% Tribal Lands	27.7%

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) 2020 Broadband Report shows households without internet have higher poverty rate

DECEMBER 15, 2020

Indy Leaders Want Free Internet For All Students, This Pilot Program May Be The Start

ERIC WEDDLE  

The city of Indianapolis and philanthropic partners are creating an internet network pilot program to give a small number of K-12 students free broadband access and potentially expand it county-wide for all students.

The \$1.7 million pilot program will be based at six Marion County public and charter schools starting in February. A majority of the pilot is financed with \$730,000 of the city's federal CARES Act funding. Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett says too many students in the county do not have adequate broadband for e-learning and other needs, but that could change if the pilot works and can find adequate funding.



More than 39,000 public school students in the Marion County – or around 25 percent – do not have access to broadband.

Pixabay



5 Tenets to Rapidly Solving the Broadband Gap



Telecom Towers



Shared Spectrum



Utility



Backhaul



Investment

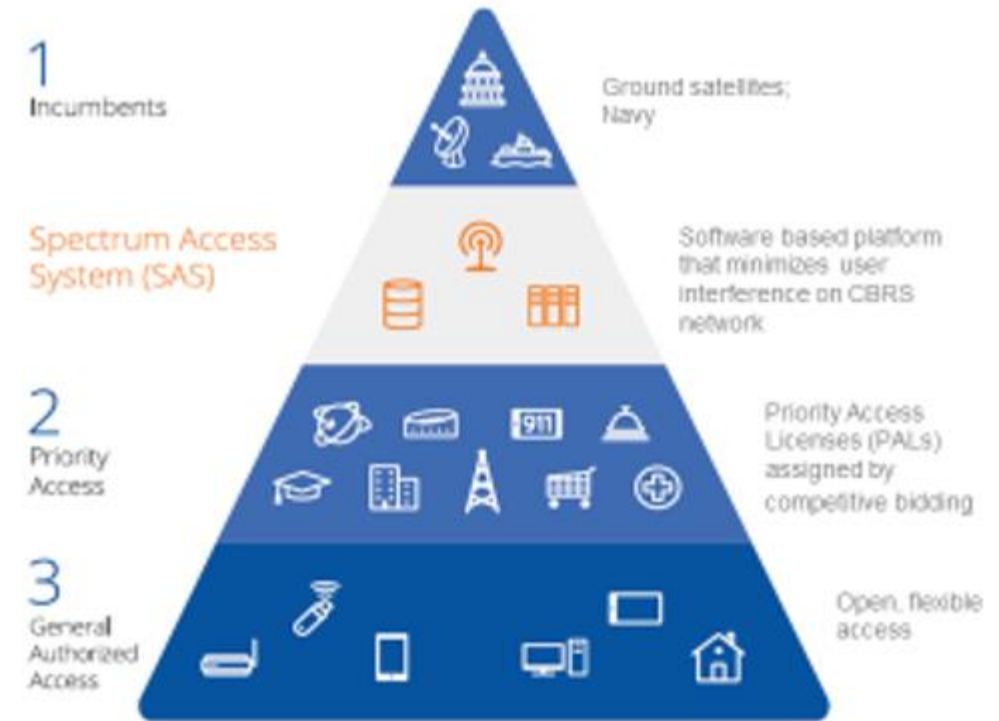
IN OUR
BUSINESS,
IT IS ALL ABOUT
THE SIGNAL

Our clients depend on SBA to provide the wireless infrastructure that allows them to transmit the signal to their customers.

Citizens Band Radio Service (CBRS) Shared Spectrum Creates Immense Opportunity for Private Networks



- Shared spectrum enables coexistence of both public and private networks in the same frequency band
 - 150 MHz of spectrum in the 3.5 GHz 'Innovation' band designated for shared use by Federal Communications Commission
- Shared Home Network Indicator enables support for thousands of Private Networks
- Large Membership enabling extensive equipment and device ecosystem availability
 - Specifications and certification from OnGo alliance and Part 96 rules enable interoperability
- Shared infrastructure provides effective, efficient, sustainable platform for private networks



Source (Logo and Pyramid): OnGo Alliance

Kankakee Valley School District Pilot

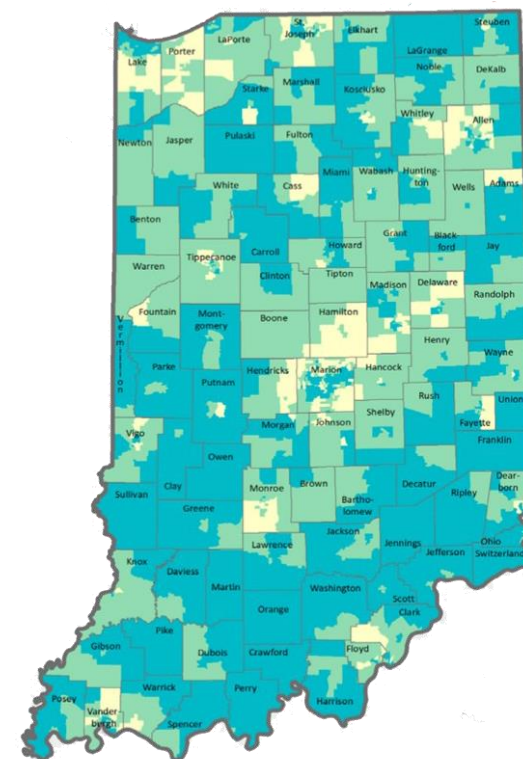
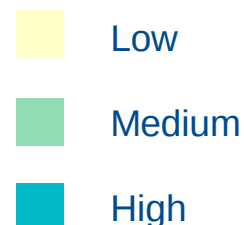
Rural Indiana Case Study



- School District: Kankakee Valley
- Infrastructure Partner: SBA Communications
- WISP Partner: Watch Communications
- 2-year pilot
- Deploying at 300 student households
- Cost to School district: \$0
- Pilot Costs: \$1,000,000
- SBA Investment in Shared Passive Infrastructure and Backhaul: \$860,000 (86% of pilot costs)
- Supplemental Funding: \$140,000 contribution from State GEER Funding

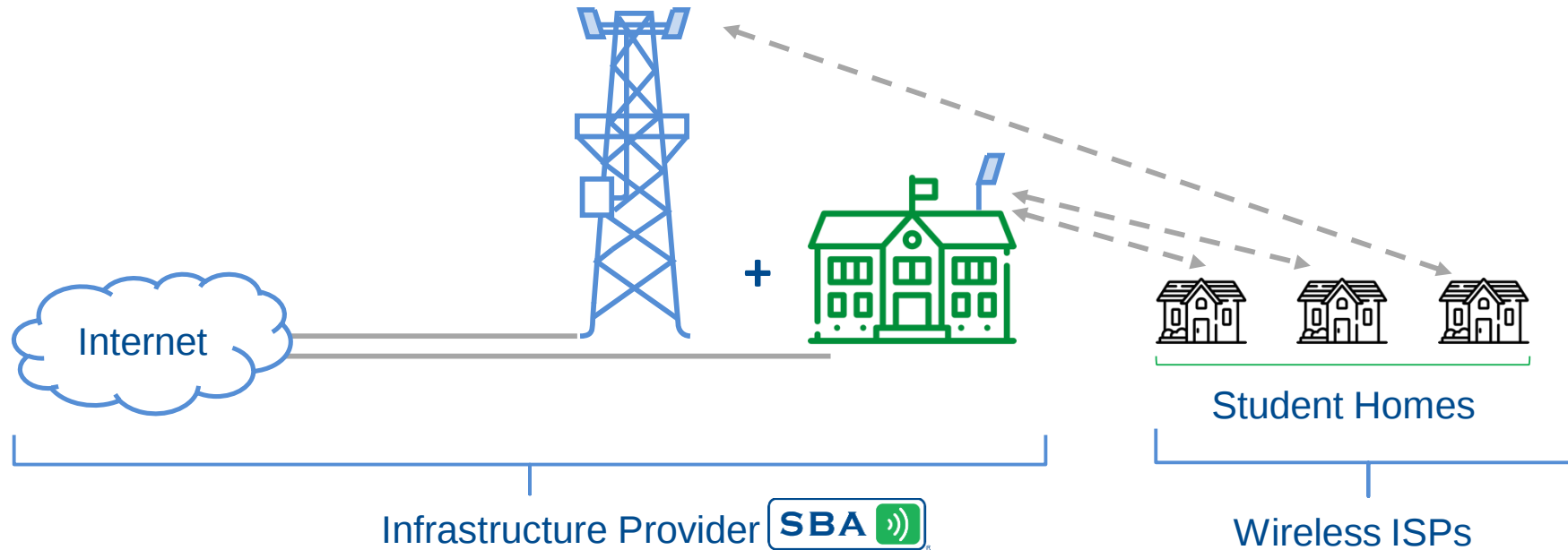
Purdue Center for Regional Development REV Metric

Remote Work & E-Learning Vulnerability

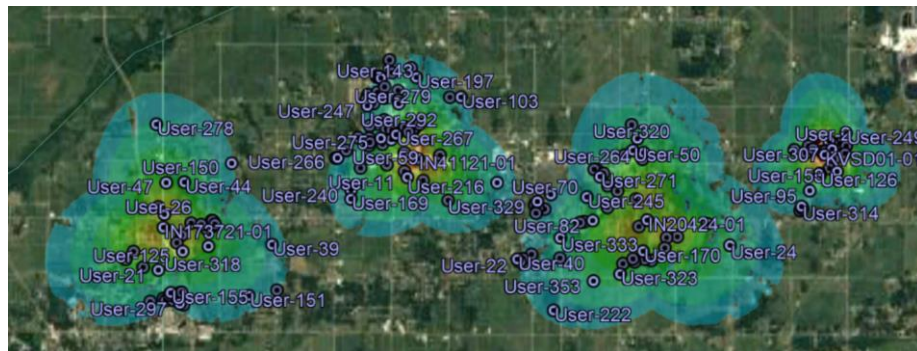


When all is said and done, roughly about **31% of Hoosiers** live in high vulnerability areas.

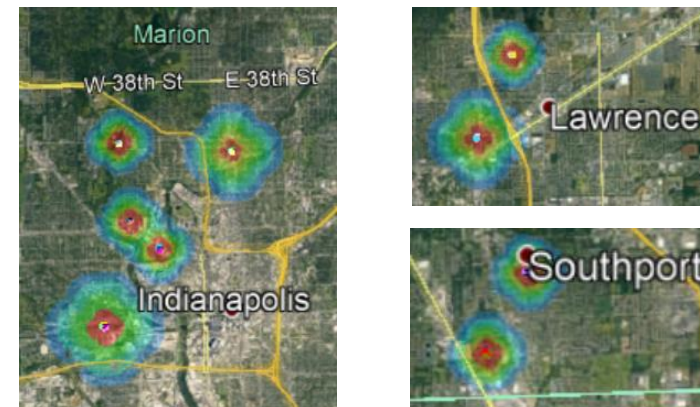
The Model – Indiana eLearning



Kankakee Valley, Rural Student Coverage



Marion County Student Coverage



SBA Communications – Leveraging and Extending our Assets to Support the Broadband Need



33,000+
towers in 14 Countries



17,000
towers in USA



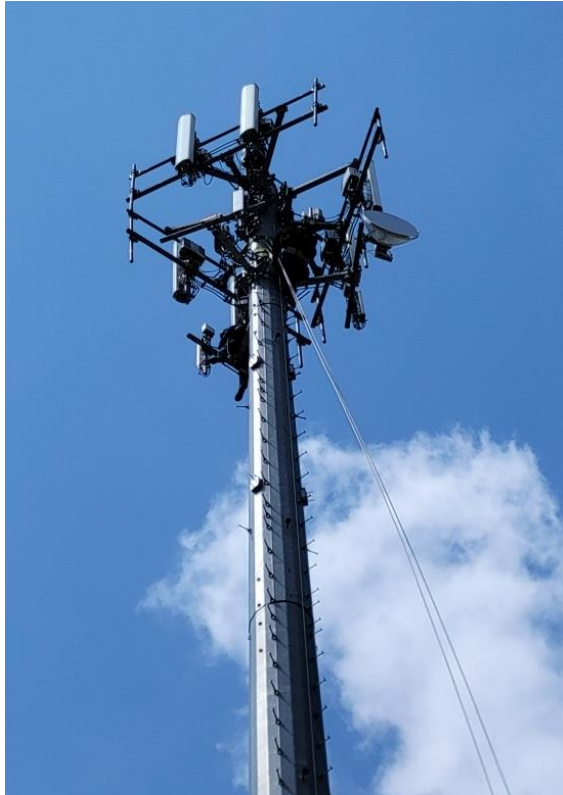
Towers distributed across Urban,
Suburban and Rural Areas



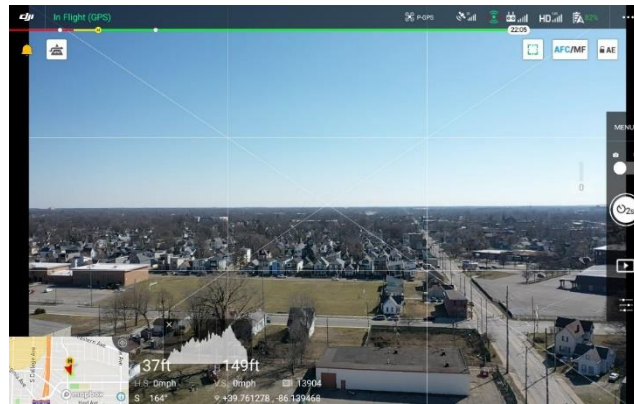
Clients include Wireless Service
providers, Broadband Providers, WISPs,
Satellite Companies, ...

**SBA Infrastructure enables sharing of passive
infrastructure and backhaul to extend rural
broadband and a cost effective manner**

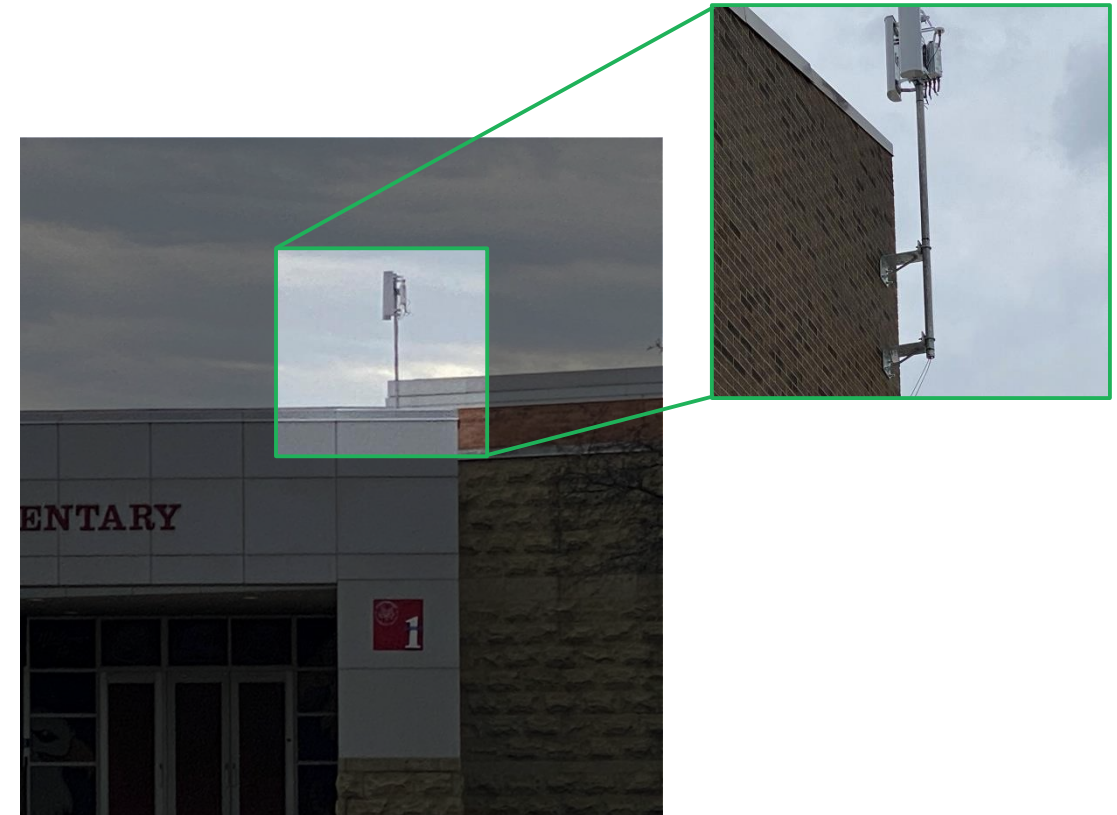
Our Indiana eLearning Network Deployments



Rural Macro Tower providing CBRS coverage and microwave backhaul for eLearning in Kankakee Valley School District



Microwave Backhaul Line of Site Assessment via Drones in Marion County



SBA CBRS Deployment on an Elementary School rooftop in Marion County, Indiana

SBA Communications investing in Towers, Backhaul and CBRS shared spectrum Network for eLearning in Indiana