



ReConnect Application Mapping

Agenda

- Public Service Area Map
- Service Area Mapping Tool
- Available Resources
- Q&A

Public Service Area Map



Exploring Potential Service Areas



Frequently Asked Questions



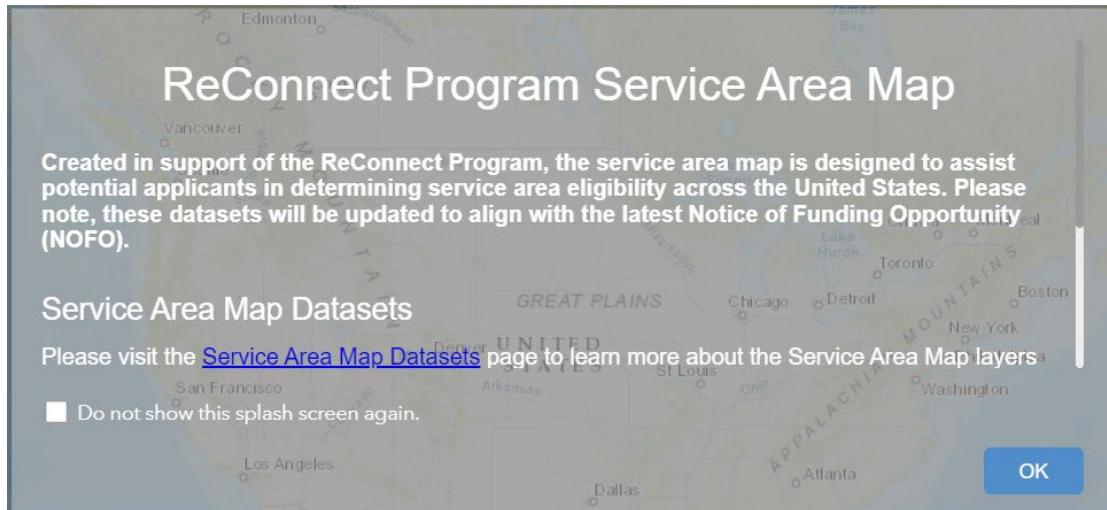
Eligible Service Area



NEW Mapping Tool



Public Service Area Map Splash Page



ReConnect Program Service Area Map

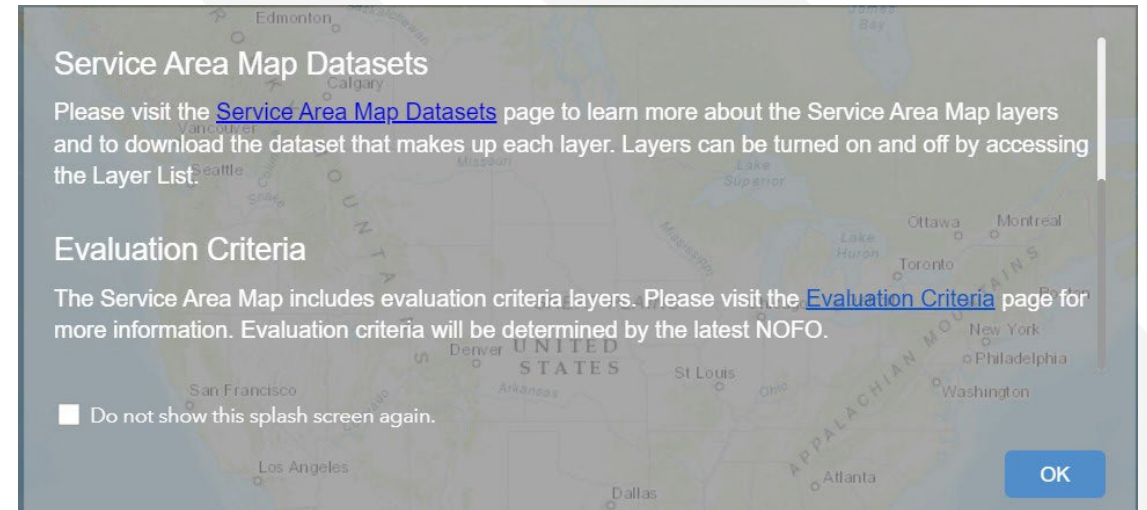
Created in support of the ReConnect Program, the service area map is designed to assist potential applicants in determining service area eligibility across the United States. Please note, these datasets will be updated to align with the latest Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

Service Area Map Datasets

Please visit the [Service Area Map Datasets](#) page to learn more about the Service Area Map layers.

Do not show this splash screen again.

OK



Service Area Map Datasets

Please visit the [Service Area Map Datasets](#) page to learn more about the Service Area Map layers and to download the dataset that makes up each layer. Layers can be turned on and off by accessing the Layer List.

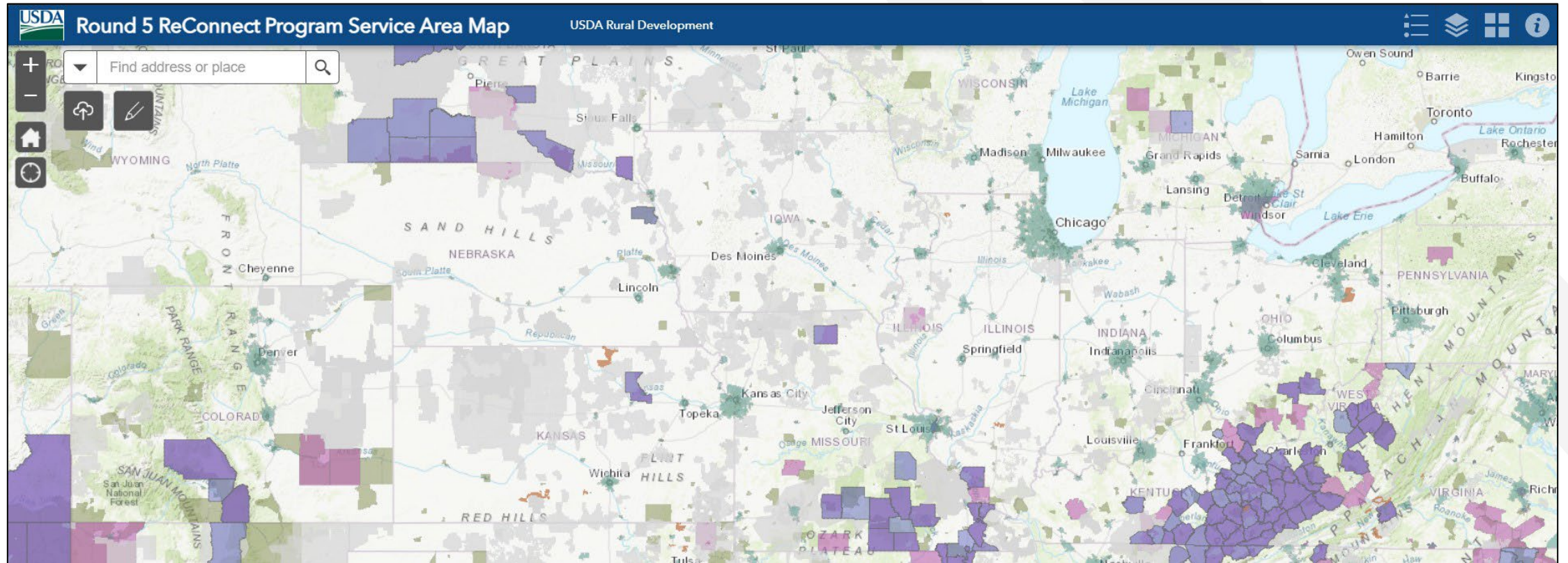
Evaluation Criteria

The Service Area Map includes evaluation criteria layers. Please visit the [Evaluation Criteria](#) page for more information. Evaluation criteria will be determined by the latest NOFO.



Do not show this splash screen again.



OK

Public Service Area Map



Map Layers

Layer List  

Layers  

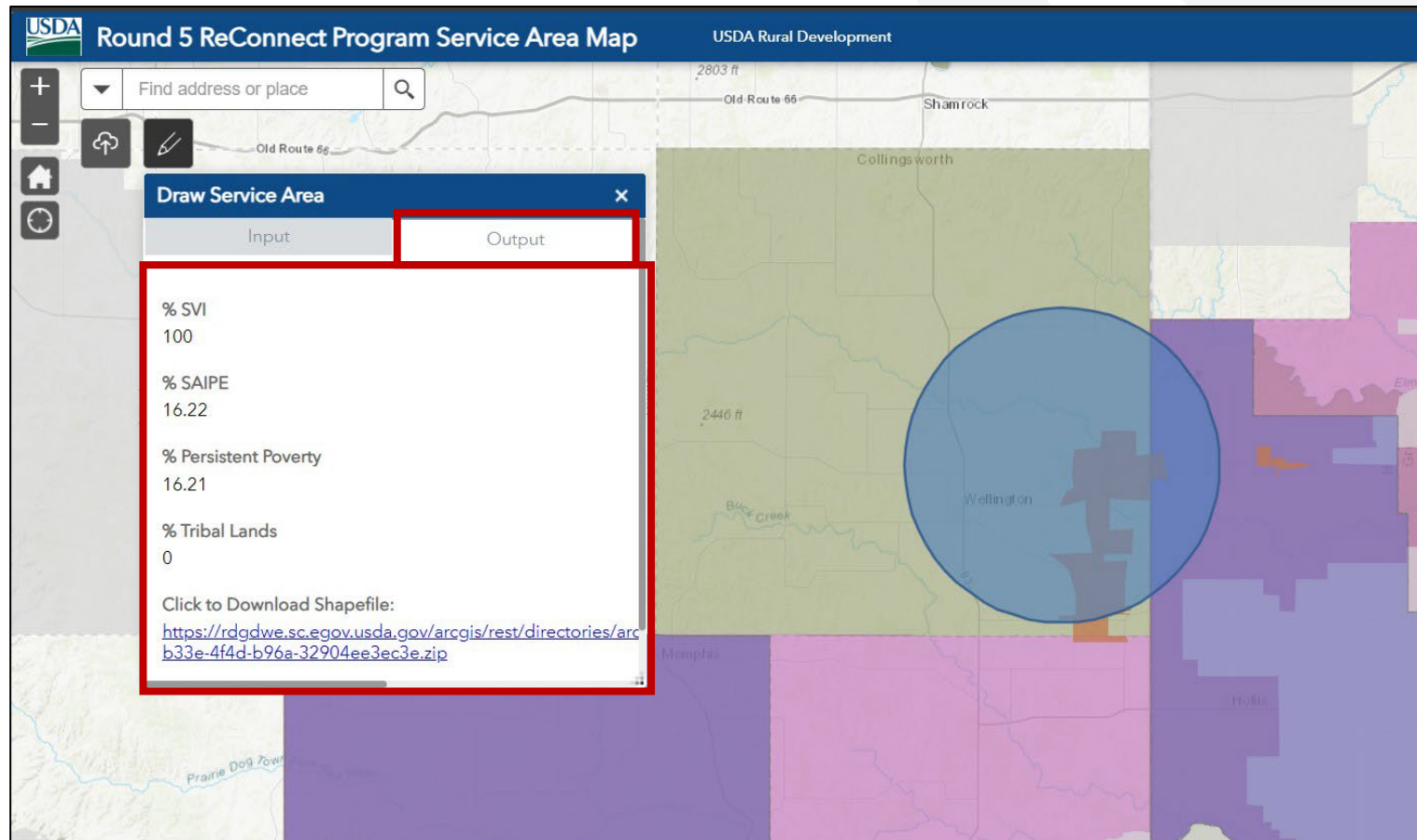
- Eligibility - Alaska Native Regional Corporations ...
- Eligibility: Alaska Native Village Corporations ...
- Eligibility: Colonia Areas ...
- Eligibility: Enforceable Commitments ...
- Eligibility: Non-Rural Areas ...
- Eligibility: Pending Applications ...
- Eligibility: Persistent Poverty Counties ...

- Eligibility: Protected Broadband Borrower Service Areas ...
- Evaluation: Economic Need of the Community (SAIPE) ...
- Evaluation: Most Unserved Locations Per Square Mile ...
- Evaluation: Rurality - 100 Miles from Urbanized Areas ...
- Evaluation: Tribal Area in Alaska (Census) ...
- Evaluation & Eligibility: Socially Vulnerable Communities ...
- Evaluation & Eligibility: Tribal Area (BIA LAR) ...
- Evaluation & Eligibility: Tribal Statistical Area (BIA) ...
- Evaluation & Eligibility: Tribal Supplemental Area (BIA LAR) ...

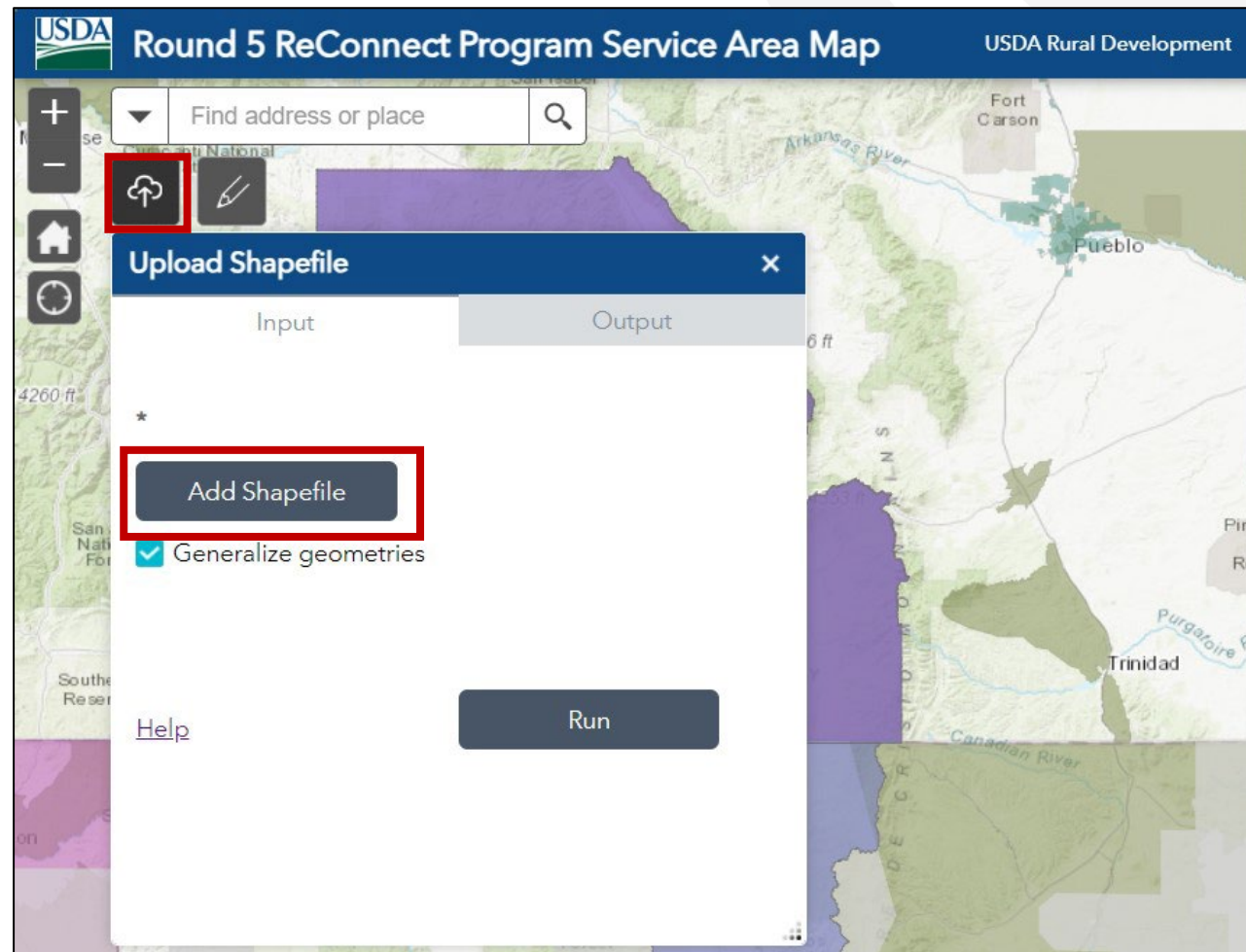
Drawing Service Areas

The screenshot displays the USDA Round 5 ReConnect Program Service Area Map interface. The main window features a map of the Pacific Northwest region, including parts of Washington and Idaho. A search bar at the top left contains the text "Find address or place". A toolbar on the left side includes icons for zooming, home, and refresh. A red box highlights the drawing tool icon (a pencil) in the toolbar. A modal window titled "Draw Service Area" is open, showing an "Input" field and an "Output" field. Below the input field, a red box highlights a row of drawing tool icons: a triangle, a square, a circle, an oval, a polygon, a star, and a trash can. A "Run" button is also highlighted with a red box. The background map shows geographical features like the Bitterroot Mountains and the Lewis Range, along with labels for cities like Seattle and Spokane.

Service Area Output Information



Upload Shapefile



Map Datasets



Map Datasets

USDA has made the datasets used in developing the Service Area Map available to the public for download:

- Evaluation Criteria Datasets
 - Economic Need of the Community (SAIPE)
 - Most Unserved Locations Per Square Mile
 - Rurality – 100 miles from Urbanized areas
 - Tribal Area in Alaska (Census)
- Evaluation Criteria and Service Area Eligibility Datasets:
 - Socially Vulnerable Communities
 - Tribal Area (BIA LAR)
 - Tribal Supplemental Layer (BIA LAR)
 - Tribal Statistical Area (BIA)

Map Datasets (continued)

USDA has made the datasets used in developing the Service Area Map available to the public for download:

- Service Area Eligibility Criteria Datasets
 - Alaska Native Regional Corporations
 - Alaska Native Village Corporations
 - Colonia Areas
 - Non-Rural Areas
 - Pending Applications
 - Persistent Poverty Counties
 - Protected Broadband Borrower Service Areas

Map Datasets (Continued)

- The Service Area Map Datasets can be found at <https://www.usda.gov/reconnect/service-area-map-datasets>
- The dataset page provides:
 - A description of each dataset
 - Ability to download a shapefile or Excel file of each dataset

- [Economic Need of the Community \(SAIPE\)](#) (ZIP, 14.2 KB): This dataset contains the results of the U.S. Census Bureau's Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) program poverty estimates for all counties with a poverty percentage of 20 percent or higher. This program provides annual estimates of income and poverty statistics for all school districts, counties, and states for the administration of federal programs and the allocation of federal funds to local jurisdictions. The SAIPE program produces the following county and state estimates:

- total number of people in poverty
- number of children under age 5 in poverty (for states only)
- number of related children ages 5 to 17 in families in poverty
- number of children under age 18 in poverty
- median household income

More information on SAIPE can be found at [the US Census SAIPE web page](#). All projects located at least 75% within territories or possessions of the United States to apply under ReConnect, will receive 20 points under the Economic Need of the Community criteria.

Service Area Mapping Tool



Service Area Mapping in ReConnect Application Portal

- The Service Area Mapping Tool is used to draw PFSA's and NFSA's
- A Proposed Funded Service Area (PFSA) is defined as the area where the applicant is requesting funds to provide high-speed internet service.
 - Facilities proposed to be constructed with award funds must be capable of delivering 100 Mbps symmetrical service to every premise in the PFSA at the same time.
- A Non-Funded Service Area (NFSA) is defined as any area in which the applicant offers service or intends to offer **telecommunications services** during the forecast period but is not a part of its PFSA.
 - Previously awarded PFSA's are considered an NFSA

Navigating to the Service Area Map

Application 101000718									
Funding Type: 50% Loan/50% Grant									
Project	Service Area(s)	Network	Financials	Environmental	Evaluation Criteria	Licenses & Agreements	Certifications	Documents	Summary/Submit
Project Information	Service Area(s) Information	Network Design	Local Network Services Revenue	Construction Map	Evaluation Criteria	Licenses & Agreements	Certifications	Manage Uploaded Documents	Summary/Submit
NEPA Review		Build-out Timeline and Milestones	Competitor Service Offerings	Site/Route Descriptions	Evaluation Criteria Summary		Certification Documents		
Project Documents		Capital Investment Workbook (CIW)	Depreciation Schedule	Environmental Questionnaire	Evaluation Criteria Documents				
		Capital Investment Schedule	Long-Term Debt Schedule	Environmental Documents					
		Network Documents	Amortization Schedule						
			Non-Operating Net Income						
			Plant-in-Service Schedule						
			Network Access Services Revenue						
			Income Statement						
			Balance Sheet						
			Statement of Cash Flow						
			Financial Documents						

Service Area Mapping Tool

The screenshot displays the Service Area Mapping Tool interface. The main map shows the United States with various service area layers overlaid. The interface includes a menu, save data button, legend, and summary data section.

Menu (top left)

Save Data (top right)

Legend (right side)

Service Area Layers

- Proposed Funded Service Area
- Unserved Area
- Non-Funded Service Area

Eligibility

- Alaska Native Regional Corporations
- Alaska Native Village Corporations
- Colonia Areas
- Enforceable Commitments
- Non-Rural Areas
- Pending Applications
- Persistent Poverty Counties

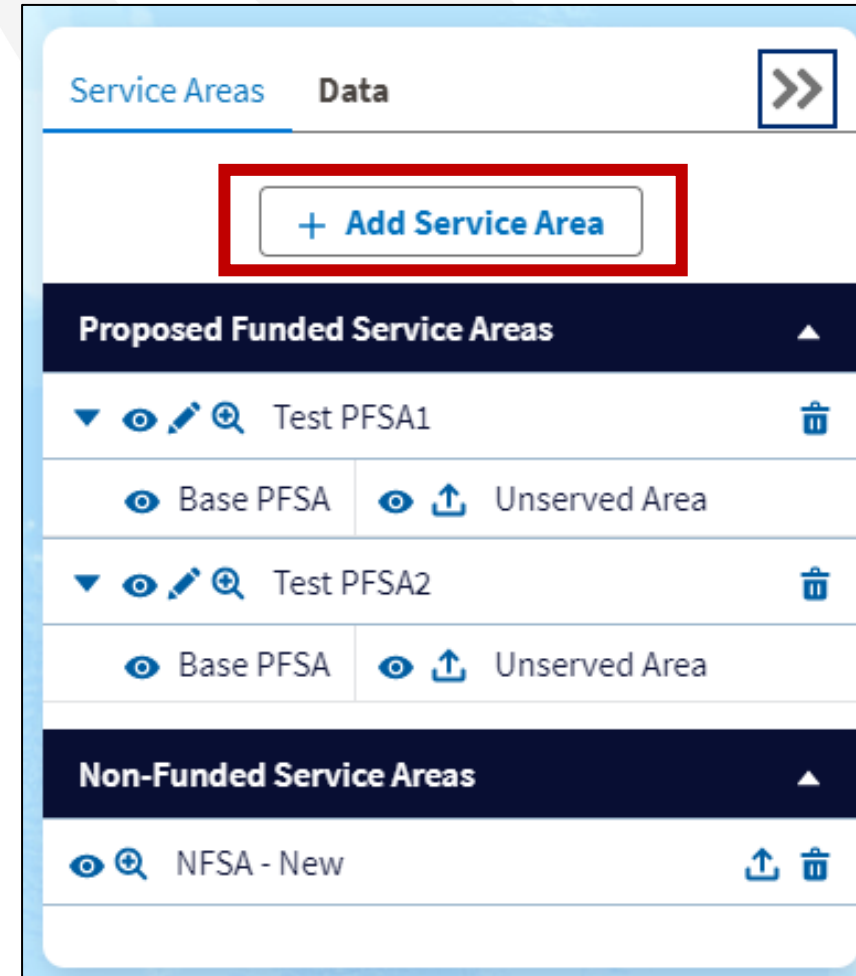
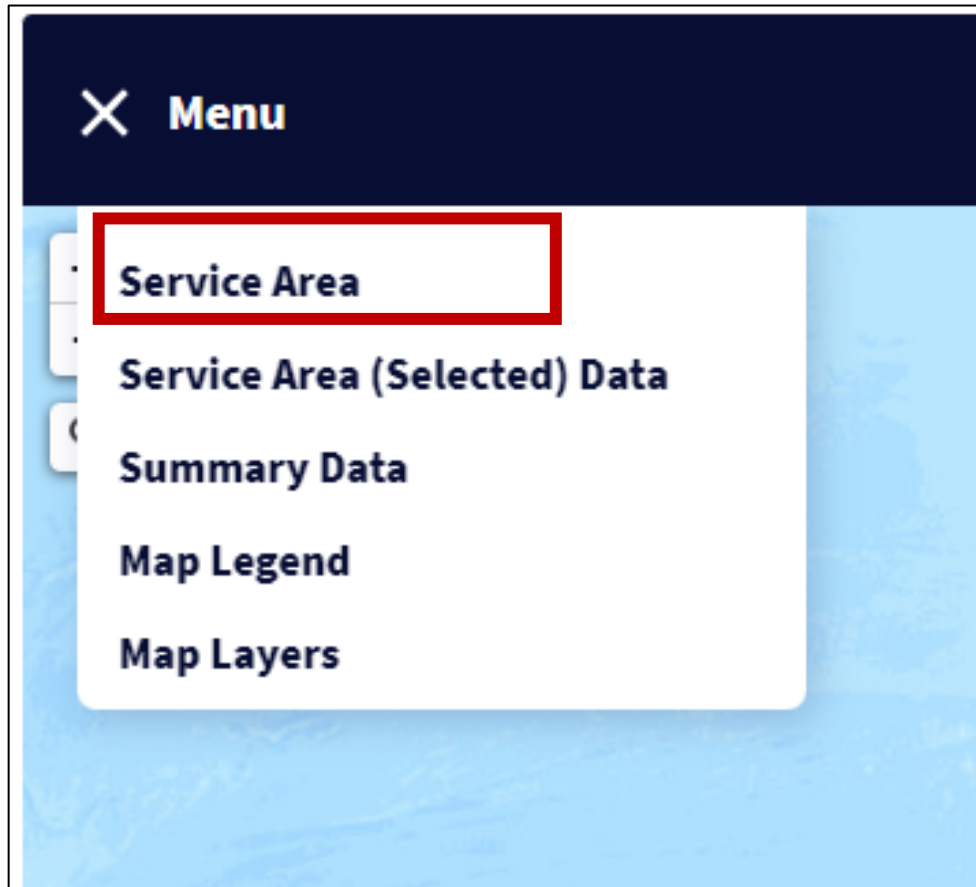
Scale (bottom left): 500 km, 500 mi

Map Style (bottom right): Topographic

Summary Data (bottom left)

Leaflet | Powered by Esri | USGS, NOAA, Kasey Martin, Innovation Center, Rural Development, USDA

Adding Service Areas



Add Service Area Window

Add Service Area

SERVICE AREA FUNDING* SERVICE AREA TYPE*

This field is required.

SERVICE AREA NAME*

Draw or Upload a Service Area

Click 'Upload Files' to upload an ESRI zipped shapefile of your Service Area or drag and drop your shapefile to the 'drop files' zone

The shapefile must comply with the following specifications:

1. For Proposed Funded Service Areas, the Shapefile can only include a single contiguous polygon.
2. For Non Funded Service Areas, the Shapefile can include multi-part features or multiple non-contiguous polygons.
3. The polygon(s) must be closed, non-overlapping, and must have an assigned projection with an accompanying .prj file.
4. The Shapefile must use an unprojected WGS84 Geographic Coordinate System.
5. The Shapefile must be submitted as a *.zip file. This can be done with WinZip or in Windows by selecting the files associated with a Shapefile, right-clicking the files, then clicking Send to Compressed (zipped) folder.

Or drop files

No file chosen.

OR

I do not have a file to upload. I will draw my area on the map using the draw tool

Add Service Area

SERVICE AREA FUNDING* SERVICE AREA TYPE*

SERVICE AREA NAME*

Draw or Upload a Service Area

Click 'Upload Files' to upload an ESRI zipped shapefile of your Service Area or drag and drop your shapefile to the 'drop files' zone

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3. The polygon(s) must be closed, non-overlapping, and must have an assigned projection with an accompanying .prj file.
4. The Shapefile must use an unprojected WGS84 Geographic Coordinate System.
5. The Shapefile must be submitted as a *.zip file. This can be done with WinZip or in Windows by selecting the files associated with a Shapefile, right-clicking the files, then clicking Send to Compressed (zipped) folder.

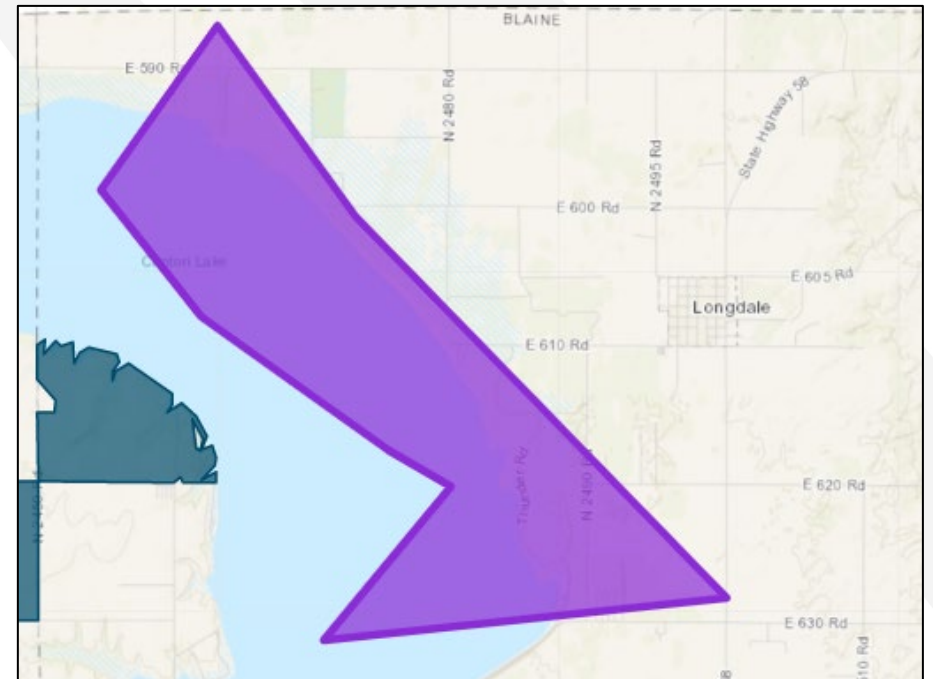
I do not have a file to upload. I will draw my area on the map using the draw tool

Creating a Service Area Polygon

The screenshot shows a web application interface for managing service areas. At the top, there are tabs for 'Service Areas' and 'Data', with a double arrow icon to the right. Below the tabs is a button labeled '+ Add Service Area'. The main content is a table with two sections: 'Proposed Funded Service Areas' and 'Non-Funded Service Areas'. The 'Proposed Funded Service Areas' section contains three rows. The first row is 'Test PFSA1' with a trash icon. The second row has 'Base PFSA' and 'Unserviced Area' with an eye icon and an upload icon. The third row is 'Test PFSA2' with a trash icon, and the fourth row has 'Base PFSA' and 'Unserviced Area' with an eye icon and an upload icon. The 'Non-Funded Service Areas' section is currently empty. A red error message is displayed at the bottom of the table: 'Please upload or draw a Proposed Funded Service Area to the map before attempting to save the map data.'

Service Areas	
+ Add Service Area	
Proposed Funded Service Areas	
Test PFSA1	🗑️
Base PFSA	👁️ 📶
Unserviced Area	
Test PFSA2	🗑️
Base PFSA	👁️ 📶
Unserviced Area	
PFSA 3	📶 🗑️
Please upload or draw a Proposed Funded Service Area to the map before attempting to save the map data.	
Non-Funded Service Areas	

The screenshot shows a mobile application menu. At the top, there is a hamburger menu icon and the word 'Menu'. Below this, there is a vertical list of icons: a plus sign (+), a minus sign (-), a magnifying glass (search), a square with a plus sign (add), and a square with a minus sign (remove).



Editing Service Areas

Service Areas Data >>

+ Add Service Area

Proposed Funded Service Areas

- Test PFSA1
Base PFSA | Unserved Area
- Test PFSA2
Base PFSA | Unserved Area
- PFSA 3** (highlighted)
Please upload or draw a Proposed Funded Service Area to the map before attempting to save the map data.

Non-Funded Service Areas

Edit Service Area

SERVICE AREA FUNDING*
Proposed Funded Service Area

SERVICE AREA TYPE*
New

SERVICE AREA NAME*
PFSA4

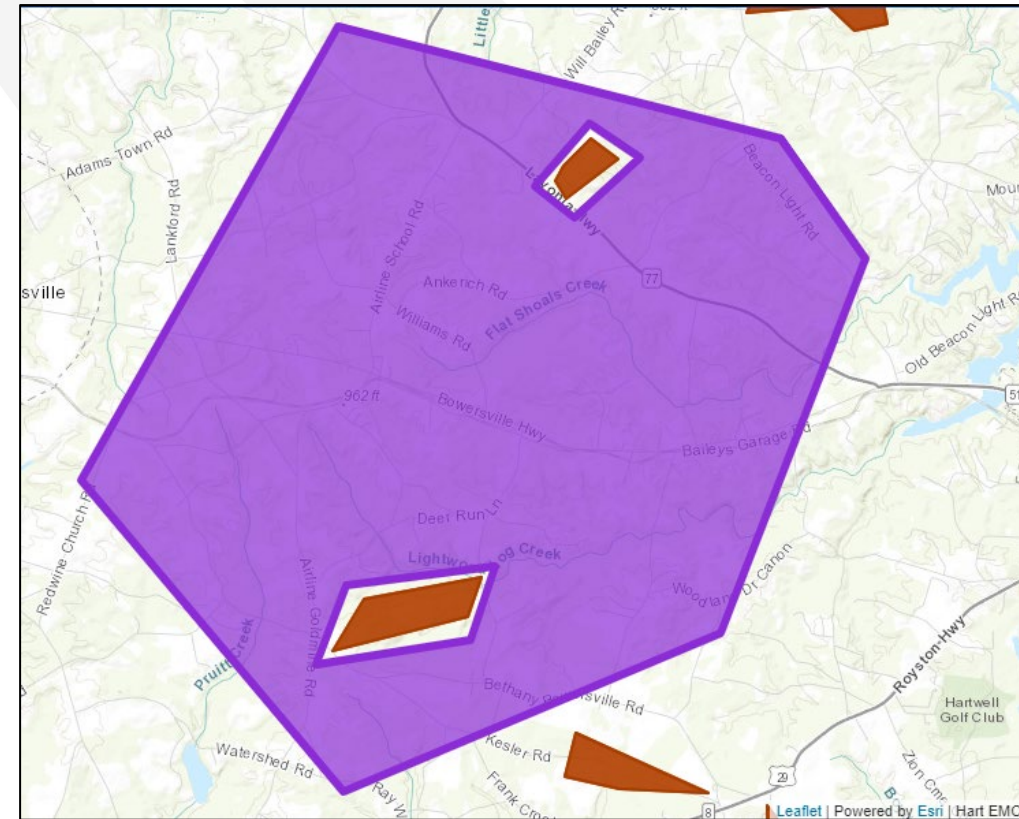
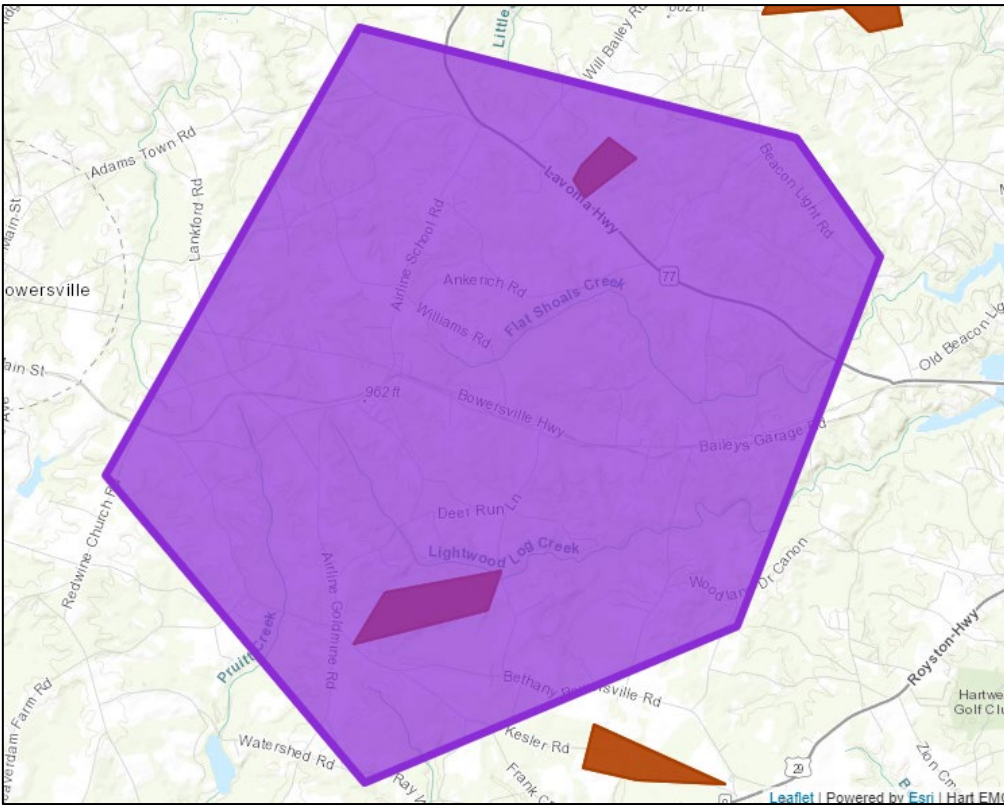
Cancel Edit Service Area

Menu

+ -

Map navigation icons: Search, Full Screen, Share, Edit (highlighted), Add Area

Editing Service Areas (continued)



Adding Unserved Areas

The screenshot shows a web interface for managing Service Areas. At the top, there are tabs for 'Service Areas' and 'Data', and a '+ Add Service Area' button. Below this is a section for 'Proposed Funded Service Areas'. It contains three entries: 'Test PFSA1', 'Test PFSA2', and 'PFSA 3'. Each entry has a 'Base PFSA' and an 'Unserved Area' option. The 'Unserved Area' options are highlighted with red boxes. At the bottom of the 'Proposed Funded Service Areas' section, there is a red error message: 'To save a PFSA, the unserved area must meet the minimum number of households without sufficient access to broadband.'

Add an Unserved Area

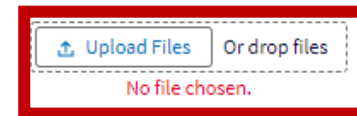
An Unserved Area can be a whole Service Area, or a portion of a Service Area housing a percentage of households without sufficient access to broadband. There are three different ways to mark these sections: you can mark the whole service area as unserved, upload a shapefile for the unserved area, or draw the shape out manually.

Draw or Upload an Unserved Area

Click 'Upload Files' to upload an ESRI zipped shapefile of your Service Area or drag and drop your shapefile to the 'drop files' zone

The shapefile must comply with the following specifications:

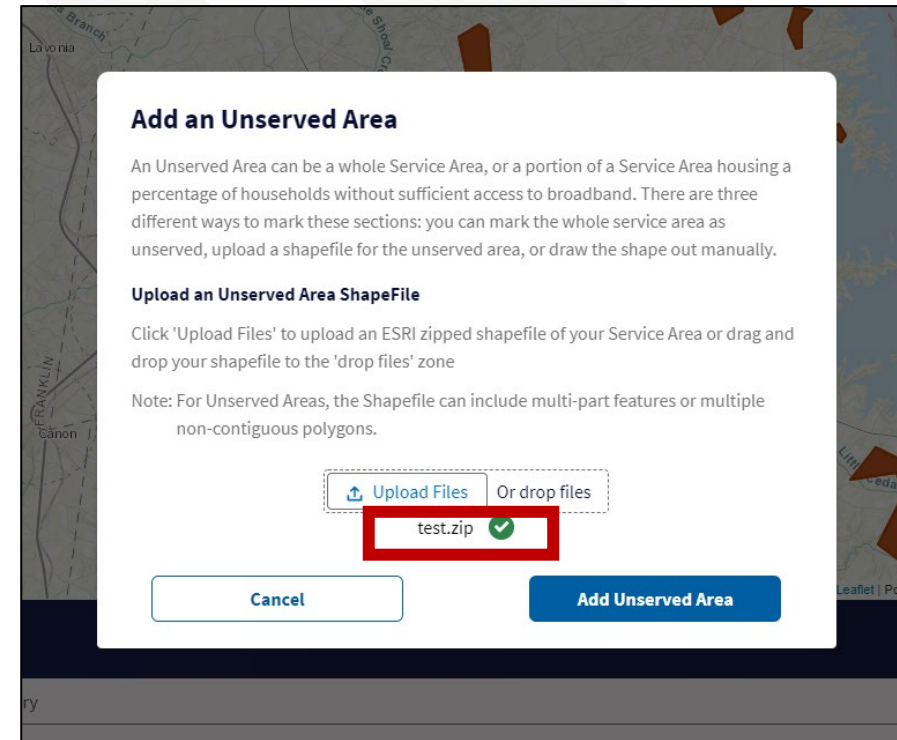
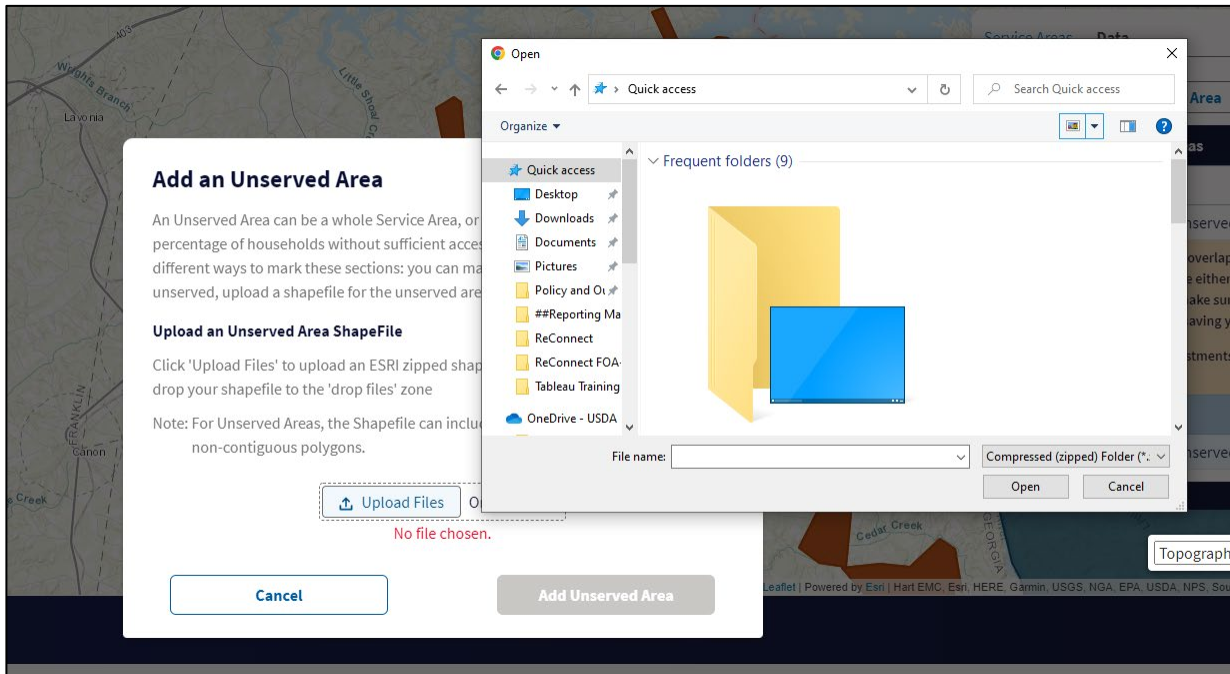
1. For Unserved Areas, the Shapefile can include multi-part features or multiple non-contiguous polygons.
2. The polygon(s) must be closed, non-overlapping, and must have an assigned projection with an accompanying .prj file.
3. The Shapefile must use an unprojected WGS84 Geographic Coordinate System.
4. The Shapefile must be submitted as a *.zip file. This can be done with WinZip or in Windows by selecting the files associated with a Shapefile, right-clicking the files, then clicking Send to Compressed (zipped) folder.



I do not have a file to upload. I will draw my Unserved area on the map using the draw tool

Check this box to mark the whole Service Area as the Unserved Area

Adding Unserved Areas (continued)



Adding Unserved Areas (continued)

Add an Unserved Area

An Unserved Area can be a whole Service Area, or a portion of a Service Area housing a percentage of households without sufficient access to broadband. There are three different ways to mark these sections: you can mark the whole service area as unserved, upload a shapefile for the unserved area, or draw the shape out manually.

Draw or Upload an Unserved Area

Click 'Upload Files' to upload an ESRI zipped shapefile of your Service Area or drag and drop your shapefile to the 'drop files' zone

The shapefile must comply with the following specifications:

1. For Unserved Areas, the Shapefile can include multi-part features or multiple non-contiguous polygons.
2. The polygon(s) must be closed, non-overlapping, and must have an assigned projection with an accompanying .prj file.
3. The Shapefile must use an unprojected WGS84 Geographic Coordinate System.
4. The Shapefile must be submitted as a *.zip file. This can be done with WinZip or in Windows by selecting the files associated with a Shapefile, right-clicking the files, then clicking Send to Compressed (zipped) folder.

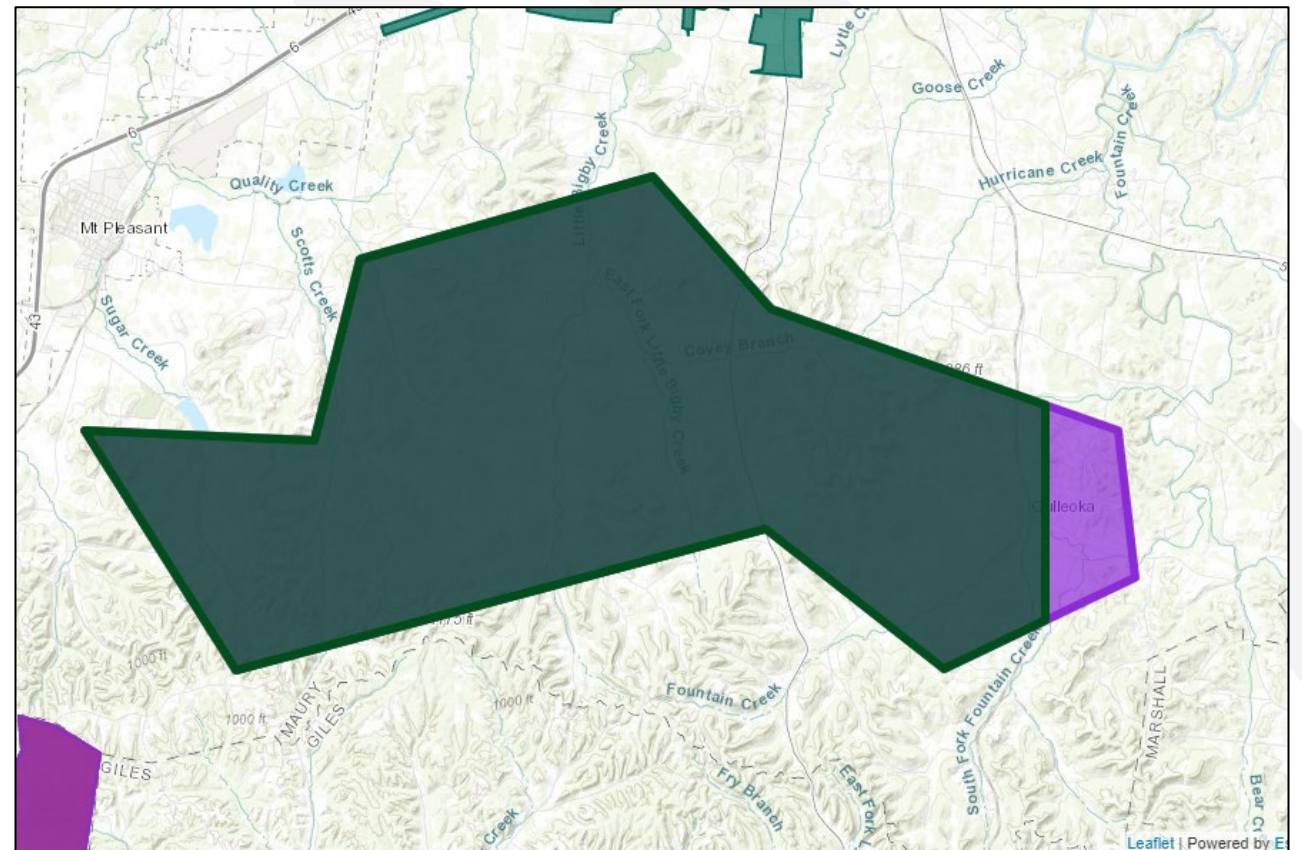
I do not have a file to upload. I will draw my Unserved area on the map using the draw tool

OR

Check this box to mark the whole Service Area as the Unserved Area

Cancel

Add Unserved Area



Adding Unserved Areas (continued)

Add an Unserved Area

An Unserved Area can be a whole Service Area, or a portion of a Service Area housing a percentage of households without sufficient access to broadband. There are three different ways to mark these sections: you can mark the whole service area as unserved, upload a shapefile for the unserved area, or draw the shape out manually.

Draw or Upload an Unserved Area

Click 'Upload Files' to upload an ESRI zipped shapefile of your Service Area or drag and drop your shapefile to the 'drop files' zone

The shapefile must comply with the following specifications:

1. For Unserved Areas, the Shapefile can include multi-part features or multiple non-contiguous polygons.
2. The polygon(s) must be closed, non-overlapping, and must have an assigned projection with an accompanying .prj file.
3. The Shapefile must use an unprojected WGS84 Geographic Coordinate System.
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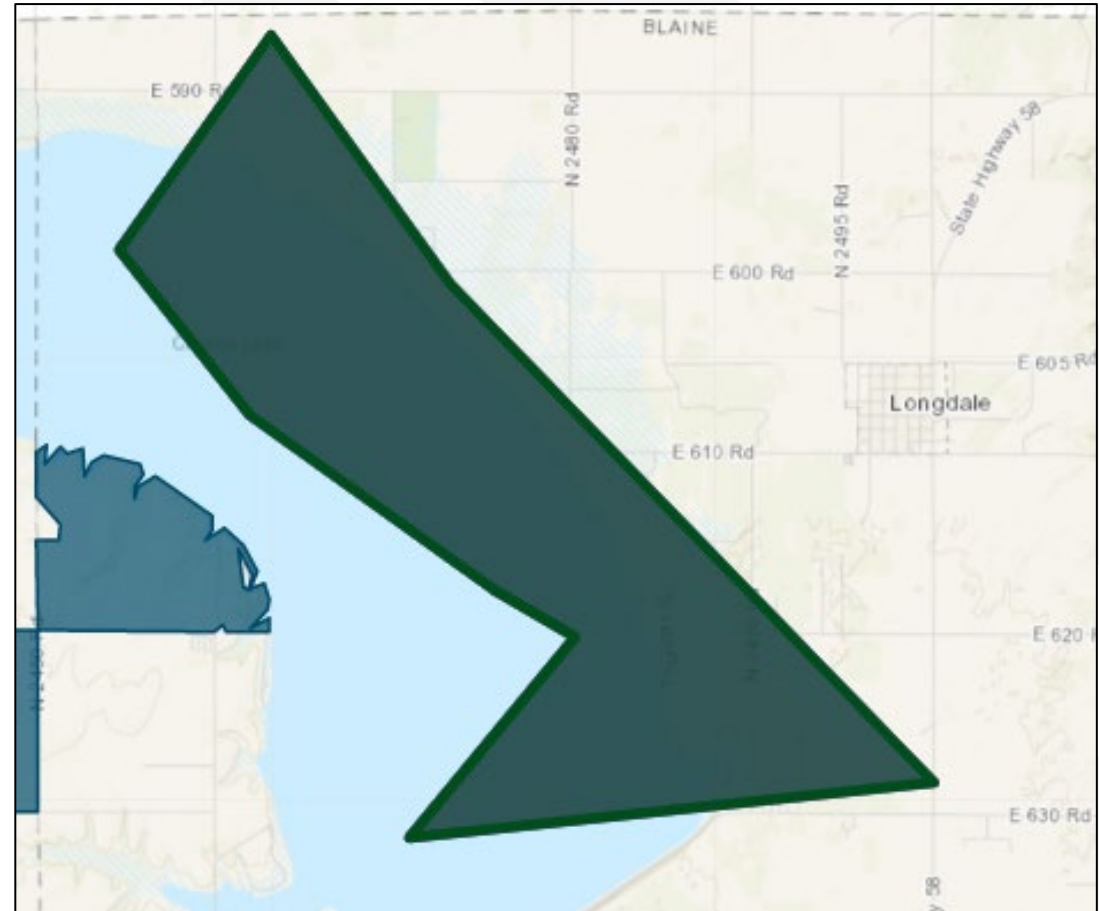
I do not have a file to upload. I will draw my Unserved area on the map using the draw tool

OR

Check this box to mark the whole Service Area as the Unserved Area

Cancel

Add Unserved Area



Service Area Data

Menu
Save Data

Service Areas
Data
>>

Area Information

Name	Funding	Type	Company Name	Businesses	Square Miles
Demo	Proposed	New	Nilgaardian Empire	163	123.539
	Population	Housing Units	Households	HH Without Sufficient Access to Broadband	% HH Without Sufficient Access to Broadband
	3,314	1,575	1,329	1,329	100%
Congressional Districts					
TN-07					

Demographics

Race	Population	Ethnicity	Population

Topographic

Summary Data
↑

Service Area Data (continued)

Summary Data



[Proposed Funded Service Area Summary](#) [Non-Funded Service Area Summary](#)

Census Data

Name	Type	HH Without Access to Broadband	% HH Without Access to Broadband	Population	Square Miles	Housing Units	Households	Businesses	Congressional Districts
Test PFSA1	New	422	96.57%	1,076	33.17	490	437	20	IL-15
Test PFSA2	New	19	67.86%	75	6.4	29	28	0	IL-15
PFSA 3	New	30	100%	57	6.49	116	30	1	OK-03
Aggregated Totals				1,208	46.05	635	495	21	IL-15, OK-03

Demographic Data

Race (Population Breakdown by Race)	Population
Asian	8
Black or African American	8
Native American or Alaskan Native	8

Saving Service Areas

Save Data

Service Areas Data >>

+ Add Service Area

Proposed Funded Service Areas

- Demo
 - Base PFSA
 - Unserviced Area
- Demo2
 - Base PFSA
 - Unserviced Area

Non-Funded Service Areas

No Non-Funded Service Areas have been created. Click the "Add Service Area" button to create one.

Map data saved

Project > Service Area(s) > Network > Financials > Environmental > Evaluation Criteria > Licenses & Agreements > Certifications > Documents > Summary/Submit

Menu

Save Data

Service Areas Data >>

+ Add Service Area

Proposed Funded Service Areas

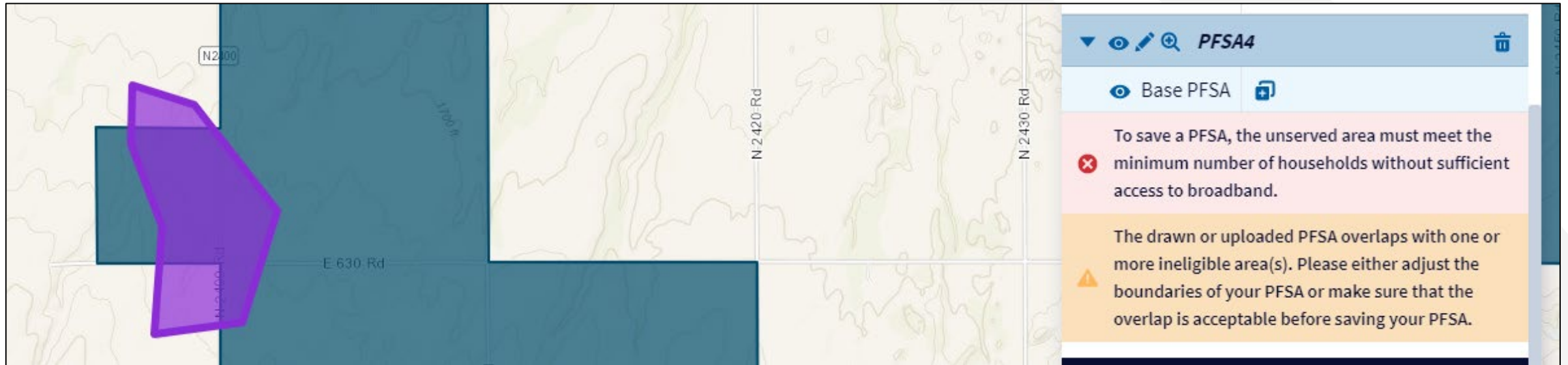
- Demo
 - Base PFSA
 - Unserviced Area

Non-Funded Service Areas

No Non-Funded Service Areas have been created. Click the "Add Service Area" button to create one.

Summary Data

Ineligible Area Encroachment



The image displays a map interface for a Public Safety Area (PSA). A purple polygon is drawn over a teal-colored area, indicating an encroachment on an ineligible area. The map includes labels for roads: N 2000, N 2420 Rd, N 2430 Rd, and E 630 Rd. A sidebar on the right contains the following information:

- PSA4** (with icons for expand, eye, pencil, and search)
- Base PSA** (with eye and lock icons)
- Error 1 (Red X):** To save a PSA, the unserved area must meet the minimum number of households without sufficient access to broadband.
- Error 2 (Yellow Triangle):** The drawn or uploaded PSA overlaps with one or more ineligible area(s). Please either adjust the boundaries of your PSA or make sure that the overlap is acceptable before saving your PSA.

Service Area Considerations



Shapefile Requirements

- All map areas must be closed, non-overlapping polygons with a single, unique identifier.
- The Shapefile must have an assigned projection with an accompanying .prj file.
- The Shapefile must use an unprojected (geographic) WGS84 geographic coordinate system.
- The Shapefile must be submitted as a *.zip file. This can be done with a WinZip or in Windows by selecting the files associated with a Shapefile, right-clicking the files, then clicking “Send” to Compressed (zipped) folder. The *.zip file must contain only one Shapefile.
- The .zip file size must not exceed 2GB

Service Area Map Linkages



Service Area Map Linkages

The Service Areas inform multiple sections of the applications:

- Capital Investment Workbook (CIW)
- Local Network Services Revenue (Subscriber Projections)
- Competitor Service Offering
- Construction Map and Environmental Components of Application
- Evaluation Criteria

Note: Changes to the PFSA's and NFSAs may have downstream effects on multiple components of the application. It is necessary to map your service areas **before** going on to other parts of the application

Service Area Map Linkages (continued)

- Requirements of the Service Areas are informed by earlier sections of the application:
 - If the applicant states they do **not** plan on investing funds to construct broadband facilities in the NFSAs during the 5-year forecast period, the applicant will **not** be required to add NFSAs to the service area map. This will also affect other application sections.
 - If the applicant changes the answer to this question from "yes" to "no", NFSAs previously entered will be deleted. The option to add an NFSAs will no longer be available.
 - NFSAs do not need to be submitted by publicly traded companies with investment grade bond ratings and grant-only applicants offering an Irrevocable Letter of Credit (ILOC) as security.
 - This question is answered when creating a new application and **cannot** be changed once the application is started. Applicants must start a new application if they wish to change the response to this question.

Service Area Map Linkages (continued)

Responses to These Questions Change the Information Required in the Application

Is the applicant a publicly traded company? ⓘ

Yes No

Is the applicant replacing the standard grant security arrangements with an ILOC? ⓘ

Yes No

Has the applicant received a AAA bond rating from either Fitch, Standard and Poor's or Moody's for the previous year from the date the application is submitted? ⓘ

Yes No

Can the applicant demonstrate a current ratio of 2 or higher, TIER of 2 or higher, a debt service coverage ratio of 2 or higher, and a Net Worth of 45% or more for the previous two years from the date the application will be submitted? ⓘ

Yes No

Can the applicant guarantee that the proposed project will be constructed? The applicant will be required to submit audited financials to demonstrate the ability to complete this project. ⓘ

Yes No

Is the applicant planning on investing any funds to construct broadband facilities in the NFSAs during the 5-year forecast period?

*

Yes No

Service Area Map Linkages (continued)

Start Your New Application

Please answer the following question(s) about your new application

NOTE: To apply for funding under a different RUS Sub-Program, please clear your selection(s) using the "Restart New Application" button.

PLEASE SELECT THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT THAT BEST DESCRIBES YOUR ENTITY AND PROPOSED PROJECT: *



IS THE APPLICANT A PUBLICLY TRADED COMPANY? *



IS THE APPLICANT REPLACING THE STANDARD GRANT SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS WITH AN ILOC? *



HAS THE APPLICANT RECEIVED A AAA BOND RATING FROM EITHER FITCH, STANDARD AND POOR'S OR MOODY'S FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR FROM THE DATE THE APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED? *



CAN THE APPLICANT DEMONSTRATE A CURRENT RATIO OF 2 OR HIGHER, TIER OF 2 OR HIGHER, A DEBT SERVICE COVERAGE RATIO OF 2 OR HIGHER, AND A NET WORTH OF 45% OR MORE FOR THE PREVIOUS TWO YEARS FROM THE DATE THE APPLICATION WILL BE SUBMITTED? *



CAN THE APPLICANT GUARANTEE THAT THE PROPOSED PROJECT WILL BE CONSTRUCTED? THE APPLICANT WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT AUDITED FINANCIALS TO DEMONSTRATE THE ABILITY TO COMPLETE THIS PROJECT. *



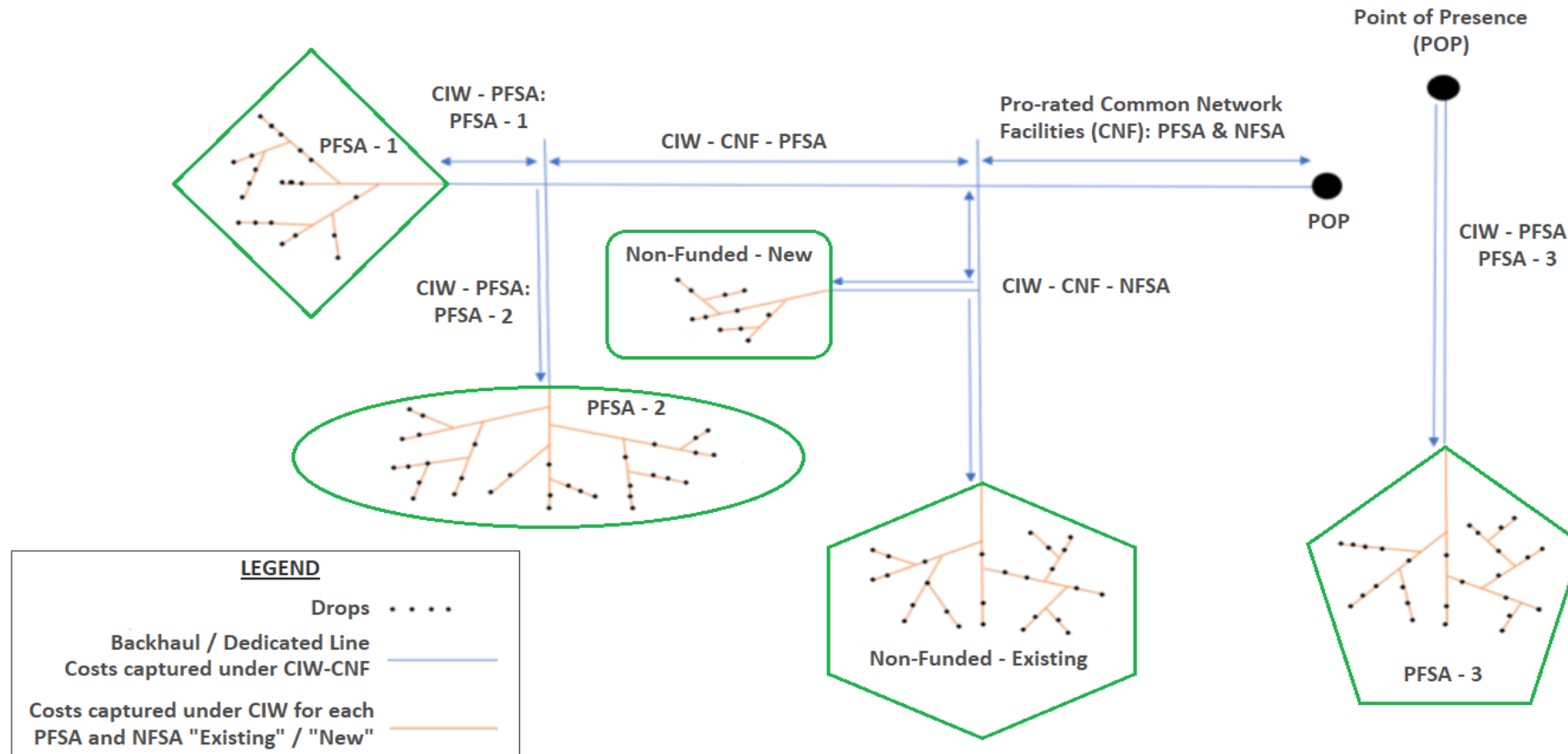
Next

Tips



What to Include in the Service Area Map

- Proposed Funded and Non-Funded Service Areas? **YES**
- Common Network Facility Assets such as Backhaul? **NO**



Map Troubleshooting

The Service Area Map has been locked for edits. To unlock the Service Area Map, please uncheck the checkbox on the Environmental Questionnaire page.

The screenshot displays a web application interface for a Service Area Map. The main map area shows the United States and surrounding regions, with various colored polygons representing service areas. A red box highlights the '+ Add Service Area' button in the right-hand panel. The panel also lists 'Proposed Funded Service Areas' (MT Test, TEST-NOF05) and 'Non-Funded Service Areas' (with a message that none have been created). A 'Save Data' button is visible in the top right corner.

Service Areas Data

+ Add Service Area

Proposed Funded Service Areas

- MT Test
- TEST-NOF05

Non-Funded Service Areas

No Non-Funded Service Areas have been created. Click the "Add Service Area" button to create one.

Topographic

500 km
500 mi

Leaflet | Powered by Esri | USGS, NOAA, Kasey Martin, Innovation Center, Rural Development, USDA

Map Troubleshooting (continued)

Proposed Funded Service Area New

SERVICE AREA NAME*

TEST

Draw or Upload a Service Area

Click 'Upload Files' to upload an ESRI zipped shapefile of your Service Area or drag and drop your shapefile to the 'drop files' zone

The shapefile must comply with the following specifications:

1. For Proposed Funded Service Areas, the Shapefile can only include a single contiguous polygon.
2. For Non Funded Service Areas, the Shapefile can include multi-part features or multiple non-contiguous polygons.
3. The polygon(s) must be closed, non-overlapping, and must have an assigned projection with an accompanying .prj file.
4. The Shapefile must use an unprojected WGS84 Geographic Coordinate System.
5. The Shapefile must be submitted as a *.zip file. This can be done with WinZip or in Windows by selecting the files associated with the shapefile, then clicking Send to Compressed (zip) folder.

I do not have a file to upload. I will draw my area.

Legend Layers >>

Service Area Layers

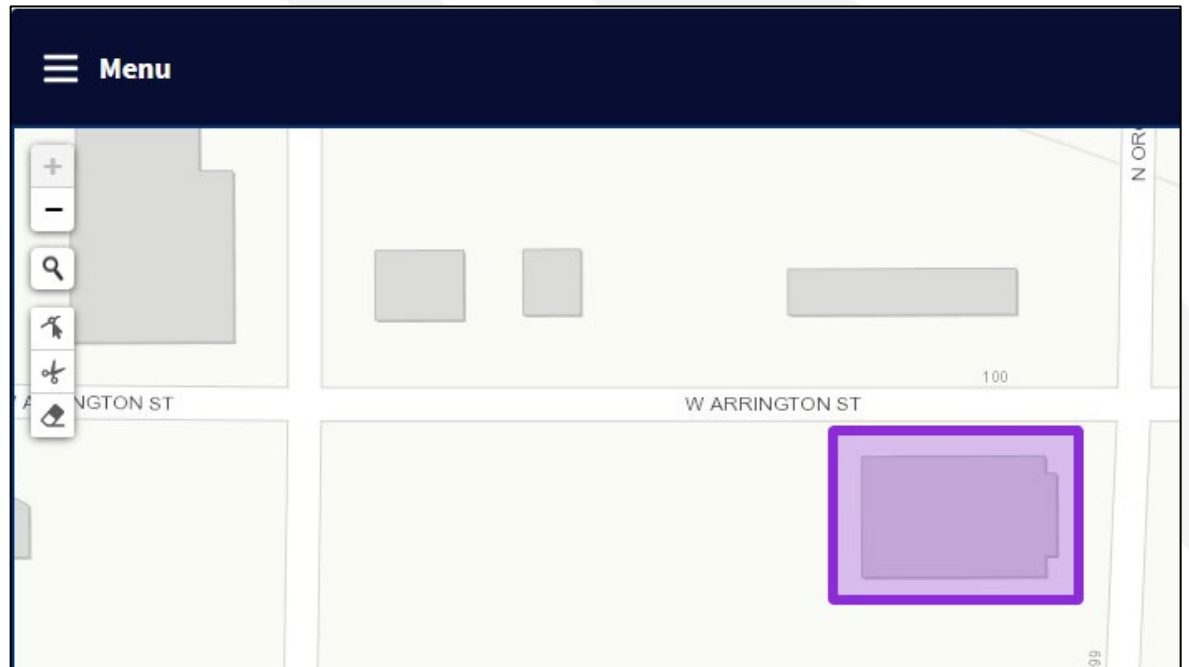
- Proposed Funded Service Area ...
- Unserved Area ...
- Non-Funded Service Area ...

Eligibility

- Alaska Native Regional Corporations ...
- Alaska Native Village Corporations ...
- Colonia Areas ...
- Enforceable Commitments ...
- Non-Rural Areas ...
- Pending Applications ...
- Persistent Poverty Counties ...

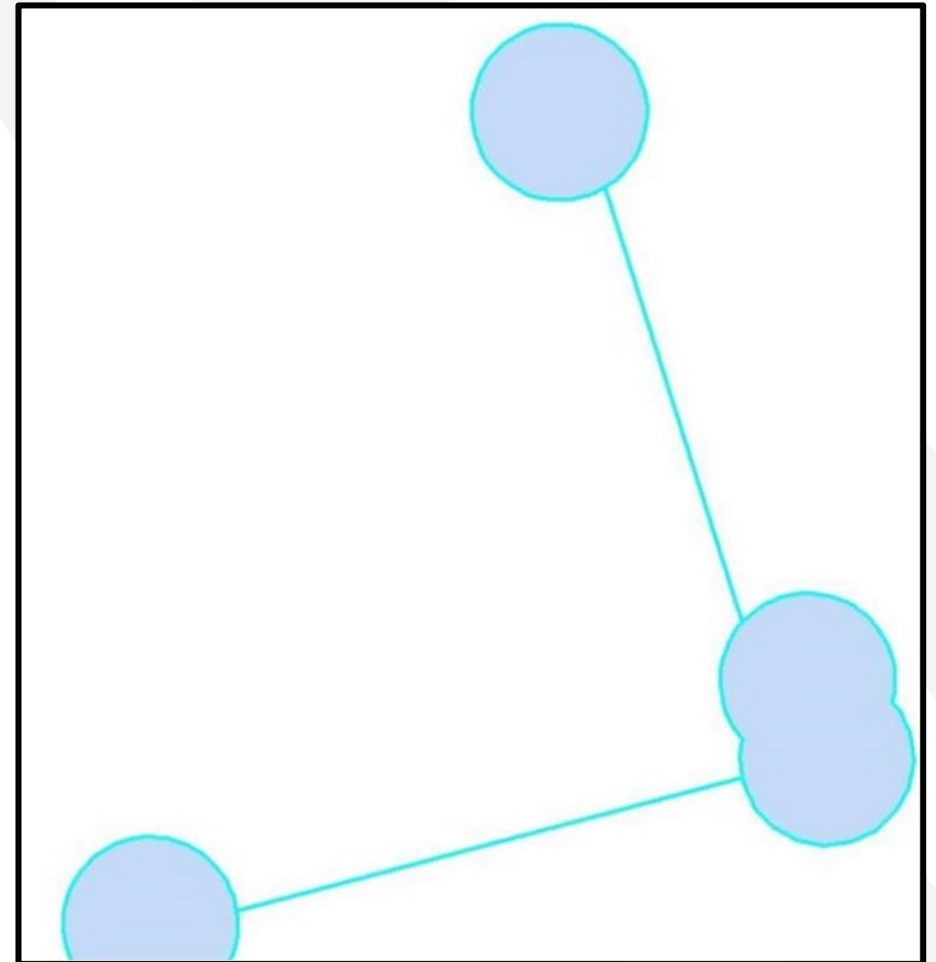
Additional Tips

- Do not draw your PFSA around a single household in an attempt to create a service area with 100% of households lacking sufficient access to broadband.



Additional Tips (continued)

- The system will not accept a PFSA with two or more areas connected by a small line.
- **Applicants will receive an error message in the system if this occurs.**
- Draw these areas as separate PFSA's.
- It is not necessary to draw middle-mile facilities
 - Account for middle-mile facilities as Common Network Facilities in the Capital Investment Workbook, within the Network section of the application.



Available Resources



Available Resources for Application Help

- **Technical Assistance**

- Register for upcoming webinars <https://www.usda.gov/reconnect/events>
- Subscribe to receive updates about upcoming events on the ReConnect website

- **Resources**

- ReConnect website <https://www.usda.gov/reconnect>
- NOFO: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/02/21/2024-03484/notice-of-funding-opportunity-for-the-rural-econnectivity-program-for-fiscal-year-2024>
- Regulation: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-02-26/pdf/2021-03443.pdf>
- Updated Application Guide: <https://www.usda.gov/reconnect/forms-and-resources>
- Updated Frequently Asked Questions (published once the FOA is released)

- **Contact Us**

- When working **inside** the application, use the “contact us” button on your screen.
- **Outside** of the application system, use <https://www.usda.gov/reconnect/contact-us>
- Contact your General Field Representative (GFR): <https://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/telecom-gfr/all>



Rural Development

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE