

# Ensuring Infrastructure & Access to Broadband Internet in Rural Georgia

National Equity Atlas Fellowship

## NEA Project Goal & Summary:

This project aims to promote equitable and accessible broadband internet in rural counties of Georgia.

Our objective is to bridge the digital divide in disadvantaged communities by emphasizing the importance of accessible broadband internet and advocating for infrastructure investments.

This project is closely tied to the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) and provides data and framing to strengthen the fight for internet equality and digital equity in rural Georgia.



## Who We Are

Fair Count is a nonpartisan nonprofit organization that builds long-term power in communities that have been historically marginalized and underrepresented in civic functions like the U.S. Census, voting, and redistricting.

## How We Work

Fair Count focuses on building long-term relationships and using every available civic function as catalysts for continued civic engagement and fair, accurate representation.



# Affordability Connectivity Program (ACP) Overview

## What is the ACP Program?

ACP Program (National Program) came into effect in December of 2021 to replace the Emergency Broadband Benefits Program (EBB) that provided support for broadband services and certain devices to help low-income households stay connected during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## ACP Sign Up Requirements

Medicaid

SNAP Benefits

Household Income Threshold



# Connecting Matters

## Why does internet connectivity matter?

- Access to essential services
- Education
- Healthcare

## What makes it an inequity?

- individuals living in certain areas have fewer opportunities and resources available to them simply because of where they live.

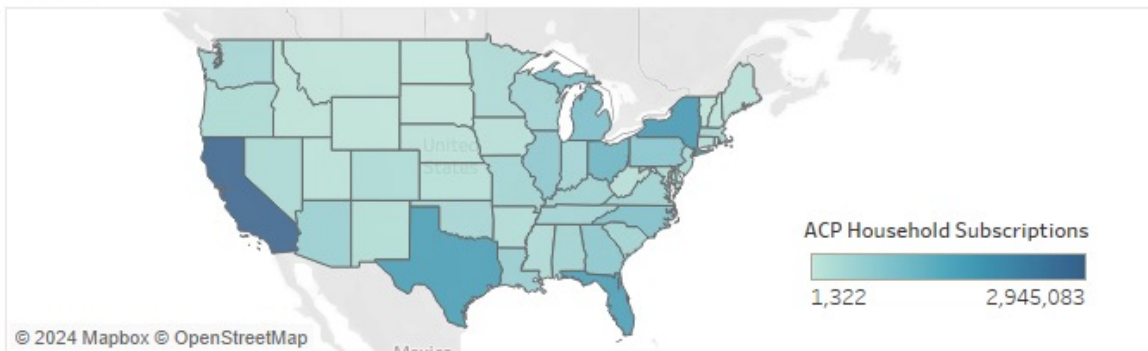
# The Data

- National Number of “ACP” subscriptions by state
- Georgia counties by percent of served/unserved
- Georgia counties characteristics



# Ensuring Infrastructure & Access to Broadband Internet in Rural Georgia Dashboard

## National ACP Subscriptions



### Select a County

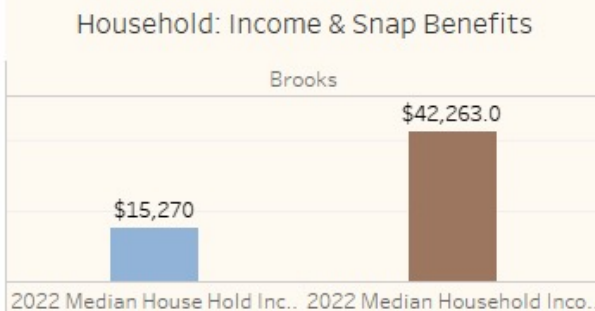
Brooks

In **Brooks County** there are:

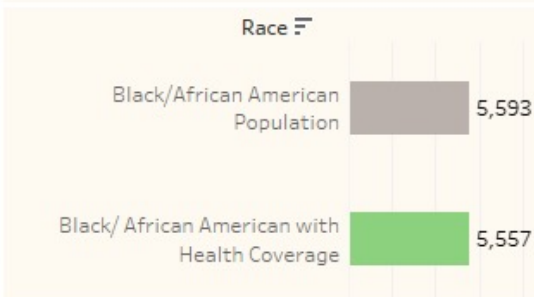
**8,136** households below poverty level not receiving SNAP benefits.

**17,724** households below poverty level

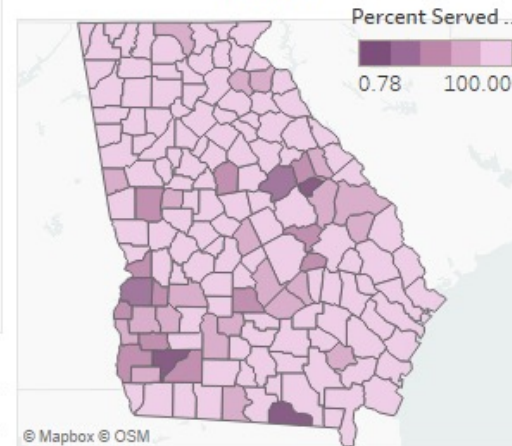
Households enrolled in **SNAP Benefits** generally have significantly lower household incomes.



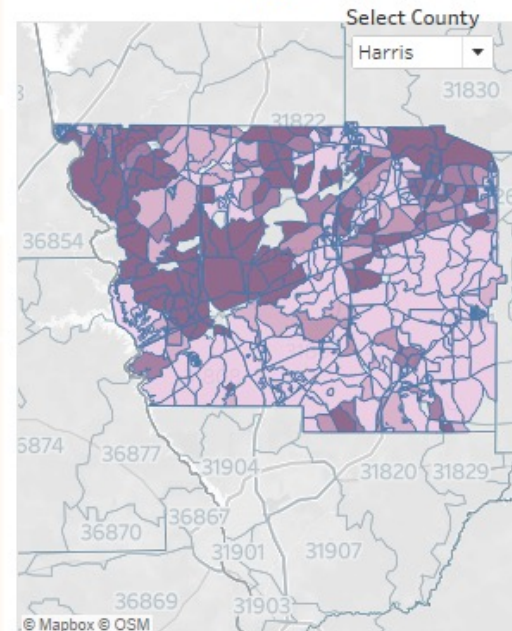
### Healthcare Coverage by Race & Population



## 2023 Served/ Unserved Counties in Georgia

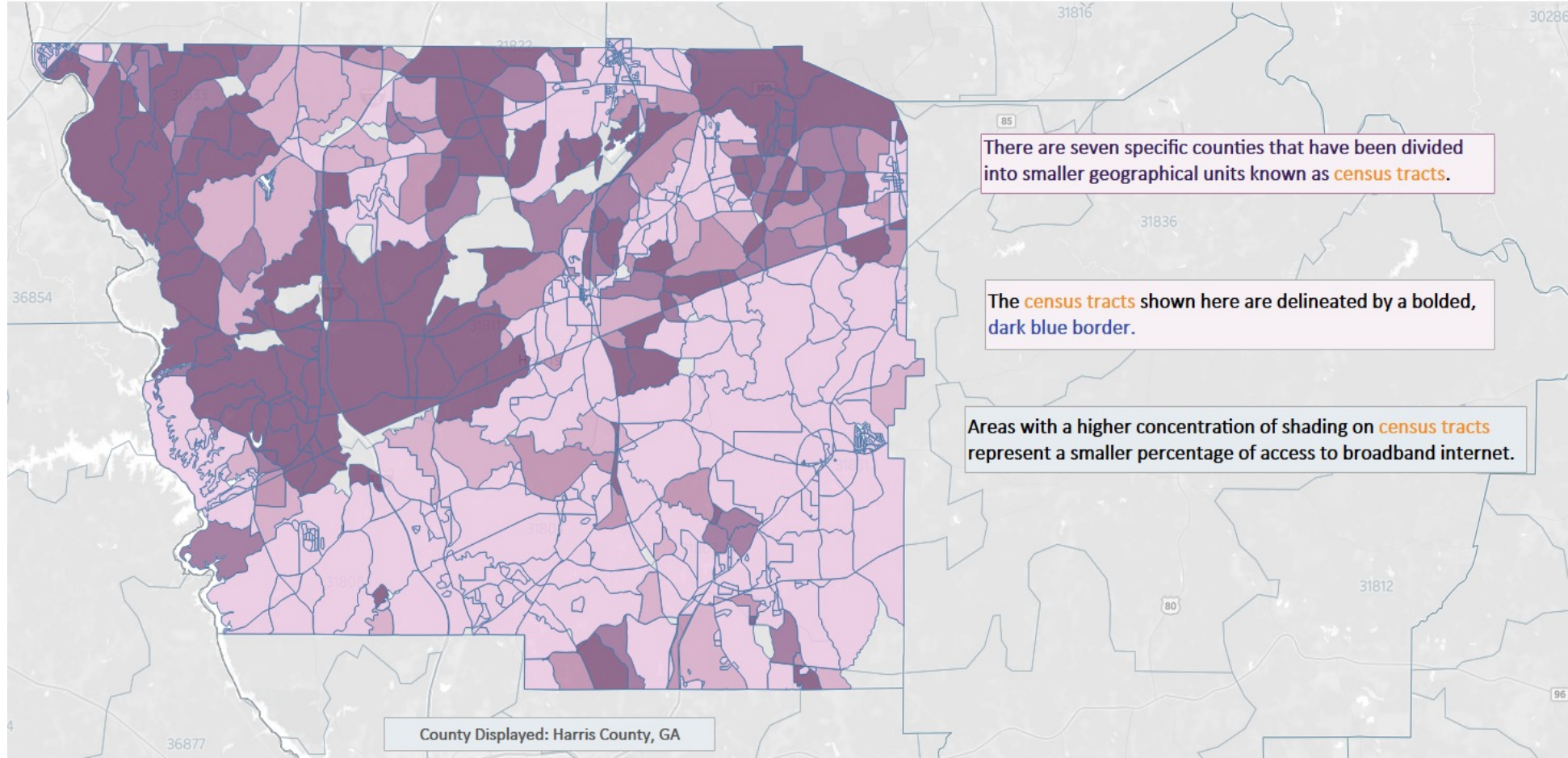


## Priority Counties by Census Tract Level



# Ensuring Infrastructure & Access to Broadband Internet in Rural Georgia

Navigation menu with six items: Ensuring Infrastructure & Access to Broadband (selected), National Affordability Connectivity Program (ACP), 2023 Georgia Broadband Availability Map, Focus Counties: Census Tract Availability, Healthcare Coverage By Race/Population, and 2022 Median Household Income: SNAP Benefit.







# Product Design

## End Users:

Organizers

Local community leaders

## Design Considerations:

Filtered Dashboard: Online

Tableau Story: Printable version

## On Going Use:

Implemented throughout Fair Count





# Key Takeaways

- Stronger communities are built with reliable and quality internet connectivity.
- Who is included or excluded in the data and what is the reasoning behind it?

# Contact Information

Asia Duffie

Email: [asia@faircount.org](mailto:asia@faircount.org)

Fair Count Social Media:

Facebook: Fair Count

Instagram: Fair Count

X: @Faircount

Website: [www.faircount.org](http://www.faircount.org)

