

**ALACHUA COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

RESOLUTION 20-_____

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALACHUA COUNTY BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, SUPPORTING AFFORDABLE
AND RELIABLE HIGH-SPEED INTERNET THROUGHOUT
FLORIDA.

WHEREAS, reliable and affordable high-speed internet access is essential for Floridians to be prosperous and meet today's challenges; and

WHEREAS, the absence of access to reliable and affordable high-speed internet service prevents communities from achieving the high quality of life that is considered a fundamental component for educational and economic success; and

WHEREAS, the absence and/or lack of high-speed internet hinders:

- the ability for all school children to have access to educational opportunities;
- access to telemedicine to improve health outcomes for its residents, and to provide access without demanding travel and transportation;
- the ability for rapid communication between the public and law enforcement agencies;
- the ability for communities to maintain and expand business opportunities, stimulate job growth;
- the ability to engage in innovative technologies that are required for a vibrant economy.

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature recently passed House Bill 969 creating an Office of Broadband within the Department of Economic Opportunity requiring the creation of a strategic plan that has goals and strategies for increasing the use of broadband Internet service in the state; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the strategic plan be based on accurate and up-to-date mapping and the internet access needs of the public and private sector; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties has developed - Test It! an easy to use "mapping tool" that can be used to assess availability of internet; and

WHEREAS, in order to meet the goal of universal access to high-speed internet, it will be necessary to determine what private providers need to deliver affordable and reliable connectivity in sparsely located areas, and the support necessary to address issues of sparse populations and to provide expanded internet services, and engage governmental entities at the Federal, State and Local level in order to be successful.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Alachua County, Florida, as follows:

Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated in this Resolution.

Section 2. That the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners, hereby supports the State of Florida, the Department of Economic Opportunities, in their effort to achieve access to reliable and affordable high-speed internet access to every household and business throughout the State of Florida.

Section 3. That the Board of County Commissioners will assist the State Office of Broadband by participating as needed in meeting the obligations of HB 969 including providing information, assistance in mapping efforts, and supporting other such efforts that will lead to enhanced access to affordable, reliable

high-speed internet services throughout Alachua County and the State of Florida.

Section 4. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

APPROVED and ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Alachua County, Florida, on the 8th day of December, 2020.

ATTEST:

KEN CORNELL, CHAIR
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA

Approved as to form and legality:

DocuSigned by:

David Forziano

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