

# Governor's Task Force on Broadband

## *Broadband Access & Policy Implications for Minnesota's Disability Community*

Alicia Munson & Maren Christenson



# Who We Are



# Theory of Change



# Who We Are



# Programmatic Values



Human & Civil Rights

Self-Advocacy & Self Direction

Equity & Belonging

Racial & Disability Justice

# Background

- Section 508 of the Rehab Act
- Americans with Disabilities Act
- 21st Century Communications & Video Accessibility Act
- Coalition of Organizations for Accessible Technology

# Broadband Access & the Disability Community



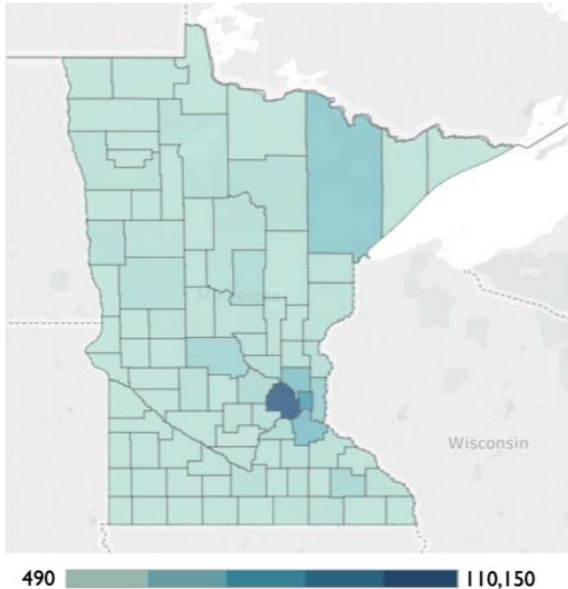
# Barriers & Challenges to Access

- 54% of adults living with a disability use the internet, compared with 81% of adults without disabilities (*Pew Research Center*)
- 41% of adults living with a disability have broadband at home, compared with 69% of those without a disability (*Pew Research Center*)
- 67% of disabled Americans ages 18 to 64 own a desktop or laptop computer, compared with 84% those without a disability (*Pew Research Center*)

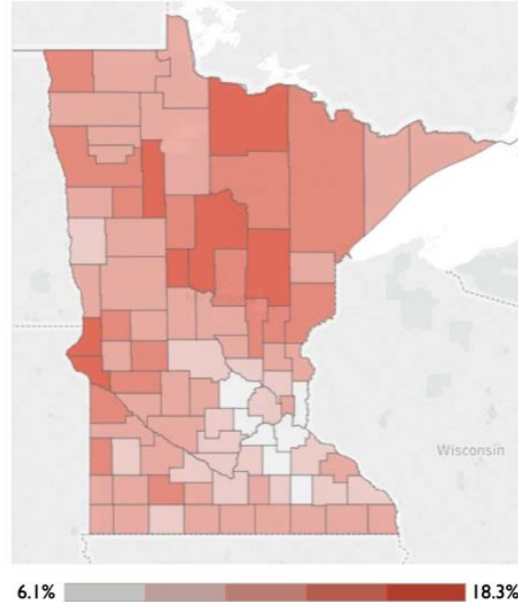


# Barriers & Challenges to Access

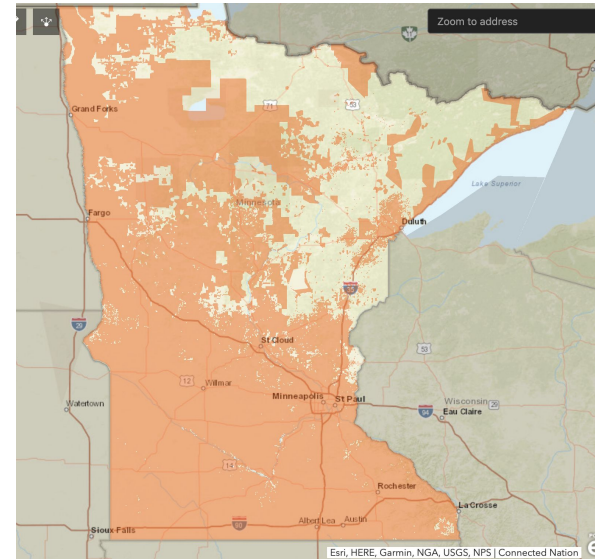
**MAP 1**  
**Number of People With Disabilities by County, 2010–2014**



**Map 2**  
**Percent of People With Disabilities, by County, 2010-2014**



**Map 3**  
**25 Mbps Download/3 Mbps Upload - as of 4/1/2021**



# Barriers & Challenges to Access

- Geographic location
- Poverty
- Misunderstanding of disability & accessibility
- Lack of technology & accessible user information
- Interrupted access
- Lack of access to decision-making processes

# Policy Recommendations

- Office of Broadband Development
- Interagency collaboration
- Governor's Task Force on Broadband
- Broadband Development Grant Program
- K-12 Connect Forward Initiative
- Grants to supplement tech access
- Ongoing tech support

# Critical Thinking

- Any policy solution that improves access for Minnesotans generally will improve access for people who have disabilities; all policy is disability policy
- Is disability integrated into all decisions/recommendations made by this group?

# Critical Thinking

- How is this group getting input/feedback directly from members of the disability community?
- From your perspective, how can we support enhanced engagement/collaboration with people who have disabilities?
- What policy recommendations do you have for us, that could be championed by the disability community?

**Q & A**

# Contact Us

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# Thank You!

