



Today, too many Americans live in a digital desert. The problem is particularly acute in rural America where too many communities are being left behind.

34 million Americans lack a broadband connection.

Of these, **19.4 million** live in rural areas and their lack of broadband access means they are unable to take advantage of economic and educational opportunities.

- **Six and a half million students lack** access to high speed internet and rural areas often pay more for the service they do have.
- **Seventy percent of America's teachers** assign homework or research that requires a broadband connection. That means millions of children are not able to access the tools they need to thrive in school and beyond.
- **Rural students score lower in math** than suburban counterparts and that gap widens between kindergarten and eighth grade.

Inadequate broadband access discourages online commerce and limits Americans' ability to use new technology in critical fields such as agriculture and healthcare.

- **Telemedicine could save lives** and thousands of dollars annually for underserved patients and rural hospitals that in many cases are struggling to survive.
- **Broadband access brings the promise** of precision agriculture, which helps farmers optimize irrigation, fertilizer and pesticides for increased crop yields.

The bridging of the urban-rural digital divide could unleash tremendous potential for the lives and livelihoods of millions of Americans.

Connect Americans Now (CAN) has a plan to eliminate the rural broadband gap by July 4, 2022.

Unlocking a technology model that uses a combination of television white spaces spectrum, wireless technology, LTE fixed wireless and satellite coverage will achieve the mission while reducing operating costs by roughly 80 percent compared to fiber cables alone.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has the ability to make this goal a reality by ensuring the continued use of the spectrum needed for this all-of-the-above technology model.

